

Genius 421

Chapter 421: The People from Xieling Have Appeared!

“Scram, all of you! Master Xiegu is coming through. We won’t be responsible for anyone getting hurt!”

A rumble came as soon as that voice was heard. When Ye Chen spread his Divine Consciousness out, he sensed three BMWs driving over in a single file. Meanwhile, there were a few luxury cars behind them. They were rather overbearing and selfish.

“Be careful!” Yu Lei grabbed onto Ye Chen’s hand almost immediately. They retreated aside with Yu Lian. Meanwhile, the three BMWs were speeding, and they almost rammed into Zhizhi and her brother who were walking in front.

“Dodge, Zhizhi!” Yu Lian screamed by instinct.

Zhizhi turned her head and was shocked when she saw the three BMWs that were close to her. She froze and did not dodge.

“Come on!”

Ye Chen froze just when he was going to save her. As a calm voice came, a giant hunk with muscular body suddenly appeared before Zhizhi.

The giant hunk was fearless despite the approaching three cars. He shrieked and stomped both feet as he stretched his arms that were like dragons at the cars’ hoods.

Bang!

The ground shook and dust was sent flying.

As the dust faded, they saw the giant hunk stop all three of the BMWs. He had merely taken a step back. However, his feet were buried deep in the ground.

More than ten people who were in the cars were horrified.

‘Is he human?’

Ye Shan reacted within a few breaths. He walked over immediately to take a good look at Zhizhi as he was worried. “S-Sister, are you alright?”

“Zhizhi!” Yu Lian walked over quickly.

“I-I’m fine!” Zhizhi was extremely pale. She shook her head, still looking shocked. She then said to the giant hunk before her, “Thank you.”

If not for the giant hunk who had shown up earlier, she would have definitely died!

At the same time, more than ten hunks walked out of the three BMWs. They surrounded the giant hunk while the leader yelled, “Who are you? How dare you block Master Xiegu’s way?”

However, the giant hunk said nothing.

“Aren’t you guys shameless?” Yu Lian on the other hand glared angrily at them. “You guys drove in such an overbearing manner. Do you know that someone would’ve been killed if he didn’t show up? And now you guys are blaming him?”

“Who is this fool to be daring to stick his nose in our business?!” Enraged, the man stretched his arm out and slapped Yu Lian by instinct.

Bang!

At that moment, gravel shot from far away, landing on the man’s wrist, hence he shrieked in devastation and retreated. He said as if he had just seen a ghost, “Who’s that?”

“Anyone can make mistakes. Forgive them when possible!” said a calm voice.

Subsequently, three people in black attire and hats leaped from a tree by the side. A tall man was leading them.

Because he was wearing a hat, his face was hidden. However, his voice was rather thick as he criticized, “Xiegu, you’re allowing your underlings to behave terribly and risk others’ lives. Watch out for the people from the Secret Bureau coming after you! Recall!”

He turned around and performed a hand seal at the giant hunk behind him after speaking. The giant hunk’s body shrunk. Eventually, it turned into a yellow talisman, which he then put away in his sleeve.

The people were so shocked that they could not speak. Clearly, they did not expect a living man to turn into a talisman.

A gleam flashed through Ye Chen’s eyes. ‘Was that a battle mechanic? Was that the Puppet Technique?’

Legend had it that during the Three Kingdoms, Zhang Jue and his brothers were the Nanhua Old Immortal’s understudies during the Yellow Turban Rebellion. The Nanhua Old Immortal had passed the Taiping Daoism down to them, thus they inherited the Puppet Technique in it. Subsequently, Zhang Jue created many Yellow Turban Battle Mechanics!

The Yellow Turban Battle Mechanics had immense strength. No guns and knives could pierce through them. They could not feel pain, and they were known as the fearless battle machines. Meanwhile, that giant hunk that saved Zhizhi looked like a Yellow Turban Battle Mechanic.

“I was wondering who that was. So, it’s the people from Xieling!” commented a rather cold voice. A skinny old man with wrinkles and pockmarks all over his face got out of the Ferrari behind the BMWs. He looked ferocious while his eyes were as sharp as a falcon.

The people could not help but felt a chill in them as soon as he appeared. They felt as if they were in an ice house.

“You people from Xieling never show up or stick your nose in worldly business. Why are you guys going to the Longmen Convention?” Master Xiegu had his eyes on the three people in hats after glancing at Ye Chen and the rest coldly. He had a grin on his face.

“That’s none of your business. You’ll suffer from your ill intentions. That’s all we’re going to tell you!” the three people in the hats said expressionlessly and disappeared from where they were.

Master Xiegu watched them leave coldly.

A hunk next to him took a step forward and said softly despite looking ferocious, "Master, the three of them interrupted your journey. Do you want me to teach them a lesson?"

"Do you think you can do that?" Master Xiegu glanced at him in disdain. "Do you know that even I'm scared of them? Do you think that those underlings of yours can hurt them?"

The hunk remained silent.

"Interesting. Even Xieling is here. I'm sure people from Banshan, Mojin, and Faqiu are here too." Master Xiegu smirked in a playful manner. Then, he had his eyes on Ye Chen and the rest. He said to the hunk at ease, "As for them, we'll kill them when we have the chance!"

He returned to the Ferrari after he was done speaking. The three BMWs opened the path for him just like before. He left as if he was the moon surrounded by the stars.

Ye Chen watched the cars depart far away.

Yu Lian was angry when she noticed that he remained still. "What are you looking at? Let's go!"

All of them were shocked from the danger that Zhizhi had been put through earlier. They felt upset. However, Ye Chen was the only one who looked normal and ignorant. To her, that was cold-blooded and selfish!

Ye Chen ignored her because he was pondering what this Secret Bureau that the man in a hat had mentioned. He could not help but glance at Yu Lei and Yu Lian before he secretly shook his head. He made up his mind to ask the Dragon King, Niu Qingshan, when he returned.

Soon, they arrived at Zhizhi's home. It was a two-story brick house with simple decorations. There was livestock such as pigs and goats at home. Judging by that, Zhizhi's family was fairly poor. However, they looked happy. They seemed like they were content even though they did not have much.

Zhizhi's father was hospitable as he treated them to chickens, ducks as well as braised hare. One could tell that Yu Lian had a close relationship with her family. However, Ye Chen did not ask any further.

They were chatting after eating while Ye Chen just listened. He found out that Zhizhi had an elder brother who was in the military. He belonged to the same batch as Yu Lian and the rest, so they had gotten to know Yu Lian when the family visited the brother at work.

Noticing that they were almost done with the topic, Ye Chen glanced at Zhizhi's father, Ye Feng, and said, "Uncle Ye, I wonder how many sinkholes are there in Shennongjia."

Chapter 422: Heaven Dao is Unfair. Why Should I Follow It Then?

A sinkhole was a rock-walled bowl that was steep and could accommodate a large volume. It was deep either like a well or a bucket with extraordinary space and characteristics. It was a wonder of nature.

The biggest sinkhole that had been discovered in the world was over 400 meters in diameter and depth. It was not an exaggeration to call it an underground city.

That was the reason why Ye Chen asked about the sinkholes in Shennongjia during the meal. After all, Zhizhi's home was close to Shennongjia. Meanwhile, her father, Ye Feng, had been to Shennongjia a couple of times, so he must have known about it more than Ye Chen did.

Ye Feng's hand that was holding his chopsticks froze upon hearing his question. He looked at Ye Chen in surprise. "I wonder why are you asking that, little brother."

"Uncle, we're here to investigate sinkholes. That's the reason why Sir Ye asked that," Yu Lei, who was sitting aside, mediated for Ye Chen quickly.

Ye Feng nodded and said, "There are some ten sinkholes that have currently been discovered in Shennongjia. They come in various sizes. Don't blame me for being suspicious, little brother. There was a sinkhole that was discovered a month ago, but this sinkhole seems to be a little strange."

"Strange?" Ye Chen was surprised.

"That's right!" Zhizhi could not help interrupt, "Brother Ye, that sinkhole that was found in Shennongjia a month ago was filled with fire. It was like an erupting volcano. Besides that, there are antiques in the lava. Everyone says there's an ancient tomb down there..."

"Cough, cough..." Ye Feng coughed a few times.

Zhizhi only stuck her tongue out and shut her mouth.

An ancient tomb?

Ye Chen took a good look at Ye Feng and said while smiling, "Uncle, I won't ask any further if there's something that you can't tell me."

"That's right, Uncle Ye. Why are you being so secretive?" Yu Lian mumbled as she ate a chicken claw.

Ye Feng looked around and eventually sighed softly. "The newly-discovered sinkhole would have lava erupted out of it often. There would be many antiques and knick-knacks on the ground after each eruption. The locals say there's an ancient tomb in there."

He could not help but look at Ye Chen as he spoke to this point and he smiled in an apologetic manner.

"Don't mind me, little brother. I was afraid that you guys would go to that sinkhole to look for antiques if I told you this. Too many people have died there."

"Why would there be antiques in the lava?" Yu Lian was puzzled.

Yu Lei nodded.

He had heard of sky burials, cremations, natural burials, and water burials. The first three involved the bodies being buried in the ground eventually, but he had never heard anyone being buried in lava. After all, the temperature of the lava was exceptionally high. Everything would turn into ashes as soon as they went in, so how could it be a tomb inside?

"Then, what happened to the antiques?" Ye Chen asked.

He cared more about those antiques. It was worth his attention since they were not damaged despite being in the lava.

“They were taken away!” Ye Feng shook his head lightly. “Many people took the antiques away when they were first discovered. However, the people that the government sent then came to take them away. On top of that, they wanted us to keep it a secret.”

That was the reason why he had been unwilling to tell them this earlier.

“Taken away? Uncle Ye, did they say who they are? Which department were they from?” Yu Lian asked instinctively.

“Eat your food!” Yu Lei gave her a chicken drumstick in response.

Both of them were from the special unit, so naturally, they knew what they should and should not know. They knew very little about sinkholes. Their mission was to carry out Old Chen’s order, which was to bring Ye Chen to the sinkholes.

“Forget it. Let’s just forget about it. Let’s eat!” Yu Lian reacted and smiled in an awkward manner. She lifted her bowl and proceeded to eat without saying anything else.

Ye Chen was the only one who was still thinking about the sinkhole.

It seemed the sinkhole that was filled with lava and had erupted a month ago was the Geographical Vein that Old Chen had told him about. He could not help but have a burning desire within him as he thought to this point.

People were scared of lava but not him.

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The meal lasted for half an hour.

After they were done eating, Ye Feng knew what Ye Chen and the rest had in mind. He hesitated and eventually got Zhizhi to be their guide to bring them to Shennongjia. He advised them many times not to go to the sinkhole with lava before they departed.

They found out that the closer they got to Shennongjia, the more cars and people there were on the road.

After she found out that Ye Chen and the rest were going to the sinkhole with lava, Zhizhi said while looking pale, “Brother Ye, Sister Yu Lian, are you guys sure you want to go there? It’s really dangerous. I heard there’s no regular pattern to the eruption.”

Yu Lian felt a little scared. She could not help but glance at Ye Chen, “Hey, why must you go there? Can’t we go to other ones? There are so many sinkholes anyway.”

“It’s alright if you guys don’t want to go since you’re scared. I won’t blame you.” Ye Chen smiled calmly. He was not affected by what she said at all, then he shut his eyes after saying that.

“Who told you that I’m scared?” Yu Lian was vexed. She stared at him and scoffed before saying, “You’re not afraid, so why would I be? Also, isn’t it just a sinkhole with lava? I’ve seen things that are more dangerous than that.”

“Alright. Since Sir Ye wants to go, let’s stop fighting.” Yu Lei shook his head and turned to say to Zhizhi, “Zhizhi, don’t worry. We won’t get too close to it. All you need to do is to bring us there.”

Zhizhi nodded.

Yu Lian secretly peeked at Ye Chen, but she was pissed off when she noticed that his eyes were shut and he looked relaxed.

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At the same time in a Honda SUV, a young man glanced at the old man in the back seat through the rearview mirror as he drove. “Grandpa, I heard that the people from Banshan and Xieling are here. That’s strange, especially the people from Xieling. I thought they’d never reveal themselves.”

“What else could be their intention but the Heavenly Tomb?”

An old man in gray robes sat at the back. He only had one eye while the other eye was blind and was completely white. As he held a walking stick with a dragon head in his hand, he looked calm.

“The Heavenly Tomb?” The young man’s hand that was holding the steering wheel trembled. He screamed, “Grandpa, is there really a tomb in the sinkhole? But how is that possible? It’s filled with lava.”

“Why do you think it’s impossible?” The half-blind old man smiled calmly. “You foolish kid, I no longer go into regular tombs since I entered Mojin and began cultivating. This time, the four sects—Mojin, Xieling, Banshan, and Faqiu—will work together. With our powers, I believe we can definitely open the tomb in the sinkhole. With the four sects working together, even Shen Tiannan from Hong Kong will have to step back!”

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At the Shen residence in Hong Kong, the atmosphere was extremely somber with a white cloth hanging at the door.

Shen Tiannan stood before the mourning hall and mumbled as he looked at the picture on the wall with his arms behind his back, “Xingye, I’ll avenge you soon. Just wait a little longer. I’ll kill Mad Southern Ye, so you can live in this world in another way.”

He was getting older, and he looked like an old man who had one foot in the grave.

Lei Feihu, who was standing aside, had a complicated expression on his face. He could not help but finally ask, “Tiannan, so you preserved Xingye’s body. Even if you really succeed in that, will he still be Xingye? Will he still be your son? You paid such a great price for that whereby you’re now left with less than ten years to live. Is that worth it?”

“Everything is worth it.” Shen Tiannan picked up three incense sticks and placed them in the burner. He said while shaking his head, “I, Shen Tiannan, am No. 1 in feng shui and spells in Hong Kong, but I failed to foretell the tragedy that befell Xingye. I can’t ask for my son’s life back, so why should I cultivate further? Since Heaven Dao is unfair, why should I follow it then?!”

Lei Feihu could only sigh softly upon hearing that.

Shen Tiannan stretched his arm to caress the picture. He asked without even turning his head, "Brother Lei, have you sent your men?"

"I have. They're in Lin City now. They'll take action as soon as you give your order!" Lei Feihu shook his head lightly.

"Haha, there's no hurry!" Resentment flashed through Shen Tiannan's eyes. "They'll take action after I kill Mad Southern Ye before the seventh day following Xingye's death. By then, I'll use Mad Southern Ye's blood to revive my son. I want to carry out a posthumous marriage for my son!"

Chapter 423: Arriving at the Sinkhole in Shennongjia!

They finally arrived close to Shennongjia over an hour later.

There were people everywhere when they looked over. Many cars were parked at the bottom of the mountain. There were luxury cars including Lamborghinis and Ferraris. The cheapest one would be a Bentley.

Countless people in odd attires were walking up the mountain.

"Wow, there are so many people!" As Yu Lian walked out of the car, surprise filled her beautiful eyes.

Zhizhi, on the other hand, was not surprised. She said dutifully, "Sister Yu Lian, I think they're here for the Longmen Convention which is held every three years. I heard there will be immortals coming."

"Immortals?" Yu Lian failed to react.

"That's right, immortals!" Zhizhi nodded in excitement. "I heard from my dad that these immortals have power. Not only can they ride on clouds, but they can also call upon the rain and the wind. It's not an exaggeration to call them gods."

"Hehe!" Yu Lian chuckled out loud. "Ride on clouds? As powerful as gods? Zhizhi, I can't believe that you buy all this mumbo-jumbo. Passersby might think that you're telling me a fairytale."

"I'm speaking the truth!" Zhizhi panicked.

"Alright!" Yu Lian said, "Zhizhi, what you said only exists in movies or novels. Listen to me. There are no immortals in this world. Believe in science, understand? If there really are people like that in this world, wouldn't it be chaotic?"

"You're right!" Yu Lei nodded.

The Fire Phoenix was a special force unit. As members of the Fire Phoenix, the most powerful thing Yu Lian and Yu Lei had ever seen in the unit was someone slapping a nail into a plank, and that only was only possible after years of practice.

Zhizhi looked as if she was in deep thought. She could not help but glance at Ye Chen who stood aside in silence. "Brother Ye, do you think there are really immortals in this world?"

"Err..." Ye Chen smiled calmly. "There should be!"

“There should be?” Yu Lian rolled her eyes at him and said angrily, “No means no. What do you mean by ‘there should be’? Zhizhi is just a kid. Stop giving her the wrong idea. Those immortals that she’s talking about are scammers.”

Ye Chen was speechless.

At that moment, from behind them came a voice that they could not discern was friend or foe. “Young lady, I don’t like what you said!”

They turned their heads to see a lady in black martial arts attire holding an old man in traditional Chinese attire over. They walked very slowly. The old man was approximately 60 years old, and he wore a jade ring on his thumb.

Yu Lian frowned and said, “I don’t think I said anything about you, old man.”

The old man said in between tears and laughter when he arrived before them, “You didn’t say anything about me directly. However, you were criticizing me when you called us scammers.”

“I was talking about immortals. Don’t tell me that you’re an immortal!” Yu Lian looked annoyed and she scoffed after saying that.

“I’m Yuan Qitai from Xianyang. This is my disciple, Deng Chan. I’m not an immortal, but I think that I’m pretty well-versed in feng shui and spells.” The old man shook his head lightly and proceeded, “I failed to hold back after hearing that you humiliated the spell world earlier.”

“Aren’t people in feng shui scammers?” Yu Lian chuckled. She had never believed in feng shui and fortune-telling. Although she had seen a Battle Mechanic from Xieling earlier, they were just scammers to her.

Yu Lei glared at her immediately and smiled at Yuan Qitai in an apologetic manner. “Sorry, old man. My sister is hot-headed. Please don’t mind her.”

Yu Lian still had a smirk on her face.

The lady, Deng Chan, who was next to Yuan Qitai, could not help but comment in fury after noticing Yu Lian’s smirk. “What a bunch of hillbillies!” She stretched her arm and waved at Yu Lian as she spoke.

Yu Lian and Yu Lei were shocked as if they had just met an enemy. They thought she was going to attack.

However, Yu Lian noticed there was a red butterfly hairpin in Deng Chan’s hand. She could not help but touch her head by instinct. To her shock, she realized that there was nothing on her head. She said angrily, “How did you get my hairpin?”

“Haha!” Deng Chan laughed in disdain, then she blew at the butterfly hairpin. Within the blink of an eye, the hairpin turned into a red butterfly that flew into the sky and flitted around them, flapping its wings.

Yu Lian was dumbstruck watching that. Yu Lei and Zhizhi were also in disbelief.

“I’ll give it back to you!” Deng Chan waved at the butterfly in the air. The butterfly returned to her hand and turned into a hairpin again. With a toss, the hairpin returned to Yu Lian’s head accurately. Deng Chan had pride on her face. “I guess you guys know what’s a spell now, hmm?”

Yu Lian felt embarrassed.

On the other hand, Yu Lei suppressed his shock and clasped his fists at Deng Chan and Yuan Qitai. "So, both of you are masters. We must be blind to not have realized that. Please forgive us."

"Don't worry about it!" Yuan Qitai smiled calmly with the elegance that a master should have.

Deng Chan glanced at Ye Chen by instinct. She frowned when she realized there was no surprise on his face at all. The pride within her vanished.

"Let's go!" Ye Chen spoke when Zhizhi was going to ask Deng Chan to teach her the spell.

Zhizhi glanced away reluctantly and led them to the other side of the mountain road. It was a small path that connected deep into Shennongjia.

Yuan Qitai glanced at where the few of them left and shook his head. He said, "Xiaochan, don't show off before others again. Understand?"

"Master, they were humiliating you. I was just mad!" Deng Chan was upset.

"Let them be. Remember, don't show off before others. Otherwise, you'll only bring bad karma and trouble upon yourself." Yuan Qitai sighed softly and lifted his eyes to take a look at the crowd before them. He said, "It seems people from the other three sects aren't here yet. Let's check out that sinkhole then."

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Half an hour later, they arrived at the lowest point of the mountain.

Zhizhi wiped her sweat and pointed beneath. She said, "Sister Yu Lian, Brother Ye, that's the sinkhole that has erupted down there."

The few of them looked at where she was pointing. They were surprised to see a giant hole on a barren land 20 meters beneath them.

The hole was approximately ten meters in diameter. It was bottomless while the soil within a kilometer around it was burnt. If one were to look carefully, they would notice that the air above the hole was rippling and distorted. Clearly, it was caused by the high temperature of at least 50 degrees Celsius.

"It's so hot!" Yu Lian took out a napkin and could not stop wiping the sweat on her face. However, she realized there was no ending to that. Her cheeks were like ripe apples.

Yu Lei nodded as he was drenched in sweat.

"Sister Yu Lei, let's go. It's too hot here!" Zhizhi took out her water bottle and took a huge gulp. Steam was rising above her head.

Yu Lian could not help but look at Ye Chen and say sharply, "Sir Ye, you should be done checking it out. Let's go, or we'll be killed by the heat. The temperature is just too high here."

Zhizhi and Yu Lei looked at him.

“No, you guys can leave. I’ll go check it out!” However, to their shock, Ye Chen shook his head lightly. He walked toward the road beneath without waiting for them to react.

Chapter 424: Erupting Lava, Falling into A Sea of Fire!

Yu Lei’s expression changed. It was too late when he wanted to stop Ye Chen, so he called out to him, “What are you doing, Sir Ye?”

“Brother Ye, get back. It’s too dangerous!” Zhizhi lost all her senses in her fear.

“Get back here, you fool. Are you trying to get yourself killed?!” Yu Lian was stomping her feet in a panic.

‘We’re already dying from the heat from standing so far away. Forget that you refuse to leave, but how dare you go down there? What’s the difference compared to seeking death if you do that? Are you crazy or just dumb?’

She wanted to go with Ye Chen to pull him back by instinct. However, Yu Lei grabbed her. “Don’t go!”

Yuan Qitai and his disciple watched Ye Chen who was going down as they stood on a giant rock less than 30 meters away from Yu Lei and the rest. They were stunned. “What’s that guy doing?”

Yuan Qitai especially had disbelief on his face.

One must know that even though he possessed a high cultivation base, he dared not go down because the high temperature would activate his mysterious qi barrier, as well as accelerate his metabolism.

Next to him, Deng Chan exclaimed, “Master, that guy must be out of his mind. Is it worth risking his life for some knick-knacks? Doesn’t he see that even we dare not go there? Why is he so daring?” She thought Ye Chen was going for the antiques in the sinkhole.

At that moment, the ground shook.

Deng Chan staggered and almost fell from the mountain. Her face turned pale when she finally managed to stand still. “What happened?”

Yuan Qitai squinted. He could not help but stare at the sinkhole crater. He seemed to have recalled something, thus his expression changed. “Oh no, there’s going to be an eruption!”

He was a Spell Master who was an expert in consciousness power with a powerful sixth sense. He could sense a cloud of boiling heat erupting beneath although he was far away from it.

He flashed and turned into an after shadow as he thought to this point, arriving before Yu Lian and the rest beneath. The three of them were shocked by the tremor earlier because they thought it was an earthquake.

Yu Lian was secretly cursing Ye Chen.

“There’s going to be an eruption! Here, grab my hands. I’ll bring you guys up there!” Yuan Qitai grabbed onto Yu Lian and Zhizhi with both hands. He waved to summon a strong wind that lifted Yu Lei up.

Yu Lei said as soon as he managed to stand still, "Sir, please save Sir Ye. He's still down there. Nothing can happen to him."

"There's no time!" Yuan Qitai sighed softly, appearing grim.

Bang!

As a loud thud like thunder came, the ground shook even more intensely as if the entire mountain was rocking. Subsequently, a fire pillar shot out of the sinkhole crater. It was approximately ten meters in diameter and 20 meters tall like a fire dragon. It then turned into lava that flowed onto the ground. It was spreading with the crater as the center point. Wherever the lava passed by, everything was destroyed.

The people turned pale because they had experienced the power of nature. Yu Lian and the rest had not taken it seriously when Ye Feng was talking about it earlier. However, they shook as they watched as it happen right before their eyes.

As Banshan's leader, Yuan Qitai would think that he had a deep knowledge of spells, as well as a certain level of cultivation. However, he seemed weak and helpless before the rumbling lava.

"Look! What's he doing?" Deng Chan screamed.

The few of them looked to where she was pointing. They saw a skinny silhouette move forward instead of retreating as the eruption was going on. He was walking quickly into the lava.

Who else would that be if not Ye Chen?

Yu Lian's face turned pale again. "Is he seeking death?"

"Brother Ye!" Zhizhi screamed while sobbing.

Yuan Qitai was pissed off. "Why is this guy so reckless? Although antiques are valuable, he needs to be alive to sell them!"

At that moment, Ye Chen was less than ten meters away from the erupting lava. He was walking faster as excitement filled his face. "What a dense fire element aura! The closer I get, the thicker the aura is. Judging by that, the fire element in the sinkhole must be intense. There must be fire essence in there!"

Bang!

The lava erupted, drowning Ye Chen completely.

"Sir Ye!"

"Brother Ye!"

Yu Lian, Yu Lei, and Zhizhi screamed at the same time while watching Ye Chen being devoured by the lava. Despair filled their faces.

"Oh no!" Yu Lei sat onto the ground and mumbled, "The captain asked us to protect Sir Ye, and now he's dead. How are we supposed to explain this to the captain?"

"I shouldn't have brought Brother Ye here." Zhizhi's eyes were wet, and her face was saturated with regret.

Yuan Qitai shook his head lightly and looked at the lava beneath with a serious face. He said, "Let's go. It's not somewhere we should stay. The Longmen Convention should've begun now."

"What a fool! Look at what you've done. Forget it that you're dead, but now you've dragged us into your trouble." Yu Lian looked at where Ye Chen disappeared to before she shook her head and left with Yuan Qitai.

All of them were sure that Ye Chen was dead because even an armored tank would melt in the lava unless he was the Monkey King, Sun Wukong!

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At the same time, it was a sea of fire in the sinkhole.

The people had no idea was that there was a man standing proudly in the sea of fire in the lava. The lava was rumbling beneath his feet as he was surrounded by endless fire. However, that did not hurt him at all.

"This doesn't look like a volcano, but why is there so much lava and fire? Is there really fire essence in here?"

Ye Chen hovered in the air and looked at the sea of fire before him. He found out that the interior space was huge, whereby it was at least 1,000 square meters large. There were four natural caves around, and the fire and lava should have come from the caves.

He could not help but spread his Divine Consciousness into one of the caves. However, he found out that the range of coverage was limited in the sea of fire.

"It's not hot enough. The pressure on me is insignificant!" Ye Chen shook his head lightly. He would need a certain pressure to achieve Foundation Building. Only under immense pressure could he release all of his potential.

"I hope that you won't disappoint me!"

He took a step out and chose the cave on the far left. He walked in slowly. He realized that the deeper he went, the higher the temperature was. If it was 200 degrees Celsius out there, the temperature would increase by ten degrees Celsius with each step he took. It was 300 degrees Celsius when he arrived inside.

Ye Chen had sweat dripping from his forehead under the high temperature. However, he did not stop. He proceeded to go deeper.

A red shadow suddenly appeared behind him. Subsequently, it was charging quickly at his back like a specter.

Quickly, Ye Chen threw a punch behind him.

The thing shirked in pain and took a few steps back. It looked at Ye Chen in fear as it stood far away. It was an animal that was the size of a pigeon. However, it was completely red. To be exact, it was filled with fire like a fire bird.

“Bi Fang?” Ye Chen squinted.

Chapter 425: Underground River, Preserved Corpse!

Bi Fang was a mythological bird!

It was recorded in Xishan Jing of Shan Hai Jing that there was a bird that looked like a crane. It was one-legged besides having red markings on green feathers and a white beak. Its name was Bi Fang, and it made a unique sound of its own. Seeing it would mean there would be fire around.

Bi Fang was an omen of fire, hence there would be great fire wherever it was.

Meanwhile, the bird before Ye Chen had fire all over its body in the form of a crow.

Ye Chen thought it was Bi Fang at first glance. He then shook his head and said, “That’s not Bi Fang. It’s more like a fire crow, but it doesn’t look like it has materialized!”

He grabbed the fire crow before him to the bird’s shock. The fire on it burned more intensely, and it charged at Ye Chen after a shriek. It even spewed fire at Ye Chen.

However, the fire did nothing to him at all.

While he grabbed it, it then turned into a ball of fire, integrating into the sea of fire.

“It’s just a clone. It seems to be an illusory entity that’s made of fire. But why was it made into a fire crow? Can it be...?”

He thought to himself and turned around. He walked further into the tunnel. As he took a few steps, a couple of fire crows appeared before and behind him. They were bigger than the one earlier, and they charged at him fearlessly.

Ye Chen proceeded to walk in after lifting his hands to fan them away.

Within a short 100 meters, the temperature had increased to above 500 degrees Celsius. There were more and more fire crows blocking his way, from a couple of them to a large crowd of them. A regular person would have been killed by now.

After walking another 100 meters, the field of vision in front of him became lower. It seemed like a sunken land similar to a pond. There was rumbling lava with bubbles in it. Meanwhile, obsidian walls loomed around as a result of the lava that had cooled down. There was no way out.

Bloop!

At that moment, the lava in the sunken land suddenly boiled. Countless air bubbles came out and turned into fire crows as they ascended. There were at least hundreds of them.

“Kill!”

Ye Chen took out the Almighty Killer Sword which sword qi covered 200 meters. The fire crows that entered the range would be torn into fire on the impact of the sword qi. Soon, all of them were annihilated.

The sword in his hand seemed to have sensed something, hence it suddenly slashed behind Ye Chen. A shriek came from behind.

Ye Chen turned his head to see a giant fire crow that was approximately a meter tall crawling on the rock wall. It was looking at him in fear. If he were to look carefully, he would notice that a chunk of its beak was missing. Blood was dripping from the wall.

"I knew it!" Ye Chen revealed an expression as if he expected that to happen.

He suspected the reason why there would be fire crow clones forming around here. He secretly speculated that there was a real fire crow around. Apart from that, it must be in this sinkhole. It was just as he thought.

Meanwhile, what he was seeing was the host of all of the fire crow clones. It seemed like it had been cultivating for 100 to 200 years. Its ability should be on intermediate-stage Spirit Assembly.

"This animal is quite smart to be exhausting my ability with the clones. It even used hundreds of clones to stop me, and then did a sneak attack on me from the back." Ye Chen smiled calmly. "But you've underestimated me!"

If he was a cultivator who was on peak-stage Spirit Assembly, he would have to use spells to make a protective barrier to protect himself in order to enter this sinkhole. As time went by, his ability would have been exhausted.

However, that was not the case for Ye Chen.

The fire crow roared at him, but it dared not move forward. It stared deadly at the Almighty Killer Sword that was hovering above Ye Chen's head. Clearly, the swing of sword earlier had hurt it.

"If I'm not mistaken, you must be afraid about me finding out something since you are so eagerly stopping me," Ye Chen proceeded to say.

All of the giant fire crow's feathers stood up upon hearing that. The flames on it grew.

Ye Chen did not care about it. He pointed at the lava pond beneath and chuckled. "And your secret is down there. I'm here for one thing. If you allow me to do that, I'd consider sparing your life."

He turned around and walked to the lava pond as soon as he said that. At the same time, the fire crow attacked Ye Chen like a maniac. Clearly, Ye Chen had been right.

"Hmph, how stubborn!"

A sword gleam flashed, and the crow was sliced into half.

Ye Chen did not even look at it before he leaped into the rumbling lava. He descended to the bottom of the lava where he realized there was a stone door at the bottom.

The door was the height of a human and was covered with limestone.

When Ye Chen pushed it, he found out that it was rather heavy. He lifted the sword and slashed it open, revealing a cave. He scanned it with his Divine Consciousness and only walked in after making sure that there was no threat ahead.

The scene before him changed again.

It was a narrow space with the faint sound of water from far away. Ye Chen discovered a tiny river when he got closer. It was flowing from west to east, and it seemed like an underground river. Meanwhile, there was a floating bridge above the river. It was a man-made immortal's cave at the end of the bridge.

Was there really an ancient tomb?

Ye Chen could not help but step onto the floating bridge after having that thought. He walked into the immortal's cave and scanned it with his Divine Consciousness. He saw three stone rooms, each of which was some 100 square meters with simple configurations.

There was a pill cauldron in the middle of the first stone room.

The pill cauldron that was made of bronze was approximately two meters high. There was a dragon head on each side with an opening in the middle and a cover on top. There was a lot of firewood scattered around, but they had decayed. Meanwhile, dust filled the ground.

Ye Chen then walked to the second stone room. There were a couple of wooden shelves in it with various old books on them. One of them turned into dust as soon as he touched it.

Meanwhile, there was a jade bed placed in the middle of the third stone room. The bed was made of cold jade, and there was chilly air coming out of it. An old man in Taoist robes sat on it with his legs crossed. His head was buried before his chest while his hands were on his laps as if he was performing a hand seal.

Ye Chen looked relaxed as he did not sense any aura coming from the old man. He was clearly dead. When Ye Chen was recalling his Divine Consciousness after a rough scan, he suddenly asked, "Is his body preserved?"

Although the old man had died a long time ago, his body was still intact.

The jade bed alone could not do that.

Ye Chen could not help but go over to the bed to check it out. He was surprised to find out that the man's body emitted extraordinary heat. The heat covered his body, integrating with the chilly air that was coming out of the jade bed beneath him. As the heat and chilliness intertwined, his body was preserved.

"What's that?!"

With his Divine Consciousness, he found a black stone in the old man's body. The stone was the size of an egg while there was a golden tinder moving in the middle.

It was insignificant in the size of a fingernail. However, it seemed to be a great threat to Ye Chen. He was surprised and over the moon as he exclaimed, "It's the Golden Fire Crystal!"

Chapter 426: The Powerhouses Gather to Discuss the Big Plan!

The Shennong Altar in Shennongjia was built close to a mountain. It was divided into a heaven altar and an earth altar. There was a cow-headed Shennong Yan Emperor sculpture erected in the middle of the heaven altar. The earth altar was beneath the heaven altar. It was a square that could contain thousands of people. There were two ten-meter-high totem poles that looked like ceremonial columns erected on both sides in front of the earth altar's square. A cow head was carved on the poles too.

There was a sacrificial altar between the totem poles. It was completely designed following the ancient imperial sacrificial altar. There were nine tripod cauldrons and eight sacrificial vessels made of bronze placed in the middle. Meanwhile, there was an incense burner, a table, a golden bell, and a drum in front of the altar.

At that moment, the square on the earth altar had close to 1,000 people. People in various attires clasped their fists and greeted each other. It was crowded. It was not an exaggeration to describe the place as being saturated with a cacophony of noise.

The siblings, Yu Lei and Yu Lian were looking at the crowd in a corner of the square in shock. Zhizhi could not help but say, "There are so many people participating in the Longmen Convention this year."

"That's right. Other than a concert, it's my first time seeing such a private convention organized by an unofficial organization." Yu Lian could not stop nodding. She was looking at the crowd that was passing by.

Yu Lei said in an absent-minded manner, "Yu Lian, why don't we head back? After all, Sir Ye..."

"Brother, didn't you already tell the captain over the phone? He doesn't sound mad. Since that's the case, let's check out the Longmen Convention for a little bit," Yu Lian said indignantly.

"But..." Yu Lei sighed. He had been ready to be punished when he called the captain and updated what happened to Ye Chen. However, the captain had merely replied, 'Got it'.

Yu Lei thought it was rather strange.

"No buts." Yu Lian glared at him and said, "It's a rare opportunity that we get to be here. It'll only take one to two hours, right? Besides that, Deng Chan said the Longmen Convention this year will be interesting."

She was secretly beaten. The mission that had gone well had ended with Ye Chen dying in lava after he insisted on going into the sinkhole. Although the captain said nothing, she was still worried.

She could not help but secretly scoff as she thought to this point, 'Forget the fact that you're dead, but we're living in fear because of you. We're afraid that you'll drag us into trouble. What did I do in my past life for you to have done this to me?'

A commotion came from behind the crowd as they were chatting. The people turned their heads to see a few hunks in black walking quickly while carrying a sedan. Meanwhile, a skinny old man who seemed ferocious in black robes sat on the sedan.

The old man sat still with his legs crossed. What shocked the onlookers was that the sedan was hovering, meaning that the hunks in black were walking on air while carrying the sedan.

Yu Lian and the rest were stunned while the crowd gasped.

“Oh my god, are they walking on air while carrying the sedan? Won’t they fall? Or am I dreaming?”

“It’s Master Xiegu. I can’t believe he’s here too!”

“Master Xiegu? The one who conquered Southern Xinjiang?”

The four hunks hovered above their heads. As the people watched, feeling dumbstruck, Master Xiegu laughed out loud and flew out of the sedan. He subsequently landed on the stone steps between the heaven altar and the earth altar.

“Greetings, Master Xiegu!”

Many people clasped their fists at him while Yu Lian, Yu Lei and Zhizhi watched blankly. They were stirred inside as they felt like their world view had collapsed.

“Why is this man here too?” Yuan Qitai, who was next to Yu Lian, frowned. He seemed to be in disdain. He disliked Xiegu for being a descendent of the Corpse-herding Sect from Xiangxi.

Corpse-herding used to be a profession to honor the dead and to comfort the living. However, ever since Xiegu took over, he smuggled drugs and took advantage of the ceremony in the early years. Besides that, he was cruel and would do anything to achieve his goal, including stealing corpses from mortuaries and funeral homes.

Although the four tomb-raiding sects, including Banshan that Yuan Qitai belonged to, used to raid ancestral tombs and commit other filthy businesses, he would not do anything ill to the living. After all, he had his bottom line.

In the next second, three silhouettes came from far away. They arrived within the blink of an eye. The people saw three people in hats descend from the sky while each of them held a black umbrella. The umbrellas were spinning fast as they braced their bodies firmly.

“Who are they?” Someone was puzzled.

However, nobody responded to him.

Among a portion of them, their pupils shrunk slightly. They recognized that the three of them were from Xieling, one of the four tomb raiding sects.

Legend had it that among the four sects, Xieling and Faqiu were the most mysterious. They had never been in contact with outsiders. However, instead of raiding tombs, why were they at the Longmen Convention?

Yu Lian also recognized they were the three people who had saved Zhizhi before.

The three people in the hats walked to the side directly and stood still silently. They merely peeped at Yuan Qitai when they passed him, while Yuan Qitai looked at them too.

More people came before the crowd could react.

Two men in yellow robes were leading.

“That’s Master Zabü from Tibetan Tantra!”

“And Elder Priest Meng Haoran from Laoshan!”

Within ten minutes, more than ten people appeared at the earth altar. The people were shocked to find out that almost all the spell sects and organizations in China were there.

Someone took a good look at the few people next to Yuan Qitai and secretly thought to himself, ‘Taoist monks from Banshan, soldiers from Mojin, officers from Faqiu and Battle Mechanics from Xieling...the four tomb-raiding sects are here. They must be going after some emperor’s tomb to be going all out this time!’

At that moment, countless eyes were glancing at Yuan Qitai and the rest, including Yu Lian, Yu Lei, and Zhizhi. Yu Lian could not tolerate those stares, so she dragged Zhizhi and Yu Lei aside. She dared not stand too close to Yuan Qitai and the rest.

Yuan Qitai did not mind that at all though his lips were moving. Meanwhile, the people next to him were moving their lips too. They seemed to be communicating by reading each other’s lips.

The blind, old man among them said with his lips moving slightly, “Old Yuan, have you been to the Heavenly Tomb?”

“I have!” Yuan Qitai shook his head lightly. “But there was an eruption, so I couldn’t get closer. I’m not sure if there’s really a tomb in there.”

“There has to be!” An old lady next to him coughed and spoke, “The general of the past generation from Faqiu left behind a hand-written book. They suspect an Origin Energy powerhouse’s tomb lies beneath a sinkhole. It was recorded in the book.”

They had a burning desire in their eyes as soon as they heard that, including Yuan Qitai.

Origin Energy!

That was above Illuminating God!

It was what every Spell Master was after in their lives!

The spell world had been passed down for hundreds of years in China, but there was no Origin Energy powerhouse until now. Judging by that, one could imagine how hard it would be to get to Origin Energy.

“No matter what, the four tomb-raiding sects will have to work together even if we have to risk our lives this time. If there really is an Origin Energy powerhouse’s tomb, we’ll discuss again how to divide the loot!” one of the people in the hats said in all seriousness.

The few of them nodded. Just when someone was going to speak, they heard a scream that came out of nowhere, “Celestial Master Zhang from the Dragon Tiger Mountain is here!”

Chapter 427: I am Definitely Not Mad Southern Ye’s Match!

Dragon Tiger Mountain!

It was where Chinese Taoism originated from, and it was named one of the four sacred mountains of Taoism!

It was said that the patriarch of Dragon Tiger Mountain, Zhang Daoling, who founded the sect, had refined the Nine-day Divine Pill on Yunjin Mountain. It took three years to be completed. There was a dragon-tiger phenomenon in the sky the day when the medicinal pill was refined. Zhang Daoling had ascended into the sky after consuming the medicinal pill, so the descendants then changed the name of Yunjin Mountain to Dragon Tiger Mountain.

Meanwhile, Zhang Daoling became a Celestial Master.

The Dragon Tiger Mountain had been passed down since the end of the Han dynasty. It had been 2,000 years. The sect leaders had always been someone with the family name Zhang. The Dragon Tiger Mountain remained standing tall even after Maoshan and Laoshan came in.

One could determine its status in the spell world judging by that.

The crowd that was initially noisy quieted down after they heard that Celestial Master Zhang from Dragon Tiger Mountain had arrived. All of them could not help but turn their heads to look.

A high-spirited old man with white hair wearing a blue Taoist robe walked in slowly while holding a fly-whisk. He looked like an immortal. Compared to Master Xiegu's cool appearance, the old man seemed low-profiled.

Although that was the case, the people dared not underestimate him. They let out a path by instinct with dense admiration on their faces, including Yuan Qitai and the rest.

After all, he was Dragon Tiger Mountain's sect leader of the generation. He was also the Spell Association's president, Zhang Kedi, who had the Taoist name Xuanqing. That was how he got his name Zhang Xuanqing. He ruled Dragon Tiger Mountain, as well all Spell Masters in the China spell world!

Due to his extraordinary methods and honorable status, together with Hong Kong's Southern Sect leader, Shen Tiannan, they were known as the powerhouses who were closest to Origin Energy. He was the legend of the spell world!

"Greetings, Celestial Master Zhang!"

Everyone bowed sincerely when Zhang Xuanqing got closer. They greeted him so loudly as if there was a tsunami.

Zhang Xuanqing nodded lightly and walked 243 steps on his own. Eventually, he stopped when he arrived at the gigantic cow-headed Shennong Yan Emperor sculpture at the heaven altar. He lifted his eyes to look at the crowd and said, "Isn't Shen Tiannan here yet?"

"Celestial Master, we haven't seen Shen Tiannan yet!" Master Xiegu, who was in the crowd, smirked.

"Forget it. We'll start the convention since he's late!" Zhang Xuanqing shook his head lightly and said, "I hereby announce that the Longmen Convention will officially begin. Those who won the first three places will come into my Dragon Tiger Mountain to visit the Scripture Pavilion. You're welcome to access all of the books."

The people could not help but feel excited, and they began breathing heavily. As an ancient sect that had been passed down for 2,000 years, Dragon Tiger Mountain must have many books. Their cultivation would have a significant improvement if they managed to read the books.

Zhang Xuanqing spoke again in the next second, "I believe all of you are aware of the rules. Only sparring is allowed. No killing is permitted. If anyone dares to go against that, don't blame me for not showing mercy!"

The people said in unison, "We understand, Celestial Master!"

After their voices faded, Master Xiegu leaped onto the heaven altar first and said in a condescending manner, "I, Xiegu, would think that I rank No. 1 in Tiannan when it comes to spelling. Is there anyone who's willing to spar with me?"

Many of them, who had been excited to go, froze after hearing what he said. The burning desire within them dimmed, and they had fear written all over their faces.

Xiegu had an Illuminating God cultivation base at the very least. Would it not be a joke for anyone to fight an Illuminating God powerhouse like him?

Many were secretly criticizing Master Xiegu for being so shameless. 'Shouldn't an expert like you only show off at the end?'

However, there was someone who was fearless of him. An old man from the Wu family of Lingnan smirked and said, "Xiegu, what great feat have you accomplished that you dare to call yourself No. 1 in Tiannan?"

"What, Wu Yan? If it's not me, do you think you're No. 1?" Master Xiegu's smile thined and he retorted with an eerie grin.

"Unlike you, I know my limitations!" Wu Yan chuckled. "However, I know there's someone in Tiannan who is more powerful than you in spells. You can't catch up with him even if you're riding on a horse."

Many people secretly laughed as they watched both of them arguing. They looked like they were watching a show. After all, they knew that the Wu family from Lingnan and Master Xiegu of Southern Xinjiang hated each other.

"I'd like to know who that is," Master Xiegu said while smiling instead of being mad.

Wu Yan took a deep breath and said, "You must've forgotten about Master Ye, who can control lightning. He appeared in Lin City, Tiannan earlier!"

At first, the people were stunned, then they snapped back to their senses. They could not help but secretly inhale sharply. Clearly, they had heard of Master Ye before.

"You must be talking about Mad Southern Ye who ranks No. 1 on the Heaven Leaderboard!" Master Xiegu's expression changed slightly and he said in slight fear, "Mad Southern Ye is an ancient martial artist. I admit that he has a powerful ability. He deserves to be China's No. 1 with his cultivation base as an ancient martial artist, but I don't think he's a Spell Master!"

Many people had heard that Mad Southern Ye was the same Master Ye who could control lightning.

He glanced at the people as he thought to this point. Then, he proceeded to speak, "Guys, think about it. We've heard of ancient martial artists and Spell Masters since the beginning of time. When have we ever heard of a double cultivator? To me, it was purely a rumor to say that Mad Southern Ye can control lightning!"

Everyone nodded by instinct, agreeing with what he said, including Zhang Xuanqing from Dragon Tiger Mountain.

Indeed, the path of cultivation was difficult. It was as hard as reaching the sky no matter whether it was ancient martial arts or cultivating. Regular people could not comprehend one of them throughout their entire life, let alone being a double cultivator.

As Master Xiegu glanced coldly at Wu Yan, he could not help but laugh out loud. "Wu Yan, I'll let you know that I can suppress Mad Southern Ye with the back of my hand if he dares to compete in spells with me!"

Wu Yan was speechless, and he could only scoff.

He had tried to attack Master Xiegu using Mad Southern Ye's name earlier because he hated him. In reality, even he did not believe that Mad Southern Ye was a genius who cultivated both paths. After all, what Master Xiegu said was right.

Among the crowd, Yu Lian could not help but ask Yuan Qitai as she watched the duo fighting, "Master Yuan, who exactly is this Mad Southern Ye? Why does everyone have such a big reaction?"

"Yeah, who is he?" Zhizhi was curious too.

Deng Chan said to them in disdain before Yuan Qitai could speak, "You guys aren't from the spell world or ancient martial arts world. You guys won't understand even if we told you."

"How would we understand if you don't tell us?" Yu Lian argued.

Yuan Qitai said with fear on his face after noticing that they were going to fight, "You guys only need to know that Mad Southern Ye is the genius that's hard to come by in China. It's not an exaggeration to call him the No. 1 in China's ancient martial world."

"Master Yuan, are you his match then?" Yu Lian's eyes lit up, and she looked like a busybody. After experiencing what happened earlier, she had a new perspective of the world. She realized that there were many extraordinary people in this world. Since this Mad Southern Ye was named No. 1 of China's ancient martial arts world, he must be powerful!

Yuan Qitai shook his head lightly facing her question. He was in between tears and laughter. "How would I be his match? I wouldn't dare to fight such a man!"

"Even you aren't his match?" Yu Lian exclaimed as shock filled her beautiful eyes. One must know that she had witnessed Yuan Qitai's technique earlier. It was not an exaggeration to describe him as a god. However, this Mad Southern Ye was even more powerful than he was!

"Hmph!" Deng Chan said in arrogance, "Master, Mad Southern Ye is from the ancient martial arts world and you're from the spell world. How can you compare it with him? Master Xiegu was right. If Mad Southern Ye dares to compare spells with you, he mustn't be your match!"

“You silly girl!” Yuan Qitai said with a stern expression, “No matter whether it’s the ancient martial arts world or the spell world, we’re the same after all. Our goal is to break through the shackles of our bodies to become more powerful. If we were to fight your master, I’m definitely not Mad Southern Ye’s match!”

Deng Chan fell into silence.

Yu Lian blinked and said softly, “Mad Southern Ye, Mad Southern. The name alone is meant to be a hero. It’s no wonder that he’s No. 1 in the ancient martial arts world!”

She noticed that Yu Lei was absent-minded when she was thinking to herself. He seemed to be in deep thought, so she could not help but pat his shoulder. “What are you thinking about, brother?”

“I’m thinking about Sir Ye. If I had managed to grab him earlier, he might not have...” Yu Lei lamented in regret.

“Why are you talking about him again?” Yu Lian’s expression turned grim. “I’ve told you that he’s dead. His death has nothing to do with us. Since you have so much time on your hands, you should learn about the powerhouses of the world such as Mad Southern Ye!”

Chapter 428: Master Xiegu’s Pride!

When Yu Lian had just said the three words ‘Mad Southern Ye’, Master Xiegu, who was on the heaven altar, glanced at the people in a condescending manner. He then looked at Wu Yan from Lingnan and said in disdain, “Wu Yan, since you’re upset about me, I’ll give you a chance to fight me now. Get up here!”

“Let’s do it. Do you think I’m afraid of you?!” Wu Yan scoffed and waved his sleeve. He leaped over 200 to 300 stone steps by creating a gust of wind beneath his feet. He landed on the heaven altar.

The Wu family of Lingnan, and Master Xiegu had always held a grudge against each other after someone in the Wu family had died many years ago and Xiegu had dug out the corpse after it was buried. He had then refined the corpse into a zombie.

The family had been fighting against Master Xiegu for years. However, Master Xiegu always won. Wu Yan put in the effort for many years in order to regain his dignity today.

The people could not help but exclaim after seeing him flying and leaping hundreds of steps out. They stared at him without blinking.

“Is that qinggong, whereby he’s walking on air?!”

“Whoa, I bet Wu Yan has stepped into Illuminating God too!”

“It must be. No wonder he has a change of attitude to be fighting Master Xiegu in public!”

Even Zhang Xuanqing from Dragon Tiger Mountain, who was standing aside, secretly nodded. To Spell Masters, everyone who was not on Illuminating God was an ant!

“Wu Yan, I can’t believe that even you’ve achieved Illuminating God.” Master Xiegu’s smile froze as shock flashed through his eyes.

“I bet you didn’t see this coming, Xiegu! I should thank you for my achievement. Don’t worry. I’ll return all of the humiliation that you’ve dished out on my family today!” Wu Yan grinned and performed hand seals. As everyone watched in shock, his clothes fluttered despite there not being any wind as if he was among a strong gust of wind.

Many Spell Masters’ pupils shrunk when they saw black energy gathering toward Wu Yan from heaven and earth. It was demonic energy that was formless. That was why his clothes fluttered.

Bang!

A geomantic compass appeared in Wu Yan’s hand. He stomped his foot and released a low thunderous rumble deep in his throat. He puffed a gust of white breath onto the geomantic compass, creating a loud thud that shocked everyone.

The demonic energies gathered toward the geomantic compass in his hand. The black and white Yin and Yang fishes on the compass shook, appearing to be alive. At the same time, eight black threads shot out of the eight trigrams on the compass and charged at Master Xiegu like a spider web.

“I-is that a real magical tool?”

The people who were watching beneath were so shocked that they could not speak. They stared at the geomantic compass in Wu Yan’s hand without blinking.

The siblings, Yu Lian and Yu Lei, as well as Zhizhi watched with their eyes wide open as if they had discovered a new land. They had never seen such a thing, hence they were secretly startled.

Even Yuan Qitai had a solemn expression. “I-is that Lingnan Wu family’s inherited treasure, the magical Demon Gathering Compass? I can’t believe that Wu Yan brought it here.”

Legend had it that the Lingnan Wu family had a geomantic compass that could gather demonic energy. The geomantic compass was a killing tool that could activate the demonic energy on the geomantic compass to set up a formation against enemies.

“Wu Lan, I can’t believe that you brought the Demon Gathering Compass here!”

Master Xiegu squinted and smirked in disdain. “So what? It’s a fact that you have a lower cultivation base than me. The most you can do is to release 30% of the Demon Gathering Compass’s power! Moreover, you’re not the only one who owns a magic tool!”

A black bell appeared in his hand as soon as he was done speaking. It was approximately the size of a palm with a talisman pasted on it, and it exuded a dense aura.

“Wu Yan, I’ll let you know today that you’re useless!” Master Xiegu was approaching the eight threads on Wu Yan’s geomantic compass as soon as he was done speaking. As he charged out, a ring was emitted from the black bell in his hand. An ear-piercing sound was heard as if there was an evil spirit shrieking from within.

At the same time, a black snake flew out of the bell and attacked Wu Yan.

Bang!

The black snake and the eight threads collided as the ground shook intensely. The crowd looked again when they finally managed to stand still. They saw Wu Yan retreat many steps back with his geomantic compass, then he spat a mouthful of blood out.

Meanwhile, not only did nothing happen to Master Xiegu, but he proceeded to charge at Wu Yan. The black bell in his hand grew a few folds bigger. Eventually, it left his hand after it transformed into a temple bell that was about to cover Wu Yan.

Bang!

Wu Yan did not have time to dodge at all. He was covered in the temple bell that had morphed from the black bell. The battle ended quickly like that.

The crowd was dumbstruck.

Never had they thought that Wu Yan would be no match for Master Xiegu although both of them were Illuminating God powerhouses who possessed magical tools.

“H-he’s a god!” Zhizhi looked at Master Xiegu blankly.

Yu Lian and Yu Lei were also dumbstruck. What they just saw refreshed their perspective of the world once again.

“Xiegu has won the battle!” Zhang Xuanqing from Dragon Tiger Mountain announced the result. He took a good look at the temple bell, appearing to be in deep thought. He then shook his head lightly and said, “The winner has been announced. Xiegu, let Wu Yan out now!”

When Master Xiegu performed a hand seal, the temple bell hovered in the air and shrunk. It eventually shrunk into the black bell from before, which Master Xiegu put away in his sleeve. He then looked at Wu Yan. His face was so pale at that moment as if he had just experienced something horrifying.

“How was it, Wu Yan? Now, do you know you’re not my match? You should be aware that I deserve to be called No. 1 in Tiannan’s spell world!” Master Xiegu was extremely proud.

Wu Yan forced a smile. “Xiegu, you sure are good at hiding your skills. Mad Southern Ye wouldn’t be your match even if he’s well-versed in spells. I surrender!”

“It was really a god-like technique!” Yu Lian bit her lip and said, “I bet even the No. 1 of the ancient martial arts world, Mad Southern Ye that Master Yuan mentioned, can’t fight such a godly technique. It seems like spells are more powerful!”

...

In the underground river beneath the sinkhole, a black stone appeared in Ye Chen’s hand. It was approximately the size of an egg, and there was golden tinder moving within it. The tinder was approximately the size of a fingernail though it seemed like it would go out anytime.

“It’s really the Golden Fire Crystal, and the fire looks like divine fire. This trip sure is rewarding!” He could not help but feel a little excited no matter how calm he tried to be.

There were many types of fire in the world. Ordinary fire for cooking was mortal fire. There was also coal-seam fire, True Samadhi Fire, spiritual fire, and mutated fire.

There must be combustibles for those fires to remain burning for thousands of years. Besides that, energy must be provided. Otherwise, they would go out as time went by.

However, there was a fire that was eternal. It was the divine fire!

Divine fire was created naturally, and it was eternal. It was the tinder for all types of fire in the world apart from also being the purest fire. No matter whether it was True Samadhi Fire, mortal fire, or spiritual fire, they originated from divine fire.

“But how can there be a Golden Fire Crystal in his body?” Ye Chen looked at the body before him and frowned slightly. He then checked the body and found a green jade token in his pouch, as well as an old note written on a piece of silk. He also discovered an ancient painting in the cushion.

Chapter 429: Consuming the Golden Fire Crystal!

The silk note was intact as it had remained close to the corpse.

Ye Chen opened it and found out that it was written in traditional Chinese.

“My name is Lin Feng and I come from the Lin family of Yanyang City. My mother passed away after I was born, so I was known as an ominous person. When my family then found out that there’s no martial vein within my body, they cast me aside because I was an eyesore to them.

“However, I obtained a method by chance when I was 16. I can consume fire to elevate my cultivation base. Since then, I’ve left home and traveled the world. I’ve consumed at least 20 types of fires for the past ten years. Eventually, I’m now merely a step from getting to Origin Energy!

“I chanced upon this place and found out that Huo’er was extremely excited by this sinkhole. I suspect there’s spiritual fire beneath this sinkhole. After finally managing to enter the sinkhole, I found the spiritual fire. In addition to that, the spiritual fire was even better than the one I consumed earlier. However, it was life-threatening!

“I’m a useless man to my family, so I’ve been humiliated in many ways. I want to grow myself and take back what I’ve lost after breaking through to Origin Energy. Therefore, I decided to consume this spiritual fire.

“Never had I thought that the spiritual fire would take over my life and cultivation base as soon as I consumed it. In the end, I could only use the cultivation base I was left with to seal the spiritual fire...”

The note on the silk ended there.

Ye Chen’s expression changed a few times, then he eventually speculated, “It seems like although he sealed the Golden Fire Crystal, he failed to prevent himself from getting killed. The Golden Fire Crystal must’ve taken his life completely. That must be the reason why he was so old.”

As for Huo’er in the note, it must have been the fire crow from before. It was considered loyal to have preserved its master’s body for so long since his death.

Ye Chen looked at the green jade token in his hand. With the character 'Lin' carved on it, it must be the person's identity token. Meanwhile, there was a mediocre-looking young man who was in his 20s in the ancient painting which must be the man's self-portrait.

"How dare a mortal consume the divine fire?" He shook his head lightly while he had mixed feelings about the man's daring decision.

Since it was divine fire, it would consume anything it touched, let alone one's cultivation base and life. If the man had not prepared the jade bed ahead, his body might have been burnt by the divine fire entirely.

"But where did he come from? What's that martial vein that he mentioned?" he thought to himself while frowning. Subsequently, he put away the jade token and self-portrait into his storage ring.

"Initially, I thought there might be fire essence in here. I never thought there'd be Golden Fire Crystal, which is even better. Since that's the case, I've more confidence of achieving the Divine Dao Foundation. I can even use the Golden Fire Crystal to refine an ability!

"However, I'll need to consume the Golden Fire Crystal just like Lin Feng did if I want to get to Foundation Building. If the divine fire backfires, although the consequences I might suffer won't be like what Lin Feng went through, the cultivation base that I've taken so much effort to build will be gone!"

Ye Chen's expression changed, and he eventually shook his head lightly. "The path of cultivation is all about fate anyway. When did I become so fearful and hesitant?"

"My cultivation base will be taken away by the divine fire if the breakthrough fails. That's the worst thing that could happen. I'll still have my body. However, if I managed to break through to Divine Dao Foundation, my journey will be smoother. I'll have a significant addition to techniques. Then, nobody will be a threat to me in the entire world!"

Ye Chen stopped struggling after making up his mind. He got up and walked outside the immortal's cave where he lifted his arms and set up a barrier. Then, he waved and moved Lin Feng's body aside, before he sat on the jade bed with his legs crossed. After taking five bottles of Qi Cultivation Pills out, he opened his mouth and swallowed the Golden Fire Crystal and three Qi Cultivation Pills without hesitation.

As soon as the Golden Fire Crystal entered his stomach, it turned into a golden fire that was the size of a pigeon's egg. Almost instantly, a terrifying suction came from the golden fire. It tore through Ye Chen dantian and organs manically.

It felt like a bag of lime being tossed into a bucket of water.

Meanwhile, the spiritual energy that was transformed from the three Qi Cultivation Pills was engulfed by the suction from the golden fire immediately. That was not the end though. The suction went after the spiritual energy in Ye Chen's dantian.

Ye Chen released a low groan after sensing the discomfort coming from his stomach. He consumed another three Qi Cultivation Pills and cultivated the Emperor Scripture at the same time!

Bang!

The golden fire in his body grew. Within a short span of time, it grew from the size of a pigeon's egg to a hen's egg. It resembled the sun. Meanwhile, countless golden fires appeared on Ye Chen's skin, burning his clothes completely.

...

At the same time, at the Shennong Altar in Shennongjia, Master Xiegu looked at the people with his arms behind his back after defeating Wu Yan from Lingnan. He was getting more arrogant now as he challenged, "Who else is willing to spar with me?"

Many of them held their heads low as he glanced at them. They dared not look into his eyes. After all, he had defeated Wu Yan, who was also on Illuminating God, with a magical tool, so most of them would not be his match.

Master Xiegu watched all of their reactions. He felt even more arrogant now, but there was a slightly grim expression in his eyes.

In the entire Tiannan, the people of the world only knew about Tiannan's No. 1, Mad Southern Ye. However, nobody knew that he, Master Xiegu, had extraordinary spells too!

'What did Mad Southern Ye even do? He's just a coward with brute force, isn't he? How can he rank above me in Tiannan?'

His eyes burned ferociously as he thought to this point!

'I'll make sure everyone knows me through this Longmen Convention today! I want everyone to know that Mad Southern Ye isn't the only powerful one in Tiannan. There's me, Master Xiegu, too. I'm even more powerful than Mad Southern Ye. If I can rank the top three in this Longmen Convention and go into Dragon Tiger Mountain to read the cultivation books, I have the confidence to break through to Origin Energy! Who will Mad Southern Ye even be by then? I want to break his legend!'

At the same time, among the crowd, Yuan Qitai looked at the few people around him and said softly, "Guys, aren't we doing anything? We've attracted attention since the four tomb-raiding sects are here today. If we don't fight, we might expose the Heavenly Tomb's existence."

He looked at the blind old man next to him as he spoke to this point. "Situ Jin, I'll fight Xiegu first and then challenge you. It's time you people from Mojin return the Mountain Ruler that belongs to us, Banshan!"

He was ready to go as soon as he was done speaking. At that moment, a clap of intense thunder and the whistling of the wind came from far away as if there was a strike of lightning. The crowd was stunned to hear that.

"Guys, look! Someone is in the sky!" a person exclaimed.

The people lifted their eyes to look. They saw a gigantic big silhouette coming toward them in the sky. Within the span of a few breaths, it entered everyone's field of vision.

"There really is someone. He's carrying something!"

"Casket, he's carrying a casket!"

“That casket weighs at least 100 kilograms? Oh my god, is that a human? How can he fly when he’s carrying a casket?”

Everyone froze as if they had turned into sculptures. They watched the person flying closer. Meanwhile, Yu Lian was dumbstruck. She covered her lips tightly while disbelief filled her face.

‘That has to be a real god!’

As Zhang Xuanqing from Dragon Tiger Mountain watched the silhouette in the sky, he was frowning slightly. Even though they were hundreds of meters away from each other, he could sense the person’s majestic aura and killing intent.

He secretly inhaled sharply and said as he frowned, “What powerful killing intent. Shen Tiannan, you’re finally here, but why are you carrying a casket?”

Chapter 430: An Old Man Carrying A Casket While His Killing Intent Filled the Sky!

An old man dressed in a plain shirt was walking on air above Shennong Altar. He held a huge yellow casket with a single hand. The man had white hair and wrinkles filled his face. He looked like a dying old man.

However, his eyes were electric. He was majestic as he gazed at the crowd, looking extremely cold. He did not hide his intense killing intent at all.

The people felt as if a mountain had collapsed on them, so they secretly jolted. The man and the casket in the air gave them immense pressure.

Yu Lei and the rest almost knelt on the ground in fear.

No matter how much they were unaware of the spell world, at that moment, they knew that the old man in the air was a powerful man. Even Yu Lian, who had always been arrogant, dared not make a sound because she was scared that she might anger him.

“It’s Hong Kong’s Southern Sect leader, Shen Tiannan!” Someone inhaled sharply as horror filled his face. He clearly recognized Shen Tiannan.

His voice was at a normal volume, but everyone heard him. Everyone gasped and their expressions changed.

Shen Tiannan!

The things this name represented were just overwhelming!

He was Hong Kong’s Southern Sect leader, the legend of the spell world, the only man who had the same status as Celestial Master Zhang of Dragon Tiger Mountain. He had ranked No. 1 in the Longmen Convention for five consecutive years and was the man who was closest to Origin Energy in the entire spell world in China...

“I heard Shen Tiannan is only 60, but why does he look like this? He looks like a 90-year-old man.”

“Most importantly, why is he carrying a casket to the Longmen Convention? Did he prepare that for himself or someone else?”

“He comes with ill intentions!”

Bang!

Shen Tiannan landed directly on the heaven altar as everyone watched in horror. The casket landed hard on the ground and created a tremor. The ground cracked.

Many of them were secretly horrified. That strength alone must have weighed at least 600 kilograms.

Master Xiegu, who was closest to him, had goosebumps all over his body. The pride that he had exuded before was whittled down to fear now. He finally found out the gap between him and Shen Tiannan.

He secretly gulped as he thought to this point. Then, he said while forcing a fake smile, “Master Shen, you’re finally here...”

“Scram!” Shen Tiannan screamed in rage before he was done speaking.

Master Xiegu sensed a terrifying force coming from the sky from that scream alone! It threw him 1,000 meters away from the heaven altar. His features were pale.

Fear filled his eyes when he looked at Shen Tiannan after managing to stand still. He said in horror, “T-that’s the Spoken Spell!!!”

The place fell into dead silence as soon as he said that!

The Spoken Spell!

One could say it was the level all Spell Masters, as well as people in the spell world, were after in their lives. Just like the name suggested, the spell would be cast as soon as it was spoken. It required a high comprehension of Dao of Nature.

Yuan Qitai’s expression changed before he forced a smile. “What a Spoken Spell! Shen Tiannan, you are worthy of being No. 1 of the spell world in Hong Kong!”

Now, even Zhang Xuanqing from Dragon Tiger Mountain could no longer remain calm. He said while looking at Shen Tiannan in shock, “Brother Shen, what happened to make you look like this? Why did you bring a casket here?”

If his ability had been on the same par as Shen Tiannan in the past, he knew that he was no longer Shen Tiannan’s match since the latter had comprehended the Spoken Spell.

Shen Tiannan said nothing. He glanced at the crowd beneath him with an extremely grim expression. Nobody dared to look at him wherever he glanced, including Yuan Qitai and the rest.

After all, that was Shen Tiannan!

Zhang Xuanqing looked rather terrible after realizing that Shen Tiannan was ignoring him. “Brother Shen, if you’re here to watch the Longmen Convention, please stand aside.”

“The Longmen Convention?” Shen Tiannan grinned and said in his husky voice, “You can just end this convention now. I’m here today to kill someone!” His voice was calm as if he was telling something ordinary. However, there was persistence and strong killing intent in his tone.

Everyone felt a chill go down their backs. They held their heads down again, secretly horrified although they were curious about exactly who he wanted to kill.

“You want to kill someone?”

The smile on Zhang Xuanqing’s face froze gradually. He said in his deep voice, “Brother Shen, the Longmen Convention is my event, but you came here to tell me that you want to kill someone? Your joke isn’t funny at all!”

The spell world was different from the ancient martial arts world. Killing an individual in a battle was not necessary. After all, there were fewer people in the spell world than in the ancient martial arts world. Moreover, Dragon Tiger Mountain was the sacred land of the spell world. Since the rule was set, nobody was allowed to go against that.

“Someone has killed my son!” Shen Tiannan said expressionlessly.

“What?” Zhang Xuanqing’s expression changed. “Your son, Shen Xingye, is dead?”

Gasp!

Everyone gasped to hear that.

Shen Tiannan’s son had been killed!

If they had not heard it with their own ears, they would not have believed that at all. Shen Tiannan’s terrifying power aside, his son, Shen Xingye, was a genius who had achieved Illuminating God when he was in his 20s. However, someone had killed him?

Even if Shen Xingye was a trouble-maker, nobody would dare to kill him!

After all, his father was Shen Tiannan whose name was popular in the entire spell world of China!

Among the crowd, Yuan Qitai came to a realization. “So, that’s it. That’s the reason why Shen Tiannan became so old. No wonder he’s wearing white and is here with a casket.”

Yu Lian, who stood next to him, lifted his head and peeped at Shen Tiannan in slight fear. He could not help but ask, “Master Yuan, is that man over there powerful?”

Deng Chan grinned. “He’s a legend of the spell world. It’s not an exaggeration to call him a spell god. So, do you think he’s powerful? If he wants to, apart from Celestial Master Zhang, everyone here will be killed if he attacks!”

Yu Lian’s face went as pale as snow. She stammered as she spoke, “S-someone dares to kill the son of such a powerful man! That person must be out of his mind?”

Yuan Qitai sighed softly. “Rumor has it that Shen Tiannan only got a son when he was old. He loved his son and put all of his hopes on his only son. Now that his only son is dead, how can he not be enraged?!”

“Master, Shen Xingye was an Illuminating God powerhouse and someone dared to kill him. Who exactly could that be?” Deng Chan asked in confusion.

Yuan Qitai shook his head lightly. “No matter who that person is, he’s brought great trouble upon himself. Unless he’s the legendary Origin Energy powerhouse, he’ll definitely die!”

Meanwhile, it had been hundreds of years and no Origin Energy powerhouse had been born in China...

“Which b*stard killed his son and brought him here? I hope he doesn’t drag us into trouble!” Yu Lian bit her lip in annoyance.

...

On the heaven altar, Zhang Xuanqing had a change of expression. He thought he heard it wrong. However, he took a deep breath and said after realizing that Shen Tiannan seemed to really mean it, “Who killed him?”

There would be tremendous change in China today!