

Genius 311

Chapter 311: The Spiritual Medicine Mountain's Secret!

"Break it!"

Ye Chen activated his Divine Consciousness, which allowed him to consolidate a golden sword that was over 30 meters long in the illusion.

A stunning sword qi was exuded from the golden sword. It was like a golden dragon that roared as it charged head-on at the saber qi that was advancing.

Clang!

Both the saber qi and the sword qi collided, but the former was crushed by the sword qi directly. Almost instantly, the sword qi killed the old man.

Bang!

The vast space was destroyed.

Ye Chen retreated two steps back before snapping back to reality. Ye Wushuang went over to hold him immediately as he asked in concern, "Brother, are you alright?"

"I'm okay!" Ye Chen shook his head and looked at the Master Destruction Saber again. He said, "As I suspected, there's a gush of consciousness power left in the saber, and it was a saber intent."

"Saber intent? Do you mean the saber owner left it behind?" Ye Wushuang asked.

"It should be!" Ye Chen took a deep breath and said, "Guess what I saw in his saber intent? This man calls himself the Heavenly Saber. He killed his brother and his parents. He killed his wife last to prove himself, and he was even attempting to swing his saber at the heavens."

"Then, what happened?" Ye Wushuang seemed serious.

"Then, this man's saber intent found out about my Divine Consciousness, and he swung his saber at me. However, I broke it. I crushed the saber intent altogether," Ye Chen said in his deep voice, "This man has powerful saber intent. Given that it was a battle of consciousness and it took place in the saber intent's world, if I didn't perform the Divine Consciousness Materialization at the critical moment, he might have destroyed a gush of my Divine Consciousness."

Ye Chen looked rather solemn as he spoke to this point. Although he had an invincible body, his Divine Consciousness and cultivation base were considered low. He would have to pay a price to achieve the Divine Consciousness Materialization.

"So, the saber's owner might have achieved supremacy on Saber Dao. Otherwise, he wouldn't dare to swing his sword at the heavens!"

"Brother, then there's something wrong. Why's this saber in the Spiritual Medicine Mountain?" Ye Wushuang asked calmly.

“It means that there’s something wrong with the Spiritual Medicine Mountain.” Ye Chen’s eyes sparkled. Then, he called Yao Huayuan over and asked directly while pointing at the Master Destruction Saber, “Where did you guys get this from?”

“According to the records of the ancestral scriptures, this belongs to our Spiritual Medicine Mountain’s second-generation founding ancestor,” Yao Huayuan said weakly.

“Second-generation founding ancestor?” Ye Chen frowned. “Does your so-called second-generation founding ancestor know the Saber Method?”

‘Could he be the old man from the illusion?’ he could not help but guess.

“No!” However, Yao Huayuan shook his head and said in determination, “The second-generation founding ancestor doesn’t know the Saber Method. He doesn’t even cultivate or refine medicinal pills.”

Ye Chen’s interest was piqued. “Now, I’m curious. How did a man who knew nothing become the Spiritual Medicine Mountain’s sect leader?”

Even Ye Wushuang could not help but look at Yao Huayuan.

Yao Huayuan paused and proceeded to say, “It’s said that the second-generation founding ancestor had a brother who was well-versed in the Saber Method. He was extremely gifted, so the second-generation founding ancestor was made the Spiritual Medicine Mountain’s sect leader because of his brother. However, that man revolted and became insane. He killed the second-generation founding ancestor, his parents, and his wife later on.”

Yao Huayuan looked rather uncomfortable as he shared this. This was a secret of the Spiritual Medicine Mountain that only the sect leader of the generation would know.

“What happened next?” Ye Chen said.

Yao Huayuan said slowly, “This created a stir back then. The Martial Alliance announced a kill order against him, but he killed all of them. The Martial Alliance chief fought him, but he killed the chief with his saber too!

“The entire Martial Dao World was in a panic back then since nobody was his match. After that, he disappeared for some reason. Some say that he was killed by a secretive powerhouse while some say that they saw him being killed by lightning, and some say that he became a monk.”

Upon hearing that, Ye Chen got him to leave when he realized he did not know much about it. He then looked at Ye Wushuang and said, “Clearly, this man disappeared because he swung his saber at the heavens.”

“So, is he dead?” Ye Wushuang asked.

“I’m not sure,” Ye Chen shook his head lightly and said, “This man swung his saber at the heavens, so he would’ve been punished. Theoretically, he would’ve definitely died but his saber intent was left behind. He even had a gush of consciousness left behind, so it doesn’t look like he’s dead.”

“Brother, if this man isn’t dead and you encounter him in the future...” Ye Wushuang said while raising his brows.

Ye Chen knew what he meant.

No matter what, that man belonged to the Spiritual Medicine Mountain. Now that he had conquered the Spiritual Medicine Mountain, they were against each other, and now that he had crushed his saber intent, he had undoubtedly made himself a sworn enemy.

Ye Chen chuckled softly as he thought to this point. "It doesn't matter even if he's still alive. His saber can't kill me. Meanwhile, my sword can kill him!"

"I hope that he's still alive. If that's the case, I can spar with him. Let's see if his saber is powerful or if my sword is more powerful!" Ye Wushuang's battle intent was soaring.

Just when he was speaking, the Patriarch of Hell's voice transmission came into Ye Chen's head, "Master, I found something great. Come over now!"

The patriarch's tone was rather excited.

"Let's take a look outside!" Ye Chen said to Ye Wushuang and put the Master Destruction Saber away. Subsequently, he ran outside by activating energy beneath his feet.

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"Mommy, can you catch me?"

"Mengmeng, wait up!"

"You can't catch me, hehehe..."

On a barren slope on the hill behind the Spiritual Medicine Mountain, Mengmeng was playing hide-and-seek with Su Yuhan among the rapeseed field. Their silver bell-like laughter spread far away.

There was a black puppy lying before a rock wall at the moment. He was extremely excited as he looked at the wall.

If one were to look closely, they would realize that there was a cyclone sparkling on the wall, and there was a faint tunnel within the cyclone.

It was a spatial tear!

He could not believe that there would be a spatial tear in a mediocre place such as the Spiritual Medicine Mountain! The Patriarch of Hell was over the moon.

'There's a spatial tear here! Won't mean that I can return to the cultivation world through the tear?' The patriarch was crying while smiling. 'The heavens pity me! I've stayed here long enough. I want to go back to my fairies and spend the nights in candlelight! I no longer want to be ordered like a dog. Xiao Yezi, I remember everything that you've done to me. The stupid name, Cutie, that you gave me aside, you fed me dog food. You even stopped me from going to the club.'

The Patriarch of Hell's eyes were rolling as he secretly thought of how to persuade Ye Chen to travel through the spatial tear to the cultivation world together with him.

'That's right. I'll go to a cultivation sect with ladies when I return to the cultivation world. I'll perform my balancing through sex with up to 1,000 lady cultivators. After my cultivation base has recovered, I'll beat Xiao Yezi up real good, but before I leave, I'll bring a few packets of dog food along!'

At that moment, two silhouettes came running. They were Ye Chen and Ye Wushuang.

Ye Chen looked at the rock wall aside by instinct. His expression became serious. "A spatial tear?"

"That's right!" the Patriarch of Hell responded immediately and stood up with two legs. He was behaving like a human with his front paws before his chest as he looked at Ye Chen in a haughty manner.

"Xiao Yezi, now it's your chance. Go back to the cultivation world with me, and I'll forgive everything that you've done to me, but the precondition is that you must remove the contract I have with your daughter and kneel to beg me to make you my slave!"

Chapter 312: The Patriarch of Hell's Revolt!

Ye Chen was a little stunned to see the Patriarch of Hell put his hands on his waist and look at him in a boastful manner as he strutted.

"Xiao Yezi, what are you waiting for?" The Patriarch of Hell was annoyed now. "Kneel to me. You should know that I was a Tribulation Almighty back then. I'll take care of you after we return to the cultivation world."

"Are you trying to revolt?" The corner of Ye Chen's lips twitched. This dog was crossing the line lately. He could not believe that the Patriarch of Hell was ordering him around.

"That's right, I'm revolting!" The Patriarch of Hell wagged his tail and said begrudgingly, "To be honest, I'm done with you. I'm a Tribulation monster, not a dog. I can't believe that you fed me dog food. Never mind that, but the problem is that that was expired dog food."

"Whatever." Ye Chen shook his head and walked to the rock wall.

The Patriarch of Hell was enraged upon noticing Ye Chen ignore him. "Hey, Xiao Yezi, do you understand dog language, I mean, human language?"

Ye Chen ignored him and lifted his eyes to observe the spatial tear inside. He could not help but frown.

"Why's there a spatial tear here?"

"Damn it! I-I'm going to fight you!" The Patriarch of Hell snarled and charged at Ye Chen.

However, the only thing that responded to him was Ye Chen's cold stare and the Great Thunder Sword in Ye Wushuang's hand.

As the patriarch jolted, he suddenly became a wuss. "Err, master, I'm sorry. I'm sorry!"

Although he said that, he was secretly pissed off. 'Xiao Yezi, you'd better watch out. I'll teach you a lesson after I return to the cultivation world and recover my Tribulation cultivation base.'

"So, what did you do wrong?" Ye Chen walked over to him one step after another.

'Oh, no, this demon is pissed off!'

The patriarch secretly jolted and said while smiling immediately, "I shouldn't have said those stuff to you, Master. In reality, I was just joking with you...Ahh! Softer, Master. Softer..."

A moment later, the patriarch was thrown out with a slap. The little Mengmeng, who was playing among the rapeseed, lifted her head to look into the sky. She saw a dog waving its paws in a panicked manner, and eventually landing hard on the ground.

"Mommy, Cutie is flying!" the little girl exclaimed at that moment.

...

When the patriarch returned, Ye Chen only said mysteriously, "Are you trying to return to the cultivation world through this spatial tear?"

"I wouldn't dare, I wouldn't dare!" The patriarch shook his head hard. "Master, you're tall, handsome, brave, majestic, unparalleled, powerful, and everyone loves you. How could I possibly leave you?"

"Haha!" Ye Chen smirked and said, "Just be straightforward if you want to go back. But let me ask you, can you handle the spatial tear?"

The Patriarch of Hell was dumbstruck at that moment. It made sense. The patriarch had his soul attached to a dog. If he really was to enter the spatial tear, he might be turned into dust instantly.

"How do you know that the cultivation world is at the end of the spatial tear? It's the Triloka. Even if you can return to the cultivation world, how can you be sure that you've returned to the cultivation world that you were in before? What if you travel to a world that's even lower than Earth?" Ye Chen said.

The Patriarch of Hell was completely dumbstruck now.

"Also, do you have an Astro Plate?"

The so-called Astro Plate was a type of magic tool for positioning. It could locate coordinates and navigate, but it was hard to refine it.

Plop!

The Patriarch of Hell buried his head into the ground. He was crying in pain as if his parents had just died, "Master, you're right. I'm sorry. Don't worry. I'll stay right by your side."

"How did you find this spatial tear?" Ye Chen turned around and asked while looking at the rock wall.

The patriarch sobbed before saying, "I suddenly had the urge to pee when I got out earlier. I thought I would pee here, then I sensed a faint formation wave on the rock wall. I found this after breaking the formation."

He was a Tribulation Almighty in his past life, after all. Naturally, he had a decent level in formations. Now that he had a mastery-stage Spirit Assembly cultivation base, it was a piece of cake for him to break an Illusory Formation.

“But why is there a spatial tear here? And it seems like it’s been here for a long time whereby someone set up an Illusory Formation to hide it.” Ye Chen frowned slightly.

The Patriarch of Hell said by instinct, “Master, do you think that maybe someone from the cultivation world accidentally traveled to this world and tore the space here?”

What he said made Ye Chen and Ye Wushuang turn serious. The duo immediately figured it must be someone from the Immortal World. Apart from that, it might be people that Ye Chen’s rebel disciples had sent.

However, Ye Chen subsequently shook his head and said while smiling, “That’s impossible. Even you can break the formation, so naturally, that person’s cultivation base isn’t high. The formation isn’t powerful either. Since that’s the case, it’s impossible for him to have survived the spatial tear.”

The Patriarch of Hell thought about it and believed it made sense.

“Brother, in my opinion, since this spatial tear appeared in the Spiritual Medicine Mountain, it must have something to do with them,” Ye Wushuang said.

Ye Chen could not help but squint.

Spiritual Medicine Mountain, you sure have many secrets!

First, there was a Master Destruction Saber that contained saber intent. The second was the spatial tear that was hidden.

“Since that’s the case, the old man, Yao Huayuan, definitely knows about this. Master, wait for me. I’ll get him here for you to interrogate him,” the Patriarch of Hell said immediately in full loyalty.

“No need!” Ye Chen stopped him. “Yao Huayuan has very limited time to live. With your attitude, he’d be scared to death anytime. I’ll ask him later himself, but I don’t think he knows.”

He could not help but turn around to look at the spatial tear on the rock wall as he spoke to this point, “Before that, I’ll have to seal this spatial tear.”

He had to seal it! Indeed, there were too many strange things going on in the void. As soon as he let them enter the world through the tear, a great stir would definitely be created.

After that, Ye Chen got Ye Wushuang to ask for some refinement materials. He refined two sets of formations: one to seal the spatial tear while the other was a high-level Illusory Formation. The reason why he did that was to prevent outsiders from finding out about it.

He only nodded in satisfaction after he was done with all those.

At that moment, Mengmeng ran over helter-skelter. She said after running into Ye Chen’s embrace, “Daddy, can you play hide-and-seek with me?”

“Didn’t Mommy play with you?” Ye Chen shut down and patted the bun on her head. He looked at Su Yuhan who was far away.

“Mommy is too dumb. She can’t find me.” The little girl said while rolling her eyes.

Su Yuhan blushed to hear that. She walked over and glared at her angrily. “Who are you calling dumb?”

“Mommy, you aren’t dumb. You just have low IQ,” the little girl said in all seriousness.

Su Yuhan was so angry that she vented to Ye Chen, “Look how you’ve been teaching our daughter! She’s complaining about me now.”

Ye Chen was speechless. Just when he was going to reply, his phone rang. He looked at it and found out it was a number from the northeast. He picked it up anyway after some hesitation.

A sobbing voice came from the other side before he could speak, “Old Ye, help me!”

“Who are you?” Ye Chen failed to respond in time.

“I’m Yang Tian! Damn it, man! You’ve gotten me into so much trouble.”

Chapter 313: Chumaxian of the Northeast!

Yang Tian wanted to step into the Dao path that Ye Chen cultivated after the battle with Northern Devil Jiang in Jiangbei. Back then, Ye Chen had believed that Yang Tian was still immature. He thought that leading him into cultivation would harm him instead.

However, he did not want to reject him, so he had given him an assignment, which was to ask Yang Tian to walk from Jiangbei to Northeastern Changbai Mountain and back. He prohibited Yang Tian from spending money to take any transportation or riding on planes throughout his journey.

The two-way journey was a total of 6,500 – 8,000 kilometers. It was impossible for a regular person to achieve that within three months. However, Yang Tian had agreed to that anyway.

Now, it seemed like it had been two months since he departed. If not for the call, Ye Chen would have forgotten about the assignment.

Now, Yang Tian was calling. Stunned, Ye Chen said in between tears and laughter, “It’s you! What happened? Where are you now?”

“I’m in Huludao now, but I’m dying!”

Ye Chen’s expression became serious. He asked after glancing at Su Yuhan and the rest before him, “What exactly happened? Take your time.”

“I can’t tell you the whole story within such a short period. I-I’ve offended a chumaxian family, and they did something to my body. They said it’ll kill me within seven days!” Fear filled Yang Tian’s voice.

Whatever he had gone through for the past two months was enough to write a book named Journey to the West: Special Edition.

Ye Chen said in his deep voice, “Where exactly are you now? Also, whose phone are you using to call me?”

“I’m at a friend’s home. It’s her phone,” Yang Tian said while having the urge to cry, “Old Ye, you must save me. If not for you convincing me to go all the way to the northeast, I wouldn’t have offended a chumaxian[1] family. Also, Xiaohao is your godson. You can’t...”

“Calm down now,” Ye Chen took a deep breath in and comforted, “Send me your exact location. I’ll come over right away. Please remain in contact with me at all times.”

Yang Tian hung up the phone after revealing a location name.

“What happened?” Su Yuhan, who was standing aside, could not help but ask.

Ye Chen glanced at her and sighed softly. “Do you remember Yang Tian?”

Su Yuhan nodded lightly and said while smiling, “Of course. Wasn’t he the one who told everyone about us dating back in university? I remember you guys were pretty close back then.”

Ye Chen told her what happened to Yang Tian earlier and proceeded to say, “Now, Yang Tian is in Liaoning and he’s offended a chumaxian family. From his tone, it sounds like big trouble. I can’t leave him alone.”

“Alright,” Su Yuhan nodded and said in an understanding tone, “I know, it’s alright. You should go. I’ll go back to Tiannan with Mengmeng, and we’ll wait for you at home.”

“Yuhan, I’m sorry.” Ye Chen could not help but hold her little hands. He said while feeling a little guilty, “I promised that we’d get married in Tiannan after settling the matter at the Ghost Rider Sect, but I keep dragging it out.”

“You fool!” Su Yuhan was blushing as she could not get used to his sudden flirting. She said angrily, “It doesn’t matter whether we get married now or later. Go save Yang Tian now. Nothing should happen to him.”

“Daddy, I want to go with you,” the little Mengmeng wrapped her arms around his neck and said in a clingy manner.

“Be good, Mengmeng. You can’t go!” Su Yuhan said with a stern expression, “Daddy is going to save Uncle Yang Tian. He’s not going out to play. You’ll go back to see Grandpa and Grandma with Mommy, okay? Don’t you miss them? Don’t you want to be with me?”

The little girl fell into a pickle upon hearing that. “But Mengmeng wants to be with Daddy too.”

“Pftttt!”

Ye Chen could not help but snicker. He kissed her little cheek and said, “Listen to Mommy. Daddy won’t be bringing you along this time. Go with Mommy and wait for Daddy at home. I’ll bring you lots of delicious foods when I return.”

The little girl’s eyes lit up when she heard there would be food. She was so happy that she revealed her canine teeth. “Okay, Daddy. You promised that yourself. You must bring me tons of delicious foods!”

“Brother, I’ll go with you,” Ye Wushuang said.

“No need!” Ye Chen shook his head. “Wushuang, go back to Tiannan with your sister-in-law this time. Remember, your mission is to protect your sister-in-law and your little niece.”

Ye Wushuang hesitated, but he said yes eventually.

They returned to their accommodation. Ye Chen called Old Chen while Su Yuhan carried Mengmeng to lunch.

“Hey, kid. This is the first time you’re calling me.” Old Chen was rather surprised.

Ye Chen said directly, “Old Chen, do you know about chumaxian of the northeast?”

Silence filled the other side of the phone before Old Chen’s husky voice subsequently answered, “Why are you asking this all of a sudden?”

“A friend of mind has offended them,” Ye Chen said.

Old Chen hesitated and said, “Forget it. I know how you are. It’s dumb to be advising you because I can’t tell you everything over the phone. I’ll get my man to send a document to you via email.”

“Sure, thanks!” After Ye Chen hung up the call, he soon got an email. He opened it to find that it was a document about chumaxian.

The so-called chumaxian, as the name suggested in Mandarin, was a ritual of mediating for the immortals. Meanwhile, most immortals were made of animals which a certain level of attainment.

Such a ritual came from the northeast. Combined with the Maoshan Method in the south, they were called the Southern Mao Northern Horse. There were many mountains and dense jungle in the northeast while there were many old forests too. When a forest grew lush and deep, it was only natural for many wise creatures to be born in it.

Meanwhile, there were a couple of types of immortals, which were the fox, the weasel, the hedgehog, the snake, and the rat.

Those that were extraordinary were usually envied by the heavens, especially animals, as they would encounter many troubles on the path of cultivation such as accidents on the road and having a weak body.

As they cultivated to a certain level, to accumulate good karma or to boost their cultivation speed to avoid tribulation, they would go into the world to do good deeds such as healing, being a medium to communicate with the dead, exorcism, and so on.

The act of doing good deeds was called chuma. They called some of those deeds “incense on the head” and “pole-moving” in the north or “out of the shell”, “sitting” and “table placement” in the south.

As those immortals could not channel themselves through adults, they would usually choose children to be the incense child. Therefore, those children were also called chuma disciples.

After the chuma disciple set up the ritual hall, the immortal would get attached to their body, and use their bodies to do good.

There were basically four immortal families. The most popular ones among the families would be the Golden Flower Lord, the Silver Flower Lord, the Grandmaster of Heaven, the Great Lord of the Three Foxes, and the Great Lady of the Three Foxes. They were the chuma immortals that had conquered the world.

Ye Chen could not help but frown as he read to this point.

Theoretically, chumaxian was something that involved good, so how could Yang Tian have offended a family that practised goodness? And what about that so-called immortal that would kill him within seven days?

Chapter 314: Geographical Expedition Team!

Ye Chen was puzzled after studying the chumaxian ritual's document. He called Yang Tian directly, but nobody picked up. His heart could not help but sink.

At that moment, Old Chen called and asked directly, "Kid, have you decided to go northeast?"

"That's right," Ye Chen said. He had to go northeast. Yang Tian was his brother, and he could not ignore him.

Old Chen said while smiling, "We happen to have a geographical expedition team that's going. Why don't you guys go together?"

"An expedition team?" Ye Chen frowned. "Old Chen, there's something that I need to handle in the northeast. I can't be leading a team."

"Don't reject me just yet!" Old Chen said, "There's someone from the northeast in the expedition team. That person is well-versed in the local shamanic language. The chumaxian ritual is an extension of Shamanism. If you go with them, they might be helpful to you."

"Sure, get them to wait for me. I'll go to Beijing right away," Ye Chen agreed to that after thinking about it for a moment.

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At noon, Ye Chen left the Spiritual Medicine Mountain with Su Yuhan, his daughter, and Ye Wushuang. Before leaving, he fixed the sect's Mountain Barrier Formation besides bringing the giant Medicine Man with him!

They headed straight to the provincial capital in the armored vehicle.

This time, Su Yuhan sat in the passenger side while carrying Mengmeng. She peered at the Medicine Man who was wearing a hat behind her in fear. She asked in confusion, "Ye Chen, why did you bring this big guy along?"

She had witnessed how powerful the Medicine Man was. Moreover, he was so tall and big. Therefore, she dared not sit with him by instinct.

"This is a puppet, and he's powerful. He makes a great fighter," Ye Chen said while smiling as he drove.

The Medicine Man had a cultivation base of a Martial Dao master. Although he had no consciousness, that did not affect his combat strength. He also did not have human emotions and urges.

Ye Chen had almost killed him earlier, but he healed him at the Spiritual Medicine Mountain and performed the sacrificial refinement again, so now he followed all of Ye Chen's orders willingly.

He thought of leaving the Medicine Man behind for Su Yuhan to be her bodyguard. However, judging by Su Yuhan's reaction, she did not seem to like it. He thought he would keep him to himself instead.

Su Yuhan nodded and pursed her lips as she spoke, "How long will you be gone to the northeast this time?"

"Seven to eight days, I think." Ye Chen chuckled softly. "Don't worry. I'll come back as soon as I'm done handling Yang Tian's crisis. Well, stay at home and wait for me with your clean body."

"Tsk, you're annoying," Su Yuhan's pretty face blushed. She slapped him softly, feeling annoyed.

Ye Chen drove very fast. They got from Longnan to Ganzhou's provincial capital in approximately three hours. He then bought their air tickets himself.

Before he left, Ye Chen called out to Su Yuhan. He opened his arms wide and said shamelessly, "Your husband will be gone for a couple of days. Aren't you going to give me a souvenir before we part?"

How could Su Yuhan not understand what he meant? Her cheeks blushed as she walked over after some hesitation and kissed his cheek. She said fiercely while clenching her teeth, "You fool, are you happy now?"

"Happy, I'm very happy. Don't worry. I won't wipe the kiss away," Ye Chen said while smiling as he touched the lipstick mark on his cheek.

"Daddy, I want to kiss you too!" Mengmeng scuttled closer and kissed his cheek.

Ye Wushuang, who was standing far away, looked rather unnatural. He mumbled, "Are they showing off their love?"

After sending them off, Ye Chen put away the armored vehicle into his storage ring when nobody was looking. He rode on a sword gleam straight to Beijing.

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At the same time at the entrance of Beijing's Yanshan Geographical Survey Agency, an off-road vehicle was parked by the road. There was a pretty lady with cold charisma sitting in the passenger seat. She wore black-framed glasses and was approximately 28 years old.

The lady was Di Jing. She had graduated from the University of London with a double doctorate degree in Geographical Science and Humanity & Nature Studies. She was currently a lecturer in a famous local geographical survey agency.

However, impatience filled her face at the moment.

Meanwhile, an old man in hiking wear sat next to her. He had a gray beard, but he looked high in spirits.

At that moment, a tall young man in black martial arts attire walked out of the geographical survey agency. He asked after checking the time, "Di Jing, isn't that man here yet?"

"No." Di Jing's sharp brows lifted slightly.

The tall young man frowned. He was rather upset, so he looked at the old man in hiking wear at the side. "Old Shen, is that man still coming? It's already 5 p.m. Don't waste our time."

"Dai Wei, let's wait for a little bit more." The old man in hiking wear named Old Shen took a puff of his cigarette and chuckled.

"We're still waiting? Isn't the sun setting?" Dai Wei was getting more upset. "What is the boss thinking? Why did he send a man to us last minute? Is he going to drag us down?"

"Easy there, Dai Wei. Stop complaining. There's nothing that Old Shen can do for a man who's suddenly joining us," Di Jing said in a rather annoyed tone.

They were doing an expedition in Huludao's Thunder Valley because there was a curious case waiting to be solved at the Thunder Valley. It was said that there would be thunder when it was sunny and peaceful. When it rained, the sunken rocks in the Thunder Valley would form a stunning scene of a water curtain cave.

They had been preparing for a few months for the expedition. When they were going to depart, their boss had suddenly said there was someone who was going to Huludao with them. They were even ordered to serve him.

She was getting more upset as she thought to this point.

Dai Wei looked at Di Jing's curvy body that was presented before him with a burning desire in his eyes. He smiled while explaining, "Di Jing, I'm not complaining. I'm just a little annoyed. We're bringing a noob with us. Isn't he going to drag us down?"

Old Shen, who had been smoking, suddenly stopped and said, "That Mr. Ye isn't a drag. I heard from the boss that he's pretty powerful. He even asked us to listen to his suggestion during the journey."

"Powerful? Can he be an experienced geography expert?" Di Jing looked at Old Shen by instinct. If that was the case, she still could accept it.

Old Shen shook his head. "I don't think so. I heard this Mr. Ye is very young. He's only 30..."

"Pftttt!"

Dai Wei before Old Shen was done speaking. "He dares to say that he's powerful when he's only 30? Among us, Di Jing and I aside, Old Shen is the most experienced and most knowledgeable. Why do we have to listen to that brat?"

There was something that he did not say, which was his displeasure about Ye Chen.

Di Jing shook her head lightly, utterly disappointed.

It seemed to be someone who wanted to take the shortcut by depending on the connection. He just wanted to follow the expedition team and show off later on.

"Let me just be clear now. If that brat dares to drag us, I'll teach him a good lesson!" Dai Wei scoffed.

At that moment, a calm voice came, "I'm sorry to have made you guys wait!"

Chapter 315: A Mysterious Power that Nobody Understands!

"I'm sorry to have made you guys wait!"

Upon hearing that, Di Jing, Dai Wei, and the rest looked over by instinct. They saw a skinny young man walking over. He had mediocre features and was dressed averagely.

Meanwhile, there was a man who was over 1.8 meters tall following behind him. Since he was wearing a hat, they could not see his face clearly.

At that moment, Di Jing and Dai Wei were stunned. So, was this the person that they had been waiting for?

Old Shen got out of the car immediately and welcomed him while smiling, "Are you Mr. Ye?"

Ye Chen nodded and smiled in an apologetic manner. "You must be Old Shen. I'm sorry. I ran into something along the way, so it took some time."

"Don't worry about it. It's nothing." Old Shen waved and led Ye Chen over in a friendly manner. He pointed at Di Jing and Dai Wei by way of introduction. "Mr. Ye, let me introduce you. This is the beauty of our team, Di Jing. She's an expert too."

Old Shen was humorous as he spoke to this point, "Don't underestimate her just because she's a lady. Di Jing has a double doctorate degree."

"Hi, I'm Di Jing." Di Jing nodded in a neutral manner.

However, her disappointment was growing. Before that, she thought that Ye Chen would be someone from a wealthy family who was here to show off. Now that they had met, she did not think that Ye Chen was from a wealthy family. He was extremely mediocre.

'Sigh! What is the boss thinking?' She secretly sighed.

Ye Chen smiled lightly, "Ye Chen!"

"Mr. Ye, this is Dai Wei. He's currently one of the members of our expedition team. He's also the security advisor." Old Shen continued, "Dai Wei is a retired soldier. He's got a great physique, but he's just a little arrogant."

Compared to Di Jing's courteous manner, Dai Wei was much colder. He merely nodded at Ye Chen by way of greeting. He then looked at the Medicine Man who was standing next to Ye Chen and frowned. "Who's this?"

"This is my bodyguard. You guys can call him Iron Tower," Ye Chen gave a short introduction. After fixing the giant, he gave him a new name.

Disdain appeared in Dai Wei's eyes after hearing that he had brought a bodyguard along. He said, "Mr. Ye, we're here for an expedition, not a vacation. Don't you think it's inappropriate for you to do this?"

Di Jing secretly raised her sharp brows.

Old Shen changed the subject immediately, "Xiaodai, Xiaodi, since everyone is here, let's go."

He went to the back of the vehicle after saying that. Ye Chen led Iron Tower and sat in the back too. Iron Tower fit right in. It was fortunate that Ye Chen had intentionally shrunk his body before.

Dai Wei sat in the driver's seat and drove onto the highway after turning on the engine. Perhaps because the atmosphere was rather gloomy, Old Shen took the initiative to ask, "Why are you going to Huludao, Mr. Ye?"

"To meet a friend," Ye Chen smiled as he replied. He did not tell them the story of Yang Tian offending a chumaxian family as he did not want to scare them.

Old Shen was slightly stunned while Di Jing, who was sitting in the passenger seat, secretly shook her head. 'You're just meeting a friend. Why can't you take the train or a plane? Why must you follow us and make us wait for you?'

Dai Wei was listening closely as he drove. He scoffed, "So, we're just a free ride to you."

Ye Chen smiled and said nothing.

Sensing that the atmosphere was rather suppressive, Old Shen mediated immediately, "It's alright. It's going to be quite boring along the journey anyway. We'll have one more person to talk to."

Ye Chen said good-naturedly, "Oh, yeah, Old Shen, is there anyone in your team who speaks the shamanic language?"

From the passenger seat, Di Jing turned her head to look at him. She seemed to be a little shocked. "Why are you asking?"

"Just asking," Ye Chen said.

Di Jing glanced deeply at him and said, "Mr. Ye, if it's not necessary, I'd advise you not to learn those stuff."

"Why not?" Ye Chen was curious now.

She took a deep breath and said, "The shamanic language comes from Shamanism. The language came from the Tungusic people, which translates to witches."

"I've heard of that too." Old Shen nodded and took over the conversation. "It's said that Shamanism originated from long ago. It was a folk religion whereby people worship nature and creatures. I heard that they have the power to control the weather, languages, dream interpretations, astrology, and even control one going to heaven and hell."

"That's right," Di Jing said in all seriousness, "The dancers of the great gods in some areas came from Shamanism. This cult is strange. They can kill you by performing witchcraft. All they need is your name and age."

"What else?" Ye Chen said while looking nonchalant.

Di Jing said, "Until now, there are still many Shamanism believers in many places. They're mainly in the northeast. That's why I'm advising you not to offend them when you get there. Otherwise, your life will be at risk."

Ye Chen gave a short response, not minding that. After all, those things could not threaten him.

Di Jing was secretly angry when she noticed that he was not surprised at all. She scoffed and turned her head around. The reason why she had told Ye Chen so much was that her ancestors came from the tribe people of Shamanism. Therefore, she knew how scary exactly Shamanism was.

'Hmph! It's up to you whether you want to believe me! Don't blame me if something happened to you by then!' she thought to herself.

Dai Wei said without even turning his head, "Di Jing, it's useless for us to say more since Mr. Ye doesn't believe in all those mumbo-jumbo. Well, as long as he doesn't drag us into any trouble, that's fine."

"Mr. Ye, Di Jing is right. There are many mysterious powers in the world that we don't understand. Our lack of knowledge doesn't mean they don't exist," Old Shen advised.

Ye Chen was secretly laughing. He glanced at him and said, "It seems like you know a little bit about it, Old Shen."

'Can any mysterious power be more mysterious than cultivation?'

"I do!" Old Shen sighed lightly. "China has existing for thousands of years, and there are many things that science can't explain such as Laozi riding the green ox, going out of Hangu Pass in the west, whereby the purple gas spread almost 500 kilometers. He died after leaving half of Tao Te Ching."

"That's just a rumor," Ye Chen replied while smiling. Even a cultivator like him was not sure if China had such mythical civilizations such as the Three Pristine Ones, the Jade Emperor, and the Heavenly Queen Mother.

"How about the Tao Te Ching and the Book of Changes left behind by King Wen? How do you explain them? These two books are just too mysterious."

Old Shen shook his head and said, "Let's not talk about the old stuff. Let's talk about the incidents that happened not too long ago. The Yangtze River drought in 1954? Chengdu zombie incident in 1995? Yingkou dragon falling incident in 1934? And the rumor about the 30th parallel north?"

"The 30th parallel north?" Ye Chen was stunned. Indeed, he had heard of those incidents.

Especially after the Chengdu zombie incident, the entire southwest area was stirred back then as it spanned across a couple of provinces. Ye Chen had just started going to primary school back then. Since that incident happened, he hid at home, not daring to go to school because he was worried the zombies would suck his blood dry.

However, it was his first time hearing about the 30th parallel north.

Chapter 316: The Old Lady that Burns Joss Paper!

Old Shen inhaled and said slowly while facing Ye Chen's stare, "The 30th parallel north is a mysterious yet strange latitude. It's a disaster area with tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcano eruptions happening frequently."

He paused as he spoke to this point, then he proceeded, "What's even stranger is that the Bermuda Triangle that's known as the Devil's Triangle, the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt, Mount Everest, the Earth's highest mountain above sea level, the Great Sphinx of Giza, the Yangtze, the Nile, and the Mississippi River are accurately situated on this latitude."

Di Jing could not help but interrupt, "I've seen an explanation from a myth-busting novel. It said that the aliens built the Great Pyramid of Giza while the latitude is the door that's connected to another dimension, in which so many wonders are created."

"Don't believe in everything from the novel, but you can't deny all of the explanations," Old Shen shook his head lightly and said, "No matter what, there are still many things that are waiting for us to explore and uncover. This is our mission as the geographical expedition team, but I guess we won't be able to see that in this life."

"Old Shen, have you ever thought you'd realize one day that the world that you're in is actually really small?" Ye Chen suddenly said, "For example, humans can develop more talents and move mountains and seas, as well as being immortal."

"That's just too much." Dai Wei smirked. "If humans could really move mountains and seas, wouldn't the world with billions of people turn upside down? Moreover, if everyone lives forever, can the Earth even take it?"

"Old Shen is discussing the truth with you, yet you're dragging this nonsense in." Di Jing shook her head.

Ye Chen smiled calmly, not bothering to explain himself.

Old Shen, on the other hand, said while seeming to be in deep thought, "What you said is possible too, but it's just too far-fetched, Mr. Ye. I heard about the Kunlun rumors in the past. It said that Kunlun is the Queen Mother of the West's bedroom. Many mysterious incidents have happened in recent years such as someone witnessing a man filled with fire flying out of the jungle. Also, a Tibetan antelope defeated a lion, a monkey gave birth to a baby boy who speaks..."

"Old Shen, you're getting silly like someone else," Dai Wei said while hinting at someone else, "The Kunlun rumors are just rumors. The reason why there are so many rumors is purely caused by the locals' foolishness as well as the media hyping it up. Nobody has ever proved that those happened."

"Perhaps I'm really silly!" Old Shen laughed out loud and stopped dwelling on the topic.

Ye Chen's expression changed slightly. His interest in Kunlun was now piqued. When he had returned to Earth back then, he landed on the ancient altar on Mount Tai. In other words, it was the ancient altar that had led him to this world.

Mount Tai was named the Five Great Mountains of China. Throughout the thousands of years, there were just too many rumors. Confucius claimed that the world looked small from the top of Mount Tai. Secondly, emperors from the past dynasties and generations always wished to have sacrificial rituals on Mount Tai. The three emperors and five sovereigns had such a wish too.

Naturally, the ancient altar had been passed down since ancient times.

Since Mount Tai was mysterious, Kunlun which was named the No. 1 mountain in China would naturally be no less mysterious.

The sky was turning dark as he was thinking to himself. They drove into a small town.

Dai Wei pulled over and turned his head to say, "Old Shen, it's dark now and we're running out of gas. Should we stay a night and proceed with our journey tomorrow?"

"But is there even any hotel here?" Di Jing raised her sharp brows and looked around. It was a small town, after all, so she did not feel safe.

Dai Wei smiled in confidence after sensing his concern. "Don't worry. Nothing will happen. If something really were to happen, I'm here, aren't I?" He glanced at Ye Chen and Iron Tower wryly as he spoke to this point. He said in a sarcastic manner, "Moreover, we have Mr. Ye and his bodyguard with us."

"Alright, Xiaodai. You've been driving for a few hours. Let's just rest for the night." Old Shen nodded and eventually decided.

Later on, they went to a couple of hotels and found out that all of them were fully booked. In the end, they found a small hotel close to the suburbs.

There seemed to be a wake going on at the entrance. There was a black and white picture hanging on the first floor. It was a pretty lady in the picture, and she did not look a day over 30 when she passed away.

The hotel owner was a middle-aged man with yellow teeth and a birthmark on his face. After Dai Wei told him about their situation, the man looked at them and hesitated before speaking, "You guys can stay, but we're only left with three guest rooms."

Di Jing's expression changed as soon as she heard that. There were a total of five of them, and there was a single lady like her among them. How could they stay in three rooms?

The owner left them alone to consider, and he walked away after saying that.

"It's simple!" Dai Wei smiled "I'll stay in a room. Di Jing and Old Shen will take one room each. Meanwhile, Brother Ye and your bodyguard will sleep in my car if you don't mind."

Di Jing also thought it was a great suggestion, but she thought it was mean though she said nothing at the moment.

Ye Chen took a good look at the hotel. Just when he was going to speak, Old Shen said, "What about this? Xiaodai and Xiaodi will stay in a room each while I'll squeeze in a room with Mr. Ye and his bodyguard. I'll just sleep on the floor."

Since Old Shen said that, Dai Wei was in agreement with that. Just when he was going to speak, Ye Chen suddenly said, "Are you guys sure you want to stay here? If you are willing to believe me, it's best that we don't. I'll drive and we'll proceed our way north."

"What do you mean by that?" Dai Wei thought he was complaining that the hotel was not good enough. He said with a grim expression, "Don't you see that we've only found this place after searching through the entire town?"

“Dai Wei, I think Mr. Ye is right. Why don’t we drive a little more? We’ll get to the county.” It was odd for Di Jing to be on Ye Chen’s side. She could not help but peer into the mourning hall when she was speaking. She looked rather terrible. “Moreover, they’re mourning in there...”

“So, that’s what you’re afraid of?” Dai Wei scoffed, “Isn’t that just a dead person? What is there to be afraid of? When I was in the military, I saw so many dead people. It makes sense that Di Jing is scared since she’s a lady, but Mr. Ye, you’re a man. Aren’t you too timid to be scared of that?”

Ye Chen frowned.

“Alright, Mr. Ye, Xiaodi, we’ll just stay here for the night. We’ll depart in the morning.” Old Shen was decisive on staying.

Later on, they found the owner and paid up. Then, they got the keys from the owner and went to the second floor after asking for some hot water.

There were not many rooms on the second floor with approximately ten rooms. When they walked along the corridor, they noticed that there was an old lady squatting at the door of the room with a window at the end.

The old lady had an iron basin before her. She could not stop tossing joss paper inside, making the entire corridor smoky.

Dai Wei’s expression changed because their rooms happened to be the three rooms across the old lady. He rushed over immediately and screamed fiercely, “Who are you? Who allowed you to burn joss paper here?”

He alarmed the old lady who fell onto the ground and said while stammering, “I-I’m burning joss paper for my eldest granddaughter. She died in this room.”

Chapter 317: Someone Indeed Died in Room!

The old lady’s words stunned them.

Dai Wei gulped by instinct. “What did you say? Your granddaughter died in this room?”

“Yes, yes!” the old lady cried while wiping her tears, “My eldest granddaughter hung herself in this room. I heard that people who have taken their own life can’t reincarnate, so I thought I’d burn more for her to help her get a better connection down there.”

Hung herself?

Di Jing’s face turned pale upon hearing that. She went closer to Ye Chen without realizing it. She was rather scared as she looked at the room that was at the far end of the corridor.

Dai Wei was secretly enraged when he saw what she did. He kicked the iron basin on the floor and condemned, “Get out! Get out right out. I’ll beat you up if you don’t!”

Perhaps because the old lady was scared, she cleaned the ashes on the floor and left trembling after picking the iron basin up.

“God damn it! I can’t believe we encountered this at a hotel. This is such bad luck!” Dao Wei grumbled.

Di Jing hesitated and could not help but plead, "Dai Wei, let's not stay here. We'll sleep in the car." Although she had a high level of education, she was a girl after all. This was what a girl was most afraid of.

Moved by her fear, Dai Wei kind of agreed to what she said. However, he looked at Ye Chen who was standing behind Di Jing by instinct. Noticing that Ye Chen was pretending to be calm, he said in determination, "Don't worry. I've never been afraid of that."

"Old Shen..." Di Jing looked at Old Shen instantly.

Old Shen thought to himself for a moment and said while smiling, "Xiaodai is right. This is nothing. The old lady was just burning joss paper. Moreover, the temperature out there is rather low at night. We might catch a cold if we sleep in the car."

As the leader of the expedition team, he was responsible for everyone's safety in the team. Besides that, he had seen many mysterious things since he was old, so he would not be scared by what happened earlier.

Seeing that Old Shen was determined, Di Jing could only nod unwillingly. Subsequently, she stretched her arm out and pushed the door open before entering the room on the far left.

The three rooms were connected, and the room numbers were 443, 444, and 445. Meanwhile, Di Jing entered room No. 443.

Old Shen looked at Ye Chen and said, "Mr. Ye, which room do we sleep in?"

"It doesn't matter." Ye Chen shrugged.

Dai Wei was secretly elated as he pointed at room No. 444 where the old lady said her granddaughter had hung herself in. "Since it doesn't matter to you, you'll sleep in this room."

Ye Chen said while looking at him amusedly, "Didn't you say that you weren't scared?"

"Who told you that I'm scared?!" Dai Wei was secretly guilty as Ye Chen stared. He said calmly, "The damned old lady just upset me." He felt rather uneasy saying that. He thought that Ye Chen was unwilling to sleep in the room, but he never thought that Ye Chen would have nodded. "Sure!"

Ye Chen entered room No. 444 with Iron Tower in his trail. Dao Wei was stunned at the moment, and he failed to react.

"Xiaodai, look at Mr. Ye. He doesn't believe in all those mumbo-jumbo." Old Shen sighed softly and entered the room.

Dai Wei's face was pale. Eventually, he scoffed and entered room No. 445 on the right with a window.

...

Room No. 444 was less than 50 square meters wide. Although the decoration was simple, it was complete with all amenities. However, there was only one bed.

"It doesn't look like someone hung herself in this room." Old Shen chuckled and then said, "Mr. Ye, you guys will sleep on the bed. I'll sleep on the floor. I'm old and I can't get used to sleeping on a mattress."

“Old Shen, you’re the senior. It doesn’t make sense for the senior to sleep on the floor. You’ll sleep on the bed. Let me and my bodyguard sleep on the floor.” Ye Chen shook his head lightly. Before Old Shen could reject him, he walked to the wardrobe and grabbed a quilt. He placed it on the floor and lay on it.

Meanwhile, Iron Tower stood still at the door.

Old Shen felt warmed by his actions. He looked at Iron Tower by instinct, feeling rather doubtful.

“Doesn’t your bodyguard sleep? Also, I’ve not heard him speak throughout the journey.”

“He’s a bodyguard. His job is to protect my safety around the clock. He doesn’t need sleep,” Ye Chen chuckled softly and said, “Also, he’s quiet. Just get used to it, Old Shen.”

Old Shen did not think too much about it. Just when he removed his jacket and was going to go to bed, someone knocked on the door.

“Who is it?” Old Shen had his guard up.

A smiley voice came from outside, “It’s me, the hotel owner. I’ve brought you guys food.”

Old Shen walked over to open the door. As expected, he saw the man with the birthmark standing at the door. He held a plate with five bowls of rice on it. There was twice-cooked pork in hot pepper on the rice.

The owner said out of kindness, “Hi, I know that you guys rushed here from somewhere else and didn’t eat along the way. I happen to have leftover food at home, so I thought of giving it to you guys. It’s free of charge.”

At that moment, Dai Wei and Di Jing walked out after hearing the commotion. Dai Wei complained to the owner, “Boss, what are you thinking? You’re running a business here. How could you let someone burn joss paper at our door?”

“No, when did I allow anyone to burn joss paper at your door?” The owner looked confused.

Seeing that he refused to admit that, Dai Wei pointed at room No. 444 and scoffed, “Your mother was burning joss paper at the entrance of this room when we came up. She said it’s for your daughter. He even said that your daughter hung herself in this room.”

“That’s right, boss. You’re so dishonest not to have told us that someone died in this room.” Di Jing looked horrified. If she had known that, she would not have checked in no matter what.

The hotel owner said questioningly “My mom died five years ago, and my daughter didn’t hang herself. She died of a car crash. Did you guys make a mistake?”

They were shocked to hear that.

Di Jing said as her face turned pale, “Then, who was the old lady who was burning joss paper earlier?”

“What old lady?!” The hotel owner shook his head and said angrily, “There’s only one exit on the second floor, and I’ve been guarding the first floor. I didn’t see anyone else apart from you guys go in and out. You guys must be delirious to have seen that old lady.”

Now, even the calmest Old Shen could no longer stay still. He said, "It's impossible for us all to have been delirious. All of us saw her."

"Then, someone must've sneaked in when I wasn't looking."

The hotel owner said, "To be honest, someone did indeed die in room No. 444, but it happened last month. There was a couple who was in conflict, and the girl hung herself after the fight. The girl's family comes over to stir things up every day. We've lost a lot of money because of that."

Chapter 318: Real Cash Turning Into Hell Money!

He looked rather guilty as he spoke to this point, "Guys, it's my fault to have hidden this from all of you. I'm okay with refunding you guys. I won't take any cent. If you guys are willing to stay, I'll charge you one room less."

"Boss, how far is the closest county town from here?" Di Jing asked, unwilling to give up.

"Around 100 kilometers. You guys can consider whether you still want to stay the night." The hotel owner turned around and went downstairs.

After he left, Di Jing could not help but look at Dai Wei, "Dai Wei, how far can we go with the gas we have?"

"50 kilometers, at most!"

Old Shen eventually said, "There's nothing else that we can do but to stay here for tonight. Nevertheless, for safety purposes, let's sleep in the same room. Xiaodi, you're a lady, so you'll sleep on the bed."

Di Jing's expression grew relieved as she returned to her room and grabbed her blanket into room No. 444 while Dai Wei did the same too.

Since the few of them were staying in the same room, Di Jing dared not change her clothes and lay on the bed directly. Dai Wei lay down next to Ye Chen on the floor.

There was limited space on the floor, so Ye Chen let Old Shen sleep on the floor. He got himself a stool and closed his eyes to rest. Actually, he was secretly cultivating. To him, it was more comfortable sitting than lying down.

Old Chen said while feeling pity for him, "Mr. Ye, why don't you lie here with me? Don't catch a cold."

Di Jing also felt bad. After all, the bed belonged to Ye Chen theoretically. Now that she had taken the bed, he had to sit until the next day.

"Old Shen, don't you see that he's closing his eyes and pretending to be cultivating? Maybe this Mr. Ye is a martial artist. Why would he be worried about catching a cold?" Dai Wei said in a sarcastic manner.

His rude remark made Old Shen and Di Jing glare at him. Just when Old Shen was going to speak again, someone knocked on the door again.

"Xiaodai, open the door. It might be the hotel owner coming to check if we've left or we're staying," Old Shen rolled over and said.

Dai Wei was less timid now that so many of them were together. He mustered his courage instantly and got up to open the door. However, he found no one at the door. The corridor was also deathly quiet.

Most importantly, there was a stack of money at the door. It was a thick stack of Renminbi that looked like at least 100,000 yuan.

“That’s strange. I heard someone knocking the door, but how come there’s nobody out there? Apart from that, a stack of money also appeared on the floor,” Old Shen said in confusion.

“Maybe someone was knocking next door.” Dai Wei smiled and bent to pick up the stack of money on the floor. He said in joy, “Aren’t we in luck today? I wonder if it’s fake money!”

Ye Chen suddenly opened his eyes when Dai Wei’s hand touched the stack of cash. He said, “It’s best that you don’t touch the money.”

“Why not?” Dai Wei asked by instinct.

Ye Chen smiled and said nothing.

Dai Wei scoffed and said, “Are you dumb? Why should we reject money that’s sent to our doorstep? There’s at least 100,000 yuan here, not 100 or 200 yuan. Only fools won’t take it.”

Geographical surveying sounded like a sophisticated profession, but the income was considered low. Meanwhile, 100,000 yuan was his income for half a year.

He picked up the stack of cash from the floor directly after saying that. Then, he closed the door and returned to the room to take a note out and observed it under the light.

“Look at the watermarks and optically variable ink. It doesn’t look fake.” Dai Wei analyzed it while handing one to Old Shen. “Old Shen, take a look for me.”

Old Shen did not take it. Instead, he shook his head and said, “Xiao Dai, someone must’ve dropped this by accident. It’s dirty money. You’d better put it back.”

Dai Wei was upset even before Old Shen was done speaking. “Old Shen, why do you think like someone else now? I didn’t steal or rob anyone. I picked it up myself. Why must I put it back?”

Old Shen sighed softly. He stopped talking because he knew that he could not persuade him. He shut his eyes and slept instead.

Ye Chen glanced at Dai Wei who was calculating the cash. He secretly shook his head.

After calculating the stack of cash, he realized that there was exactly 100,000 yuan. No more, no less. He took his phone out and began checking on the internet.

After making sure that it was real cash, he looked at Ye Chen and Old Shen by instinct. He could not help but smirk. ‘I’ll take all of it since you guys don’t want it. It’s perfect!’

...

“Ahh!” Di Jing’s shriek suddenly rang out when the day was breaking.

“What happened?!”

Old Shen was the first to wake up. He took his phone out immediately and shone a light on Di Jing who was in bed. He saw her sitting up in bed and shaking. Meanwhile, her phone had dropped on the floor at the moment. The flashlight was still on.

Dai Wei also woke up. "What happened?!"

"D-Dai Wei, you..." Di Jing pointed at Dai Wei and said while stammering. Fear filled her face.

Old Shen shone his flashlight on Dai Wei. He was also scared to death when he illuminated the light on him. Dai Wei was wearing a bright red top. He thought it was a red suit at first glance.

When he looked closer though, he realized that it was a red shroud!

Dai Wei held his head down to look, and his body was shaking. "How did this happen? Why am I wearing a shroud? Who put it on me? Turn on the lights, turn on the lights!"

He had worn a blue checkered shirt last night. How did it turn to a shroud?!

"I-I was using my phone flashlight to go to the bathroom earlier. When I shone it on you, I saw you wearing the s-shroud!" Di Jing said while her face turned pale.

Dai Wei got up immediately to turn the light on. However, he realized he could not turn it on no matter what.

"I-is the power is out?!" Dai Wei fell to the ground in fear.

Old Shen, who was the oldest, was the first to calm down. He said after taking a deep breath in, "Xiaodai, why are you wearing a shroud for the dead?"

"I-I don't know. I've been sleeping and I didn't go out at all. Moreover, where did I even get this shroud from?" Dai Wei said while shaking. He was attempting to take the shroud off.

At that moment, Ye Chen, who had been quiet, suddenly spoke, "It's best that you don't take it off!"

"Are you out of your mind?" Dai Wei yelled at him.

"Wait!" Old Shen suddenly stopped Dai Wei and said, "Xiaodai, don't take it off just yet. Let's see what Mr. Ye has got to say."

Since the series of strange things happened, Old Shen noticed that during a critical moment, Ye Chen would say things that seemed ridiculous, but he seemed to be fortune-telling. For example, he advised them not to stay in this hotel before, but they had refused to listen.

Dai Wei and Di Jing looked at Ye Chen at the same time.

He said calmly, "Show me the money that you picked up last night."

"What does this have to do with the money that I picked up?" Dai Wei scoffed as he thought Ye Chen wanted the money. However, he extended his arm and retrieved his bag after giving it a thought. He then opened it and looked. He was stunned in the next second.

Fear filled his face!

Cold sweat could not stop dripping from his brow!

Old Shen rubbed his eyes and said after taking a sharp inhale, "How did they turn into hell money?!"

Chapter 319: The Strange Shroud!

As everyone watched in fear, Dai Wei took out five stacks of hell money from his black hiking backpack, which came up to approximately 20,000 yuan per stack.

"Impossible, that's impossible!" Dai Wei suddenly poured all of the money onto the floor. He had fear all over his face. "It was real cash yesterday. How did it turn into hell money?"

Di Jing was shocked while Old Shen was secretly jarred too. He had never seen anything that strange although he had lived for so many years. He saw with his very own eyes that Dai Wei had brought real cash in last night. After all, a glance was all it took for one to differentiate cash from hell money.

"Did any of you replace the cash into hell money when I was sleeping? Is this a prank?" A thought popped into Dai Wei's head by instinct, and he lifted his head to look at Ye Chen. "It must've been you who did it!"

"Do you mean I replaced the cash into hell money and put the shroud on you as a prank?" Ye Chen chuckled.

"Yes, that's right!" Dai Wei smirked. "Among us, I know Old Shen and Di Jing very well. It's impossible for them to have done something like this. You're the only outsider here. Who else could have done it but you?"

He was sure of his speculation as he spoke to this point, "If that's not the case, how would you have known that something was wrong with the money? You must be eyeing my 100,000 yuan."

Old Shen and Di Jing's expressions changed after hearing that. They could not help but look at Ye Chen as they secretly thought that Dai Wei made sense!

After all, Ye Chen had asked Dai Wei not to pick up the money when he was at the door. He might really have been eyeing the money.

The five of them had been in the same room. Dai Wei's money turned into hell money out of nowhere, and he was wearing a shroud. It was impossible for anybody to have done that instantly, so they could totally rule out the possibility that somebody else had come in.

The reason was that the door was closed, and it was locked from the inside!

Even the hotel owner could not unlock it!

Di Jing had her guard up when she looked at Ye Chen now as she thought to this point. 'Dai Wei is right. Ye Chen and his bodyguard are the only outsiders among us. They're the biggest suspects!'

"What? Are you quiet now because I've busted your trick?" The smirk on Dai Wei's face grew when he noticed that Ye Chen said nothing. "Old Shen, I've said from the very beginning that we can't trust this brat. As expected, he's doing all these for the sake of the 100,000 yuan!"

He walked to Ye Chen as he spoke, "Ye, I'm giving you a chance. Give me the money, or I'll break your arms and toss you out!"

He was peeking at Iron Tower, who was standing aside, with his side-eye when he spoke. To him, Ye Chen was tall but rather skinny. It was impossible for him to be a match for him, the retired soldier.

The only threat would be Ye Chen's bodyguard, Iron Tower. He was over 1.8 meters, which was similar to his height. However, Iron Tower was much more muscular than him.

Ye Chen secretly frowned when Dai Wei suspected him and attempted to attack him.

At that moment, Old Shen stopped Dai Wei immediately and said, "Xiaodai, don't act by impulse. There might be some misunderstanding here."

Although all of the evidence pointed to Ye Chen, Old Shen still believed him.

"A misunderstanding?" Dai Wei smiled instead of being angry, "Old Shen, nobody has even pranked me like this. Tell me, what kind of misunderstanding this is?"

Old Shen sighed lightly. He could not help but turn his head to look at Ye Chen. "Mr. Ye, would you mind explaining yourself?"

Di Jing could not help saying instantly, "Mr. Ye, now it's not the time to be stubborn. You're the biggest suspect among us, so it's better that you explain yourself."

"Explain myself?" Ye Chen looked indifferent as usual while his voice was extremely calm with no emotions. "I didn't do it, so why do I have to explain myself?"

Di Jing's expression froze. She secretly shook her head, feeling rather upset!

'So, this is what I get for being nice!' She knew Dai Wei very well. He had been a soldier before, and he fought really well. Seven to eight regular hunks were not his match, even Ye Chen and that bodyguard. Although there were two of them, they could not fight Dai Wei at all.

As expected, Dai Wei was enraged. "Old Shen, scoot. Don't stop me. I'll teach this brat a good lesson today, and he'll know how powerful I am by then. Don't think I don't dare to fight you just because you have a bodyguard."

"Fight me? You?" Ye Chen was in disdain.

Dai Wei could no longer hold back when he heard that. He stretched his arm and pushed Old Shen away. At that moment, someone knocked on the door and everyone instantly fell quiet.

"Who is it?" Dai Wei and Di Jing shouted almost at the same time.

Day had yet to break. Apart from the power being out, Dai Wei was wearing a shroud. Anybody would have been terrified by the door knocking that came out of nowhere.

Nobody responded, but the knocking still went on. It was even getting louder.

Di Jing screamed and hid between Old Shen and Ye Chen while covering her mouth. Her pretty face turned pale.

Dai Wei stared at the door with his eyes opened wide. He had completely forgotten about wanting to teach Ye Chen a lesson.

Eventually, Old Shen took a deep breath and walked to the door. He opened it, and everyone looked in that direction immediately. A pale and old face greeted them.

“Ahh!” Di Jing threw herself into Ye Chen’s embrace.

A husky voice came, “Why aren’t you guys sleeping? What are you guys fighting about?” The person at the door shook the flashlight in her hand and could not stop complaining.

Dai Wei pointed at her and looked as if he had just seen a ghost. “A-Aren’t you the old lady who was burning joss paper earlier?”

When Old Shen and Di Jing looked again, they realized it was really the old lady from before. They almost pissed their pants from the scare.

“A-are you human or a ghost?” Old Shen said in horror.

The old lady was upset now. “What are you guys talking about? I’m alive. Of course, I’m human!” She scoffed as she spoke to this point, “The power went out in the middle of the night and I heard you guys fighting upstairs. I came up to check it out because I was concerned. I never would have thought you guys imagined I’m a ghost.”

“B-but the hotel owner told us that you were d-dead five years ago!” Dai Wei said while stammering.

“Hotel owner?” Stunned, the old lady said, “I’m the hotel owner. I’m the only one left after my husband, my son, and my granddaughter died. It was I who brought you guys in earlier. Are you guys delirious?”

“That’s impossible!” Old Shen said while shaking his head immediately, “It was a man with a birthmark on his face who took us in.”

“You guys must be talking about my son.” The old lady stared at them as if she was looking at some monsters. “It’s been three years since my son’s death. How could it have been possible that he checked you guys in?”

Their scalp turned numb upon hearing that!

Chapter 320: The Extra Portrait of Deceased!

They were terrified to hear what the old lady said. Dai Wei said in horror, “What did you say? Your son has been dead for three years?”

The old lady looked rather sad as she said, “That’s right. My husband was in my son’s car three years ago, and they were going into the city to see a doctor. They were hit by a drunk driver on the highway. My husband and son died on the spot, and the culprit escaped. My granddaughter and I were the only ones left.”

She wiped her tears as she spoke to this point, “However, my granddaughter found out that her boyfriend had secretly married another woman last month. She was so upset that she hung herself in this room.” She did not look like she was lying.

The few of them in the room looked at each other. They had no sympathy at all. Instead, they had goosebumps.

If the old lady's son who was the hotel owner was dead, then who was the man that they saw earlier? Could it have been a ghost?

"Go on with your lies, old lady. I don't buy it," Dai Wei scoffed and gestured to Old Shen. The few of them walked out of the room directly and went downstairs. They seemed to want to get the hotel owner to prove the old lady's lies.

However, they did not find the hotel owner anywhere when they got to the first floor. Instead, they noticed three pictures in the memorial hall.

One was an old man whose face was filled with dark spots. Another one was a pretty lady who looked in her 20s. They must be the old lady's husband and granddaughter that she was talking about earlier.

Meanwhile, there was a middle-aged man in the last picture. His man's face was pale. The most attention-grabbing thing about him was the big birthmark on the left side of his face. He was none other than the hotel owner that the few of them had seen earlier.

Di Jing turned ashen as she was shocked and terrified. She said while covering her mouth, "I-is he really dead?"

"How is that possible?!" Dai Wei's teeth were shaking as he demanded.

A man who they thought had been alive earlier was now someone who had been dead for three years. Nobody could accept that.

Old Shen's face twitched hard. He went over to look closer with a flashlight and suddenly screamed, "Guys, look! Look at that!"

The few of them turned to where his finger was pointing at. They saw another picture among the three pictures behind the lady.

There was a man in a red shroud in the picture. He looked rather handsome, and he was approximately 24 or 25 years old. There was a strange grin at the corner of his lips.

Whoosh!

Di Jing and Old Shen looked at Dai Wei who was next to them and said while shaking, "Dai Wei, i-is that y-you in the picture?"

Dai Wei was dumbstruck at the moment as if he was struck by lightning. "W-Why is there a picture of me here? I-I'm still alive!"

Di Jing and Old Shen could not help but take two steps back. Not daring to stay close to him, they had fear in their eyes when they looked at him. However, they did not notice Ye Chen, who was next to them, reveal a mocking smirk at the corner of his lips. He seemed to be in disdain.

"Why are you guys looking at me like that?" Dai Wei gulped hard and said when he noticed that they were scared of him, "Do you guys think I'm a ghost?"

He was really scared now! If he had not been afraid of anything with his courage earlier, then the series of events that happened had broken his guard completely.

“Dai Wei, c-can you explain why your picture is here? Also, the shroud on you...” Di Jing said while stammering.

They were no longer suspicious of Ye Chen now because they had just known Ye Chen not long ago, and there had been no chance of him stepping away along the journey. How could he have Dai Wei’s picture? On top of that, it was a picture of the dead!

“Explain, my a*s! How would I f*cking know?!” Although he liked Di Jing before, Dai Wei, who had been polite to her, could not help but curse, “I know it now. There’s something wrong with this hotel. There’s something wrong with the hotel owner, and there’s definitely something wrong with that old lady!”

“Damn, they’re doing all these to fool me. Do they really think I’m a pushover?” Dao Wei pushed the memorial tablet before him and turned around. He rushed to the second floor, apparently wanting to look for the old lady from before to get to the bottom of this.

“Let’s go with him!” Old Shen said and took the lead to catch up with Dai Wei.

Di Jing hesitated and glanced at Ye Chen. She bit her lip and stood behind Ye Chen. Clearly, she dared not be alone now.

Ye Chen chuckled softly and walked to the second floor as if he was taking a stroll. They saw Dai Wei scanning through all of the rooms on the second floor with his bloodshot eyes. He condemned, “Damned old lady, why are you hiding? Show yourself now!”

However, he found no one after looking through the entire floor. It seemed as if the old lady from before had vanished from the world.

“There’s really something wrong with this hotel!”

Old Shen stopped Dai Wei and forced a smile. “It seems like it was a mistake for us to stay here. The hotel owner said that the old lady has been dead for five years while the old lady said that he’s been dead for three years. They’re confusing us.”

“Old Shen, now that all of them are gone, do you think they’re...?” Di Jing said weakly, appearing terrified.

“Forget it!” Old Shen sighed softly. “Go. Let’s go. Let’s leave this strange place immediately. We shouldn’t stay for a second more!”

Old Shen took the lead to walk in front after saying that.

When they arrived on the first floor, a pretty lady in a white chiffon dress came to them. She was nothing more than 24 or 25 years of age.

Old Shen suddenly stopped. Dai Wei and Di Jing who were behind Old Shen almost pissed their pants after seeing the lady’s face.

The reason being, she was the lady in the picture—the one who had hung herself!

The lady looked at them and said while frowning, "Why are you guys in my home? Who let you guys in?"

"A-are you a human or a ghost?" Old Shen shouted.

"Hehehe!" The lady could not help giggling out loud, feeling humored. "Sir, why are you so funny? Of course, I'm human. If I were a ghost, I would've eaten you guys." She twirled as she spoke then said while smiling, "Do you guys think I'm a human or a ghost?"

They noticed there was a shadow on the floor when she was twirling. They could not help but feel a little suspicious, but their guards remained up.

Dai Wei glared deadly at her. "Didn't your father and grandmother say that you died last month?"

"Ptui!" The lady spat at her and said angrily, "You're the one who's dead."

Subsequently, her expression changed drastically. "What did you say? My dad and grandma said that I'm dead?"

Old Shen nodded.

The lady's eyes were wide open now. "Is that a mistake? My dad and grandma died a long time ago, so how could they have possibly told you that? Did they tell you that in your dreams?"

"Go, let's go!" Old Shen's scalp turned numb, and he no longer wanted to dwell on this. He ran out of the hotel door after grabbing Di Jing who was behind him.

Dai Wei jolted and caught up to them immediately while Ye Chen and Iron Tower were behind them.

What they did not notice was that the lady was watching them leave with an eerie stare. Her eyes were like a venomous snake's, and she seemed to be struggling whether to go after them.

At that moment, Ye Chen turned his head to look at her as if he sensed that. He hissed softly, "Scram!!!"

The lady let out a low groan from his stare while a cloud of black smoke appeared from her body!