

Gourmet 131

Chapter 131: The Emperor's Funeral

The next morning, the sun had just risen when the melodious sound of a bugle horn came from within the imperial palace and was soon followed by the dull and somewhat sorrowful ringing of a bell.

It was as if the slumbering imperial city had woken up at that moment. The lights of each and every household all lit up and many citizens walked out of their houses wearing thick layers of cotton overcoats. While exhaling clouds of white breath, they headed toward the Gate of Heavenly Mystery with their shoulders hunched up and heads tucked in.

On this march toward the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, the citizens were silent and the mood among them was sorrowful.

They were lamenting the ruthlessness of time and mourning the atrophy of life. The regretful demise of a mighty leader was a tremendous loss to the entire Light Wind Empire.

The citizens' reverence toward Emperor Changfeng were from the bottom of their hearts because having an emperor who made great efforts to govern the empire was a blessing to them. They were grateful for the period of prosperity brought by the emperor that allowed them to have a peaceful life.

That was the day of Emperor Changfeng's funeral, so the citizens of the imperial city woke up early in the morning to send him off. There were also many people from outside the imperial city who rushed over just to see the emperor for the last time.

As the sorrowful ringing of the bell created a melancholy mood, more and more people started to gather outside the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. With the soldiers standing guard at the entrance of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, no one was able to enter. However, the people gathered there did not care. They only needed to wait at the entrance for the coffin carrying the body of Emperor Changfeng to come out.

Within the plaza of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, the diligent eunuchs had already cleared a wide path on the ground filled with accumulated snow, for the funeral procession to smoothly travel on.

The crown prince was wearing a mourning garment and was looking toward the Main Hall with a sorrowful expression on his face. There were many civil and military officials standing behind him. They were all wearing white upper garments over their solemn attires to represent their mourning of Emperor Changfeng's demise.

With a solemn expression, King Yu was wearing a mourning garment like the crown prince. Civil and military officials were standing behind him as well, but there were also experts from the sects who were disguising themselves as palace guards. Even they were expressing their respect toward Emperor Changfeng because he was someone who inspired fear in their hearts.

The two groups solemnly stood apart as a group of court musicians wearing mourning garments slowly marched out from the Main Hall while playing a melancholic symphony.

Xiao Meng was wearing a white upper garment over his military attire as he solemnly supported his delicate wife, Ji Ru'Er.

Ji Ru'Er had an extremely complicated expression on her face as tears welled up in her eyes. After falling into a deep sleep for three years, she woke up only to find that her father had passed away.

Nevertheless, Ji Ru'Er was looking around her surroundings. She was looking for Ji Chengxue's figure but she soon realized that Ji Chengxue was not within the spacious plaza of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery...

"Where's Chengxue? Why isn't he here yet?" Ji Ru'Er used her frail voice to ask Xiao Meng.

Xiao Meng was filled with suspicion as well. Ji Chengxue should have successfully gotten out of danger the day before. How could he not appear on such an important day?

As the successor named in the posthumous edict, Ji Chengxue should be behaving even more zealous!

"Could something have happened?" Xiao Meng thought as his eyes flashed with uncertainty. However, he still forced out a smile and said, "It's fine, Chengxue might have been delayed by an important matter. He'll come soon enough. After all... he's the successor to the throne."

Even though Ji Ru'Er was still feeling somewhat uneasy, Xiao Meng's gentle smile influenced her and the corners of her mouth slightly curled up as she nodded.

Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong were standing behind them and were feeling extremely happy as they watched the loving affection between their parents.

Xiao Yanyu was looking around but she was unable to find that familiar figure... According to her father's narration, the one who woke up their mother was their elder brother, Xiao Yue.

Furthermore, their mother had already revealed the truth of the entire matter to Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong. Their resentment toward Xiao Yue was already long gone and had all turned into guilt.

As the court musicians marched out from the Main Hall, Lian Fu, wearing a white mourning garment, slowly walked out after them with a haggard face and his hair hanging loosely.

Lian Fu looked extremely exhausted. His eyebags were drooping and his eyes were bloodshot. The aura emanating from his body was also somewhat unstable.

However, no one minded. Perhaps he was exceedingly depressed.

Afterall, Lian Fu had a close relationship with Emperor Changfeng.

"Where's the third prince?" Lian Fu asked with a high-pitched voice as he lightly waved his horsetail whisk.

Yet, no one replied him. Instead, the crown prince and King Yu both stepped forward at the same time and performed a fist and palm salute toward Lian Fu.

Lian Fu gave the two of them a meaningful glance and then began carrying out some pre-burial ceremonies. These strict and solemn ceremonies were passed down throughout the generations of the Light Wind Empire's imperial family. Every single prince must follow them.

"Next, would the successor of the throne receive the coffin," Lian said as he waved his horsetail whisk once more.

However, after those words were spoken, the civil and military officials down below began whispering to each other.

The corners of Zhao Musheng's mouth curled up as he stood there in a calm and collected manner.

King Yu and the crown prince stepped forward once more. King Yu opened his mouth and said, "Chief Eunuch Lian, we can't miss the auspicious timing[1]. Just let me be the one to receive the coffin."

"Why should you be the one to do it? If anyone is going to receive the coffin... it should be me," the crown prince said as he gave King Yu a cold glance.

The tension between the two became intense once more.

Lian Fu let out a soft sigh. The two princes were simply being too obvious with their attitude. From the fact that the third prince was not around, chances were high that he suffered a mishap. Otherwise, King Yu and the crown prince would not have stepped forward in such a sincere manner and fought over the chance to receive the coffin.

However, in this situation, one person must go forward and receive the coffin. Lian Fu was feeling somewhat troubled as well.

"Chief Eunuch Lian, you should make the decision... Father trusted you the most when he was still around," King Yu said as his gaze landed on Lian Fu.

"Your Highnesses, please be careful with your words. Receiving the coffin is too important to be casually decided. Let's wait a while more. If the third prince still haven't arrived by then, Your Highnesses will receive the coffin together," Lian Fu said.

King Yu stared blankly for a moment and then let out a chuckle. Ji Chengxue was definitely not going to come. There was no point in waiting, it was only a waste of time. Even though that was what King Yu was thinking, he still had to put up a show.

The crown prince was thinking the same way as well. The two of them looked each other in the eye and then looked away.

As time passed, the civil and military officials below were soon getting impatient and their whispers could be heard from time to time.

Lian Fu gave them a glance before looking away and sighing in his mind.

"Chief Eunuch Lian, third brother still hasn't arrived. This is a great disrespect toward father. How could such a person succeed the throne? The important task of receiving the coffin should be left to me," the crown prince said as he opened his mouth once more.

Not to be outdone, King Yu argued back as well.

However, while they were still arguing, the corners of Lian Fu's mouth suddenly curled up as he looked into the distance. At the entrance of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, there were two figures slowly approaching.

"My dearest elder brothers, I am truly sorry for worrying the two of you. The task of receiving the coffin should still be left to me. After all... I am the true successor to the throne."

A cold voice came from afar and suddenly resounded within the ears of the crown prince and King Yu like the sound of thunder, giving them an incredulous feeling.

Zhao Musheng's pupils constricted. He was feeling somewhat puzzled as he stared closely at Ji Chengxue.

Xiao Yue was following behind Ji Chengxue with a solemn expression. They were both wearing mourning garments as they walked step by step toward the Main Hall.

Soon, Ji Chengxue arrived before Lian Fu. He gently nodded toward Lian Fu and then looked toward the crown prince and King Yu.

"I am not dead yet... Are the two of you feeling surprised?"

Chapter 132: The Sects Are Trying to Create Trouble

When Bu Fang got up from bed and arrived in the kitchen, Ji Chengxue had already left. After swallowing half of the Phoenix Blood Herb, he managed to overcome death and survived. Bu Fang was glad that the herb was not wasted.

The melodious ringing of a bell with a touch of sorrow and melancholy came through the window. That was when Bu Fang remembered that today seemed to be the day of the old emperor's funeral.

After hesitating for a moment, Bu Fang finally decided to head toward the Gate of Heavenly Mystery to have a look. After all, he had a pretty good impression of the old emperor. He was not only a good emperor but also a gluttonous one.

After deep-frying two Oyster Pancakes for breakfast, Bu Fang put on a fur overcoat and walked out of the store. He hung a sign on one of the boards at the door and then headed toward the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

Heavy snow was still falling from the sky in a graceful manner, like a beautiful painting.

Bu Fang took out a steaming Oyster Pancake and blew on it before taking a bite. As his teeth broke through its crispy crust, a rich fragrance spread into the surroundings and made him feel even hungrier.

Bu Fang ate the Oyster Pancake as he walked along and soon reached the entrance of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. A long queue had already formed and many of the citizens were standing on tiptoes, hoping to catch a glimpse of the scene inside the plaza.

Bu Fang was not in a rush at all, so he joined the back of the queue. As he took a bite of the Oyster Pancake, the delicious smell was spreading into the surroundings and caused some of the citizens to focus on him.

"What is this smell... It's simply too fragrant!"

The gaze of the citizens were filled with yearning as they stared at the Oyster Pancake in Bu Fang's hand. Many of them were subconsciously attempting to lick the fragrance as their tongues ran over their lips. However, they only tasted the cold winter air.

Chomp... Bu Fang took another bite of the Oyster Pancake and expressionlessly chewed the morsel in his mouth. The people nearby were all furious. What kind of monster would eat something so fragrant early in the morning? Was he attempting to draw aggro?

Therefore, everyone around Bu Fang moved away from him and a large space soon appeared. No one wanted to get too close to Bu Fang to avoid the torture of enduring the fragrance.

Bu Fang expressionlessly scanned the crowd around him. He was somewhat perplexed as he thought, "What are these people doing?"

Since there was space in front of him, Bu Fang naturally moved forward. The moment he moved, the people around him moved away from him again. In the end, Bu Fang effortlessly reached the entrance to the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, an exceptional viewing position.

"Hmm? He left so fast, so this is where he ran off to," Bu Fang thought as he took a bite of the Oyster Pancake and watched the confrontation between the three princes in front of the Main Hall.

Ji Chengxue's temperament had completely changed. After all, he survived a life and death situation which caused a huge change in his mental state. Previously, whenever he faced his elder brothers, he would behave in a somewhat timid manner. However, he was now calm and composed. Furthermore, his gaze even slightly intimidated them.

"I am the successor. I'll receive the coffin," Ji Chengxue mockingly said as he gave them a glance.

The crown prince and King Yu were both stunned for a moment and then angrily stared at Ji Chengxue... This brat actually became so arrogant!

Lian Fu nodded. He led Ji Chengxue into the Main Hall and then began the ceremony of receiving the coffin. The ceremony itself was actually not that complicated and was finished after a short while.

Up till now, receiving the coffin was the real start of the funeral.

The so-called receiving the coffin was a tradition passed down throughout the generations of the Light Wind Empire's imperial family. The successor would lead the funeral procession and once the coffin passed through the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, it signified that the person who received the

coffin had received the approval of the deceased. This was the official succession ceremony of the throne.

This was also the reason why the crown prince and King Yu were fighting over the role of receiving the coffin.

The court musicians started playing a symphony once more. Deep within the Main Hall, eight brawny Battle-Kings who were topless slowly walked out while carrying a gigantic bronze coffin.

Their steps were extremely firm. With every step, they were causing the accumulated snow on the ground to tremble.

The coffin was made entirely from bronze and there were many mysterious and strange images engraved upon its surface. There were ancient divine beasts, exotic flowers, and all kinds of written symbols...

Ji Chengxue solemnly walked in front of the eight Battle-Kings that were carrying the coffin. His expression was solemn and respectful with a trace of severity.

With each step, white gas would gush out from the nostrils of the eight Battle-Kings. Each and every steps was firm and slow, but it was if they were stepping on the hearts of everyone.

The scene of the eight Battle-Kings carrying the coffin while walking on the plaza of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery made the spectators hold their breaths. The snow drifting down from the sky had almost stopped and the mood became extremely heavy.

Zhao Musheng narrowed his eyes at the bronze coffin and a vague light seemed to be circulating in his eyes. Even a great emperor had to rest six feet under in the end. How sorrowful it must be for a emperor that ruled over a generation.

As the funeral procession reached the middle of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, the sound of true energy surging rang out within the plaza.

King Yu's expression was frosty as he coldly stared at Ji Chengxue, who was leading the procession, and indifferently said, "If you're going to sit on the throne, I am the first one that's against it..."

Boom boom boom!

King Yu's voice was not loud but it resounded within the plaza of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. Behind him, several waves of auras surged out and multiple figures charged toward Ji Chengxue.

"How dare you!" Lian Fu furiously shouted in a voice like thunder as he stepped forward and swung his horsetail whisk.

With a bright burst of light and flashes of darkness, an extremely large simulacrum of the King of Hell suddenly appeared in the middle of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. Spirit fire pulsated within Hun Qianyun's eyes as he endowed the power from the simulacrum on himself and his aura instantly rose. He threw a punch at Lian Fu who was charging toward him.

The collision of the two instantly created a tremendous energy shockwave. However, beyond everyone's expectations, Lian Fu's figure actually shuddered before being thrown backward while vomiting blood, and his aura plummeted.

"This is unlike Lian Fu's usual strength at all..." Xiao Meng thought as his eyebrows knitted together. Seeing that Hun Qianyun was aiming to kill Lian Fu, he could not sit and watch any longer. As his aura spread out, he stepped out as well, to obstruct Hun Qianyun.

A burst of coquettish laughter rang out as five women from the Joyous Union Sect attacked together. Their target was... Ji Chengxue.

On the other hand, the experts from the White Bone Palace targeted the eight Battle-Kings that were carrying the coffin.

King Yu's gaze turned cold as he coldly shouted, "Do not damage the coffin!"

King Yu's objective was obtaining the throne. Emperor Changfeng was his father after all. He was unwilling to do something like destroying his father's coffin.

However, the members of the White Bone Palace did not respond to his shout. This time, his expression completely changed.

"Kekeke! Emperor Changfeng destroyed countless sects throughout his life and the spoils of war he has accumulated is also innumerable. Even though I was standing far away, I could still feel the aura of the Death Soul Palace's semi-divine tool within this coffin... A semi-divine tool as a funerary object, as expected of a legendary emperor!"

The White Bone Palace's Bone King started to sneer as his gaze suddenly became fierce and the subordinates next to him all exploded. The bones that came from their bodies combined together into a gigantic white skeleton.

The aura of the skeleton was powerful and actually reached the level of a seventh grade Battle-Saint.

Chapter 133: The Emperor's Scheme, the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array

"Stop what you're doing!" King Yu was furious! These people from the sects actually disobeyed his order!

However, the seventh grade skeleton made of the experts from the White Bone Palace completely ignored King Yu's shouts and its skeletal hand reached out for the coffin. The hollow eye sockets of the skeleton were filled with greed and yearning.

The eight Battle-Kings that were carrying the coffin were unable to endure the aura of a seventh grade Battle-Saint and their faces suddenly went red as they fell on one knee. The bronze coffin that they were carrying dropped onto the ground with a loud noise as well.

Don!

A dull and heavy sound resounded within the entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery. Everyone's action stopped as they subconsciously looked toward the fallen coffin.

" The coffin touched the ground... The funeral is ruined?! "

The same thought flashed across everyone's mind and they could not help but have a somewhat mixed feeling. He was an outstanding emperor and yet his funeral was wrecked in the end.

King Yu's pupils constricted as anger welled up in his heart. True energy violently surged within his body as he angrily stared at that gigantic skeleton.

The aura emanating from Ji Chengxue became even stronger than before. With the help of the Phoenix Blood Herb, his cultivation level had already reached sixth grade Battle-Emperor. This was an unexpected surprise for him.

After forcing back the five women from the Joyous Union Sect with a palm strike, Ji Chengxue's expression was frosty as he shouted, "You impudent rebels!"

The gigantic skeleton was startled for a moment and then became overjoyed. With a wave of its hand, it released a powerful wave of aura that swept the eight Battle-Kings to one side.

With a single step forward, it reached the bronze coffin. Its gaze was burning with desire as it stared at the bronze coffin and its skeletal arms were even somewhat trembling.

Within the coffin, it could feel the faint aura of something that it was longing for, the Death Soul Palace's semi-divine tool... the Departed Soul Orb!

Even though the White Bone Palace was on the same level as the Death Soul Palace, they did not possess a semi-divine tool. This had always been a thorn in their flesh. After the Death Soul Palace was destroyed in one go by Xiao Meng, their semi-divine tool was brought back to the imperial city as well.

The Departed Soul Orb had the functionality of appeasing souls and even prevent decomposition. It was the best funerary object.

Since Emperor Changfeng had obtained the Departed Soul Orb, it would definitely be used as a funerary object.

Xiao Meng was fighting a distance away with a sullen expression on his face. The simulacrum of the King of Hell being controlled by Hun Qianyun before him was rather powerful, so even he would need some time in order to deal with it. He watched as the gigantic skeleton was about to touch the coffin and the coldness in his eyes became even stronger.

A loud clang rang out.

A ray of light emanating from a sword seemed to have poured down from the highest point in the sky as it rapidly flew toward the gigantic skeleton and reached its target in a flash.

With a battle cry, a simulacrum of a phoenix appeared to be hovering over Ji Chengxue as he dashed forward and threw a punch toward the gigantic skeleton.

Both Xiao Yue and Ji Chengxue made their moves at the same time and utilized their strongest attacks in order to force back the gigantic skeleton.

"Hmph! How foolish!"

The gigantic skeleton stopped moving and then turned around. Its body suddenly trembled and countless amount of bone spears flew out, thrusting toward Ji Chengxue and Xiao Yue.

The sky-rending attack by Xiao Yue was blocked. He was only a sixth grade Battle-Emperor after all. He could only land on the ground.

Ji Chengxue smashed a single bone spear into pieces with his punch and landed on the ground as well. With the difference in their cultivation level, there was no chance for them to get any closer.

Bang!

The gigantic skeleton eerily smiled and then fiercely struck the coffin with its palm. Utilizing a tremendous force, it tried to pry open the coffin.

However, it soon discovered that something was wrong. Despite using all of its strength, it could not lift the coffin's lid by even a single inch!

"There's something wrong with the coffin!" Ghost fire pulsed within the eye sockets of the gigantic skeleton.

Standing a distance away, Zhao Musheng was frowning as well as he attentively stared at the coffin. Thereafter, his pupils suddenly constricted...

The lid of the coffin moved!

As everyone watched in astonishment, the coffin's lid slowly opened on its own. The eerie sound of the lid grinding against the walls of the coffin raised goosebumps all over everyone's body.

Everyone fighting within the plaza stopped moving as they looked toward the coffin in amazement.

Lian Fu's high-pitched laughter sounded out. As blood dripped from his mouth, he pinched his thumb and middle finger together and swept his gaze over the plaza. With a pause between each word, he said, "Rebels from the sects... All of you must die!"

As he finished speaking, a figure sat up within the coffin and a dreadful wave of aura surged out.

"What?!"

The gigantic skeleton was the closest to the coffin and suddenly felt a surging wave of aura rushing from it. It was a type of imposing aura that belonged to a ruler. It was both supreme and inviolable.

The gigantic skeleton was immediately thrown backward by the aura and directly disintegrated in mid air into chunks of bones. Its fusion technique was actually dispelled.

Zhao Musheng sucked in a breath of cold air as he stared at the figure sitting within the coffin. He thought, "Ji Changfeng... is not dead?"

"Hmm? That's wrong! There's no sign of life in this figure at all... He should be dead, but what's going on with this surging wave of energy? Furthermore... This energy is flowing into the surroundings..." Zhao Musheng muttered and then he seemed to have thought of something as his face instantly went pale. He thought, " Ji Changfeng... What an amazing plan! "

The entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery suddenly shook as the snow melted and evaporated. The stone pillar covered under a layer of snow emitted a burst of multicolored light and profound veined patterns appeared on its surface.

Everyone present was somewhat perplexed. What was going on?

"The Double Calamity Dragon Head Array... Ji Changfeng actually activated this magic array! The old man's prediction was actually right!" Ni Yan exclaimed as she watched the scene unfold while standing in mid air outside of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

Her primary objective for coming to the imperial city was actually for the sake of this Double Calamity Dragon Head Array, the magic array used for protecting the Light Wind Empire. When the empire was first established, the first emperor of the Light Wind Empire once depended on this magic array to eliminate over a dozen seventh grade Battle-Saints. It was a dreadful magic array that made countless sects tremble with fear.

Its fearsome might was even comparable to an eighth grade War-God!

Within the records of the Celestial Arcanum Sect, this Double Calamity Dragon Head Array could be ranked within the top five among the magic arrays.

Ni Yan was tasked by the sect leader of the Celestial Arcanum Sect to record down this Double Calamity Dragon Head Array...

With a flip of her hand, multiple jade talismans were suddenly tossed into the air. As she infused her true energy into these jade talismans, they started trembling with a rustling noise.

The jade talismans shone brightly and formed a gigantic eyeball above Ni Yan's head. That eyeball silently observed and recorded everything within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

Suddenly, Ni Yan's eyes became blank for a moment and she puzzledly looked toward the entrance of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

A slender figure suddenly entered the Gate of Heavenly and slowly headed into the battlefield.

"Owner Bu? Is he insane? There's a battle going on... What's a chef doing here?"

Rays of light soared into the sky from underneath the tiles within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. The lights gathered in mid air and then spread in all directions, forming a gigantic energy barrier over the entire place.

The two stone pillars seemed to have come alive as they each shot out a pitch-black chain toward the bronze coffin. The chains coiled around the coffin and suspended the coffin in mid air.

Thereafter, an endless amount of energy formed a vast magic array with the coffin acting as the center.

With a draconic roar, a gigantic simulacrum of a divine dragon flew out from the magic array and proudly hovered above the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. Energy continuously leaked out from its slightly open mouth.

"I've been conquering sects for so many years and countless amount of experts have died in my hands. How could you dare to dishonor me on my funeral? Even if I have fallen, I am still not someone the likes of you can humiliate. Therefore, all of the sect rebels within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery must die."

Chapter 134: King Yu's Three Crimes!

"Abrupt Mission Suggestion: obtain the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit from the emperor's funerary objects. This is a seventh grade spirit fruit which has three stripes on it that emits three different types of fragrance at the same time. This is an excellent ingredient for brewing wine. The system recommends this as an alternative main ingredient."

Bu Fang was standing at the entrance to the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. As he took a bite of the crispy Oyster Pancake, the large and plump oyster entered his mouth and he almost swallowed his own tongue from the delicious taste. Once he finally shoved the last piece of Oyster Pancake into his mouth, the solemn voice of the system resounded within his mind.

Bu Fang was immediately startled for a moment. He had to obtain the old emperor's funerary object, the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit? Furthermore, the system recommended it as an ingredient for wine brewing?

The system's sudden announcement was completely outside of Bu Fang's expectations. Based on its contents, the system was making a suggestion using the abrupt mission.

According to Ni Yan, Dragon's Breath used over a hundred types of spirit herbs and they underwent special preparation methods before brewing. The steps of the methods were onerous and its ingredients were extravagant. It was already completely incomparable to ordinary wine. If Bu Fang wanted to brew a better wine than Dragon's Breath, he definitely had to use ingredients and brewing techniques that were more superior.

If Bu Fang had to search for the ingredients on his own, he really would be uncertain on how to proceed. The system's sudden suggestion was a boon for Bu Fang.

"As expected of the system that's assisting me to become the God of Cooking, it's so considerate and so perfect," Bu Fang thought.

As Bu Fang broke into a grin, a resonant draconic roar came from the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. An enormous simulacrum of a divine dragon nearly obscured the sky and almost filled Bu Fang's entire field of vision.

"System... Do I really have to go? I have a feeling that it's dangerous inside," Bu Fang expressionlessly asked the system.

"Young man, as someone aiming to become the God of Cooking, how could you show any fear on the path toward obtaining ingredients! For the sake of the ingredient, march on!" the system seriously encouraged him.

Bu Fang was speechless.

...

"All sect rebels... must die!"

The emperor's imposing voice resounded within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery and sounded deafening in the ears of everyone present. It was as if thunder had fallen from the sky and suddenly exploded.

The divine dragon simulacrum opened its mouth and actually spoke in the emperor's voice.

Hiss!

Everyone sucked in a breath of cold air and their faces were filled with incredulity. The emperor had fallen, this was a fact. However, he used an unconventional method to come back to life. With the help from the ancient magic array within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, he turned his consciousness into the spirit of the magic array!

As the spirit of the magic array, the emperor had absolute control over the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array!

Simply put, the current emperor possessed the dreadful might of the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array.

The astonishment on Zhao Musheng's face slowly faded as a hint of a smile appeared on his lips. He thought, "As expected of Emperor Changfeng, I've indeed underestimated him.

"However, does he really think he could wipe out all of the experts from the sects by relying on the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array? In its current state, it's only a shadow of its former self."

"Father... Is that really you?!" Ji Chengxue looked up and stared blankly at Ji Changfeng who had turned into the divine dragon simulacrum. He had a weird feeling as he listened to the familiar voice coming from the simulacrum's mouth.

"I now pronounce you as my successor. I hope you won't disappoint me," the divine dragon simulacrum indifferently said with an aloof and remote attitude that disregarded all living things.

Ji Chengxue took a deep breath and solemnly nodded.

"Why!? Father, why is he the one!"

An angry voice filled with bitterness came from a distance away. A malevolent expression as well as intense resentment appeared on King Yu's face as he questioned the divine dragon simulacrum.

He was unable to understand. He was mystified. He was unable to accept the decision! What was his father's basis for choosing Ji Chengxue, who had the least sense of presence among them, as the successor.

A bitter expression appeared on the crown prince's face as well. However, he did not ask, or to be more exact, he did not dare to ask. The current Ji Changfeng was no longer the sickly Ji Changfeng but rather the Emperor Changfeng who had turned into a divine dragon simulacrum. Within the magic array, Emperor Changfeng could take their lives with a single thought.

The divine dragon finally moved. As its enormous body swayed around, it sounded like claps of thunder. The gigantic head of the dragon turned and the dragon's eyes indifferently gave King Yu a glance before opening its mouth.

"Did I give you permission to question my decision?"

The extremely overbearing words immediately made King Yu feel as if cold water was poured upon him. His pupils constricted as an immense aura that seemed to have fallen from the sky suddenly landed on him and made him fall upon his knees.

"Conspiring with rebels from the sects is your first crime. Disrespecting me is your second crime. Attempting to murder your brother is your third crime. These three crimes will be punished together. I shall seal your cultivation level and abolish your kingship. You shall guard the imperial mausoleum for three years. Within three years, you're forbidden from stepping out of the imperial mausoleum," the divine dragon simulacrum indifferently said while hovering in the sky.

The body of King Yu who was kneeling on the ground suddenly shuddered. He raised his head with a belligerent expression on his face and angrily roared in a cracked voice, "Why!"

"King Yu!" the women from the Joyous Union Sect cried out in alarm. A distance away, the aura of Hun Qianyun suddenly trembled and his mind was filled with incredulity.

"Sealing his cultivation, abolishing his kingship, and sentencing him to guard the imperial mausoleum for three years. Isn't that equivalent to imprisonment? If this really is going to be his sentencing, King Yu would be completely ruined..."

King Yu's enraged roar and frustration resounded within the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. His voice was almost gone and his eyes were bloodshot. With his personality, it was impossible for him to accept such an end!

"Attack! Attack! Slay this dragon! I, Ji Chengyu, will not resign myself to such fate!"

Ji Chengyu started shouting. The members from the sects who stood a distance away were all somewhat hesitating.

"Hun Qianyun, did you forget what I promised you? If I don't become the emperor, none of my promises will be fulfilled!" Ji Chengyu yelled.

The eyes of Wei Xiangsi and Hun Qianyun as well as the Bone King who had just gotten up from the ground were all gleaming. They were all somewhat indecisive. In the end, they all clenched their teeth as if they made a huge decision.

Boom boom boom!

The King of Hell simulacrum appeared and Hun Qianyun's aura dramatically rose.

While shaking the Joyous Union Bells, the five women formed a strange magic array and were emanating a powerful aura.

With an eerie laughter, the Bone King turned into a malevolent skeleton once more.

Three figures whose cultivation levels were not inferior to a seventh grade Battle-Saint rose into the air and charged toward the divine dragon simulacrum.

Xiao Meng could not help but suck in a breath of cold air. Even he felt that he would definitely be severely injured if he was the one facing their combined attack.

After all, this was equivalent to the combined attack of three Battle-Saints at the same time. The power of the attack was simply too terrifying.

However, as a draconic roar sounded out, everyone subconsciously covered their ears. A squall arose and an enormous golden dragon claw suddenly descended from the sky.

The dragon claw was emanating an alarming aura as it headed directly for the members of the sects.

"Rebels from the sects, I haven't gotten even with you yet... and you still dare to intervene. Fine, it's time for you to die."

As a draconic roar sounded out, the members of the sects were smashed into the ground by the dragon claw. The entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery intensely trembled as if an earthquake was occurring.

After a long while, the cloud of dust dissipated and revealed the scene of the aftermath.

Everyone including Zhao Musheng felt a chill go up their spine. Their eyes were filled with incredulity as they fearfully looked at the divine dragon simulacrum.

King Yu was shocked and a hint of terror gradually appeared in his eyes.

Before his eyes, the experts from the Three Great Heterodox Sects were smashed into minced meat by the claw of the divine dragon simulacrum... They were completely beyond recognition.

The five enchanting beauties from the Joyous Union Sect; Hun Qianyun, the head elder of the Soul Sect; and the skeleton, Bone King, were all turned into a pile of minced meat on the ground.

As the eyes of the divine dragon simulacrum fell upon Ji Chengyu once more, an indifferent voice rang out.

"Do you still refuse to comply?"

Chapter 135: Umm... I Am Just Passing Through

Ni Yan was standing in mid air outside the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. As she saw the divine dragon simulacrum crush the combined attack of three experts from the Heterodox sects whose cultivation levels were equivalent to seventh grade Battle-Saints, she could not help but suck in a breath of cold air. She thought, "As expected of the magic array that even our sect leader is concerned about, the capability of this Double Calamity Dragon Head Array is indeed formidable."

The enormous eyeball that was formed with jade talismans was hovering above her head and recording the battle going on in the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. In truth, she was more curious about Bu Fang who was inconspicuously loitering inside.

She was very curious about Bu Fang's aim.

However, Bu Fang had not done anything yet, so Ni Yan stopped paying attention to him and diverted all of her attention toward the divine dragon simulacrum.

The fact that the emperor had fused his consciousness with the divine dragon simulacrum could be considered resurrecting himself. However, strictly speaking, he was still deceased. Turning himself into the spirit of the magic array was just a temporary measure and he would eventually disappear. However, before dissipating, Ji Changfeng was going to eliminate all hidden troubles. Maybe this was something that he had been planning for a long time.

King Yu was kneeling on the ground. His bitterness was already long gone when that catastrophic dragon claw descended. When faced with such power, King Yu could only admit defeat.

Buzz!

King Yu's pupils constricted as a stream of true energy flowed into his body. He felt this foreign true energy that occupied the space above his dantian had suppressed the true energy throughout his body and the circulation had completely stopped. Emperor Changfeng had really sealed his cultivation level.

As the eyes of the divine dragon simulacrum turned toward the crown prince, his body suddenly shuddered and he was extremely frightened.

The divine dragon simulacrum stared at crown prince for a long while and then let out a sigh. Without saying anything, it turned its gaze away...

Everyone was surprised and the crown prince himself was stunned as well. "This... What's the meaning of this? Why didn't father say anything?" The crown prince was infuriated... However, he did not dare to say anything, so his expression became somewhat comical.

Suddenly, Zhao Musheng who had been standing next to the crown prince all this time made his move. As overwhelming true energy emanated from him, brilliant rays of golden light appeared around his body.

The divine dragon simulacrum turned toward him. With a draconic roar, a finely detailed dragon claw descended toward Zhao Musheng.

"Ji Changfeng... I've underestimated you. I didn't anticipate that you would actually choose to become the spirit of this magic array in order to activate it. However, with your current state, you wouldn't be able to maintain it for long..." With a carefree smile and his hands held behind his back, Zhao Musheng arrived before the divine dragon simulacrum within an instant.

He raised his hand and the aura of a seventh grade Battle-Saint instantly spread out and a Buddhist aura radiated around him, as if a golden lotus was blooming. He formed a mudra with his hand and pushed forward, aiming for the divine dragon simulacrum.

As the dragon claw and the mudra collided together, an earthshaking explosion rang out and Zhao Musheng stumbled several steps backward in the air.

On the other hand, the divine dragon simulacrum became slightly dimmer and the coffin that was wrapped in chains shook a little.

Zhao Musheng's eyes lit up. As he had expected, Ji Changfeng's Double Calamity Dragon Head Array was not the complete version. Thereafter, he took a step forward with a laugh. He appeared at the abdomen area of the simulacrum and ruthlessly threw out a palm strike, causing the divine dragon simulacrum to flicker for a moment.

"This is not the complete version of the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array after all!" Zhao Musheng said with a sneer and then spat out the essence of his blood. As he exerted all of his strength, he actually pierced through the divine dragon simulacrum. With an earthshaking draconic roar, the divine dragon simulacrum shattered with a loud noise.

At the same time, the coffin that was wrapped in chains fell onto the ground and produced a loud thud.

Within the coffin, the aura emanating from Emperor Changfeng who was sitting upright slowly subsided and then the corpse peacefully lay back down.

Zhao Musheng's body swayed for a moment and his expression became somewhat pale as well. Even though he exploited a gap and the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array itself was originally not going to last long, he still received a considerable backlash.

However, there was not even the slightest concern about his own injuries on Zhao Musheng's face. On the contrary, he was excitedly staring at the bronze coffin.

As he formed a mudra with his hand and exerted his will, three dots of bright lights flew out from the coffin.

The light faded away and revealed the appearance of the three objects: a dazzling Śarīra, an aromatic fruit with three cloud-like patterns on its round surface, and a pitch-black stone.

These three items were things that Zhao Musheng had desired for a long time. The Śarīra was an extremely precious relic left by an expert from the Mahayana Island after he passed away, while the pitch-black stone was the Death Soul Palace's semi-divine weapon, the Departed Soul Orb.

As for the fruit, it was an extremely valuable seventh grade spirit fruit, the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit. If someone consumed this fruit, he would have a high chance of achieving enlightenment.

In order for Ji Changfeng to activate the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array, he had to rely on numerous treasures to provide sufficient energy. Among the many treasures, Zhao Musheng was only interested in these three objects.

Originally, Zhao Musheng was planning to help the crown prince become the emperor and control him from behind the scenes. However, with Ji Changfeng's interference, all of his plans were ruined. King Yu was demoted and the third prince after obtaining Xiao Meng's support was not someone the crown prince could defeat. Therefore, in simple terms, the conclusion was already foregone.

"Since there's no turning back, I might as well forsake all pretense and obtain some benefits before returning. At the very least... I have to bring the Śarīra." That was what Zhao Musheng thought.

As Zhao Musheng held the Śarīra in his hand, his eyes became even more benevolent as a warm feeling enveloped his body.

King Yu lost and the crown prince had lost all chances of winning. In the end, the third prince was the winner of this fight over the throne.

The magic array that had encompassed the entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery gradually dissipated and its lights faded away. Snow began to voluminously descend from the sky once more.

"Do you really think you could leave just like that?" Xiao Meng said as he looked at Zhao Musheng, who was about to leave. Zhao Musheng's identity was already revealed. Evidently, he was not only an expert from the sects, but also an extremely powerful expert from Mahayana Island.

However, even if he was an expert from the Mahayana Island, Xiao Meng would never allow him to leave so easily...

"You won't be able to stop me..." Zhao Musheng said as he serenely looked at Xiao Meng.

The corners of Xiao Meng's mouth curled up as the true energy within his body surged. He said, "How would I know without even trying?"

However, just as true energy surged out from their bodies and they were about to confront each other, a slender figure slowly walked over.

The clear footsteps were extremely conspicuous within the vast Gate of Heavenly Mystery. At least, the gaze of Zhao Musheng, Xiao Meng as well as other people were all attracted by the sound and landed on the figure who was slowly approaching.

The expression on Ji Chengxue's face suddenly became somewhat lively as he stared at the person with a look of incredulity on his face.

Xiao Meng raised his eyebrows and looked at that person in surprise.

Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong were both dumbfounded...

"Owner Bu... What is he doing here?" Xiao Yanyu said, wondering whether to laugh or cry.

Zhao Musheng's expression was strange as he looked at the young man standing before him, whose cultivation level was only fourth grade Battle-Spirit. In his eyes, the young man was calm and composed as he walked toward him and actually waved at him before expressionlessly opening his mouth.

"Umm... I am just passing through. I'll leave right after I borrow something from you," Bu Fang said as he gave Zhao Musheng a glance.

Zhao Musheng was bewildered. "Borrow? Borrow what?"

Thereafter, Bu Fang raised his hand and pointed toward the fruit with three cloud-like patterns in Zhao Musheng's hand. He seriously said, "There, that fruit in your hand."

Chapter 136: Why Is Owner Bu So Adorable?

"There, I want to borrow that fruit in your hand," Bu Fang seriously said with an extremely solemn expression.

At that moment, the Gate of Heavenly Mystery was very quiet with the sound of the wind whistling in the background. Therefore, Bu Fang's words were clearly heard by everyone there even though his voice was not loud.

Xiao Yanyu and Xiao Xiaolong grimaced in embarrassment for Bu Fang. They did not know whether to laugh or cry. "Even though the mood was so serious, he actually came over to borrow the fruit... Furthermore, he's even trying to borrow a seventh grade spirit fruit. Does he really think the other party is an idiot?"

Xiao Xiaolong wanted to make a sarcastic comment. However, when he saw that serious expression on Bu Fang's face, he was unable to find the words to say... He thought, "Owner Bu might really be here to borrow the fruit."

The aura emanating from Xiao Meng subsided as he gravely looked at Bu Fang. He thought, "What is Owner Bu doing here? He's alone? Where's the ninth grade supreme beast and the strange puppet? He didn't bring them along?"

Without the supreme beast and the strange puppet, Bu Fang would be powerless because he was only a fourth grade Battle-Spirit. Almost every single person here could easily crush him. If that was the case, where did he find the courage to ask Zhao Musheng for the fruit?

Zhao Musheng uninterestedly looked at Bu Fang. He was unfamiliar with Bu Fang, but he had heard of such a person. He thought, "The owner of the black-hearted store which is being guarded by a ninth grade supreme beast?"

Zhao Musheng simply sniffed at those rumors. How could an existence like the supreme beast be guarding a store? Those person spreading the rumors exaggerated too much.

"Oh? You want to borrow the fruit in my hand? Why should I lend it to you?" Zhao Musheng asked with a faint smile on his face. As he raised his hand, the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit hovered on his palm.

A rich amount of spirit energy was leaking from the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit. When Bu Fang saw this phenomenon, he was immediately overjoyed. The Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit was incredible. It was indeed qualified to be the main ingredient for brewing wine.

Forcing himself to calm down, Bu Fang's face remained expressionless as he gave Zhao Musheng a glance and indifferently replied, "Why? It's not like I am borrowing from you, who are you to ask me why?"

The expression on Zhao Musheng's face stiffened and the harmonious feeling was suddenly replaced by anger from embarrassment.

Bu Fang's words were basically correct because the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit actually belonged to Emperor Changfeng. If Bu Fang wanted to borrow the fruit, he would be borrowing from Emperor Changfeng...

"Right now, the fruit is in my hand. Tell me, why should I give it to you?" Zhao Musheng let out a sneer as he gave Bu Fang a disdainful glance. Sensing that Bu Fang was merely a Battle-Spirit, he said, "How are you going to convince me with your cultivation level of a Battle-Spirit?"

Nearby, Xiao Meng was feeling somewhat nervous. Strictly speaking, Bu Fang was considered his benefactor because his elixir cuisine woke Ji Ru'Er from her coma. Therefore, he did not want to see Bu Fang getting beaten to death by an enraged Zhao Musheng.

As that dog and that puppet were not around, Xiao Meng could not figure out where Bu Fang drew his courage to stand firm against Zhao Musheng.

Bu Fang knitted his eyebrows together as he seriously looked at Zhao Musheng. "I don't like fighting.

"However, if necessary, I don't mind using violence to resolve problems."

Thereafter, he raised his hand and the image on his wrist suddenly flashed. As a wisp of green smoke encircled his hand, a pitch-black kitchen knife appeared.

Both Zhao Musheng and Xiao Meng were stunned. Even Ji Chengxue, who had just recovered from his surprise, went into a daze as well.

Could you imagine the hilarious feeling when a fourth grade Battle-Spirit holding a kitchen knife said that he would resolve the problem with violence when facing a seventh grade Battle-Saint?

Up in the air, outside of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, Ni Yan could not help but burst into laughter as she watched this scene. She thought, " Why is Owner Bu so adorable? "

Ni Yan was amused for quite a while as she watched Bu Fang hold the kitchen knife with a serious expression as if he was provoking Zhao Musheng. She was wondering why Bu Fang would participate in this conflict and it turned out his motive was the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit.

"As expected of a chef, he's willing to risk his life for the sake of a valuable ingredient," she thought.

Suddenly, Ni Yan abruptly stopped laughing and an incredulous look appeared on her peerless face.

Her eyes widened as she looked into the distance... She saw that the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array, which had been deactivated when Zhao Musheng destroyed its crux, was actually operating again. A far more powerful wave of aura was bubbling up from underneath the imperial palace.

The aura emanating from the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array was far more frightening than before!

"What's going on?!"

Ni Yan's face was filled with bewilderment.

Inside the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, everyone was amused by the sight of a figure holding a kitchen knife. A fourth grade Battle-Spirit was challenging a seventh grade Battle-Saint... Was this not an act of suicide? The gulf of difference between them was completely insurmountable.

True energy started circulating within Xiao Meng's body once more. He was ready to save Bu Fang at any moment. He could not watch his benefactor get beaten to death by Zhao Musheng without lending a hand.

However, the scene that was about to happen was so shocking that it almost caused everyone's eyeballs to explode from shock.

Zhao Musheng viewed Bu Fang's provocation with contempt. If any Battle-Spirit was allowed to provoke a Battle-Saint without any fear of reprisal, then what would happen to the dignity of a Battle-Saint?

Therefore, Zhao Musheng's response was a single palm strike. The true energy contained within that palm strike was enough to easily erase a Battle-Spirit.

The palm strike seemed light as a feather as if he was about to squash a fly.

Bu Fang expressionlessly watched as Zhao Musheng threw out a palm strike. He raised up the kitchen knife and directed true energy from his dantian into the knife. Suddenly, a huge change occurred to the pitch-black kitchen knife.

Brilliant and dazzling rays of golden light radiated from the kitchen knife and almost illuminated the entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery. Subsequently, a distant and violent draconic roar came from within the kitchen knife.

Roar!

As the draconic roar sounded out from the kitchen knife, the entire Gate of Heavenly Mystery shook for a moment as another distant draconic roar rang out.

After slicing apart Zhao Musheng's palm strike, Bu Fang hoisted the gigantic Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife over his shoulder and puzzledly scanned his surroundings... Why was there two roars?

Zhao Musheng's complexion immediately changed when he heard the draconic roar. That kitchen knife was giving him an enormous sense of danger. Furthermore, he sensed that the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array which should be deactivated... had been reactivated!

How could it be operating again? Was the crux of the magic array not Ji Changfeng's corpse? With the crux destroyed, how could the magic array be reactivated?

Zhao Musheng's complexion was somewhat unsightly as he scanned his surroundings. However, he soon discovered that the lights of the magic array were not projecting toward Ji Changfeng's coffin. Instead, they were casting on... the gigantic kitchen knife that was held by the young man before him?!

Bu Fang was in a slight daze as he let the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife rest over his shoulder. He was not startled by the magic array. Rather, he discovered that quite a bit of information had suddenly appeared in his mind. Apparently... it was the instructions to control this magic array.

Bu Fang was feeling somewhat puzzled as he expressionlessly swept his eyes over the astounded people in his surroundings. Subsequently, an idea struck him and he exerted his will according to the instructions.

The light radiating from the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife became even brighter as a burst of dazzling energy emanated from underneath Bu Fang's feet. A ferocious simulacrum of a divine dragon rose into the sky in a serpentine manner. There was a difference between this divine dragon simulacrum and Ji Changfeng's version. Bu Fang's dragon seemed to be equipped with some intelligence.

With a roar, the divine dragon climbed into the sky. Thereafter, under Bu Fang's control, the dragon lowered its head and slowly focused its eyes on Zhao Musheng.

With victory assured, Bu Fang broke into a grin and changed his carrying pose for the Golden Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife. He turned to Zhao Musheng and indifferently said, "Now... do you still want to settle the problem with violence?"

Chapter 137: Your Highness, I Brought Our Brothers to Root for You

Ni Yan was high above in the air, outside the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. She was bewildered as she stared at Bu Fang, who became the crux of the magic array, with her mouth wide open.

"How was Owner Bu able to activate the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array? This doesn't make sense at all! This magic array is among the top five within our sect's records. Even if we ignore the complexity of the magic array, controlling it shouldn't be possible for most people without acquiring the proper knowledge.

"The imperial family of the Light Wind Empire has records of this magic array's control method and every generation of emperor would study them carefully. Therefore, Emperor Changfeng was able to use the magic array. However... why the hell is Owner Bu capable of controlling this magic array as well?"

Ni Yan's expression was odd as she stared at Bu Fang's figure inside the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. Multiple pieces of jade appeared in her hand and she started to divine the reason by fiddling with them... Thereafter, she understood what was going on.

The cause of everything was the kitchen knife that underwent a dramatic change in appearance in Bu Fang's hand.

Ni Yan sucked in a breath of cold air and exclaimed in her mind... A semi-divine tool made from dragon bones!

Furthermore, it was not made from ordinary dragon bones. The magic array was actually activated by the aura of the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife and automatically appointed the knife as its crux. As a result, the owner of the kitchen knife, Bu Fang, logically obtained the qualification to control the magic array.

Up to this point, Ni Yan had no more words for the current situation. She could only click her tongue in wonder and envy Bu Fang for owning a semi-divine tool.

...

Zhao Musheng swallowed his saliva as he gazed at the massive head of the divine dragon. The immense draconic aura made him feel as if he had fallen into a swamp.

He could not understand why the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array, which he already destroyed, was suddenly reactivated. Furthermore, the person controlling it became a young man who was holding a kitchen knife. Even though he did not want to admit it, the kitchen knife Bu Fang was holding was somewhat magical.

Even though the large kitchen knife still possessed the appearance of a kitchen knife, it was giving him an astonishing impression at first glance.

"Now... Do you still want to resolve the problem with violence?" Bu Fang asked with a smile.

As true energy slowly circulated within Zhao Musheng's dantian, the draconic aura that was suppressing him to the point where breathing was somewhat difficult quietly dissipated. He narrowed his eyes at Bu Fang.

As an expert from the Buddhist sect, the Mahayana Island, Zhao Musheng knew the rarity and value of the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit very well. It was a spirit fruit that could help a sixth grade Battle-Emperor become a seventh grade Battle-Saint.

He was obviously reluctant to surrender the fruit just like that.

Holding the Path-Understanding Fruit on one hand, it started to slowly rotate within the dense amount of true energy and emanate a rich fruity fragrance.

"You're not someone from the imperial family. So what if you can activate this magic array? You don't know how to control it at all, there's nothing you can do to stop me," Zhao Musheng said with a sneer as he tapped the ground with his toes. He rose up into the air and started heading outside of the magic array.

Xiao Meng's eyebrows were knitted together. He was planning to intervene. He could not allow Zhao Musheng to take away those three treasures. Otherwise, how was the Light Wind Empire going to uphold its dignity in the future?

However, just when Xiao Meng was about to intervene, from the corner of his eye he saw a smile appear on Bu Fang's lips.

"This expression..." Xiao Meng thought as he raised his eyebrows. The true energy surging within his body calmed down once more. Evidently, Owner Bu was not going to let Zhao Musheng escape so easily.

"Who told you that I can't control this magic array?" Bu Fang asked as he wielded the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife that appeared to be cast from gold and pointed it toward Zhao Musheng.

As he exerted his will, a draconic roar sounded out and the entire magic array brightly lit up as if waking up in that instant.

The divine dragon simulacrum reached its claw toward Zhao Musheng who was walking in mid air.

"Hmph!"

With a snort, Zhao Musheng fully released the aura of a seventh grade Battle-Saint. Forming a mudra with one hand, he started chanting a profound sutra. Behind him, a gigantic simulacrum of a Buddha slowly materialized.

Secret technique of the Mahayana Island, the Arhat's Finger.

The simulacrum of a Buddha pointed a finger toward the dragon claw. The air seemed to be boiling as the two attacks collided together in the air, and then... there was nothing after that.

Everyone watched in astonishment as Zhao Musheng's Arhat was directly smashed into pieces by the dragon claw and a loud explosion rang out, as if a balloon was popped.

Zhao Musheng violently vomited out a mouthful of blood and his body fell to the ground like a withered leaf.

The Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit was caught in mid fall by the divine dragon simulacrum and handed over to Bu Fang.

After receiving the Path-Understanding Fruit from the dragon's mouth, Bu Fang experienced a sense of dizziness. The true energy within his body was nearly depleted and the light on the Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife had grown dimmer as well. Thereafter, the splendid kitchen knife turned back into a pitch-black knife once more.

Controlling the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array consumed Bu Fang's true energy as well. With the feeble true energy of a fourth grade Battle-Saint, he could only control the divine dragon simulacrum to perform a single attack. Bu Fang was rejoicing inwardly as well. Fortunately for him, Zhao Musheng actually chose to meet his attack head-on.

If Zhao Musheng had not chosen to meet his attack head-on and decided to dodge the attack, he might have discovered in the very next moment that Bu Fang was putting on a false front.

"But... Who cares! In any case, I've obtained the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit. With this, I have the main ingredient for the wine," Bu Fang thought. He had already thought up a name for the wine. He decided to call it the "Three Stripes Path-Understanding Wine".

"Hmm?" Bu Fang pondered for a moment as if something was wrong. "Forget it, I'll just use this name for now."

Spurt...

Zhao Musheng spat out a mouthful of blood and staggered to his feet. His complexion was a waxy yellow and his breathing was irregular. He actually suffered defeat in the hands of a fourth grade Battle-Spirit who provoked him with a kitchen knife...

He was bewildered, he felt regret, and he harbored doubts about his own life.

However, he was an expert from a Buddhist sect after all and his mind calmed down after a short while. When he saw Bu Fang's weakened appearance, he immediately understood... He thought, "This fellow could only activate one attack using the magic array. After that attack, his true energy will be drained and he'll be extremely feeble.

"Even Emperor Changfeng had to gather so many treasures as well as utilize Chief Eunuch Lian's true energy as support in order to control the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array, how could a mere fourth grade Battle-Spirit have that sort of assets?"

"Good... Very good! You're Owner Bu, correct? I, Zhao Musheng, have committed you to memory!"

Zhao Musheng steadied his body and stared closely at Bu Fang. Thereafter, he gave a smile before turning around and then forcibly circulated the true energy within his body. He was planning to escape.

It was unwise for him to stay there any longer. If he did not leave immediately, he might not be able to leave any more.

"Zhao Musheng, you old thief! Where do you think you're going!" Xiao Meng glared daggers at Zhao Musheng as the aura of a seventh grade Battle-Saint erupted. With a single step, he rose into the air and charged toward Zhao Musheng.

However, just as he took off from the ground, Zhao Musheng turned around and threw a stone as black as ink toward him. That stone appeared to be warping the air and also seemed to possess a magical power that was completely attracting Xiao Meng's attention.

Boom!

The aura of immense amount of spirits burst forth from the stone and untold sounds of wailing could be heard.

Xiao Meng's expression immediately changed and he hurriedly suppressed the stone. If the grudgeful spirits escaped from the Departed Soul Orb, it would definitely be disastrous for the imperial city.

At the same time, Zhao Musheng made use of this opportunity to swiftly escape.

"Till we meet again... Owner Bu, next time, I will definitely pay a visit to your store!" Zhao Musheng's voice rang out from afar and then his figure disappeared into the distance.

After Zhao Musheng left, the sound of armor rattling rang out from outside the Gate of Heavenly Mystery. A man with a full beard whose entire body was wrapped in bandages limped into the Gate of Heavenly Mystery, wearing only half of his armor.

"Your Highness, I brought our brothers to root for you!"

The man with a full beard unclearly shouted. His appearance was so comical that Ji Chengxue did not know whether to laugh or cry. However, when he saw that the man with a full beard was still alive, he breathed a sigh of relief inside.

In a distance, Bu Fang kept his Dragon Bone Kitchen Knife and slowly headed toward Ji Chengxue with the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit in his hand.

Chapter 138: The Egg-Fried Rice That One Could Never Get Tired Of

"Owner Bu, many thanks for your help," Ji Chengxue said with a smile as he performed a fist and palm salute. As he looked at Bu Fang's serene appearance, he could not help but be somewhat amazed.

A fourth grade Battle-Spirit was actually able to injure a seventh grade Battle-Saint to the point where he was vomiting blood and force him to run away. Even though he might have exploited the magic array to accomplish this, this was already considered an incredible achievement.

It was a fact that the difference between a Battle-Spirit and a Battle-Saint was like a chasm and was basically insurmountable.

"Owner Bu is mysterious indeed... His identity is definitely not simple!" Ji Chengxue thought.

Bu Fang gave Ji Chengxue a glance and went into a daze for a moment. Only then did he gestured toward the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit in his hand and said, "This fruit... Can you give it to me?"

Bu Fang looked at Ji Chengxue very seriously. He believed the latter would not refuse him.

Even though the Path-Understanding Fruit was valuable, Bu Fang used the Phoenix Blood Herb to save Ji Chengxue before. The value of the Phoenix Blood Herb was not any lower than the Path-Understanding Fruit. Besides... In order to return the favor of saving his life, Ji Chengxue would probably not refuse.

Emperor Changfeng had already passed away and King Yu was punished by him. The crown prince fell from grace while Ji Chengxue was the successor named in the posthumous edict. Now, he was the person who was definitely going to ascend the throne. In other words, Ji Chengxue was already confirmed to be the next emperor of the Light Wind Empire.

"Give the fruit to Owner Bu... I don't see a reason not to!" Ji Chengxue solemnly replied.

Subsequently, Bu Fang delightedly nodded and patted Ji Chengxue on his shoulder. He thought, "I knew I didn't save you for nothing..."

The lid of the coffin was put back in place and the eight topless Battle-Kings lifted up the coffin once more. They followed the path and walked all the way out of the majestic Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

As they stepped into the imperial city's Long Street, the citizens were all standing on the sides of the street and quietly looking at the bronze coffin. The silence was filled with grief and reverence.

Emperor Changfeng, an outstanding ruler, was indeed worthy of their reverence.

The snow swirling in the sky seemed to have turned into withered petals as they drifted down in large volumes, as if accompanying the elegy being played by the court musicians.

As the funeral procession proceeded on, the sides of the street were filled with citizens. Some of them had puffy eyes, while others were kowtowing despite the chilly weather...

People could not help but sigh as they watched these scene unfold.

Ji Chengxue's gaze was filled with determination. The various actions of the citizens were all affecting him emotionally. He was astonished to realize that the stern and imposing father in his eyes was actually loved and respected by so many people. This was a true monarch, the actual sovereign of an empire.

He... wanted to become an emperor like this as well!

...

Bu Fang returned to the store and collapsed on a chair. He was so tired that he did not want to move at all. After activating the Double Calamity Dragon Head Array, the true energy within his dantian was completely depleted. It was as unbearable as going without food for three days.

However, even though he suffered so much, Bu Fang was still quite pleased with the result. There was no other reason but the fact that he obtained the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit!

It was a seventh grade spirit fruit, a treasure with a price but no market. It was the main ingredient for the wine he was going to brew next.

Bu Fang took out the Path-Understanding Fruit and its fragrance immediately permeated the store. The three cloud-like patterns on its surface were like drifting white clouds, causing Bu Fang's eyes to follow them. Each of the cloud-like patterns seemed to be emanating a strange fragrance. As Bu Fang breathed in the fragrance, he felt the rotational speed of the true energy vortex inside his body suddenly increased.

According to rumors, there was a high probability of a sixth grade Battle-Emperor gaining the opportunity to become a seventh grade Battle-Saint after consuming the Path-Understanding Fruit. That was the reason for the fruit's high value.

Dragging his tired body, Bu Fang entered the kitchen and opened a cupboard. He placed the remaining half of the Phoenix Blood Herb from the system's storage space inside and the Three Stripes Path-Understanding Fruit next to it.

The cupboard was provided by the system and its preservation effect was very outstanding. Furthermore, it was even capable of preventing the dissipation of spirit energy. It was very suitable for storing these spirit herbs.

After giving his body a stretch, Bu Fang washed his hands. He ensured that any dirt or grime were washed away, then rolled up his sleeves and prepared to start cooking.

The true energy within his body was completely depleted and he felt as if he had been starving for a while. He had a feeling that he would not be able to get up the next day if he did not cook something and fill his stomach with food.

Even though Bu Fang was exhausted, he became meticulous once cooking was involved. His movements were smooth like drifting clouds and flowing water as he completed all of the preparation work.

The melodious and rhythmic sound of stir-frying resounded within the kitchen. After a while, a rich fragrance wafted out from the kitchen. An aroma that would make a person salivate and cause their stomach to rumble.

Soon, a steaming plate of Egg-Fried Rice that seemed to be dressed with a golden sauce was placed on the table.

Bu Fang wiped off the water droplets on his hands and sat down on a chair before letting out a long breath. As he looked at the Egg-Fried Rice that was so exquisite that it was like a piece of artwork, his face was filled with content and satisfaction. Food was meant to make people happy and being able to cook food that delighted others was even more exhilarating.

After Bu Fang finished admiring his handiwork, he eagerly started eating. He used a porcelain spoon to scoop up a spoonful of the Egg-Fried Rice. The flowing egg which was eighty percent cooked left a string-like trail as he lifted the spoon up. The rich fragrance of the egg bundled with the aroma of the rice burst forth like an explosion and instantly enveloped Bu Fang's nose.

"No matter how many times I've eaten this Egg-Fried Rice, I don't get tired of it," Bu Fang exclaimed.

A single plate of Egg-Fried Rice was not much for Bu Fang since he was hungry. After he finished eating, he felt a warm feeling coursing through his body. There seemed to be true energy circulating

within his stomach and the true energy vortex in his dantain was vigorously spinning after he digested the spirit energy in the Egg-Fried Rice.

"I've finally recovered," Bu Fang thought as a smile broke on his face. Thereafter, he tidied up the tableware and went back to his room on the second floor. He took a shower before getting onto his bed and going to sleep.

At that moment, night had already fallen. The two crescent moons were calling each other in the sky and radiating a cold moonlight.

...

After Emperor Changfeng's funeral, the new emperor, Ji Chengxue, guarded the imperial mausoleum for three days and finally returned to the imperial court. King Yu, Ji Chengyu, was stripped of his kingship and his cultivation was sealed. He was sentenced to guard the imperial mausoleum for three years and prohibited from leaving.

Ji Chengyu's downfall happened in an instant. People could not help but pity his predicament.

After Ji Chengxue ascended to the throne, he conferred the title of Carefree King to the crown prince. He forbade the latter from controlling military forces and dabbling in politics. Perhaps, this might be the best end for Ji Chengan.

With the enthronement of a new emperor, the Light Wind Empire started flourishing once more. During the period after Emperor Changfeng passed away, the entire imperial court seemed to have descended into disorder and came to a standstill.

The chief of eunuchs, Lian Fu, did not return to the imperial city. Rather, he stayed at the imperial mausoleum and continued to guard Emperor Changfeng's tomb. According to Lian Fu's own wishes, he wished to guard the mausoleum for the rest of his life.

This resolve caused Ji Chengxue to be speechless with esteem. Therefore, he chose not to recall Lian Fu.

For Ji Chengxue, the biggest disadvantage of becoming the emperor was not being able to eat at Owner Bu's store. He could no longer eat his favorite Red Braised Meat and drink his favorite Ice

Heart Jade Urn Wine. With a thick stack of documents to handle, he could not find the time to leave the imperial palace.

Furthermore, Bu Fang's store only allowed the Oyster Pancake for takeouts. If he ate Oyster Pancakes every single day... he would get sick. Therefore, Ji Chengxue was craving for the store's dishes.

After some time passed, the Light Wind Empire finally recovered with the efforts of Ji Chengxue and many court officials. Some of the order was meticulously restored.

Everything was headed toward a thriving direction.

As the winter days passed by, the Light Wind Empire's Spring Festival... was quietly approaching.

Chapter 139: His Majesty Loves to Watch... Others Run in the Nude?

The Spring Festival was a traditional holiday passed down through the generations ever since the Light Wind Empire was first founded. It was one of the most festive days in a year within the empire. Every household would gather together and celebrate the start of a new year. Simply put, this was a day where the entire empire celebrated.

Within the empire's majestic palace, the opulent structures were barely noticeable under a layer of snow. Inside the Main Hall, the entire imperial court was respectfully assembled in front of the new emperor sitting on the throne, Ji Chengxue.

Ji Chengxue was sitting on the throne, wearing a golden dragon robe and a golden crown. With a stern expression on his face, the imposing aura of an emperor was fully demonstrated and somewhat resembled Emperor Changfeng.

One of the high-ranking court official stepped forward and bowed toward Ji Chengxue. He said, "Your Majesty, tomorrow is the day of the Spring Festival which coincides with Your Majesty's enthronement. Should the scale of the Hundred Family Banquet this year be expanded?"

"The Hundred Family Banquet?" Ji Chengxue thought for a moment and immediately understood the intention behind the official's question. There was a significance to this Hundred Family Banquet as well. It was an event held on the day of the Spring Festival by the Light Wind Empire's imperial family. A hundred tables would be set up at the Gate of Heavenly Mystery and famous chefs from all over the imperial city would be invited to cook for one hundred households chosen through lottery.

This was also the most popular event during the Spring Festival because all of the chefs in the imperial city would be present, including the chefs from the imperial kitchen.

Tasting dishes made by the imperial kitchen was something that commoners would never dare to think about and they were basically not qualified to taste the dishes of the imperial chefs. And so, the Spring Festival was the only chance for them to taste delicious dishes that they would never forget for the rest of their life.

The purpose for holding this event was to reward the citizens for their year-long hard work, giving them a stable life under the empire's protection.

This was a good thing for both the citizens and the Light Wind Empire... As for the other chefs located in the imperial city, this was a rare opportunity as well.

The Hundred Family Banquet was a chance for them to display their culinary skills because the emperor himself would personally attend the event. If their talents were recognized by the emperor, they could become an imperial chef and bring honor to their ancestors!

Ji Chengxue nodded as he looked toward the court official with interest and asked, "Expand the scale? In what way do you think the scale should be expanded?"

The court official was immediately overjoyed. During the fight over the throne between the three princes, he was supporter of the crown prince, However, the crown prince lost his power and became a mere figurehead. As a court official, he was obviously fearful of making any mistakes and be demoted by Ji Chengxue.

Even though the current situation of the imperial court was going well, each of the court officials was apprehensive about their future. After all, since the emperor was going to foster his own faction, he would definitely need to remove some of the older court officials. During this period of time, he had already seen quite a number of court officials getting demoted...

"This humble subject has already passed down an order a few days ago to select the top three chefs of each region to cook for this year's Hundred Family Banquet. Furthermore, the scale of the Hundred Family Banquet would increase to three hundred tables and three hundred households would be chosen, which exactly reaches the maximum limit of the Gate of Heavenly Mystery.

"In addition, the best chef would be selected through voting. The chef who has received the most amount of votes from the households would obtain the title of the best chef and receive a reward as well," the court official respectfully said.

The moment his plan was revealed, a commotion spread throughout the entire imperial court and everyone was whispering to each other.

This was a bold plan and also proved that this court official had placed everything at stake in order to earn some achievements.

Ji Chengxue narrowed his eyes and pondered for a moment. The corner of his lips curled up as he nodded. This was a rather good plan. Since he had just ascended the throne, the public's sentiment of him was still not stable. Hosting such an event would shape his image in the eyes of the public.

"A contest between chefs..." As Ji Chengxue thought about this matter, Bu Fang's figure appeared in his mind and his expression became somewhat odd.

"If Owner Bu could be persuaded to participate in the Hundred Family Banquet, this year's event would definitely be very exciting. With Owner Bu's culinary skills, he would definitely be able to conquer the preferences of the three hundred households."

Therefore, Ji Chengxue turned toward the court official who was feeling rather proud at the moment and asked, "This is a very good idea. Let me ask you, have you invited Owner Bu? Or rather, has Owner Bu agreed to participate?"

The court official was surprised for a moment. Thereafter, his expression slightly changed and became somewhat unsightly.

"Your Majesty, the black-hearted... Erm, this humble subject has also sent someone to invite Fang Fang's Little Store. However..."

The expression on the court official's face became somewhat odd and he hesitated to continue speaking.

Ji Chengxue suddenly became extremely curious and asked, "What's going on? What's the result?"

"The person that this humble subject sent... came back naked. Owner Bu... did not agree," the court official hesitantly said, seemingly embarrassed by the topic.

With those words, the entire imperial court all exchanged looks. Came back naked? Was he stripped naked?

"Hahahaha! Owner Bu. If my guess is right, the person you sent was definitely a pompous person and didn't understand Owner Bu's temperament." The moment Ji Chengxue heard the court official's report, he could not hold in his laughter and suddenly started laughing.

The expression of the court officials attending the imperial court became extremely odd. "Why is His Majesty laughing? Is he laughing because of nude streaking? Could it be... His Majesty loves to watch others run in the nude?"

The court official nodded and said, "The person sent by this humble subject is indeed rather pompous, but... the fact that Fang Fang's Little Store stripped him naked is still indecent."

"All right, I know what you're trying to say. You don't have to send anyone else either. You don't need to worry about inviting Owner Bu to participate in the Hundred Family Banquet," Ji Chengxue said while waving his hand. Thereafter, he looked toward the drowsy Ouyang Zongheng.

"General Ouyang, regarding the matter about inviting Owner Bu, you shall personally invite him... How about it?" Ji Chengxue asked.

Ouyang Zongheng suddenly lurched forward and woke up from his doze. There was still saliva on his beard as he asked with a dazed expression, "Which rebel do you want me to catch? Give me an order, Your Majesty! This old subject will definitely not take even half a step backward"

Seeing his comical appearance, the court officials could not hold in their laughter.

"General, isn't your daughter, Xiaoyi, working as a waitress in Fang Fang's Little Store? I'll leave in your hand the matter about inviting Owner Bu to participate in the Hundred Family Banquet," Ji Chengxue said with a chuckle. Thereafter, he left after dismissing the imperial court, no longer paying any attention to the bewildered General Ouyang.

...

As the winter wind rustled, the snow swirled in the air and fell.

After Bu Fang finished cooking all of Fatty Jin's orders, he was free once more. He walked toward the entrance and cozily sat down on a chair, leaning on the backrest. In his hand, he was holding a cup of boiling water provided by the system. It was boiled using spring water from Tianshan and contained a faint amount of spirit energy. In addition, the water was both sweet and refreshing.

After taking a small sip of the water, Bu Fang let out a deep breath with a satisfied expression on his face.

Suddenly, ripples formed on the surface of the water in his cup. As the ripples faded away, a slight vibration came from the direction of the alleyway.

Bu Fang puzzledly looked up and saw a crowd of figures in a distance.

Ouyang Xiaoyi was skipping ahead while her three bestial brothers followed behind her...

Furthermore, around the three barbarians of Ouyang, there was still a dense crowd of people, both men and women...

Bu Fang expressionlessly watched as the large crowd of people rushed toward the store...

"What's going on? Xiaoyi is coming to work... while bringing her family?"

Chapter 140: He's Treating Them to a Meal? What a Nouveau Riche!

Don don don!

The ground was shaking as if a gigantic creature was passing through and the three barbarians of Ouyang appeared in front of Bu Fang with their large bodies.

"Leave some space for your father! Who told you to stand so closely together?!"

Behind them, an exasperated shout sounded out. Thereafter, Ouyang Zhen and Ouyang Wu scratched their heads in embarrassment and moved sideways, letting a figure squeeze through from between them.

"You brats, have you been eating so much that you're suffering from indigestion? Why are you all so fat! When we get back, I am going to triple your training volume!" Ouyang Zongheng shouted as he pointed at the three barbarians of Ouyang with a sour expression, nearly spraying saliva all over their faces.

The three barbarians of Ouyang wiped their faces and awkwardly laughed. However, when they heard their training volume was going to triple, their expressions immediately turned sour and they were somewhat speechless. How was their bodies considered fat... They had already trained to a point where only muscles were left!

"Dad! What are you doing! Owner Bu is watching you!" Ouyang Xiaoyi's unsatisfied voice rang out. Ouyang Zongheng's expression immediately made a hundred and eighty degree turn and he moved closer to Ouyang Xiaoyi with a face full of smiles.

"My obedient daughter, daddy is teaching decorum to your elder brothers. The things you said before, daddy has memorized them!"

After seeing Ouyang Zongheng continuously nod his head, only then did Ouyang Xiaoyi let out a snort. She looked toward Bu Fang and cheerfully said, "Owner Bu, let me introduce you. This is my dad, a great general of the empire! He's formidable just like Uncle Xiao!"

As Ouyang Xiaoyi introduced Ouyang Zongheng, a solemn expression immediately appeared on his face. He stuck his chest out and nodded toward Bu Fang with his head held high.

Bu Fang expressionlessly looked at him. He raised the steaming cup of water in his hand and took a small sip before he softly replied, "Oh."

Ouyang Zongheng's face immediately stiffened. He thought, "This rascal... He's as conceited as in the rumors!"

"This is my first mom, second mom, third mom... sixth mom!" Ouyang Xiaoyi said as she one by one dragged over several elegant ladies. Seeing her cheerful appearance, Bu Fang broke into a grin and nodded toward them.

"These are my three foolish brothers, I don't think an introduction is needed."

As for the three barbarians of Ouyang... Ouyang Xiaoyi directly skipped past them because Bu Fang was actually quite familiar with them.

"Owner Bu," the three barbarians of Ouyang said as they solemnly performed a fist and palm salute toward Bu Fang.

Bu Fang stood up from his chair and nodded before beckoning them to enter the store. The freezing weather outside was not suitable for staying out.

"Xiaoyi, why have you brought so many people?" Bu Fang puzzledly asked.

"Dad said he wanted to discuss something with you. As for my moms, they're here to eat delicious food. Dad said he's treating them!" Ouyang Xiaoyi excitedly said. She looked very adorable with her rosy cheeks and eyes glittering like gemstones.

"He's treating them?" Bu Fang was surprised for a moment and then he gave Ouyang Zongheng an odd glance. "He... Can he afford it?"

"Then, come right in. If you're looking to order something, the menu is right behind you. Xiaoyi, you should accompany your parents today," Bu Fang said and then headed toward the kitchen.

Ouyang Zongheng wanted to say something as he watched Bu Fang's back figure but became hesitant. He thought, "Forget it, I'll wait after we're done eating. Let's taste the flavor of his dishes first, see whether they're as delicious as in the rumors and whether he's worthy enough for me to personally invite."

When Ouyang Zongheng turned around to look at the menu, he almost spat out a mouthful of blood!

He suddenly recalled that every single dish in the black-hearted store was shockingly expensive. He thought, "Did I hit myself on the head or something? Why did I promise Xiaoyi that I would treat everyone to a meal!"

As he looked at the row of prices that were using crystals as the currency, Ouyang Zongheng's heart was dripping with blood and both of his hands were trembling. He thought, "These women better go easy on me, I only have a little bit of secret stash left. "

"Xiaoyi, which dish is the most delicious?" Xiaoyi's first mom moved next to her and asked with a smile.

Ouyang Xiaoyi pointed at the menu and said, "Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs!"

Ouyang Zongheng's lips trembled for a moment and his nostrils widened. He felt as if Ouyang Xiaoyi had just ripped apart his heart with a dagger while letting out a high-pitched laughter... Fifty crystals disappeared just like that.

"Xiaoyi, tell your second mom. Which dish is the most delicious?" Xiaoyi's second mom asked with a smile as she dotingly pinched Xiaoyi's rosy cheeks.

Ouyang Xiaoyi pointed at the menu and said, "Red Braised Meat!"

The corners of Ouyang Zongheng mouth twitched and he nearly spat out a mouthful of blood. He thought, "Red Braised Meat... That costs a hundred crystals per serving! This brat, why are you only choosing the expensive dishes! Could you not sabotage your father like that?"

The Xiaoyi's others moms came over as well and let her recommend dishes to them. Ouyang Xiaoyi pointed at the menu and one by one recommended all of the expensive dishes.

Ouyang Zongheng had already collapsed weakly on his chair. His eyes as he watched Ouyang Xiaoyi... were already devoid of life.

At this rate, they were going to spend all of his secret stash!

"Dad? Aren't you going to order something?" Ouyang Xiaoyi charmingly asked as she puzzledly looked at her father who was looking back at her with a resentful expression. Thereafter, her eyes narrowed into adorable crescent moons and she asked with a smile, "Do you need me to help you order as well?"

"No, give me a serving of... erm, Dry-Mixed Noodles is fine, dad isn't a picky eater," Ouyang Zongheng seriously said after hurriedly sitting up.

The three barbarians of Ouyang were much more simple. They were satisfied after ordering a serving of Lees Fish and a jar of Ice Heart Jade Urn Wine.

When Ouyang Xiaoyi cheerfully relayed all of the orders to Bu Fang, even he was slightly surprised. As he looked toward Ouyang Zongheng who was sitting up straight, he thought, "What a nouveau riche!"

After a short while, a rich fragrance wafted out from the kitchen. The aroma of the dishes captivated Ouyang Zongheng and his family, who came to Bu Fang's store for the first time.

Ouyang Zongheng's wives were already extremely excited by this fragrance.

As the saying goes, if one wished to capture the heart of a woman, they should start with their stomach. Before Bu Fang's dishes were even served, the fragrance alone had already enthralled the wives of Ouyang Zongheng.

"This is your Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs, please enjoy your meal." Bu Fang did not call Ouyang Xiaoyi to serve the dish. Instead, he slowly walked out of the kitchen while carrying a celadon plate and placed the dish before Xiaoyi's first mom.

Xiaoyi's first mom was already fascinated by the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs. The amber-colored dish seemed to possess some sort of magic that caused Xiaoyi's first mom to continuously swallow her saliva and even toss away her usual modesty.

After a piece of Sweet 'n' Sour Rib entered her mouth, Xiaoyi's first mom was completely captivated by the meat's flavor.

Ouyang Zongheng was filled with craving as he watched his wife and could not bear it any longer. He gave the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs a glance and reached his hand out to grab a piece of rib.

Slap!

"Who told you to touch my Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs! If you want to eat, order it yourself! Shame on you!" Xiaoyi's first mom slapped away Ouyang Zongheng's secretly outstretched hand with a furious expression on her face.

Thereafter, she dragged the Sweet 'n' Sour Ribs into her embrace like she was protecting her children.

Ouyang Zongheng expressionlessly thought, "What do you mean by order it myself... If I still have any money left, I would definitely order two servings. I'd have one myself and... oh, feed the other serving to a dog!"

Subsequently, Bu Fang served the dishes one after another. The overwhelming fragrant dishes had almost completely changed Ouyang Zongheng's concept of smell. He thought, "How could such an aroma exist in this world?"

Unfortunately, he could only smell the aroma.

Finally, it was the turn for his dish to be served. Ouyang Zongheng was extremely melancholic and felt as if two streams of tears were going to flow down his face.

"Here's your Dry-Mixed Noodles, please enjoy your meal," Bu Fang said.

Ouyang Zongheng's eyes were devoid of life as he expressionlessly looked at the bowl of completely dry noodles in front of him.