

Es. Benefits 1031

Chapter 1031: Ji Qiuyu

News of Black Dragon County being obliterated by half its forces swiftly spread throughout the entire county. Upon hearing that Li Xinghuai and those who had tried to rebel were annihilated by the Sum Emperor, the remaining sect cultivators felt immensely relieved.

Relieved that they had not heeded the rumors and truly believed the news of the Sum Emperor's severe injuries; even more relieved that they had not accepted Li Xinghuai's invitation to join the rebellion.

The cultivators now suspected the Sum Emperor had intentionally secluded himself, then had someone spread news of his injury, all to root out those restless forces.

After dealing with the rebellious forces, the remaining forces became extremely compliant. Lu Chen's prestige once again reached new heights, and more cultivators chose to join the army of the Daxia Dynasty.

Once everything had settled, Lu Chen once again arrived at the intersection of Tianchen World and Ziyang World. Now that the Saint-level Puppetry had been cultivated to the second level, he was able to control puppets to travel further, hopefully without any restrictions on the puppet's range.

Arriving at the shattered spatial rift, Lu Chen immediately sent his puppet into Ziyang World. Entering Ziyang World, the puppet appeared in the same place as last time.

Lu Chen then used the puppet to survey the surroundings. This time, the puppet's exploration capabilities had substantially improved, and Lu Chen instantly detected the presence of Demonic Qi through the puppet, which was exceptionally dense.

Beneath that great mountain in Ziyang World, it was highly probable that a Heavenly Demon was sealed.

Of course, all this was speculation for now. Only by entering that world himself could he determine if it truly was a Heavenly Demon, or perhaps a great demon that had been assimilated by a Heavenly Demon.

Regardless of whether it was a Heavenly Demon or a Demon Cultivator, this situation could somewhat benefit Tianchen World, as the people of Ziyang World dared not easily enter that great mountain. Thus, they couldn't come through the rift to this world.

However, the thing sealed beneath the mountain might occasionally release some Demonic Qi into Tianchen World, turning some Tianchen cultivators into Demon Cultivators. This needed to be watched closely.

After reflecting for a moment, Lu Chen controlled his puppet to fly towards the other side of the mountain.

Meanwhile, deep beneath the mountain, there was a vast palace.

Within the depths of the palace, a pair of crimson eyes suddenly appeared within a cloud of black mist.

Feeling the object flying overhead, the Heavenly Demon burst into laughter, "A thousand years have passed, and finally, food has been delivered to my door; I can finally feast."

With those words, the Heavenly Demon immediately released Demonic Qi, attempting to pull down the object flying above the area of the Sealing. However, as his Demonic Qi touched the puppet in the sky, it simply dissipated on its own, utterly unable to catch the object.

The Heavenly Demon was momentarily stunned.

What was going on?

Why couldn't he catch it?

From his observations, the object in the sky was clearly a cultivator. Normally, any cultivator touched by his Demonic Qi would be corrupted by it, without him exerting any force, and the cultivator's body would fall.

Yet now, not only did the cultivator not fall, but he continued flying towards the outer periphery of the Sealing Grounds as if nothing had happened.

This was unacceptable. Considering the human cultivator's flying speed, it wouldn't be long before he flew out of the Sealing Grounds.

The Heavenly Demon released his Demonic Qi again, this time using even more in an attempt to bring Lu Chen's puppet down from the sky.

However, the result was the same as before, achieving nothing; that "human cultivator" continued to fly towards the distance.

At that moment, Lu Chen in Tianchen World also perceived the approach of a vast amount of Demonic Qi through his puppet. Lu Chen then glanced through the puppet's vision at the mountain below.

At that moment, a lot of black Qi emerged from the forest of the mountain, clearly the power of the Heavenly Demon, forming hands like those of humans, attempting to pull down the puppet.

Seeing this, Lu Chen's lips curved slightly upwards. It seemed that the thing sealed beneath the mountain thought the object flying above was a cultivator, hence trying to pull it down.

Unfortunately, the puppet also inherited half the power of the Demon Burying Spell. Even without the Demon-Expelling Banner, just relying on the Demon Burying Spell alone, those streams of Demonic Qi couldn't approach his puppet.

Lu Chen disregarded the demonic Qi-formed hands and continued flying out of the sealing grounds.

Seeing that the cultivator in the sky had not been affected at all, the Heavenly Demon became extremely agitated.

"Why!!!"

"Why can my demonic Qi not affect that human cultivator!!!"

After the Heavenly Demon became agitated, the entire mountain also began to shake, affecting the humans outside the sealing grounds.

Soon, Lu Chen flew out of the sealing grounds. Outside the sealing grounds was a human city. This city was not large, but its walls were built along the mountain, much like the Great Wall on Earth.

Clearly, the people of the Ziyang World were aware of the existence of demonic-related things inside the sealing grounds, hence the defensive wall was constructed.

To avoid arousing the suspicions of the cultivators of this world, Lu Chen descended from the sky to the ground and walked towards the city.

As he approached the entrance of the city, a woman suddenly appeared before Lu Chen, blocking his way.

The woman was dressed in a pink cloud gown, her figure graceful, like a delicate flower swaying gently in the breeze.

Her features were as lovely as the moon, her brows and eyes exuding a cold aura, like the ice and snow on the mountain—pure and inviolable.

Her hair fell like a waterfall, shining black, each strand seeming to contain the vitality of life.

Her eyes were deep and bright, like the most dazzling stars in the night sky, shimmering with the light of wisdom.

Her lips were red and rosy, slightly upturned, full of allure.

Her skin was pale as snow, smooth and delicate, as if nature's most perfect masterpiece.

At that moment, "Puppet Lu Chen" glanced at the Spirit Sword in the woman's hand.

Evidently, this woman was a cultivator.

Subsequently, Lu Chen used his system to identify the woman's identity.

[Name: Ji Qiuyu]

[Identity: City Lord of Black Moon City in the Great Chu Dynasty of the Ziyang World, 900 years old, Genesis Realm in strength, she is very curious about your identity, wanting to know why you dare to come to Black Moon City at this time.]

[Score: 96]

[Favorability: 30]

Without expression, Ji Qiuyu asked, "Who are you?"

Lu Chen calmly replied, "A man."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu gave Lu Chen a speechless look, thinking that was a dumb statement.

Since Lu Chen did not understand the situation in this world and feared exposing his identity, he said, "I felt that the demonic Qi in the depths of the mountain was getting denser, so I came to see how things were here."

"If the situation here looks bleak, I might consider whether it's time to leave the Great Chu Dynasty."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu thought to herself, so he came to scout the status of the sealing grounds.

Then Ji Qiuyu scoffed and said, "Another one who fears death."

Chapter 1032: Hope You Won't Regret Tonight

Nowadays, the Demon Sealing Forbidden Zone has become increasingly unstable, and the internal divisions within the Great Chu Dynasty are quite severe. Each faction is reluctant to send their people to defend Black Moon City.

As the City Lord of Black Moon City, Ji Qiuyu felt immense pressure.

If the Demonic Tide continued to expand, the number of demon cultivators might increase, and the entire Great Chu might eventually become a granary for the Heavenly Demons.

After hearing Lu Chen's response, Ji Qiuyu immediately labeled him a coward.

Initially, she thought this man knew about the Demonic Tide tonight and had specially come to help Black Moon City fend it off. She had been somewhat pleased, but now she had no good feelings about the man in front of her.

Ji Qiuyu then turned around and headed towards the city gate, saying as she walked, "Tonight there will be a Demonic Tide. Spineless as you are, just scram."

Hearing the words "Demonic Tide," Lu Chen curiously asked, "What is the Demonic Tide?"

This...

This question from Lu Chen stunned Ji Qiuyu; she turned her head to face him with a look of disbelief. Was there actually someone in this era who didn't know what a Demonic Tide was?

Ji Qiuyu then asked, "You don't even know what a Demonic Tide is?"

Probably no one in the Ziyang World doesn't know about the Demonic Tide, right?

Lu Chen, smiling, said, "I've spent most of my time in seclusion, and several decades ago, I suffered a cultivation deviation which injured my Divine Soul and made me lose much of my memory, so I've forgotten quite a lot."

Ji Qiuyu didn't overly doubt Lu Chen's words; indeed, it's true that cultivators can lose their memory due to cultivation deviations.

Ji Qiuyu said, "Every once in a while, the demons from the Demon Sealing Forbidden Zone leave and invade human cities. That is what we call the Demonic Tide."

Having explained the Demonic Tide, Ji Qiuyu turned back and continued towards the city gate.

Lu Chen quickly followed her and then continued asking, "Are there still demons inside the Demon Sealing Forbidden Zone?"

Lu Chen had just come from the Demon Sealing Forbidden Zone and hadn't sensed any demons there, so he was curious about where these demons came from.

Ji Qiuyu said impatiently, "If there are no demons inside the Demon Sealing Forbidden Zone, where else would they be?"

Lu Chen continued to inquire, "What about the strength of these demons?"

Ji Qiuyu, visibly displeased, said, "If you want to know the strength of those demons, why not just stay tonight and see for yourself?"

Lu Chen said, "Alright, I'll stay tonight and see."

Seeing that Lu Chen wanted to stay, Ji Qiuyu was taken aback for a moment; she turned her head to size him up again, and through her senses, she deduced that this man had at least the power of the Creation Realm. If this man could stay and help her fend off the Demonic Tide, then tonight she might be in for an easier time.

Ji Qiuyu then asked, "Are you sure you want to stay? Today the demonic qi in the Demon Sealing Forbidden Zone surged again, making tonight's Demonic Tide potentially much larger than usual."

Lu Chen said, "Yeah, I'll stay to see how things go."

Ji Qiuyu turned again and headed back into the city, saying as she walked, "I hope you won't regret this tonight."

After all, she had warned this man. If he insisted on staying, whatever happened would not be her responsibility.

The puppet Lu Chen also followed Ji Qiuyu into Black Moon City.

Inside Black Moon City, the atmosphere was incredibly bleak; there were very few people on the streets, and most of them were cultivators, though their powers were mostly around the Celestial Human Realm level.

The Ziyang World, being a Cultivation World, surprisingly allowing a Creation Realm Cultivator to be the City Lord indicated that the powers of cultivators in this world were indeed not that formidable.

After entering the city, a group of soldiers from the Great Chu Dynasty approached Ji Qiuyu.

"City Lord, all preparations are complete."

Ji Qiuyu nodded and said, "Immediately report the surge of demonic qi in the Demon Sealing Forbidden Zone to His Majesty and ask His Majesty to send more people."

"Yes, City Lord."

After the soldiers left, Ji Qiuyu continued towards the inner city and quickly realized something was off.

It seemed wherever she went, that man followed. She turned to look at Lu Chen, "Why are you following me?"

Lu Chen said, "I'm not familiar with Black Moon City, who else would I follow?"

???

Ji Qiuyu felt utterly speechless. Where did this man come from, and why did he always seem a bit off?

She wasn't anyone to him, so why follow her?

Moreover, whether he was familiar with Black Moon City had nothing to do with her.

She was the City Lord of Black Moon City and didn't have the time to show this guy around.

At that moment, Ji Qiuyu realized something. This guy had mentioned he suffered from cultivation deviation, resulting in some memory loss.

This made her think he might have suffered some damage to his divine soul, which could explain his odd behavior.

With this in mind, Ji Qiuyu softened her approach a bit and said, "I am the City Lord of Black Moon City and don't have time to wander around with you. If you're not familiar with the city, find someone from Black Moon City to guide you."

Lu Chen said, "I'm not wandering around; I'll go wherever you go."

Ji Qiuyu frowned slightly. Why did she suddenly feel like this man had ulterior motives and was trying to take advantage of her?

Just as Ji Qiuyu was about to warn Lu Chen, he spoke first, "I've noticed the cultivators in Black Moon City don't seem very strong. I possess the strength of the third level of the Creation Realm, which should be of great help to you."

Ji Qiuyu thought for a moment and then said, "If you want to follow, then follow."

Ji Qiuyu couldn't be bothered to continue arguing with Lu Chen and went straight back to the City Lord's Mansion.

When the servants at the City Lord's Mansion saw their city lord returning with a man, they were all shocked.

Everyone in Black Moon City knew their city lord was a woman who stayed away from men, and yet here she was, bringing a man with her.

After Ji Qiuyu returned to the City Lord's Mansion with Lu Chen, she told the housekeeper, "Prepare a room for him and have the kitchen make him some food."

Ji Qiuyu thought it over; since this man intended to help her tonight, it wouldn't be wrong to treat him well.

The Great Chu Dynasty might not send anyone tonight, and having an extra person would make resisting the Demonic Tide much easier later.

Under the guidance of the mansion's housekeeper, the puppet Lu Chen was led to a bedroom.

Once inside the bedroom, the real Lu Chen stopped controlling the puppet.

Having followed Ji Qiuyu and watched her every move, the real Lu Chen felt somewhat aroused.

Lu Chen planned to leave the fracture in the realm barrier and return to Yan County to see if he could still control the puppet.

If he could still control the puppet after returning to Yan County, he could practice with his wives and concubines while simultaneously controlling the puppet to explore the Ziyang World.

With this in mind, Lu Chen stored away the Feihong Immortal Boat, then used Shadow Shifting and instantly returned to Yancheng Imperial Palace, arriving in Chu Qingli's room.

Chu Qingli was meditating on a soft couch when suddenly her body tilted toward the edge of the bed. Before she could react, Lu Chen kissed her.

"Mmm..."

Chu Qingli opened her eyes and saw it was Lu Chen, then immediately shot him a glare.

The next moment, she heard a ripping sound, followed by Lu Chen's body sinking down.

Chapter 1033: Turns Out He's Just a Loose Cultivator

As Lu Chen severely injured Chu Qingli, he simultaneously attempted to control the puppets of the Ziyang World. The movement of the puppets was not greatly affected, although as the distance increased, their strength seemed to diminish slightly.

Chu Qingli clearly felt that Lu Chen was not fully focused; he would act sporadically, stirring things up before pausing, ostensibly lost in thought.

It was obvious that he had approached her with intentions to be intimate, but even then, he had not been earnest, his mind wandering to other matters while they were supposed to be serious; this left Chu Qingli quite dissatisfied.

Then, Chu Qingli activated her Mysterious Female Technique. Just as Lu Chen was distracted, she felt a surge of oppressive force, and he immediately snapped back to reality, looking down intently at Chu Qingli's delicate face.

Seeing the resentment in her eyes, Lu Chen gave a slight smile and then focused his attention on Chu Qingli.

Before long, Chu Qingli began begging for mercy. Although she had not wanted Lu Chen to divert his attention elsewhere, as soon as he concentrated, she immediately couldn't handle it.

Soon, evening approached in the Ziyang World.

After sensing a surge in the Demonic Qi from the sealed area, Lu Chen's physical self stopped what he was doing and didn't continue.

Lu Chen turned over while holding Chu Qingli, letting her rest on his chest, then said, "I have something to attend to, if you still want more, you can come to me."

Hearing this, Chu Qingli snorted lightly. What nonsense! Her mind was still in a complete haze.

Chu Qingli then lifted her arm and embraced Lu Chen's robust waist, quietly lying on his chest without moving.

This was quite nice too, maintaining that close contact allowed them to feel each other without overwhelming sensations.

However, Chu Qingli was curious. Lu Chen said he had something to do; what could that be?

If he had something to do, what was he still doing here?

He had already been absent-minded.

Although curious, Chu Qingli did not ask further. Simply being one with him like this was quite nice.

Meanwhile.

In Ziyang World, Black Moon City.

Lu Chen's puppet had still not left the room when a maid stepped up to the door and said, "Sir, the Demonic Tide is approaching, the City Lord asks you to come to the city tower."

Hearing this, Lu Chen responded immediately, "Alright, I'm on my way."

Then, Lu Chen controlled the puppet to head towards the city tower of Black Moon City.

When Lu Chen arrived next to Ji Qiuyu, he saw a man in golden armor standing by her side, displaying a sycophantic smile.

"Qiuyu, I heard there was trouble at the sealed demon area, so I brought people over immediately. Don't worry, with me here, there won't be any problems."

Hearing this, Lu Chen glanced again at Ji Qiuyu's expression and saw her look of impatience, instantly grasping the situation.

It seemed this man was one of Ji Qiuyu's suitors.

Then, Lu Chen approached Ji Qiuyu and said, "Lord Ji, I'm here."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Bai Wenbin, looking displeased, said, "Can't you see I'm discussing how to handle the Demonic Tide with Lord Ji? What are you interrupting for!"

As he finished speaking, Bai Wenbin turned and glared at Lu Chen, but when he sensed the aura emanating from Lu Chen, he furrowed his brow.

He realized this person also possessed the strength of the Creation Realm. He had thought it was some tactless soldier interrupting them, only to discover it was actually a Creation Realm Cultivator.

This realization instantly unsettled Bai Wenbin.

The most important thing was that he had apparently never seen this man before?

Bai Wenbin asked with a dark expression, "Who are you?"

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "My name is Lu Chen, and I am a Loose Cultivator who came to Black Moon City to investigate the situation at the Sealed Demon Grounds."

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Bai Wenbin sighed with relief, realizing it was just a Loose Cultivator, so there was nothing to fear.

Just a mere Loose Cultivator, not even capable of competing with him for a woman.

After all, he was a General of the Great Chu Dynasty, commanding over a hundred thousand soldiers in Qinshui County.

At that moment, Ji Qiuyu turned around, glanced at Lu Chen, and then said, "Fellow Daoist Lu, I trouble you for tonight."

Hearing Ji Qiuyu's words, Bai Wenbin immediately became unhappy; he had brought tens of thousands of troops to help Black Moon City withstand the Demonic Tide, yet Ji Qiuyu was indifferent toward him, but now she was thanking a Loose Cultivator.

Bai Wenbin then said, "Qiuyu, he's just a Loose Cultivator, what role can he possibly play?"

Ji Qiuyu replied indifferently, "One more Creation Realm adds one more strength."

"Alright, I'm going to conduct a patrol."

As soon as she finished speaking, Ji Qiuyu flew away, leaving Bai Wenbin and Lu Chen standing there, with Bai Wenbin looking at Lu Chen with a look full of disdain.

However, he didn't say much to Lu Chen since he didn't see any ill intentions from Lu Chen, nor did he regard this Loose Cultivator as a competitor; it was just that he had been disturbed by Lu Chen just now, and he harbored a strong resentment towards him.

Bai Wenbin snorted coldly and then immediately followed Ji Qiuyu.

Seeing Bai Wenbin following behind Ji Qiuyu, Lu Chen chuckled. Ji Qiuyu was the first woman he had met in the Ziyang World with a score over ninety; she was destined to be his woman, and no amount of fawning from Bai Wenbin would help.

However, his true form was still in Tianchen World, so turning Ji Qiuyu into his woman would take some time.

At that moment, Lu Chen turned his head toward the Sealed Demon Grounds; the Demon Qi soared into the sky, and within the forest, black figures were slowly moving towards Black Moon City.

Lu Chen carefully investigated and discovered that those black figures were various animals, leading him to wonder if the lack of living creatures in the mountain was because these animals had been demonized?

Demonic creatures causing the surge, so it's called a Demonic Tide, right?

Lu Chen noticed that the soldiers' weapons seemed unusual, all black in color, with black arrowheads that seemed to emit black Qi.

Lu Chen then asked a soldier, "Young man, what material are your weapons made of?"

The soldier looked puzzled, not understanding why someone wouldn't know what material these weapons were made of, but he answered honestly, "Sir, our weapons are made from black gold."

Lu Chen curiously asked, "Black gold? What is it used for?"

The soldier answered, "Black gold can suppress Demonic Qi, like this..."

Before the soldier could finish, Lu Chen interrupted, "Oh, I see, I understand now."

Speaking of suppressing Demonic Qi, Lu Chen understood what it was about; he then took an arrow from the soldier's quiver and closely examined the black gold material on the arrowhead.

Such a material didn't exist in Tianchen World. When the two worlds merged, he would definitely arrange for the Daxia Army to also be equipped with weapons made from this black gold metal, like adding black gold fragments to bombs or bullets so that when encountering Demon Cultivators, the Daxia Army needn't fear.

As Lu Chen was thinking about the black gold material, a loud drum sound suddenly erupted from the city walls.

The commanding officer then shouted loudly,

"The Demonic Tide has arrived! Prepare for attack!"

Chapter 1034: Crisis in Black Moon City

The commanding officer had barely finished speaking when those animals radiating Demonic Qi went mad, charging toward the city walls.

Then the soldiers atop the walls continuously drew bows and shot arrows, and the next instant, a rain of arrows showered down upon the demonic creatures.

As the arrows made of black gold made contact with the bodies of the beasts, they immediately drove away the Demonic Qi. The moment the creatures were struck by the arrows, they vanished on the spot, leaving only their Demon Cores behind.

Witnessing this scene, Lu Chen was somewhat surprised. These black gold arrows were this effective? They could easily kill the demonic creatures.

He wondered if they would have the same effect against Demon Cultivators.

Under the barrage of arrows produced by Black Moon City, the first Demonic Tide was quickly held back, but things were far from over.

The Demonic Qi within the sealed demon lands was getting denser and denser. Clearly, a much larger Demonic Tide was gathering.

At this time, Ji Qiuyu, accompanied by Bai Wenbin, returned to Lu Chen's side.

Lu Chen spoke up, "Lord Ji, I don't have a weapon forged from black gold. Could I borrow a black gold sword?"

Upon hearing this, Bai Wenbin let out a cold snort and said, "A Loose Cultivator is indeed a Loose Cultivator, so poor that you can't even afford a Black Gold Sword."

Without hesitation, Ji Qiuyu tossed a sword from a nearby soldier to Lu Chen.

Catching the sword, Lu Chen said, "Thank you, Lord Ji."

As the words fell, Lu Chen drew the sword and seriously sensed the state of the Black Gold Sword.

At that moment, he suddenly realized that the dark aura emitting from the Black Gold Sword seemed to be that of Heavenly Demon Power.

After he had taken the Black Gold Sword, the Demon Burying Spell within him started running on its own, and the dark aura on the sword also began to dissipate quickly.

This...

Lu Chen appeared to understand something. Was it possible that this so-called black gold, which could kill demons, was manufactured from the demons themselves?

However, on the other hand, why didn't the Heavenly Demon Power emitting from these black gold items become nourishment for those demonic creatures, making them stronger, instead of becoming a weapon that could kill them?

While Lu Chen was puzzled, the system alert sounded.

"Heavenly Demons and the bodies of demonic creatures both contain two kinds of power: one is the power of demons, and the other is the power to seal demons."

"If there is only the power of demons without the power to seal demons in check, Heavenly Demons and demonic creatures will completely fall and become senseless Fallen Demons."

"The substance on black gold is not Demonic Qi, nor is it Heavenly Demon Power, but the power to seal demons. When some powerful Heavenly Demons fall, the sealing power within their bodies will solidify into black gold."

Hearing the explanation from the system prompt, Lu Chen instantly reacted. So that was the story.

It's much like how the human body has oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes; you can rely on oncogenes to proliferate cells, but you can't let oncogenes grow unchecked. At that point, you need tumor suppressor genes to impose limits.

The power to seal demons was similar to tumor suppressor genes, restricting the demon power from crazily increasing in Heavenly Demons and demonic creatures, ensuring a balance within their bodies.

Lu Chen couldn't help but remark inwardly at how elaborate the bodies of demons were.

At this very moment, the Demonic Qi above the sealed demon lands grew denser, but the second wave of the Demonic Tide had yet to arrive, which felt very unsettling to Ji Qiuyu.

She would naturally be pleased if the Demonic Tide ceased, but the current situation seemed more like the calm before a storm.

With such dense Demonic Qi accumulating above the sealed demon lands, there was no telling how many demonic creatures had gathered below. If those creatures swarmed in, Black Moon City might not be able to hold.

For a moment, Ji Qiuyu's face was riddled with anxiety.

Gradually, the sun had fully set, and the sky grew darker, but those demon creatures still had not emerged from the sealing ground.

At that time, a full moon slowly rose from the horizon, but the surging Demonic Qi covered most of the moon, revealing only a ring of light—making it appear like a black moon, which was the origin of Black Moon City's name.

Ji Qiuyu's expression grew uglier with each passing moment, as the demon creatures had not come out for so long. No one knew how large the second wave of the Demonic Tide would be.

At this point, everyone was on edge, even Bai Wenbin shifted his attention from Ji Qiuyu to the sealing ground.

He had initially thought that even if there were disturbances in the sealing ground, it would not cause a significant Demonic Tide. After all, there had been previous outbursts of Demonic Qi in the sealing ground, but those hadn't amounted to much.

His presence there was simply to take advantage of the situation to get closer to Ji Qiuyu and cultivate a relationship with her.

However, considering the current situation, it seemed the disturbance in the sealing ground was no ordinary event—true trouble was afoot.

Just when everyone was holding their breath awaiting the emergence of the demon creatures from the sealing ground, suddenly, a giant shadow flew out from within.

The soldiers immediately descended into chaos.

"Flying demon! It's a flying demon!"

"Everyone, be careful!"

"Quick... use the Demon-Slaying Arrow!"

...

After hearing the soldiers' words, Lu Chen then noticed weapons similar to siege crossbows on the city wall.

While they resembled siege crossbows, the giant arrows were made of black gold.

Clearly, these so-called Demon-Slaying Arrows were designed to deal with such large demon creatures.

The soldiers hurriedly aimed the siege crossbows at the flying demon in the sky, but before they could launch the arrows, the airborne demon suddenly shot out countless black feathers, each as sharp as an arrow.

In an instant, numerous soldiers on the city wall were pierced through by the black feathers.

The soldiers defending the city were all cultivators of the Heavenly Human Realm, whose strength would be considered quite good in the Tianchen World. But in this world, they were no different from ordinary people.

Watching one soldier after another fall, Ji Qiuyu couldn't hold back any longer. She leapt into the air, ready to personally slay the flying demon.

At that moment, the ground began to shake, and in the next instant, a wave of demon creatures surged out of the sealing ground like a tide.

The soldiers on the city wall frantically began firing arrows, but this time there were simply too many demon creatures, and their strength seemed to have increased. While the first wave of creatures would die upon contact with the black gold arrows, it took several arrows to kill the creatures of this wave.

The faces of the soldiers turned deathly pale; this scene was new to them.

Although they had seen large-scale Demonic Tides before, they had never encountered a scene of fierce beasts charging at the city wall, piling upon one another.

Black Moon City's walls were high enough, but they were utterly defenseless in the face of such a massive Demonic Tide. Soon enough, some demon creatures climbed up the city walls by stepping on the bodies of others.

The soldiers had no choice but to engage in close combat with the demon creatures with their swords.

Ji Qiuyu bit her silver teeth, channeled her Sword Qi, and swiftly slew the flying demon in the sky, before returning to the city wall to help the soldiers defend against the onslaught.

Seeing this scene, Bai Wenbin became utterly blank, not having expected such a multitude of demon creatures to assail them.

Chapter 1035: Lu Chen Makes a Move

Bai Wenbin gripped his sword tightly, his body trembling uncontrollably. If it were only the initial Demonic Tide, the tens of thousands of soldiers he brought could have withstood it.

But under the current circumstances, the soldiers he brought, combined with those of Black Moon City, simply could not hold back the tide. The number of monsters was so vast that they were piling up as high as the city walls. What chance did they have?

No! He couldn't die here!

He was a general of the Great Chu Dynasty with a bright future ahead of him.

Although he was very fond of Ji Qiuyu, he only coveted her beauty. There were so many beautiful women in the world; he did not want to lose his life over a woman he had not even slept with.

With this in mind, Bai Wenbin immediately turned and ran, not even leaving behind a single word.

He knew Ji Qiuyu's character; at this point, Ji Qiuyu was most likely not going to leave.

Furthermore, persuading Ji Qiuyu would take some time, and if he delayed too long, the Demonic Tide might already have surged up. If he did not leave now, he would be even less likely to escape later.

At this moment, Ji Qiuyu had not realized that Bai Wenbin had already fled. She clenched the sword in her hand and continued valiantly slaughtering the monsters.

But the number of monsters was too great, and soon the entire city tower was overrun with them. The number of surviving soldiers on the walls of Black Moon City was dwindling rapidly.

Black Moon City originally had only about a hundred and fifty thousand soldiers, and adding the tens of thousands of soldiers Bai Wenbin brought, there were only about two hundred thousand in total.

However, the number of monsters clearly exceeded two hundred thousand, and it could even reach a million. Moreover, the strength of the monsters rushing towards the walls had greatly increased, making them a match that the soldiers of the Heavenly Human Realm could not withstand.

Just then, a massive monster charged at Ji Qiuyu, who quickly harnessed her Sword Qi to fight back.

The monster was incredibly powerful; Ji Qiuyu's Sword Qi barely scratched it, and it was imbued with a power to suppress the Spiritual Power of a cultivator.

Ji Qiuyu immediately felt a sense of dread; this was the power of the Heavenly Demon, a force that could severely suppress cultivators.

Indeed, all of this must have been orchestrated by the Heavenly Demon sealed within the Sealing Grounds. It seemed the seal of the Heavenly Demon had already loosened.

But now was not the time to dwell on these thoughts. If things continued this way, all of the common people of Black Moon City would become food for the monsters.

Once Black Moon City fell, the monsters would quickly spread to other parts of the Great Chu Dynasty. If the monsters escaped from Black Moon City, stopping them would not be so easy.

At this moment, Ji Qiuyu gritted her silver teeth. The Emperor of the Great Chu Dynasty was really a fool, assigning her just a hundred and fifty thousand soldiers to guard such a crucial place and leaving her as the only Creation Realm Cultivator. How was she to defend it?

Just as Ji Qiuyu dodged the monster's thrust, another monster identical to the first suddenly appeared behind her. Ji Qiuyu instantly sensed the danger at her back.

"Not good!"

It was already too late for Ji Qiuyu to dodge, as she saw the second monster's claws about to swing down at her. Countless flashbacks flitted through her mind.

The fear in Ji Qiuyu's heart suddenly disappeared at that moment, and she became incredibly calm. She had long known that defending Black Moon City would eventually lead to a deathly end.

However, just as Ji Qiuyu believed she was certainly going to die, streams of Spiritual Energy spread from afar. As these energies touched the bodies of the monsters, each one of them scattered in terror.

Ji Qiuyu was immediately stunned upon seeing the two monsters beside her flee in fear; she had never witnessed such a scene before.

She then turned her head towards the source of the spreading Spiritual Energy and was stunned once again when she saw Lu Chen.

Could it be him?

Lu Chen threw out his sword, followed by activating his Sword Qi.

Ice-Eight Level Sword!

In the next instant, countless Sword Qi streams rushed towards the Demonic Tide, and wherever the Sword Qi went, all the demons were frozen in place. In just a split second, hundreds of thousands of demons were swiftly annihilated.

Seeing this scene, whether it was the soldiers on the city wall or Ji Qiuyu, all were stunned.

This was the first time they had seen someone able to kill so many demons in a blink of an eye.

These demons, under the influence of the Heavenly Demon, either more or less, had some immunity to Spiritual Power. Therefore, even if Ji Qiuyu used swordsmanship, it was difficult to annihilate demons on a large scale.

Relying solely on the power of an individual Cultivator to eradicate demons was very difficult; they could basically only depend on black-gold weapons.

But now, this man, relying on some kind of swordsmanship, had obliterated so many demons—how did he manage to do that?

He looked like he was the natural nemesis of demons.

At this moment, the onslaught of the Demonic Tide weakened a bit, and some demons had already begun to entertain thoughts of retreat.

The scene just now not only stunned everyone but also greatly deterred the demons present.

A glimmer of surprise flashed in Ji Qiuyu's beautiful eyes. Who on earth was this man? Why did he possess such power?

While Ji Qiuyu was lost in thought, Lu Chen took action for the second time.

Ice-Eight Level Sword!

Once again, in an instant, the demons near Lu Chen were all frozen into ice, then immediately turned into icy rubble.

It was the first time Lu Chen had used the Heaven Rank sword technique, the Ice-Eight Level Sword, in actual combat. He had not expected the effect to be so remarkable.

Of course, this was mainly because he had cultivated the Demon Burying Spell, which allowed his Sword Qi to dispel Demonic Qi—a lethal threat to demons.

As Lu Chen took action, the demons had clearly realized something was amiss, and some of them began to flee towards the Demon Sealing grounds.

Lu Chen then took action once again and, in less than a quarter of an hour, had completely dispersed the Demonic Tide.

Those present felt as if they were dreaming; they had never imagined that there would come a day when facing the Demonic Tide could be so effortless.

Who was this man? He was too strong!

Ji Qiuyu also watched Lu Chen from afar, her feelings somewhat complex. She had initially thought that Lu Chen was just an ordinary Creation Realm Cultivator, keeping him simply for an extra set of fighting abilities. She hadn't expected he would become the key figure to turn the tide.

Such a powerful being—why had she never heard of him before? Logically, someone like him who could easily kill demons, even if not particularly high in cultivation state, shouldn't be unknown.

Lu Chen wasn't aware of the gazes of those around him. He stood on the city tower, looking towards the demonic Qi above the Demon Sealing land in the distance.

The Demonic Qi above the Demon Sealing land was still very dense, but perhaps because of his intervention, those demons only dared to stay inside the Demon Sealing land and didn't dare to leave.

This scene felt unbelievably magical; one person was enough to prevent the Demonic Tide from stepping out of the Demon Sealing land.

Were they really not dreaming?

If this man were to stay in Black Moon City, wouldn't the demons henceforth not dare to leave the Demon Sealing land? Wouldn't that mean the end of the Demonic Tide?

Chapter 1036: Ji Qiuyu's Little Scheme

Once they thought about Lu Chen staying in Black Moon City, from now on Black Moon City wouldn't have to fear the Demonic Tide, and the soldiers of Black Moon City suddenly had their eyes shining, almost wishing they could lock Lu Chen up.

At that time, Ji Qiuyu also had the same idea. Since becoming the City Lord of Black Moon City, this was the first time she had encountered such a situation.

One person defending a city, it was clear that Lu Chen was the nemesis of the demons, and although she did not know why he restrained the demons, as long as he stayed, future Demonic Tides would not be so difficult to deal with.

After seeing that the demons were no longer stirring, Lu Chen finally turned his head to look at Ji Qiuyu, and saw that Ji Qiuyu's beautiful eyes were fixedly staring at him. Lu Chen smiled faintly.

Then he used the system to check on Ji Qiuyu's Favorability, and her Favorability towards him had already reached eighty.

It had to be said, the move of playing the hero to save the beauty really was effective on most girls.

After Ji Qiuyu came back to her senses, she immediately went over to Lu Chen's side, "Cultivator Lu, you're truly impressive, so easily repelling the Demonic Tide."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I didn't expect these demons to be so weak, I thought I might meet my end here today."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Ji Qiuyu's eyelids twitched slightly.

So weak?

Lu Chen actually thought these demons were weak?

Alright, for him, these demons indeed weren't that strong, he could eliminate hundreds of thousands of demons with a single sword technique, the strength of the demons truly was nothing in front of him.

Ji Qiuyu said, "I'm somewhat curious, what sort of Swordsmanship did Cultivator Lu use to eliminate the demons so easily?"

Lu Chen said, "This is the Swordsmanship passed down by my Sect, and I cannot disclose it to outsiders."

Ji Qiuyu felt slightly disappointed in her heart. She thought if Lu Chen's Swordsmanship could be passed on to others, wouldn't it be much easier to deal with the demons in the future?

However, she also understood that Sect Cultivation Techniques were generally not disclosed to outsiders, not to mention that Lu Chen's Swordsmanship had such a powerful effect on demons, its value was imaginable, and Lu Chen was even less likely to hand it out so readily.

But she had no intention of giving up just like that. This Swordsmanship was too useful for them, and she had already been thinking about whether to use some means to deceive the Swordsmanship from Lu Chen. What Ji Qiuyu didn't know was that Lu Chen's ability to eliminate demons so effortlessly was not primarily because of the Swordsmanship, but rather the Demon Burying Spell.

The Ice-Eight Level Sword that Lu Chen cultivated was a Heaven Rank Swordsmanship, although its power was indeed very great, but if it weren't for the aid of the Demon Burying Spell, the Sword Qi that Lu Chen unleashed would not have been able to cause such a great injury to the demons.

Just as Ji Qiuyu was about to say more, a General came before Ji Qiuyu, "City Lord, General Bai has escaped."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu finally reacted, realizing that she hadn't seen Bai Wenbin's figure since a while ago.

Ji Qiuyu then asked, "When did he leave?"

The General replied, "When the second wave of the Demonic Tide appeared, General Bai left."

Ji Qiuyu didn't pay too much attention to it, she hadn't been counting on Bai Wenbin anyway. What kind of person Bai Wenbin was, she knew better than anyone.

Ji Qiuyu said indifferently, "If he has run away, then so be it."

Having said this, Ji Qiuyu glanced at the soldiers left behind by Bai Wenbin. Although Bai Wenbin had run away, the soldiers he brought were still on the front lines, which could be considered as contributing a bit.

Meanwhile.

Bai Wenbin was on the deck of a Flying Boat, looking towards the distant Sealed Demon Grounds, watching as the rising Demonic Qi became denser and denser. Bai Wenbin was shaken to the core, thinking that Black Moon City must have fallen by now.

At that moment, a Flying Boat flew in from a distance. The one operating the Flying Boat was one of his subordinates. He had escaped in such a hurry earlier that he had left all his subordinates behind.

Soon a man flew from the opposite Flying Boat and said to Bai Wenbin, "Commander Bai, good news!"

After hearing his subordinate's words, Bai Wenbin was stunned for a moment.

Good news?

What good news could there be at this time?

Bai Wenbin then asked, "What's the good news?"

...

The subordinate replied, "The crisis of the Demonic Tide in Black Moon City has been resolved, and those demon creatures have all retreated back to the Demon Sealing Lands."

Huh?

Upon hearing this, Bai Wenbin was completely stunned.

The crisis had been resolved just like that?

That quickly?

Wasn't Black Moon City supposed to be overrun by demon creatures?

What happened?

Bai Wenbin then asked, "Those demon creatures didn't attack?"

The subordinate replied, "Not exactly. It was all thanks to the Loose Cultivator that Lord Ji invited. That cultivator was particularly powerful, eliminating hundreds of thousands of demons with a single sword strike. The rest were scared off by him and retreated back to the Demon Sealing Lands."

This...

Bai Wenbin was stunned once again.

He then asked again, "The Loose Cultivator you mentioned, is that the Creation Realm Cultivator named Lu Chen?"

The subordinate said, "I do not know his name, but he should be the man Commander Bai mentioned, the one who had a conversation with the Commander earlier."

Bai Wenbin frowned. He was keenly aware that the Loose Cultivator named Lu Chen only possessed the strength of the Creation Realm, so how could he be so formidable?

Could it be that he was hiding his true power?

Bai Wenbin continued, "Tell me the details of what happened."

After that, his subordinate recounted the events that had unfolded in Black Moon City. Upon hearing his subordinate's report, Bai Wenbin fell into deep thought.

Why did it feel like Lu Chen had some special cultivation technique to deal with demons?

Otherwise, how could he so easily kill those demons?

If only he could acquire the cultivation technique Lu Chen possessed...

Thinking this, the corners of Bai Wenbin's mouth curled up slightly. He then instructed the soldier piloting the Flying Boat, "Return to Black Moon City immediately!"

At this moment, Ji Qiuyu was still trying to cozy up to Lu Chen, hoping to learn the swordsmanship he possessed. She could no longer treat Lu Chen as she had before.

"Lu Daoist friend, didn't you say you were a Loose Cultivator? How come you have a sect? Your sect possesses such powerful Swordsmanship; surely it must be a great force?"

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "My sect is not powerful and has long since vanished. I am the last member of my sect, so I present myself as a Loose Cultivator when outside."

Ji Qiuyu said, "I see."

Ji Qiuyu continued to ask, "May I know where you plan to head next, Lu Daoist friend?"

Lu Chen replied, "I haven't decided yet."

Ji Qiuyu said, "Then how about you stay here? With Lu Daoist friend in Black Moon City, we would no longer have to fear the Demonic Tide in the future."

"I will report your achievements to the Great Chu Imperial Court, and I will recommend that the Imperial Court bestows upon you the identity of Deputy City Lord. How does that sound, Lu Daoist friend?"

Only by keeping Lu Chen here would she have the chance to obtain the sword technique capable of slaying demons from him.

Upon hearing Ji Qiuyu's words, Lu Chen smiled slightly and then said, "Alright, I will stay in Black Moon City for the time being."

Seeing that Lu Chen had agreed, Ji Qiuyu became somewhat excited. She immediately said, "Rest assured, Lu Daoist friend, your achievements will soon reach His Majesty's ears, and His Majesty will undoubtedly grant you a generous reward."

No sooner had Ji Qiuyu finished speaking than a man's voice came from afar, "Achievements? It might not necessarily be considered an achievement. If Lu Daoist friend is so powerful, why didn't you take action sooner? Black Moon City and my troops have suffered such heavy losses—can this really be considered an achievement?"

...

Chapter 1037: Lu Daoist friend, thanks to you this time

Lu Chen and Ji Qiuyu both turned their heads to look at Bai Wenbin, and Ji Qiuyu's eyebrows furrowed when she realized who had arrived.

Then Ji Qiuyu said, "Commander Bai, why have you come back?"

"Black Moon City is so dangerous, it would be better for Commander Bai to stay farther away."

Seeing Ji Qiuyu with a dark expression, Bai Wenbin quickly said with a smile, "Qiuyu, I didn't run away just now, I saw that there were simply too many monsters, and Black Moon City's soldiers couldn't hold the fort, so I went back to get reinforcements."

Ji Qiuyu laughed derisively but did not say much.

Bai Wenbin then glanced at Lu Chen and continued, "Qiuyu, you should be careful with this fellow by your side."

"If he really wanted to help Black Moon City, he would have acted when the Demonic Tide appeared, not wait until Black Moon City lost so many soldiers before taking action."

"At the most dangerous moment for Black Moon City, he obviously wanted to play the hero saving the beauty, to win your favor. I think he has ulterior motives, certainly scheming something."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu said indifferently, "Fellow Daoist Lu is visiting Black Moon City for the first time and also encountering the Demonic Tide for the first time, perhaps Fellow Daoist Lu did not know initially that his Cultivation Technique was so lethal to the monsters."

Ji Qiuyu was no fool; how could she not know that Lu Chen might intentionally be playing the hero to win her favor? But the current situation was that she wanted Lu Chen to stay.

Even if Lu Chen really had designs on her, she would not speak outright, instead acting as if she knew nothing.

This was the silent understanding between them—you pretend to be demure, understanding my hidden agenda, and I acknowledge your valiance, each keeping the tacit agreement.

Seeing Ji Qiuyu siding with Lu Chen, Bai Wenbin's face darkened. Just as Bai Wenbin wanted to say more, Ji Qiuyu spoke up, "Fellow Daoist Lu, we'll be troubling you with the Demonic Tide matters next. The Demonic Qi hasn't dispersed, and the Demonic Tide may sweep over us again at any moment."

Hearing this, Bai Wenbin felt a jolt in his heart; he then turned to look at the situation at the Sealed Demon Grounds. Indeed, the Demonic Qi in the Sealed Demon Grounds was still gathering, and it seemed more monsters were accumulating.

No one knew if those monsters would launch a third attack. If they did attack again and Lu Chen chose to do nothing, then wouldn't they suffer again?

Bai Wenbin instantly understood the meaning behind Ji Qiuyu's words; Ji Qiuyu seemed to be speaking to Lu Chen, but in reality, she was warning him.

Bai Wenbin snorted unwillingly and did not say more, eager to see just how capable this Lu Chen really was.

And so, they stood on the city wall all night, but the monsters did not attack again. With the first rays of dawn stretching across the land, the Demonic Qi inside the Sealed Demon Grounds was gradually dissipating.

Seeing this, people finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Ji Qiuyu once again addressed Lu Chen, "Fellow Daoist Lu, we owe you a great debt for this time, I will write a memorial shortly to commend you for your bravery."

Lu Chen said, "It's what I should do."

Hearing their conversation, Bai Wenbin stood to the side, feeling quite bitter, but he remained silent.

He started to think about how he might drive Lu Chen away; if he continued to let him stay in Black Moon City, who knew what might develop between Lu Chen and Ji Qiuyu.

Meanwhile.

On a mountain outside Black Moon City.

A man clad in a black robe saw the Demonic Tide retreat, and his face immediately showed an expression of furious frustration.

"How could this be!"

"Why hasn't the Demonic Tide spread out!"

"What on earth happened, how could Ji Qiuyu alone have defended Black Moon City!"

The man's face became incredibly contorted, looking extremely fearful.

After roaring for a while, the man eventually turned and left.

At this time, Ji Qiuyu and Lu Chen had already returned to the City Lord's Mansion. Ji Qiuyu had the servants prepare a lot of food for Lu Chen, but he did not eat anything. After returning to the City Lord's Mansion, he began to meditate and cultivate behind closed doors.

Ji Qiuyu originally wanted to have a chat with Lu Chen to get some information, but after seeing Lu Chen cultivating behind closed doors, she did not disturb him.

Seeing that Lu Chen and Ji Qiuyu had separated, Bai Wenbin came to Ji Qiuyu once again, continuing to speak ill of Lu Chen.

"Qiuyu, there must be something wrong with Lu Chen, maybe he is a Demon Cultivator."

"Think about it, this world has never seen swordsmanship that can restrain demons before, and yet here's this unknown Loose Cultivator wielding such swordsmanship, do you find that reasonable?"

"If such swordsmanship really existed, it would have been famous throughout the world by now, so why has it only appeared now?"

"I suspect he is a Demon Cultivator who has used some Devilish Skill to temporarily repel those demons, then took the opportunity to rely on your connections to climb higher."

Hearing Bai Wenbin's words, Ji Qiuyu blandly replied, "Commander Bai, if he really were a Demon Cultivator, I would have sensed it already, and you wouldn't need to remind me now."

A Demon Cultivator would certainly have Demonic Qi on them, no matter how well hidden it might be, and Ji Qiuyu, who had been dealing with demons year-round, was even more sensitive to Demonic Qi. Even if Lu Chen came into contact with demons and had a trace of Demonic Qi on him, she would have been able to detect it.

But Lu Chen had not a trace of Demonic Qi on him; clearly, Lu Chen was not a Demon Cultivator. Even if Lu Chen really had ulterior motives, as long as they were not related to Demon Cultivators, that was none of her concern.

The Imperial Court had abandoned Black Moon City to die; she had long been displeased with the Imperial Court. Black Moon City had suffered countless Demonic Tides, yet the Imperial Court had not sent reinforcements and even withheld the soldiers' provisions.

Now the soldiers of Black Moon City were being maintained with money from the City Lord's Mansion, and Ji Qiuyu's dissatisfaction with the Imperial Court had a long history.

Even if Lu Chen were a rebel against the Great Chu Dynasty, Ji Qiuyu wouldn't care at all; she wished that such a dynasty would collapse soon.

Seeing Ji Qiuyu still speaking up for Lu Chen, Bai Wenbin's brows furrowed, and he continued, "Qiuyu, do you really have to wait until something happens before you'll regret it?"

Ji Qiuyu blandly stated, "Commander Bai, all I know is that when the Demonic Tide erupted, Lu Chen did not run, but you did."

Hearing that, Bai Wenbin was momentarily taken aback, then defensively retorted, "I was going to fetch reinforcements."

Ji Qiuyu said, "Thank you for your good intentions, Commander Bai, but given last night's situation, I fear that your reinforcements wouldn't have arrived before Black Moon City had fallen, and I would have been dead."

"So Lu Chen is the life-saving benefactor of the entire Black Moon City, as well as my own."

"If Commander Bai continues to speak ill of him, then please, Commander Bai, you may leave."

"Qiuyu, I..." Before Bai Wenbin could finish, Ji Qiuyu directly turned and left the courtyard, returning to her own room, leaving Bai Wenbin standing there alone.

Seeing Ji Qiuyu just walk away, a hint of murderous intent flashed in his eyes, and he clenched his fists involuntarily.

No, he absolutely couldn't let Lu Chen continue to stay by Ji Qiuyu's side!

No matter who this Lu Chen was or what his intentions might be, daring to vie with him for a woman meant only one thing—a dead end!

Chapter 1038: The Imperial Decree of the Great Chu Dynasty

Lu Chen didn't know what kind of crisis his puppet was about to face, nor did he care.

At this time, he had already shifted his attention back to his actual body. Right now, Chu Qingli was still lying on top of Lu Chen, but she remained motionless.

She distinctly felt Lu Chen was distracted and not focusing on her.

Just then, Chu Yuqin suddenly felt much more fulfilled. She instantly sat up, gazing down at Lu Chen beneath her.

Clearly, Lu Chen had come back to his senses, and Chu Qingli curiously asked, "Your Majesty, what were you just thinking about?"

Lu Chen didn't conceal anything and told the truth, "I had just sent my puppet on a trip to the neighboring Ziyang World."

Hearing Lu Chen's reply, Chu Qingli was slightly startled. Could it be that Lu Chen had been distracted all night because he was controlling the puppet?

Had Lu Chen's Puppetry Technique become so powerful?

Chu Qingli continued to inquire, "Can Your Majesty still sense the puppet even when it's in the Ziyang World?"

Lu Chen responded, "Yes, my Puppetry Technique has improved further."

After thinking for a moment, Chu Qingli then asked, "I wonder if your consort could learn Your Majesty's Puppetry Technique?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "If you take good care of my avatar, I'll teach you the Puppetry Technique."

Chu Qingli gave Lu Chen a glare, but she didn't say anything else and began to practice the Mysterious Female Technique.

Feeling Chu Qingli's actions, Lu Chen smiled faintly and simply lay there, enjoying the pleasure Chu Qingli brought him.

During the following days, Lu Chen controlled his puppet every night to help Ji Qiuyu guard the city. However, after a few days, the Demonic Tide did not erupt again, perhaps due to the passage of time.

Word of Lu Chen's affairs soon spread throughout Black Moon City. Hearing that Lu Chen possessed sword techniques capable of combating demons, many people in Black Moon City began to ponder.

Great Chu Dynasty.

Capital city, Imperial Palace.

Inside a pavilion in the Royal Garden, an old man with a wrinkled face dressed in a dragon robe was meditating. Beside him stood another elderly man.

At that moment, a figure appeared in the courtyard, "Your Majesty, a letter from the City Lord of Black Moon City!"

The Chu Emperor said indifferently, "Read it."

The guard proceeded to recite the matters reported by Ji Qiuyu. Hearing the letter mention someone who could restrain demons, the complexion of the old man beside the Chu Emperor instantly darkened.

Xiao Chenghua thought to himself, Black Moon City hadn't fallen because of that person.

How dare he undermine his grand plan? That person absolutely could not be left alive.

If he remained alive, the Demonic Tide would never break through Black Moon City, and the demons wouldn't be able to enter the Great Chu Dynasty, nor would they bring more Demonic Qi.

After hearing the contents of the letter, the Chu Emperor opened his eyes and muttered to himself, "This is the first time I've heard of a sword technique that can restrain demons. If this is true, then I must meet this Lu Chen."

With that said, the Chu Emperor turned to Xiao Chenghua and asked, "State Preceptor, what do you think?"

Xiao Chenghua immediately replied, "Your Majesty, I wonder if there might be some conspiracy involved here."

"We have never heard of a sword technique that could restrain demons, and this Lu Chen is a Loose Cultivator. It's even less likely for a Loose Cultivator to possess such a sword technique."

"I feel even more that he is a Demon Cultivator, who has mastered some special Devilish Skills, thus able to control those demons and send them temporarily back to their sealing grounds."

The Chu Emperor said, "The State Preceptor's words make sense. What does the State Preceptor think should be done about this person?"

Xiao Chenghua said, "I think, since this person claims to possess a sword technique that can restrain Demonic Qi, then he should be made to reveal it. If he can't, it proves he is lying, and Your Majesty should convict him of the crime of deceiving the sovereign."

The Chu Emperor replied, "But the memo was written by Ji Qiuyu, not that Lu Chen."

Xiao Chenghua said, "Even if we do not punish him for the crime of deceiving the sovereign, we must still thoroughly investigate whether he has any ties to demon cultivators."

The Chu Emperor said, "Indeed, we should investigate thoroughly."

"However, Lu Chen did establish his merit this time, so the rewards he is due must still be given."

"Summon someone, draft an edict..."

...

Several days later.

Black Moon City.

Lu Chen's puppet was in the room when suddenly, a flying boat appeared in the sky above Black Moon City.

Seeing the flag atop the flying boat, Ji Qiuyu knew that the Royal Family had sent someone; hence, she immediately said to the maid by her side, "Go and call for Daoist Lu!"

The maid quickly went to the door of Lu Chen's room and knocked, "Lord Lu, someone from the Imperial Court has arrived, there should be an edict."

As the maid's voice fell, there was no response from the room. The maid continued to call out, "Lord Lu, are you in the room?"

Still, there was no response from the room. The maid called out several more times before finally hearing Lu Chen's voice.

"Ah... that's refreshing!"

"What is it?"

Hearing Lu Chen's voice, the maid at the door was taken aback for a moment; his voice made it seem as if he was doing something indecent in the room. However, she quickly regained her composure and said, "Someone from the Imperial Court has come, and the City Lord asks that you come over immediately."

Hearing this, the puppet Lu Chen did not hesitate, opened the door, and followed the maid to the front courtyard.

However, as soon as Lu Chen arrived at the front courtyard, the flying boat had already left, leaving only Ji Qiuyu standing there with the sacred decree.

Seeing this scene, Lu Chen asked curiously, "Weren't they here to deliver the decree? Why isn't the messenger here?"

Ji Qiuyu turned around and handed the sacred decree to Lu Chen, "They've already left."

At this point, Ji Qiuyu chuckled lightly, "A bunch of cowards fearing death, they couldn't even wait a moment."

The eunuch who came to deliver the decree was afraid of the Demonic Tide, so after passing the sacred decree to Ji Qiuyu, he left directly and did not wait for Lu Chen to receive the decree himself.

After all, it was the same whether Lu Chen personally accepted the decree or not.

Lu Chen then opened the sacred decree Ji Qiuyu handed to him and glanced over it. The decree was straightforward, praising him for his meritorious actions, appointing him as the Deputy City Lord of Black Moon City, and instructing him to hand over the Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique.

Seeing the content of the sacred decree, Lu Chen smiled wryly. To think they wanted his Demon Burying Spell in exchange for a mere position as a Deputy City Lord—it was wishful thinking.

Immediately afterward, Lu Chen said, "City Lord, it seems I must leave."

Ji Qiuyu hastily asked, "Daoist Lu, why is this?"

Lu Chen said, "The sacred decree clearly states that I should hand over the Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique. Isn't this just blatant robbery?"

"For me, the position of Deputy City Lord of Black Moon City is optional, but I will not casually impart my swordsmanship to outsiders."

"I once took an oath before my Honored Master that if I were to pass this sword technique on to outsiders, I would have no place to be buried when I die."

"If I break my oath, the Heavenly Dao surely will punish me. As a cultivator, you should understand how important oaths are, City Lord."

This...

Ji Qiuyu was stunned; she had not expected Lu Chen to be so adamant. However, she realized this was indeed a problem and, of course, she could see what the Imperial Court was thinking.

Such an important sword technique—who wouldn't want it? Naturally, the Imperial Court wanted it too.

Ji Qiuyu quickly came to her senses and said eagerly, "Daoist Lu, you don't need to take the sacred decree to heart. If you don't want to give it, then don't. You can still be the Deputy City Lord of Black Moon City."

Chapter 1039: Lu Chen, Do You Have a Daoist Couple?

Ji Qiuyu certainly didn't want Lu Chen to get away, even if Lu Chen didn't impart the Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique, his existence was of utmost importance to Black Moon City.

If Lu Chen were not there, the next time a Demonic Tide occurred like the one a few days ago, relying solely on Black Moon City's power would simply not be enough to hold out.

They had to retain Lu Chen at all costs.

Hearing Ji Qiuyu's words, Lu Chen said, "But the Emperor has issued an imperial edict, wouldn't there be punishment if I don't comply?"

Ji Qiuyu said with a smile, "Can the Great Chu Emperor even manage to control Black Moon City? Now the Great Chu Dynasty is torn apart. Although in name Black Moon City is still part of the Great Chu Dynasty, in reality, it has already become independent."

"Even if the Great Chu Dynasty wanted to replace me as City Lord, as long as I don't agree, they can't do it."

Hearing Ji Qiuyu's words, Lu Chen was somewhat surprised. Could she really say something like that?

Since Ji Qiuyu dared to say so, it seemed that the Great Chu Dynasty really couldn't manage its subordinates anymore.

Ji Qiuyu continued, "Daoist Lu, rest assured, as long as I am in Black Moon City for a day, even if you don't teach the Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique to others, you can still be Deputy City Lord of Black Moon City."

After she finished speaking, Ji Qiuyu looked at Lu Chen expectantly, wanting to know if he would stay.

Lu Chen said, "Since the City Lord has said so, then I will stay; after all, I have nowhere else to go right now."

Hearing Lu Chen's response, Ji Qiuyu was overjoyed inside. It was fine as long as Lu Chen was willing to stay.

In the following month, Lu Chen toured the entire Black Moon City in his capacity as Deputy City Lord and discovered that Black Moon City was larger than he had imagined. No wonder Ji Qiuyu said Black Moon City was almost independent.

Black Moon City was divided into two parts, one was the outer city responsible for fending off the Demonic Tide, and then there was a vast inner city, which was almost the size of a small country.

The key was that Black Moon City's control extended not just over one city, but over a large area of land around it; Black Moon City had already formed a complete economic trade system. It could be said that Black Moon City was now a country within a country.

During this time, Lu Chen used his status as Deputy City Lord to inquire about this world from its inhabitants.

There were many dynasties and nations in this world. Of course, one of the most important reasons for this was that the Ziyang World was much larger than Tianchen World, which led to the formation of so many countries and dynasties.

In the Ziyang World, the five greatest powers were Tianji Pavilion, Zixiao Dynasty, Xiongmo Tower, Blood Rainbow Pavilion, and Shuiyue Temple.

Zixiao Dynasty had the most land in the world and was the most powerful dynasty on the surface. However, in terms of true strength, in the eyes of the people in this world, Tianji Pavilion was the strongest because Tianji Pavilion was mysterious enough, and the unknown was the most daunting.

After figuring out the power structure of this world, Lu Chen focused his investigation on the Zixiao Dynasty and Tianji Pavilion.

He now very much wanted to know the strength of Zixiao Dynasty and Tianji Pavilion.

One day.

Lu Chen was patrolling the city wall with Ji Qiuyu when he glanced at the distant Sealed Demonic Lands, then said, "City Lord, if the Sealed Demonic Lands are so important, why doesn't the Zixiao Dynasty personally send someone to guard it, instead leaving everything to the Great Chu Dynasty?"

Ji Qiuyu sighed and said, "I was originally sent by the Zixiao Dynasty, and that's why the Great Chu Dynasty has never dared to touch me. In the past, the Zixiao Dynasty would send someone to inspect the Sealed Demonic Lands regularly every year to check the seals, but these past few years, with the Zixiao Dynasty in turmoil, they seem to have forgotten about the Sealed Demonic Lands."

Hearing Ji Qiuyu's answer, Lu Chen realized. So that was it. He had wondered why such a significant threat as the sealed demonic land hadn't attracted more attention.

Continuing, Lu Chen said, "The sealed demonic land concerns the entire safety of the Ziyang World. Besides, other powers should be paying attention as well, right? Like the Tianji Pavilion?"

Ji Qiuyu replied, "Disciples from Tianji Pavilion do make their annual visits, but they don't station anyone here permanently. Perhaps in their eyes, the sealed demonic land isn't likely to encounter any issues."

Lu Chen thought to himself that the people of the Ziyang World really had rampant disregard.

At this point, Ji Qiuyu continued, "Ultimately, they just want to shirk responsibility."

Lu Chen thought about it and agreed. With so many powers in the Ziyang World, passing the buck was only too typical. It was just like the saying about too many monks and not enough water—no one wanted to guard the sealed demonic land, a place thick with Demonic Qi and scarce in Spiritual Energy. Who would willingly watch over it?

It was only because the Great Chu Dynasty's territory was located here that they had no choice but to dispatch troops to guard the place. Should the Demonic Tide spread, the Great Chu Dynasty would be the first to suffer.

Then, Lu Chen stopped walking and, looking at Ji Qiuyu, he asked, "City Lord, haven't you ever thought of leaving Black Moon City? Given that you're not originally from the Great Chu Dynasty, you are under no obligation to risk your life for it."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu smiled and said, "At first, I did think about leaving. But later, I became accustomed to this place, and the sealed demonic land holds special significance for me. So, I cannot leave."

Curious, Lu Chen asked, "Special significance?"

Ji Qiuyu now turned her head to look at Lu Chen. Gazing into his eyes, she said, "Tens of thousands of years ago, the Ji Family paid a heavy price to seal the Heavenly Demon in the sealed demonic land. Since then, guarding the sealed demonic land has been the mission of the Ji Family's disciples."

"Moreover, when the Heavenly Demon was sealed, it had marked the blood and aura of the Ji Family members. If the seal were ever broken and the Heavenly Demon emerged from within, it would seek out the Ji Family for revenge immediately."

Lu Chen responded, "I see."

At this moment, Ji Qiuyu smiled and said to Lu Chen, "I'm glad you're here, Daoist Lu. With you in Black Moon City, I believe the Demonic Tide will never breach the city's defenses."

Lu Chen also revealed a faint smile, "City Lord, are you still going to address me as Daoist Lu? You might as well use my name."

Catching Lu Chen's words, Ji Qiuyu was momentarily taken aback, but she quickly recovered and promptly said, "Lu Chen, the safety of Black Moon City is in your hands now."

Lu Chen replied, "No problem. As long as I'm in Black Moon City, I won't let the Demonic Tide advance one more step."

"Alright, let's continue our patrol."

As Lu Chen's voice fell, he walked toward the distant parts of the city walls, and Ji Qiuyu didn't say anything more.

The two of them strolled on the city walls as if they were a pair of celestial beings, seemingly a perfect Daoist couple.

The current mood stirred subtle feelings within Ji Qiuyu's heart. It was Lu Chen who had saved her life. Despite knowing Lu Chen might have ulterior motives, she couldn't help but feel a growing fondness for him.

Moreover, Lu Chen was so handsome, her thoughts about him became even more numerous. However, after spending a month together, she realized that Lu Chen didn't seem to harbor any special feelings towards her, which troubled her deeply.

After a while, Ji Qiuyu spoke again, "Lu Chen, do you have a Daoist couple?"

Without missing a beat, and without a blush, Lu Chen answered, "No, City Lord. Why do you ask?"

Chapter 1040: What do you think of me?

Lu Chen thought to himself that he indeed didn't have a Daoist couple, even though he had a bevy of wives and concubines. However, what Ji Qiuyu asked about was a Daoist couple, and his response wasn't really a lie.

Seeing Lu Chen say he didn't have a Daoist couple, Ji Qiuyu's heartbeat suddenly quickened.

No Daoist couple? Then did she not have a chance?

Lu Chen had mentioned that the Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique was not to be passed on to outsiders, so if she became Lu Chen's Daoist couple, wouldn't she no longer be an outsider?

At this thought, Ji Qiuyu felt slightly excited, and then she asked again, "Then, do you plan to find a Daoist couple?"

"Being a Loose Cultivator must be quite lonely, right?"

Hearing this, Lu Chen smirked slightly. Ji Qiuyu's words had reached this point; how could Lu Chen not know what she meant?

However, from her personal information, Lu Chen could tell that Ji Qiuyu wanted to become his Daoist couple more for the non-existent Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique and not purely out of romantic affection.

Of course, romantic affection was there. Ji Qiuyu's favorability towards him was already in the high eighties; it was impossible to say there were no feelings.

Lu Chen replied, "I have indeed thought about it, but I trust more in fate. I won't deliberately seek it out. When fate arrives, the Daoist couple will naturally appear."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu fell silent for a moment, then directly asked, "What do you think of me?"

Lu Chen turned his head, pretending to be confused and looked at Ji Qiuyu, "What do you mean?"

Ji Qiuyu continued, "I mean, do you think I'm suitable to be your Daoist couple?"

As she spoke, a faint blush appeared on Ji Qiuyu's cheeks. Although she indeed had the ulterior motive of acquiring Lu Chen's Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique through their relationship, she genuinely liked Lu Chen.

At this moment, Ji Qiuyu also felt a bit shy.

Lu Chen feigned an expression of shock, remaining silent for a long while.

After a while, Lu Chen finally spoke, "Is the City Lord jesting with me?"

Ji Qiuyu bit her silver teeth lightly, then said, "I'm serious."

Lu Chen fell silent again. Seeing that Lu Chen did not reply, Ji Qiuyu grew anxious; her impulsiveness might end up frightening Lu Chen away.

Ji Qiuyu quickly added, "If you're unwilling, let's forget it."

Lu Chen appraised Ji Qiuyu for a moment.

Ji Qiuyu was tall and slender, dressed in a pink cloud-patterned dress that clung to her graceful body, revealing and concealing in turn, full of seduction.

Her face was extremely beautiful, with a delicate nose, cherry lips, and smooth hair spilling down to her waist, her forehead adorned with a petal pattern.

If Lu Chen's true body were here, he would undoubtedly wish to be intimate with her right now; unfortunately, his true body was not present.

Lu Chen then said, "I didn't say I was unwilling; however, don't you think this is a bit hasty, City Lord?"

"I've heard from the soldiers that the City Lord has never had feelings for any man, and that Bai Wenbin pursued you for over a decade without your acceptance."

"I've only known the City Lord for a short time, and you don't know enough about me. Aren't you afraid I might be a bad person?"

Ji Qiuyu responded, "If you were really a bad person, then you wouldn't have saved me during the Demonic Tide outbreak, nor would you have saved the common people of Black Moon City."

Ji Qiuyu had thought it through; other than her beauty, there really wasn't much she had that was worth Lu Chen's scheming, so she didn't believe Lu Chen stayed in Black Moon City because he harbored ulterior motives.

...

In her view, even if Lu Chen's background was unknown, he couldn't possibly be a bad person, and she didn't want to miss this opportunity.

She believed that since Lu Chen's Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique had such a lethal effect on those demons, it might also be useful against the Heavenly Demon.

If she could learn Lu Chen's Demon-Exorcising Sword Technique, then the day the Heavenly Demon emerged from the sealed demonic grounds, she too could use Lu Chen's technique to confront it.

To learn Lu Chen's sword technique, she was willing to give up her purity to him, especially since she already harbored some affection for Lu Chen; even if she did give herself to him, she wouldn't be at a loss.

Lu Chen was the first man to ever make her heart stir since she was born; he would be a fitting partner as her Daoist couple.

Smiling, Lu Chen said, "City Lord, I can be your Daoist couple, but..."

Ji Qiuyu was taken aback for a moment, then asked, "But what?"

Lu Chen continued, "But I've been cultivating a special technique recently, and for a certain period, I must refrain from intimate contact with women."

Hearing this, Ji Qiuyu instantly understood Lu Chen's meaning, and her complexion became even rosier.

Seeing her look this way, Lu Chen asked, "City Lord, what's wrong, your face is becoming so red?"

After regaining her composure, Ji Qiuyu shot Lu Chen a glance, as if flirting as lovers would, "Are you still calling me City Lord?"

Lu Chen feigned embarrassment with a smile, "Oh... Ah, I see now, Qiuyu."

Hearing Lu Chen call her intimately, Ji Qiuyu's heart raced. She had not expected to have a Daoist couple so soon, having thought she'd end up alone in Black Moon City for her entire life.

She also understood why she suddenly wanted to find a Daoist couple; it's likely due to the Demonic Tide over a month ago that made her face the peril of death, sparking her eagerness for such a connection.

She didn't wish to die before experiencing the affections between a man and a woman.

At this point, Lu Chen continued with concern, "Qiuyu, are you alright? Your face is getting even redder."

Ji Qiuyu hurriedly said, "I'm fine, stop asking."

At that, Ji Qiuyu, flushed with embarrassment, continued walking ahead, thinking to herself that this guy really didn't understand women at all. Couldn't he tell why her face was red?

Watching Ji Qiuyu's retreating figure, Lu Chen chuckled and then followed her.

After confirming their relationship as Daoist couples, Ji Qiuyu found herself uncertain about how to converse with Lu Chen; she had never sought a Daoist couple before, and Lu Chen was her first man. She wasn't sure what she was supposed to do.

Evening.

The setting sun dipped low in the sky.

Pacing in her room, Ji Qiuyu had yet to see Lu Chen arrive and asked the maid beside her, "Where is the Deputy City Lord now?"

The maid replied, "City Lord, the Deputy City Lord has returned to his own room."

Although Ji Qiuyu and Lu Chen had confirmed their relationship as a Daoist couple, only the two of them were aware of this; no one else knew, including the servants of the City Lord's Mansion.

Ji Qiuyu did this also to protect Lu Chen; she worried that if she announced her relationship with Lu Chen so hastily, someone might look to cause trouble for him, Bai Wenbin in particular.

Hearing that Lu Chen had returned to his room, Ji Qiuyu frowned slightly. Now that they were Daoist couples, they surely couldn't continue living separately?

Thinking this, Ji Qiuyu headed straight to Lu Chen's room.

When Ji Qiuyu reached the door to Lu Chen's room, she hesitated, her finger lingering on the door, unable to knock.