

I Am Loaded 391

Chapter 391: Had He Gone Mad?

Fu Zhi's eyes glittered in excitement.

He could not understand the sky, earth, moon, and knot that Xu Xiaoshou had introduced.

Now, everything was presented to him in such a straightforward manner. If he still could not understand it, then it really could not be justified.

“Spiritual veins?”

“Is this a spiritual array?”

Fu Zhi was horrified in his heart, and he was too shocked.

The lesson that Xu Xiaoshou had delivered to him was too much.

Even if he looked at it, it was something unattainable and completely out of his reach.

“The world is a world, the Path is the Path, and the spiritual array is a spiritual array.”

“Between the three, it borrows the path of the spiritual array, inherits the order of the Great Path, and completes the cycle to revert to its original form.”

That was the philosophy of Spiritual Cultivators.

The process of completing self-realization was through the means of the heavens and earth.

The Divine Secret was entirely different.

In the concept of Divine Secret, the world was the Path, the Path was the array, the array was the person, and the person was the world.

All of this was connected in the same continuous line.

In other words, they were the same thing in different forms.

There was no difference at all, and there was no need to distinguish them.

All things, living and dead, were made up from the Path.

The Path had created the world and the people who were born into it. It was the source of all things and had remained the same since day one.

Fu Zhi could not believe that Xu Xiaoshou's presentation would impart this concept.

Fu Zhi caught the smile and look of approval in Xu Xiaoshou's eyes. He realized that he was not overthinking things. The other party wanted to share this lesson with him.

"So, what you wanted to express was... Divine Secret?"

Xu Xiaoshou was taken aback for a moment.

"No."

"What I wanted to express is Weaving Technique!"

Fu Zhi felt a headache developing. He wanted to explode whenever he heard the word “weaving.”

Xu Xiaoshou was not an airhead and had some substance.

However, he felt that he could not connect with Fu Zhi on the same channel, and that feeling was very uncomfortable.

Fu Zhi felt that he was on the verge of a breakthrough, but he was only half a step away.

He was so close...

He was anxious that he began to scrape the toes of his feet on the ground and scratch his head. Even the blue veins on his neck had surfaced.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at his struggle and suddenly thought of how he entered the Weaving Expertise fantasy realm back then.

At that time, no one had enlightened him.

He had only relied on the Vitality Diagram of the Body until the process of understanding the World Diagram, and he did not know how many years he had spent to figure them out.

Although the perception in the fantasy realm was under his control, Xu Xiaoshou knew that he had spent a lot of time there.

It was just that the power of the special rules of the fantasy realm had wiped out those processes.

In other words, the fantasy realm itself was a presentation of knowledge, and it only took a moment for Xu Xiaoshou to grasp it fully.

At that moment, he was transported to a time and space with a different set of rules. It was during then that he renewed his realization of the world.

“What is it...” Fu Zhi murmured anxiously.

Xu Xiaoshou could sense his desperation and felt somewhat amused by him. He said softly, “You are too obsessed with the way the Path presents itself.”

Fu Zhi froze in the spot.

That lingering comment by Xu Xiaoshou struck him like lightning, and he was instantly empowered.

Without waiting for him to think further, Xu Xiaoshou’s words continued to haunt him.

“Does it make a difference if it is the Divine Secret or the Weaving Technique?”

“Ultimately, each way of using power relies on the Great Path. Is that not the Order?”

“I have shown you two worlds, two entirely different worlds. The ordinary person sees one world while the Spiritual Cultivator sees another.”

“Or rather, you can only see the Divine Secret that you spoke of.”

“But... So what?”

Xu Xiaoshou walked to Fu Zhi, who had completely frozen in shock. He looked at him steadily.

“Since you have chosen to look at the world in the way of spiritual veins, are the kind of tools used to understand the Path still important to you?”

Tools?

Was the Divine Secret just a tool?

Fu Zhi only realized that enlightenment was bursting out from his heart, flying out of his head straight to the sky. At this moment, Xu Xiaoshou had kicked open the door of a new world for him.

“It’s not important!”

He was so worked up that he was shouting at the top of his lungs.

“The Path is the spiritual veins, and the spiritual veins are the Path. All things can be inscribed, and all things form the Path.”

“Yes, that’s it!”

“You are absolutely right! We can view the world in a state of emptiness, but if it is truly empty, how can everything behave in such an orderly manner?”

“Is the existence of spiritual veins, or rather, the existence of invisible spiritual veins, the Great Path?”

Xu Xiaoshou showed an expression that it was possible to teach a child new things. If he could realize this, it would be immensely helpful for this guy, who was obsessed with the spiritual array.

No one could understand the level of Xu Xiaoshou’s shock when seeing that new world in the fantasy realm.

What was given or presented in the fantasy realm might have been the highest form of Expertise Passive Skills.

Even his current Weaving Technique could only create Chinese knots and basketball nets.

That theory alone could make all people who studied spiritual arrays in this world obsessed and crazy.

Yet, that was only related to the Weaving Art of Weaving Expertise, which to him was a little bit superficial.

Xu Xiaoshou watched Fu Zhi hugging his head and jumping wildly. Fu Zhi was crying tears of joy on the spot, and Xu Xiaoshou chuckled at that sight.

“I get it!” Fu Zhi clutched his head, gesturing madly as though he was pronounced as the top scholar. He was uttering words in his mouth like he was possessed.

“It turns out that this is the Divine Secret, and this is the Weaving Technique...”

“I get it now!”

“It turns out that the Cardinal Wheel was trying to express this!”

“I was wrong...”

He wailed, “The Nested Spiritual Array is certainly a direction, but in the end, it still uses the inherent form of the spiritual array!”

“Things that can be incarcerated by Form, no matter how Nested, no matter how powerful, it would not attain the Intangible Path!”

“I was stupid!”

A few slapping sounds resonated loudly. Xu Xiaoshou watched in a stupor as Fu Zhi slapped himself in the face wildly.

Was it worth being so worked out over?

He looked at this crazy guy and realized that if he did not calm himself down, Fu Xing was about to lose a father.

Xu Xiaoshou hesitated for a while, thinking of the big hand manipulating World Order that he saw at the end of the Weaving Expertise fantasy realm.

“There is one more sentence. I don’t know whether I should say it to you...”

Fu Zhi stopped his madness instantly and rushed to Xu Xiaoshou, almost falling to his knees.

“Brother Shou!”

“Say it quickly!”

“I’m listening! I was wrong... I was so very wrong. I shouldn’t have doubted you just now. I was wrong to misunderstand you and misread your intentions. I feel so ashamed now!”

Xu Xiaoshou was so shocked that he almost wet his pants. This guy had an expression that was too exaggerated. It was like a carnivorous flower that was about to bloom. It was too much to bear.

“Calm down.”

He held Fu Zhi until this guy was trembling less violently and regaining his senses. He finally asked, “How did the spiritual veins come about?”

“They are inscribed!”

Fu Zhi answered immediately with a look of excitement.

He knew that the questions Xu Xiaoshou asked about were the simplicity of the Great Path and returning to the basics. He immediately added, "They are inscribed by hand!"

Xu Xiaoshou nodded in satisfaction. This guy caught on quickly.

He continued, "So, if the spiritual veins are the Path, how does the Path appear?"

"What do you mean..."

Fu Zhi was taken aback.

How did it appear? Of course, humans had inscribed it.

But...

Humans?

Drawing the Path?

Huh!

At that moment, Fu Zhi felt that the Great Desolate Ancient Bell had slapped his head, and it went blank.

The excitement in his eyes dulled. His pupils suddenly dilated as a look of panic quickly took over his face.

Finally, there was only blankness and spine-chilling fear in his eyes.

Xu Xiaoshou looked at Fu Zhi with astonishment. His original intention was to calm this guy down.

But Fu Zhi...

That middle-aged man behaved as though he had solved a terrifying mystery. He suddenly covered his head and roared in disbelief.

“No, it is impossible!”

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

Had he gone mad?

Chapter 392: The Cardinal Wheel Went Missing!

Xu Xiaoshou was still paying attention to Fu Zhi's condition mere seconds ago.

He had never thought that after Fu Zhi was cast into a fear, he would calm down and transform into a completely different person.

He was so quiet that it was terrifying.

“What's the situation?”

Xu Xiaoshou was surprised. Looking at the expression on his face, he must have associated his final words with immense horror.

What would it be?

Was it possible that the giant hand that manipulated the rules of the Great Path in the fantasy realm really existed?

“What's going on?”

Xu Xiaoshou did not dare to ask more. He was still in a state of acting and had to maintain his persona. If he revealed his ignorance, it would only increase Fu Zhi's suspicion of him.

Fu Zhi's expression had entirely changed when he looked at him.

From the disdain at the beginning to the astonishment after being suppressed to the ecstasy of attaining realization... Now, it had evolved into...

Feared, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked.

What was going on? What was he thinking?

“You are...”

Fu Zhi hesitated for a moment. In the end, he could not help but ask the question that was troubling him. “Are you a descendant of the Holy Emperor?”

Xu Xiaoshou creased his brows when he heard that.

The Holy Emperor... He knew about that.

The most powerful existence in this world, or rather this continent, was the Holy Emperor State.

However, there were only legends about the Holy Emperor that had been passed down to the world.

The legend said that...

Even the first person of Shengshen Continent, the prevailing Hallmaster Dao Qiongcang of Holy Divine Palace, seemed to be a step away from this level.

The realm of the Holy Emperor seemed to be akin to the Spiritual Gods on this continent.

It was just blind faith and had never appeared before.

Now, Fu Zhi had said that...

He was a descendant of the Holy Emperor.

Xu Xiaoshou felt his heart surging in excitement. Fu Zhi must have known something that he didn't.

Was it possible that the big hand that manipulated the World Order was the Hand of the Holy Emperor?

Even if he was puzzled, Xu Xiaoshou did not press on.

No matter how chummy Fu Zhi had behaved toward him, he was only an outsider. Perhaps Elder Sang would know about these things too.

Elder Sang...

That old man was certainly not simple.

Just the thought of the giant hand, recalling his terrifying Qiu Long Words and the Heavens and Earth Chest Match...

Xu Xiaoshou shuddered. He felt his heart palpitating inexplicably and did not dare to continue thinking about it.

That theory could only be used to fool Fu Zhi.

In the end, he even scared himself.

After realizing how ridiculous that was, Xu Xiaoshou shook his head slightly.

He did not respond directly to Fu Zhi's question but said, “Now that you have figured out this situation, what are your plans?”

Fu Zhi gave him a deep look without seeming too flustered. He gathered his thoughts after hearing Xu Xiaoshou's words.

"Naturally, I have to clean myself up and go to meet my baby girl, who hasn't seen me in a long time."

Speaking of his daughter, Fu Zhi suddenly burst into laughter. "It is also fate. Today, with the help of Brother Shou, I have not only realized the Divine Array but also experienced a breakthrough."

"Thinking of it, I'm not far from breaking through the Grand Master Stage."

He slapped Xu Xiaoshou's shoulder excitedly as he spoke, but a force bounced his hand away.

Fu Zhi was stunned for a long time. Astonishment flashed in his eyes, but he did not care and continued to happily say, "Brother Shou, you must stay! I will set a banquet tonight at the City Lord Mansion, and I will treat you well!"

"By the way, I will also introduce you to my nephew and niece. They are some of the finest people among the younger generation!"

Xu Xiaoshou instantly felt his knees going weak.

Nephew and niece?

Was he referring to Fu Xing and Fu Yinhong?

Xu Xiaoshou hurriedly waved his hand, "If you want to set a banquet, that isn't necessary."

"Since you were trapped here, you are not aware that the City Lord Mansion is very lively tonight."

"Oh?" Fu Zhi was surprised, "What are the activities going on?"

"White Cave."

With just two words, Fu Zhi understood everything all at once.

He counted the time. It seemed that from the moment he got the Cardinal Wheel to the present, it was almost time to catch up with the next round the extradimensional space would open.

But...

"Is it such a coincidence?" He found it hard to believe.

Xu Xiaoshou smiled and asked, "If the White Cave was not going to open, how could I come here, and how could you get out? The City Lord Mansion has to allocate places."

"This is not a coincidence. This is God's will!"

Fu Zhi was overjoyed. "Great! In that case, we will go to the banquet now and introduce my daughter to..."

"No!" Xu Xiaoshou interrupted his words. "Have you forgotten something?"

"What?"

"My junior sister!"

His request jolted the other party into a shock, and Fu Zhi hurriedly replied, "Yes, I almost forgot about it! I still have one thing left to do. Wait a minute!"

"Your junior sister is there. I'll let her out now." Fu Zhi smiled apologetically.

Having said that, he turned around and was about to fly to the place where he originally came.

The two of them were suddenly startled.

"Who is it?"

Xu Xiaoshou immediately released his spiritual senses. Once again, he found a trace of life from the place where Fu Zhi flew out.

It was slightly familiar.

"The Cardinal Wheel!"

Fu Zhi's pupils dilated in horror. Without even thinking about it, he fled.

After four years of attracting no one's attention, Fu Zhi had long forgotten that many people were obsessed with the Cardinal Wheel in this world.

Now that the White Cave was opening, how could these guys give up on their quest?

His negligence was the root cause of this theft.

How could he leave the Cardinal Wheel where it was?

Even if the collection procedure was extremely complicated, he should have allocated time for it first.

However, when Fu Zhi recalled Xu Xiaoshou's move that instantly detonated the sea of flowers, he knew that he did not have much reaction time at all.

At that time, he could not blame Xu Xiaoshou.

After all, it was not intentional.

The thief was the one to be feared.

During the time he spent chatting with Xu Xiaoshou, if that person knew how to collect the Cardinal Wheel, it would be enough for him to get away with his heist.

However, who was that powerful cultivator who could remain unexposed and undetected at such a close distance for such a long time?

It was not until the very last moment of the collection that the burst of Divine Force had revealed a trace of his existence through his vitality breath.

Fu Zhi was frightened and deeply regretful at the same time for being so careless.

As he mulled over the sequence of events, his figure instantly appeared in the original sky.

He scanned the area thoroughly. He could only detect an unlocked spiritual array and a pit the size of a tree stump that was already on the ground. There was nothing else in sight.

“Crack!”

Fu Zhi clenched his fists and cracked his knuckles.

Was it really stolen?

At that moment, he exploded and unleashed his anger.

Although Fu Zhi had not left this place for four years, did the world outside forget about his existence?

Right at that moment, dozens of figures flew over from the sky.

Fu Yinhong and Liu Qing spearheaded the arriving group.

When those two saw the scruffy man on the ground, who looked like he had given up all hope, they were caught by surprise initially. Then, there was an incredible light in their eyes.

“Father?!”

“City Lord?!”

The many people behind them were equally pleasantly surprised.

Was the blast in the back garden just now caused by the old City Lord who had shattered the barrier?

If that was true, how powerful was he now?

Chapter 393: Father I Have Located The Thief!

Fu Zhi watched Fu Yinhong, who flew into the room with an uncontrollable flow of emotions.

This was his daughter.

He had not seen her in the four years he had locked himself up to study the spiritual array.

Although he had wanted to catch up with his daughter, the excitement of seeing her once again was quickly overwhelmed by the bad news that he had yet to break to the rest.

He could reminisce about his daughter at a later time. The issue at hand was that the Cardinal Wheel was lost. There was a possibility that the existence of the White Cave was in danger.

“Fu Yinhong!”

The moment he called out, the men felt like they had gone back in time to the decades before.

The familiar yet foreign commanding voice made everyone’s body tense as they stopped in their tracks. They stood silently and still, awaiting the command.

“Present!”

Tears were pouring from the frame of Fu Yinhong’s eyes.

However, even at this moment, she had maintained her composure. Her terrifying presence stood out strongly from the others around her.

Fu Zhi inhaled deeply and instructed calmly, "Immediately lockdown the City Lord Mansion, forbade anyone from leaving, and activate code Sovereign."

All of the men were stunned and unsure of what had occurred.

Liu Qing was no exception. He was stunned by the sudden seriousness in his tone.

Had a Sovereign individual snuck into the City Lord Mansion and caused the destruction of this scale?

He gazed at the sea of flowers and realized that the situation was not as straightforward as she thought.

"What happened, Elder Fu?"

Could it be that Fu Xing was right about the situation?

Was Xu Xiaoshou the one responsible for the destruction that had wrecked the place?

He did not know that the issue of the sea of flowers had already been settled by Fu Zhi.

If Xu Xiaoshou was unaware of the Divine Secret, it would not be possible for him to meddle with the Cardinal Wheel.

There must have been someone who used the chaos to steal the treasure from right under his eyes.

"Don't bother asking. I'm not too sure."

Fu Zhi swept his hand to the side and reprimanded, "Some thief must have snuck amidst the banquet at the City Lord Mansion tonight. Your defense was too weak!"

"Yes!"

Fu Yinhong bowed her head and turned to leave with Liu Qing.

Her father's solemn expression reflected the gravity of the situation at hand.

As she turned, her spiritual senses picked up a figure who had arrived at the scene.

This was the target everyone was looking for. The eyes of the men lit up with delight.

With confirmation from both Fu Xing and Fu Zhi, and the coincidence of the explosion that had occurred in this place, there was only one undeniable suspect.

Xu Xiaoshou.

"Father I have located the thief!"

The bright eyes of Fu Yinhong portrayed the joy in her heart. With a yell, she summoned the spiritual energy in her body and charged toward the freshly arrived young man.

A look of surprise unfurled on Liu Qing's face too.

He had seen this young man before.

In their first encounter, the man was still as a corpse and lying in the sack behind the scruffy-looking man.

He may have used some form of technique to conceal himself, but the presence was unmistakable.

The culprit had turned himself in.

Liu Qing felt a tug of panic as Fu Yinhong launched herself toward Xu Xiaoshou.

Fu Zhi had already determined the level of the operation was on the Sovereign level. This meant that Xu Xiaoshou must have special secrets he was not aware of.

If he had fearlessly flown into the sea of flowers, he must have an ace up his sleeve.

Fu Yinhong was too careless with her actions.

With a wave of her hand, she connected the Way of the Heavens and summoned a terrifying imprisoning power that she sent to seal Xu Xiaoshou's body.

She instantly captured Xu Xiaoshou.

Imprisoned, Passive Points +1.

This sudden attack caught Xu Xiaoshou off guard.

He was one step behind from the rest, but he was greeted by many of Fu Zhi's men at his arrival.

The crowd aside, why did Fu Zhi command his men to go after him the moment he arrived despite the friendly conversation they shared previously?

He wondered if the older man was putting up an act all this time.

But what purpose did he have to do that?

He glanced toward Fu Zhi, but the older man's eyes had portrayed a similar confusion and shock as his.

"Hm?"

"A misunderstanding?"

The events had happened too quickly. Xu Xiaoshou found it difficult to escape once he had been imprisoned by the Sovereign.

Before he could retaliate, Fu Yinhong's attack was heading for the spot he stood.

Although she was rather uncertain about this initially, with confirmation from Fu Xing and her father, she had no choice but to believe in them.

"You got some guts, Xu Xiaoshou, to fool me the first time we met. Now, I know you are no good person after all!"

Fu Yinhong's fury was making her teeth itch. She added with hatred, "I was blind to let you go then!"

Xu Xiaoshou was confused.

He turned and looked at Fu Yinhong. Her eyes were filled with seething rage. Xu Xiaoshou was more dumbfounded than ever.

“Did I... Did I do something to you?”

“Did I forget something?”

“What is going on?”

Fu Zhi had only recovered from the state of confusion as well.

He had instructed the men to capture the thief, yet all of them had turned to face Xu Xiaoshou.

The decision was made with such conviction as well. The men were ready to attack even before they had confirmation of who the individual was.

He wondered if the current administration of the City Lord Mansion was also this careless.

Had the men lost their minds?

Fu Zhi felt dizzy as he tried to process the situation.

Xu Xiaoshou was a talented individual who had the ability of Weaving Technique. He was someone who was the descendant of the Holy Emperor. Most importantly...

He was their uncle.

How could Fu Yinhong dare to be so bold in front of her elders?

“Stop!”

Fu Zhi called out with all his might.

It was too late.

Fu Yinhong had charged toward Xu Xiaoshou with a palm strike charged with a Raging State spiritual source. Even Xu Xiaoshou was helpless at this very moment.

However, the helplessness he felt differed from the rest. His helplessness was not for himself but for Fu Yinhong.

The girl was too rash in her actions.

Her brother had scolded her a few days ago about this behavior, but she seemed to have forgotten about all of that now.

The slap struck down in a split second.

Boom!

The void clapped with a loud sound. Rays of white light tore up the edge of the sky.

Streams of air busted through that caused the ground to shake and crack.

Everyone’s eyes, Fu Zhi included, were locked on the attack.

“The Master Stage!”

“Yinhong is at the Master Stage!”

In the few years they had not interacted, his daughter had crossed the monumentally difficult threshold.

This was an improvement that deserved to be celebrated, but Fu Zhi’s heart was beating hard in anxiety.

As expected, after a cry of distress, the figure who flew toward Xu Xiaoshou could not last more than a second before it was launched back into the air.

In the Heavenly Image State, a palm strike that was of the Master Stage spiritual technique was no match for the aggressive Passive Skills that had filled the young man from head to toe.

Toughness, Strengthen, Recoil, Sharpness...

As he had kept these Passive Skills charged constantly in preparation for potential battle, there was no need to activate these abilities or to look at the attack made toward him.

He did not fear even the potential sneak attacks made to him.

Xu Xiaoshou was unsure about his own powers at this point.

For someone who had exchanged hands with individuals of the Sovereign Stage, he had already moved on beyond his Innate Stage peers.

Amongst his peers, if they had attained the Master Stage, he would have been at the top of the top.

However, these were not enough for him.

He did not even move back to evade the attack as he fixed his gaze on the fury-packed attack that went straight for his chest.

He could only watch her as she was sent flying.

Attacked, Passive Points +1.

Suspected, Passive Points +12.

Apologetic, Passive Points +1.

“Damn!”

All of the men in the proximity were astounded.

Liu Qing was part of the shock as well.

The man had been captured by her abilities and rendered unable to put up a fight.

Even in this state, the man of the Origin Court remained still after an attack from Fu Yinhong of the Master Heavenly Image State.

The situation at hand was very different from the one the others had imagined in their heads. They had thought they would be in charge of cleaning up after Fu Yinhong’s attacks and handling the administrative duties afterward.

However, the tables had completely turned in the battle.

“What is going on? Is the Origin Court status of this man false?”

“Is he also at the Master Stage? Is he the Sovereign loose in the mansion that Lord Fu mentioned? Did he conceal his cultivation level?”

“How is this possible?”

“Is he not Xu Xiaoshou? I have seen him before. He is clearly someone of the Innate Stage...”

“Do you call him someone of the Innate Stage?”

Everyone fell silent.

They gazed at the helpless figure that was sent into the sky.

As Fu Yinhong was lifted into the skies, she landed again and was caught in the second explosion.

With a boom, she was sent into the air covered in blood.

Fu Zhi appeared in front of her in an instance and hugged his daughter tightly.

Up until this moment, Fu Yinhong could not believe what was happening.

She had slapped Xu Xiaoshou, but she was the one who was injured from the attack. This was unbelievable.

All the fury, dissatisfaction, and shock had dissolved into feelings of being wronged with the warm and long-awaited hug from her father.

“Father...”

As if she was a small kitten that had found its home, Fu Yinhong curled her body slightly and mumbled vulnerably.

She could feel it from the depths of her soul that the warm hug was a shelter for all the bad things in her life. It made tears burst from her eyes and almost fall from her cheeks.

However, the shelter was not as stable as she had wished it was.

Fu Zhi shook his head and sighed lightly. He looked harshly at his daughter as he scolded her.

“So disrespectful!”

“I told you to catch the Sovereign, not to attack Brother Shou!”

“He is your uncle!”

The surrounding air fell into dead silence.

Fu Yinhong twitched slightly. The teardrops instantly evaporated in an instant. Her eyes were as large as the moon.

Chapter 394: This Child Lacks Manners, Please Don't Scold Her

Translator: Nyoï-Bo Studio Editor: Nyoï-Bo Studio

“Uncle?”

Fu Yinhong was not the only one who had frozen in place. Liu Qing was stupefied by the claim as well.

No one in their ranks had met with this man before.

Those in attendance had served in the City Lord Mansion for many years. Perhaps they did not have enough experience, but they should have heard of this figure at least once or twice.

Liu Qing released the imprisonment around Xu Xiaoshou in fear. She had lost her urge to counterattack as well.

Xu Xiaoshou rolled his eyes in secret.

He had never expected Fu Zhi to take him seriously and even proclaim that in front of his own men. ‘Uncle?’

He had also addressed Xu Xiaoshou as Brother Shou and not Senior.

However, this was not the elephant in the room.

The elephant was going to be how Fu Yinhong reacted now that he had put her in this situation.

She was not willing to even be addressed as “Little Sister.”

It took Fu Yinhong a good moment to fully recover and react to the news. She untangled herself from the hug that had lost its warmth and gazed unsurely at Xu Xiaoshou for a long while.

Xu Xiaoshou shrugged and put up his hands in a manner to convey what seemed to be saying, “Yes, it is me.”

“Are you Xu Xiaoshou?”

Doubted, Passive Points +1.

He almost laughed out loud. He could hardly believe the events that were unfolding before his eyes.

Fu Zhi lifted a bottle of elixir over his head and immediately knocked it on his daughter’s head.

“No manners.”

“Stop calling him by his name, I told you to call him ‘Uncle.’”

“You look like you know him. Have you two met before?”

Fu Yinhong was thrown off by her father’s words.

Her encounters with Xu Xiaoshou went beyond a simple meeting.

Moments ago, she was cleaning up the mess the young man had made in the banquet hall. Now, things were drastically different.

All it took was the time needed for a quick bathroom break for this man to turn into her uncle.

She thought about the world and questioned what exactly had happened for it to fall into the state it was in.

Was she in the wrong, or had the Great Path been forcibly twisted by an external power?

Fu Zhi paid close attention to his daughter's facial expressions and seemed to have realized something as well.

He wondered if Xu Xiaoshou might have been the age that he had assumed him to be judging by his looks.

Moreover, Xu Xiaoshou seemed to have some form of relationship with his daughter.

'Could it be that they are familiar with each other?' he thought.

It seemed to him that there was a relationship between the two. This reassurance eased Fu Zhi of his awkwardness.

He looked toward Xu Xiaoshou and laughed relaxedly, "Fu Mou had known too. Though I may be slightly older than you, we could still be brothers, right?"

Xu Xiaoshou had a strange expression on his face, but he nodded and made no reply.

To address each other as brothers was just a method to establish a closer bond between the two.

If he were to go into the technicalities of it, it would have been impossible.

One could address someone they were unfamiliar with as "Brother" as a means to establish a close relationship with him. However, the meaning would change if it was someone of higher seniority addressing him as such.

If it was not for the fight, he perhaps would have earned this title.

Xu Xiaoshou did not see himself as someone with a hot temper. He found it amusing that he had bypassed calling Fu Xing his younger brother and addressed him as his nephew from now on.

He watched the shell-shocked expression on Fu Yinhong's face as she heard her father's words. He decided to let go of the technicalities for a moment.

"Don't worry about it, Brother Fu."

"Small children lack manners. She was just fighting for fun. There is no need to scold her."

As he spoke, he scanned the room, looking past Liu Qing and the countless eyes of shock before his gaze settled on Fu Yinhong.

"Isn't that right, Xiao Hong?"

"?"

Fu Yinhong would have exploded from anger if it was possible.

She did not consider herself a gentle or soft ruler. As the vice commander to the City Guards, she had always carried herself with a dignified and mighty presence.

But now...

Xu Xiaoshou dared to address her with her nickname "Xiao Hong."

She had not argued with him when he called her "Little Sister" at the previous Pagoda incident.

He had grown bold enough to use "Xiao Hong" although they barely knew each other.

Her anger was overflowing her sense of logic. Fu Yinhong downed a bottle of elixir and launched into the air again.

"Xu Xiaoshou!"

She gritted her teeth and called out, "I'll make sure to break all of your teeth and scatter them across the City Lord Mansion! You have underestimated me... Ah!"

However, she was pulled down harshly and immediately by Fu Zhi before she could gain much altitude.

"Stop this foolishness!"

Fu Zhi spoke with real anger in his tone. "Are you still not listening to me?"

The scolding had transformed Fu Yinhong's anger into desolation.

She pulled her lips down. Her eyes were lacking emotion. Every presence in her body instantly vanished. The only emotion that remained was the feeling of being wronged.

Fu Yinhong's mouth moved slightly. She seemed to be wanting to say something. Under the strict gaze of Fu Zhi, she remained quiet.

Cursed, Passive Point +1

Missed, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou approached her with a smile. He watched the girl stand motionlessly with her hands by the side and commented with admiration, "What a good child."

Fu Yinhong was speechless.

She looked back at the man with a gaze as sharp as knives and sliced through the detestable face of Xu Xiaoshou more times than she could count.

Someone like Xu Xiaoshou, who always used his words to irritate others, was not going to let another's gaze affect him.

"This little girl is quite stubborn too."

The causal comment and laugh sent her into a fit of rage. Fu Yinhong clenched her fist tightly and dug her heels into the ground. She was very close to landing a punch on the man's face.

As Xu Xiaoshou approached her, she had mentally tried all forms of weapons and methods possible to eliminate him.

She was seething with anger and disgust.

She deeply regretted holding back her rashness that day in the back alley of the Plenty Gold Company. She should have eliminated the man back then.

Fu Yinhong screamed in her mind.

'Ahh!'

Xu Xiaoshou walked past her with a laugh. His Information Bar refreshed instantly with a wave of new notifications.

He turned away from the girl. His expression changed to a solemn one. "What about my junior sister?"

The comment left Fu Zhi in an awkward situation.

He looked down to the hole in the ground with a serious expression.

"You see, there was a Cardinal Wheel here initially. I wanted to talk to you about it..."

"What happened?"

"After the sea of flowers was blown apart, I sent someone in before I could think..."

"Where's the wheel?"

Fu Zhi did not expect Xu Xiaoshou to get to the point so quickly. His forehead wrinkled as he continued, "Well, it's lost."

Xu Xiaoshou responded with silence.

It was what Xu Xiaoshou had expected, but a confirmation of his assumption that his junior sister had been taken away still triggered a wave of uncontrollable anger within him.

As Fu Zhi saw the change in Xu Xiaoshou's face, he turned quickly to address the others around them.

"What are you looking at? Start the search!"

"Lock down the mansion! Did I not say there's a thief on the loose?"

He glanced over to Fu Yinhong and said with contempt, "Keep up the foolishness, and we will lose our man."

Fu Yinhong's body stiffened. Her sixth sense told her that she would be next in line for the scolding. She turned and prepared to take her leave with her men.

She did not want to stay in the messy situation. No good would come out of it.

No one knew how this man, Xu Xiaoshou, had gotten so close with their leader to the extent in which Fu Yinhong had to address him as "Uncle." If she were to stay any longer, she was certain she would be dragged into it as well.

It was best for her to leave now.

As she watched the masses depart, Fu Yinhong started to follow them.

She knew she would not be able to maintain her composure with Xu Xiaoshou around.

“You stay!”

Fu Zhi called out immediately.

Fu Yinhong slowed down her footsteps at her father’s voice. “I have some business to tend to...”

“What business? Leave the search to Liu Qing. You’re just a Master Stage, so what can you do?”

Rage once ignited within Fu Yinhong.

What was wrong with being at the Master Stage?

Was the Master Stage not good enough for her father?

Before she could argue, Xu Xiaoshou spoke up. “Let her go.”

Fu Zhi frowned. He had intended for the two to get to know each other better. If Xu Xiaoshou had this level of accomplishment at this age, he had more potential than anyone else in Tiansang Prefecture.

In his mind, this was a pair highly compatible with each other.

Yet, the other seemed unwilling to be matched up.

‘Whatever,’ Fu Zhi thought. He would leave this up to fate.

“Fine.”

Fu Zhi sighed and turned to his daughter. “You can go.”

Fu Yinhong bit her lips. She looked at her father with a face of disbelief.

She felt as if someone had pinched her heart.

It struck her that her words as his daughter was not as important to him as what Xu Xiaoshou said.

The thought process led her to the heart-sinking realization that love was something that faded and disappeared over time.

Looking up to the sky, her eyes were full of doubt. Tears were forming in the corners of her eyes.

Fu Zhi watched her remain in her spot and felt a tinge of happiness in his heart.

He wondered if his daughter had changed her mind.

“Hm?”

“Do you want to stay?”

Fu Yinhong jumped at her father’s voice. She left quickly without a trace.

Chapter 395: I Know Where They Went

“What is this Cardinal Wheel?”

Xu Xiaoshou asked as he watched the crowd disperse quickly before them.

Fu Zhi was aware he had made a mistake and locked Xu Xiaoshou's sister disciple into the technique. Thus, he did not wish to delay the situation any further.

The Cardinal Wheel was highly confidential information for the others. If he wanted to crack the Divine Secret with Xu Xiaoshou, he had to let Xu Xiaoshou know about the wheel.

"The Cardinal Wheel can be seen as a spiritual array contraption made by the Divine Secret."

"This item holds in-depth knowledge. It only took a few years of observation for Fu Mou to realize that Nested Spiritual Array technique."

"Though, the knowledge that he had learned barely scratched the surface."

Xu Xiaoshou remained quiet. There had to be a catch that Fu Zhi had not mentioned yet.

As expected, Fu Zhi's tone changed immediately to a solemn one. "However, the important part is that those who dare to covet or have the ability to covet the Divine Secret are less than a handful on this continent."

"I doubt their target would simply be the Cardinal Wheel."

Xu Xiaoshou nodded and asked, "Is there something sealed inside?"

If they were unable to covet the outer layer of the object, there had to be something else that was present within the object that was obstructing them.

If the Cardinal Wheel was able to seal Mu Ziyi, there must have been others sealed within it.

"Right."

Fu Zhi dipped his head. "The surprising thing about the Cardinal Wheel is its relation to White Cave's Source of the World."

Hints of confusion could be seen in Xu Xiaoshou's eyes.

"Source of the World?"

It was his first encounter with the phrase. From the sound of it alone, it seemed to be a complex concept to understand.

Fu Zhi smiled wryly. "The Source of the World is all about the foundations of the White Cave..."

"To say it simply, as long as one has access to it, it can crack the secrets in White Cave's extradimensional space."

"In other words, one will obtain the strongest power within it."

"Therefore, those with the ability to direct the power have the most to gain from this!"

Xu Xiaoshou's expression shook slightly. He was in part disbelief that the Cardinal Wheel Fu Zhi had been mentioning was an object with such terrifying abilities.

He wondered if the older middle-aged man had withdrawn himself to hide the power he had within his hands away from the others.

Fu Zhi seemed to have read his thoughts. "Rumors spread all around the families when I obtained this object, so it's no secret."

"Moreover, I have no desire to obtain the Source of the World. My goal is solely the Divine Secret!"

"After I saw your Weaving Technique just now, I finally realized it. If it was not for your help, it could have been another 10 years without cracking anything."

"It would be fools' talk to even dream of obtaining the treasures inside!"

Xu Xiaoshou's expression darkened. "If you could not crack the code, how did you trap someone inside of it?"

"Hehe."

Fu Zhi replied with a forced laugh. "Although I don't understand the theory of how the object is constructed after four years of experimenting, I learned how to use it at the very least..."

Xu Xiaoshou watched him in silence.

"If you can trap someone inside, can you release them?"

"Well, about that..."

Fu Zhi's eyes looked uncertain as he declared with a serious tone, "I can!"

Xu Xiaoshou was close to snapping at the old man.

'Like hell that I'd believe you!' he thought.

'If you were able to release the person, why bother thinking for so long?'

Seeing a change in Xu Xiaoshou's expression, Fu Zhi immediately said, "It's not possible right now, but we are on the right track. If we look into it for a few days, it would be possible!"

Xu Xiaoshou inhaled deeply and contained his temper.

He understood that this was not the time to pick a fight.

He was not entirely innocent himself. He had mistakenly stumbled through the field of flowers and would have been an invader in Fu Zhi's books.

Therefore, he was extremely fortunate that Fu Zhi had not executed him on the spot.

However, even when he was pardoned, the circumstances of his current situation were not ideal in any way.

It was a misfortune amidst his extreme fortune.

"The Cardinal Wheel..."

Xu Xiaoshou mumbled with a bitter expression.

The change occurred too suddenly in the middle of their execution. It had completely ruined his carefully devised plan.

He had also lost Mu Ziyi.

The young girl had quite the misfortune happen to her.

If she had pressed on for a few more minutes, there was a possibility that Fu Xing would have had another relative come in.

These changes in plans were part and parcel of life. Life was not smooth sailing for anyone.

“Who could this be?”

Xu Xiaoshou was puzzled.

Not counting those he recognized at the banquet, he did not pick up any presence of a thief in the time he spent in the flower field.

If he had not discovered it with his vision and Perception, it would have been a loss on his end.

Even the notification system had not alerted him to any abnormality.

He wondered how the thief would have ignored the battle that took place on the spot while he was swiping the object.

Was the thief even human?

That kind of behavior would have betrayed the common psyche of an ordinary human.

He figured at the very least he would have received a Watched notification.

‘No,’ he thought.

Xu Xiaoshou reacted in shock as he recalled the notifications that he had received with the Watched category.

The notification system did not glitch. There was indeed an individual present in the City Lord Mansion that had the ability to evade the supervision of his abilities.

“Xu Xiaoji?”

He wondered what motives Xu Xiaoji would have to enter the City Lord Mansion.

Xu Xiaoshou’s features twisted.

‘Don’t tell me...’

‘What could Brother Fu provide for a thief?’

Xu Xiaoshou activated Perception to conduct another in-depth observation of his surroundings.

There was still nothing that could be picked up.

Fu Zhi sighed and shook his head.

“There are many who seek the Cardinal Wheel, a mixture of people as well. It is hard to determine who.”

“One thing is for sure. This guy has not left the City Lord Mansion yet!”

“Though Fu Mou did not detect any changes in his cultivation, when he tried to run away, he could not exit this place even after he ran for two whole hours.”

Xu Xiaoshou thought so as well.

The mansion was huge. If an ordinary thief decided to escape, they would not have been able to even if they ran until their legs fractured.

He agreed with this flow of reasoning.

“What if they used a teleportation portal?” Xu Xiaoshou asked.

Fu Zhi flashed a confident smile and replied, “Even if they were beyond the level of the Master Stage, I would have detected any wave of impact if they used it in front of me.”

“This man won’t get too far!”

“When Liu Qing sealed the barrier, it would have made it even harder for him to escape!”

Xu Xiaoshou raised his eyebrow. It was no wonder Fu Zhi did not show a hint of panic when his object had been stolen.

There was immense charisma to the middle-aged older man with this level of confidence.

“What if the individual was of the speed type and escaped without a trail after they took the Cardinal Wheel?” Xu Xiaoshou retorted.

Fu Zhi looked at Xu Xiaoshou and replied with a charming voice, “Would anyone capable of such speeds and ability have to hide?”

The rock that was suspended in Xu Xiaoshou’s heart finally landed.

He and Fu Zhi had similar theories on the individual.

“If this is the case, I think I know where the thief is.” Xu Xiaoshou smiled.

At that moment, the blurry figure of the thief in his mind instantly became a sharp image of Xu Xiaoji.

The man may have lacked potential, but he had a strong Stealth Technique. Moreover, they entered the City Lord Mansion with a strong motivation but not for the White Cave quota.

There were no other suspects other than Xu Xiaoji.

The City Lord Mansion had designated one specific entrance for guests and clearly informed everyone that strong protective barriers were placed in other places.

Although they would not be able to hold invaders of absolute power, the other areas had not picked up on any changes. The only explanation was that the thief had come in from the official entrance.

Only those from the Xu family would have entered through the front doors of the City Lord Mansion with such negative intentions.

“Who?”

Fu Zhi was caught off guard.

He thought that he had simply bragged slightly, but Xu Xiaoshou was able to locate the individual from those words alone. This was...

It was too absurd to be true.

If the thief was present, they would hesitate to believe what Xu Xiaoshou had said.

Suspected, Passive Points +2.

Chapter 396: Seize Fate by the Throat, and Deceive Even the Pit

Xu Xiaoshou gave the two a deep look and suddenly laughed.

That was a confession without the need for interrogation.

He did not expect that person to be so bold and stay nearby even after stealing things. Perhaps they were not far apart at the moment.

But...

What kind of technique could the thief use to make two guys, who were so alert, not even aware of it?

Could a Sovereign Stage hide from the sky?

Xu Xiaoshou returned his gaze to the pit on the ground.

That should be the place where the Cardinal Wheel was originally embedded. There was nothing left now.

“Is there something weird?”

Fu Zhi followed his gaze and looked at the pit.

Despite the scrutinizing gaze of two people, they still could not see anything.

There was nothing but gravel.

Fu Zhi shot a glance and looked away, but Xu Xiaoshou kept his gaze as he continued talking.

“Brother Fu, what is the furthest distance in this world?”

Fu Zhi was astonished at the question.

Were they doing this again?

He looked up at the sky. “The sea of stars?”

“No.”

Xu Xiaoshou dismissed his answer. “The farthest distance in this world is if you stood in front of me, but I still cannot notice you.”

Fu Zhi was confused.

His face turned green. He felt goosebumps rising on his body.

What was all of this? Were they not supposed to be arresting the thief?

He was talking to me like he was almost flirting or something.

The problem was that he was not a little girl. What was the point of him telling him all this?

Hmm?

No, something was amiss.

Could this guy have special preferences in that area?

Shuddering at the thought, Fu Zhi backed away quickly, feeling panic rise in his throat.

Suspected, Passive Points +2.

That affirmed the suspicions in Xu Xiaoshou's heart.

The thief did not run far and was even close by.

It was just that...

He could not see him.

However, that did not bother Xu Xiaoshou in the least. If it were Xu Xiaoji, he was a guy who was not even considered a human by the system.

It was completely normal if he could not see him.

Xu Xiaoshou paced around, seemingly lost in his thoughts. In fact, he extended Perception to scan all the subtle movements in his surroundings.

Since he could not see or touch him, he could only let this guy come out by himself.

"Brother Fu, if you stole something, what would be your plans after that?"

Fu Zhi did not know what Xu Xiaoshou was plotting. When he looked at him, he seemed to have a direction to investigate the matter. He played along. "Of course, I would run away from the scene. If I was not strong enough, I would hide for a while and wait for the storm to pass."

His eyes lit up as he spoke.

"The thief would hide in the banquet room first. When the attention dies down, will he leave the City Lord Mansion with everyone else?"

"Brother Shou, you are a genius!" he exclaimed in surprise.

Xu Xiaoshou stretched out a finger and shook it. "No."

"Hmm?"

“Am I wrong?”

Fu Zhi felt that his thoughts had pointed in the right direction, but Xu Xiaoshou still did not agree with him. He asked curiously, “If it were you, what would you do?”

Xu Xiaoshou chuckled lightly and wandered around the pit.

“If it were me, I would not leave!”

Fu Zhi wondered, ‘If you don’t leave, wouldn’t you be waiting for an imminent death?’

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head in disagreement.

“Brother Fu, don’t forget that the most dangerous place is also the safest.”

“If it were me, I would first perform the art of disguise and concealment. I would not enter the City Lord Mansion until the Sovereign Stage could not detect my presence.”

“After the theft, I would have stayed nearby and waited until other people were sent into a flurry and form a search party.”

“At that time, I would reveal myself, walk into the banquet room, and meet others like an ordinary guest!”

Fu Zhi was still mulling over his words and had yet to react. As soon as Xu Xiaoshou spoke, the Information Bar had gone crazy.

Suspected, Passive Points +2.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Insulted, Passive Points +1.

Blown Away, Passive Points +1.

In Awe, Passive Points +1.

“What kind of art of disguise and concealment can deceive Liu Qing and me?”

Fu Zhi was still struggling with these small details, though Xu Xiaoshou had completely ignored him.

Those words were not meant for Fu Zhi’s ears.

Since the Information Bar had such a violent reaction, it meant that the hidden person, or Xu Xiaoji, had the same plans he had guessed.

A faint sound mixed with the sound of gravel from the subtle breeze. It was so light that even Fu Zhi could not notice the difference.

It was different for Xu Xiaoshou, who was on high alert.

His Perception had already covered the surrounding area. When his mind was completely focused, even a fly flapping its wings would not be able to escape his beady eyes.

‘Sand?’

The item that had twitched just now was a piece of inconspicuous gravel in the pit.

The same unremarkable gravel trembled uncontrollably when Xu Xiaoshou turned his eyes toward it.

It was panicking.

After finally determining the specific hiding place of this person, Xu Xiaoshou still could not help but marvel in amazement.

It was really a pit.

That guy had such a resilient heart.

He and Fu Zhi were chatting near the pit, and even Liu Qing just came over and walked around, but he still did not show the slightest movement.

With this level of focus, Xu Xiaoshou was ready to hand him an award for being the person with the best stealing technique.

He squatted down and studied the qualities of that gravel in the pit.

This time, the Information Bar did not flash any updates at all.

It was as if he had disappeared. If it were not for Xu Xiaoshou's mindfulness and constant state of alert, he would truly think that it was just an illusion.

Without further ado, Xu Xiaoshou pinched the gravel.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Insulted, Passive Points +1.

"Heh."

Xu Xiaoshou smiled.

'Are you scolding me?'

'What can you do other than scolding me?'

'Do you dare to move?'

If he had the strength to contend against the two of them, he would not disguise himself as a piece of gravel and pretend to play dead there.

Fu Zhi watched Xu Xiaoshou squeeze a stone from the pit and wondered out loud, "Does Brother Shou have any ideas?"

"None."

Xu Xiaoshou sighed with emotion. "Brother Fu, if you catch the thief, how will you punish him?"

"Heh."

Fu Zhi sneered coldly. "He who dares to steal my Cardinal Wheel.... I shall crush his bones until they turn to ash and torment him until his soul disintegrates, and that is the lightest punishment!"

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou could feel the gravel in his hand shaking again.

He laughed again.

Who could stand this?

Xu Xiaoshou would have pinched him to death.

Xu Xiaoji must have been feeling desperate and hopeless at that moment.

Xu Xiaoshou did not intend to reveal what he knew. He stood up straight before saying, "According to Brother Fu, that guy has no chance of escaping the City Lord Mansion."

"I suggest conducting a thorough search in the sea of flowers. Maybe this guy can morph forms."

"Who knows, perhaps this stone in my hand is a morphed form," he said teasingly.

Condemned, Passive Points +1, +1, +1, +1...

Fu Zhi felt that Xu Xiaoshou was taking it too far and twitched the corners of his mouth. "What a joke, Brother Shou. A pathetic stone like this..."

Nonetheless, he thought about it carefully and found that there was a reasonable point. He immediately took out a communication jade scroll and summoned people to come and conduct the search.

Xu Xiaoshou chuckled. "The net of Heaven has large meshes, but it lets nothing through. Since that guy dared to enter the City Lord Mansion and steal from it, he is doomed to face his end."

"Let's go. Shall we head to the banquet first and then wait for the good news from Fu Yinhong and Guardian Liu?"

Although Fu Zhi was in a dilemma to catch the thief, he knew that he could not rush the search.

"Alright."

He agreed with Xu Xiaoshou.

Xu Xiaoshou smiled and nodded. He casually tossed the gravel in his hand into the Yuan Mansion.

Suddenly, the intense, never-ending Condemned notification that had flooded the Information Bar disappeared.

"Aje, keep an eye on him."

"If he dares to morph forms, you can beat him to death!"

"Damn it, how dare he lie to me? He wanted me to bring him into the City Lord Mansion in the first place... If he was caught, wouldn't I be guilty by association?"

Chapter 397: Aje: Warden of the Yuan Mansion

Xu Xiaoshou had originally wanted to attend the banquet with Fu Zhi and meet his nephew Fu Xing.

However, the old man had not taken a bath in four years and felt dirty. He left to wash up before attending the banquet.

He could not win that argument, and they parted ways.

Fu Zhi was still very excited.

It had been four years since he last saw a living person.

As soon as they exited the array, the banquet dinner had just commenced. It was indeed a celebratory event.

Xu Xiaoshou, on the other hand, did not think so.

He watched this guy leave in high spirits as if it was unimportant whether he could find the Cardinal Wheel or not. He could only sigh with emotion. He felt that Fu Zhi had a generous heart.

In the end, Fu Zhi did not even pursue the destruction of the sea of flowers. It was as though he wanted to be on good terms with Xu Xiaoshou.

It was just as well that Xu Xiaoshou did not do it deliberately.

This matter was temporarily put aside.

Fu Yinhong brought Liu Qing to search for the thief. Fu Zhi left to tidy himself up, leaving Xu Xiaoshou who was in a daze.

‘In the end, did this Cardinal Wheel land in my hands?’

Even Xu Xiaoshou was a little confused about the outcome.

After all, he did not even know what a Cardinal Wheel was before that.

Perhaps this was a reward for being a good person.

If he did not bring Xu Xiaoji into the City Lord Mansion, the series of events would not have unfolded in that way.

Thinking of Xu Xiaoji, Xu Xiaoshou did not rush to leave the sea of flowers.

With a swoosh of his body, he entered Yuan Mansion.

...

“Ahh—”

As soon as he went in, he was greeted with a desolate cry, followed by continuous cursing.

“Goddamn Xu Xiaoshou! What the hell is this? Stop this at once!”

“For heaven’s sake, just f*cking let me go! I was wrong, and I’m sorry about it! Big Brother, I shouldn’t have cursed at you. I’m sorry! Ah, it hurts, don’t beat me!”

“Stop it, you wretched thing! Did you think that I wouldn’t resist... Ouch!”

“F*ck...”

At the last cry of despair, Xu Xiaoshou shuddered.

He raised his eyes and saw a bloodied figure flying around freely with no signs of slowing down above the collapsed tower at the spiritual pond.

Every time he flew to the maximum point and was about to touch the Chaotic Mist, Aje appeared at that instant and kicked him again.

Xu Xiaoji was like a ball, and Aje was an emotionless kicking machine.

The speed of his feet was so fast that Xu Xiaoji’s movement formed multiple phantom apparitions in the void.

His blood flew everywhere, falling on the collapsed tower, the spiritual pond, and on the seeds by the pond. It was about to coat the land in blood red.

Xu Xiaoshou was horrified at that sight.

‘This...’

‘This is too cruel!’

‘Did he provoke Aje?’

Xu Xiaoshou said that in his heart. Even he did not dare to provoke Aje. How did Xu Xiaoji work up the nerve to incite its wrath?

However, when he contemplated it, he recalled that the order he had given to Aje was to beat him to death.

He was only kidding when he said that. Did Aje take it to heart?

“Stop!”

He hurriedly shouted.

The red light glowing in Aje’s restless eyes dulled. It suddenly stopped in the void.

It tilted its head toward Xu Xiaoshou. Its fists and feet were brilliant red, and its body and face were covered with red and white things that had splashed out.

Seeing that it was Xu Xiaoshou, the little guy seemed very happy and called him affectionately.

“Ma Ma...”

Xu Xiaoshou shivered as he heard it call him.

It painted a terrifying picture and reminded him of the main character in the horror game Secret Neighbor.

“Ahh—”

At that moment, another scream of despair rang loudly in his ears.

Xu Xiaoshou turned his head to inspect the cause. It turned out that Xu Xiaoji, who was kicked, could not control his movement and had collided with the Chaotic Mist.

That thing could corrode and ruin even a Master Physique.

“Save him!”

Xu Xiaoshou was taken aback and jumped in shock. Xu Xiaoji could not die yet as there were too many secrets to unearth.

Aje disappeared instantly, and the Chaotic Mist surged. When it reappeared, it had a battered and unconscious Xu Xiaoji draped on its shoulders.

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

“I’m sorry I was late.”

He stepped forward to feed him a magic pill, but he did not expect that Xu Xiaoji was still partially conscious.

Hearing this apologetic voice, he raised his vacant eyes at Xu Xiaoshou. His eyes, which were completely lost, had regained their focus once more.

In the next second, his pupils dilated. He slipped off Aje’s shoulder in fright, hitting the ground with an audible bang.

The pain he experienced did nothing to distract him from the fear in his heart.

Xu Xiaoji exclaimed immediately, “Damn it, Xu Xiaoshou!”

Fear, Passive Points +1.

After the shock, the guy swooped forward and latched onto Xu Xiaoshou’s thigh.

“Big Brother! Big Brother, I was wrong!”

“I shouldn’t have lied to you. I don’t want the Cardinal Wheel anymore. You can have it. You can have everything! Please just let me out of here.”

“I can’t stay here. If this continues, I will die.”

“Why... Why are you not saying a word? Don’t torture me anymore. I am not worthy of it...”

He wailed piteously. Suddenly, his body jolted as if a current had shocked him. He refuted himself, “No, you are right to torture me! You can do anything you want as long it pleases you but let me out first!”

“Big Brother...”

The miserable and helpless cry echoed throughout the small space of Yuan Mansion and was absorbed by Chaotic Mist.

However, the pleas of someone who had been ravaged and stripped of his humanity were hard to ignore.

Xu Xiaoshou was flabbergasted.

He lowered his gaze to look at Xu Xiaoji, whose face was a mess from his tears and snot, and then at Aje, who tilted its head and looked at them curiously.

Drip.

Drip.

Fresh blood dripped from Aje's fingertips. It was impossible to ignore it in this quiet space.

Xu Xiaoji's body convulsed in fear each time he heard this sound.

However, he was so traumatized that he refused to look up and did not dare to face the guy who had assaulted him so savagely.

"I was wrong."

A thought flashed across Xu Xiaoshou's mind.

What Garden of Horror? What carnivorous flower? What piranhas? Did he even need them at all?

He only needed to have Aje in this place to turn it into a living hell.

He slowly squatted down and gently supported Xu Xiaoji, trying to get him to stand up.

Xu Xiaoji went weak in the knees and collapsed onto the ground in paralysis.

He could not even muster the energy to stand, let alone lift his waist to look up.

"I apologize..."

Xu Xiaoshou saw this tragic situation and was speechless for a long time, so he could only say these two words to him.

He felt that he could forgive Xu Xiaoji for his insults and cursing after seeing his pathetic state.

Xu Xiaoji was too pitiful.

He should not pursue the matter anymore.

What "damn it" or "f*ck?" it was like he never went to school before.

If he were even a tiny bit cultured, he would not have resorted to irrelevant cussing to insult his most hated enemy.

He still wanted to say something, but Xu Xiaoji was shocked again when he heard the words, "I apologize."

"Sorry! I'm sorry!"

"I was wrong, and I want to apologize. Big Brother, Big Brother, you can't apologize. I'm not worth it..."

He raised his head to look at Xu Xiaoshou with eyes full of tears.

At that moment, Xu Xiaoshou felt a little guilty.

Yuan Mansion was like a little black room where torture proceedings were conducted, and Aje was the brutal perpetrator.

Likewise, Xu Xiaoji...

Well, he was indeed a powerless weakling who could be taken down singlehandedly and had no other option apart from enduring everything handed out to him. He was just like his namesake. He was a helpless little chick.

Chapter 398: The Interrogation Went Too Smoothly

Apologetic, Passive Points +1.

Feared, Passive Points +1.

Pleaded, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou was keeping count. Xu Xiaoji had repeated “Sorry” and “Apologies” many times.

The guy was going crazy.

“Calm down.”

Xu Xiaoshou handed over a magic pill, but he hesitated and put it away as he saw the rapidly recovering injuries on Xu Xiaoji’s body. His speed of recovery was highly unusual.

“You don’t seem to be an ordinary person.”

“Yes, I’m not ordinary!”

Xu Xiaoji nodded his head. “My body is quite strange. Although I don’t understand it very well, if I get injured, I can recover quickly.”

Xu Xiaoshou was taken aback for a moment. This guy answered so quickly that it surprised him a bit.

“Does this mean that as long as I don’t kill you, you won’t die?”

Xu Xiaoji was so frightened that he trembled and said in terror, “I will die, I will die. I can quickly recover from my injuries, but the pain I endure when I am injured is several times more excruciating than what ordinary people go through.”

“If this goes on, I will die!”

“Big Brother, please let me go...”

Xu Xiaoshou took a deep breath before speaking again.

“We can speak at a distance. You don’t have to hug my—”

Before he could finish speaking, Xu Xiaoji had bounded away.

He stole a glance at Xu Xiaoshou's trousers and suddenly jumped up and lunged forward again, using his blood-stained sleeve to wipe it before withdrawing himself.

He raised his head to look at Xu Xiaoshou and pointed with his hand, explaining his actions, "There was snot there."

Xu Xiaoshou was speechless.

What on earth had he experienced during his absence?

At the door of the City Lord Mansion, he was still a hardheaded and haughty young man.

Xu Xiaoji did not have any air or a temper in front of him, but he also was not humble to the point of being subservient.

"Thanks."

Xu Xiaoshou spoke gently. He squatted down and faced Xu Xiaoji levelly, trying to make his voice gentle so as not to frighten the terrified lad who had still not recovered from his ordeal.

"I will ask you questions, and you will answer each of them. Can you do this?"

"Yes."

Xu Xiaoji nodded blankly.

"Are you a killer?" Xu Xiaoshou asked.

"Yes, I have been a killer for a while. However, I can only kill people with some small tricks, and I don't make much money from it."

"Small tricks? Does it mean you can morph forms?"

"Yes, I can morph forms and transform into anything. It is a special ability that is similar to the Innate Elemental Power."

"Similar..."

Xu Xiaoshou pondered for a while.

That ability was extraordinary. The Innate Elemental Power was also an evolution of the Way of the Heavens.

Such a strange ability was indeed rare.

If he had not seen it with his own eyes, Xu Xiaoshou would not believe that anyone could possess this ability.

No wonder when Xu Xiaoji turned into a stone that even Fu Zhi did not notice his presence.

"Are you not a human?" he asked again.

Now, Xu Xiaoji hesitated.

However, when he lifted his eyes slightly, his gaze inadvertently hovered to Aje. With that glance, he suddenly shrank back as though he had seen a ghost.

“Actually, I don’t know.”

“I also don’t think that I am a human being because my ability is too strange, but, honestly, I am not sure about it.”

“I can change into a stone, a knife, or a sword. Anything is possible.”

“Sometimes, when the time is up, a special force will emerge from my body.”

“With this power, I can kill a lot of people. That’s why I am a killer.”

Xu Xiaoshou nodded slowly. “So, you have no power now and can only be killed, right?”

“Yes.”

The Information Bar was not triggered, which meant that this guy was not lying.

Well, it was not surprising.

If Xu Xiaoji had dared to lie to him, he would not have revealed so many things from a single question.

Xu Xiaoshou glanced at Aje. In his heart, he once again thought that he had underestimated its abilities.

He daresay this was a walking interrogation tool. If he caught anyone in the future, and they refused to divulge any information, would they become a second Xu Xiaoji when he tossed them into Yuan Mansion?

Xu Xiaoshou contemplated the possibility, and the Information Bar flashed Feared vigorously.

He laughed suddenly.

He thought that the interrogation process would be difficult, but it went so smoothly that he was stunned.

“How often does your power appear?”

Xu Xiaoshou inquired curiously.

“I am not sure. I don’t know when the next time will come.”

Xu Xiaoji shook his head, his eyes brimming with confusion.

“After your power appears, will you assassinate me?”

Xu Xiaoji almost jumped up when he heard that question.

He immediately replied in horror, “No, it’s impossible! Even if my power appears, I am no match for Big Brother...”

He glanced at Aje with deep apprehension in his eyes. “It is even more unlikely that I would be its opponent.”

“What level is your strength?”

“Sovereign Stage.”

It caught Xu Xiaoshou by surprise. Sovereign Stage?

Did that guy have the power of the Sovereign Stage level? No wonder he dared to steal the Cardinal Wheel.

“You are lying to me!”

He suddenly thought of something and asked solemnly, “If you can’t control your power, how dare you attack the City Lord Mansion tonight and steal the Cardinal Wheel?”

“I’m not lying!”

Xu Xiaoji whispered in a trembling voice, “I have no choice but to attend the City Lord Mansion banquet dinner. I only had this one chance.”

“In terms of power, I can’t fully grasp it now. But every time before it appears, I can still sense it faintly.”

Xu Xiaoshou narrowed his eyes. “Is it appearing soon?”

Xu Xiaoji hesitated and nodded.

“Yes. If I am not mistaken, it should be by today or tomorrow.”

“This mysterious power will appear every month, but when it appears is unknown. It only lasts for a while when it does. I can only predict it a little bit...”

The more Xu Xiaoshou heard, the stranger he felt. It was a mysterious power that appeared at a fixed time every month, yet he still could not grasp it.

What kind of creature was this guy?

Suddenly, he seemed to have thought of something. He eyed Xu Xiaoji curiously, looking at him from head to toe, and asked, “Will you bleed?”

“Huh?” Xu Xiaoji was startled.

“When the power appears.”

“No.”

“In this case...”

With that, Xu Xiaoshou could only let go of this doubt for a while and no longer think about it.

He turned around and said, “The Cardinal Wheel.”

“Here you go, here you go.”

Xu Xiaoji retched a little and retrieved a square white jade spirit case from his mouth. He handed it over to Xu Xiaoshou.

This spirit case was glowing radiantly. It had translucent spiritual veins inlaid and a mysterious Way of the Heavens aura infused it.

The aura was probably due to the inscription feature of Divine Secret.

Xu Xiaoshou had seen such traces in Fu Zhi's Nested Spiritual Array, but it was not as strong as this.

There was an indentation on the spirit case, which seemed to be the key element.

The indentation was extremely deep with an air of mystery that seemed like it could swallow everything. It only took one look, and Xu Xiaoshou felt like his soul was about to be pulled in.

Xu Xiaoshou hurriedly looked away from it, but some doubts surfaced at the back of his mind.

The indentation did not seem to be deliberately created by the manufacturer. It looked like it was added on at a later time.

Glancing again at the deep indentation, Xu Xiaoshou inexplicably sensed the insignificant sword energy almost concealed by the overbearing Way of the Heavens aura.

At that moment, his pupils dilated.

"Indentation?"

"Sword indentation?"

Chapter 399: I Know The Solution to This

'According to what Fu Zhi said, the Cardinal Wheel was something that he obtained from the White Cave a few years ago.'

'At that time, there shouldn't have been anything else that was brought out.'

'With the opening of White Cave around the corner, the appearance of the Fourth Sword is even less of a secret.'

'Unless... Was the Fourth Sword stuck into the 'Cardinal Wheel?'

'What were they sealing within?'

Xu Xiaoshou immediately thought of all of that.

Now, there was not much time for him to think any further about it.

Things coming out of the White Cave had a lot to do with the reopening of the extradimensional space.

The faint sword cognition on the Cardinal Wheel led people to have further thoughts about their relationship.

'The Fourth Sword and the Cardinal Wheel... Could they be unrelated?'

'Did Fu Zhi not notice this sword cognition? After all, he had been studying it for four years...'

'No, it's possible that he could not have noticed it all!'

Xu Xiaoshou paused to ponder this for a while and finally made that realization.

He was a swordsman and one who had command over the Sword Technique Expertise. As such, he was able to notice that touch of sword cognition with only one look.

Fu Zhi did not have that Passive Skill. For someone who could cultivate to the level of a spirit array master, he would not have much time or effort to spend on cultivating as a swordsman as well.

Even if he did, it would not be possible for him to walk the path of the Ancient Sword Technique.

He might not have even possessed Acquired Stage Sword Will, so how would he have noticed that sword cognition?

'If that is the case, it might be possible that there was a double seal on it by both the Fourth Sword and the Cardinal Wheel.'

'Because of some unknown reason, was the sword pulled out and the wheel lost?'

'Did Fu Zhi accidentally obtain the Cardinal Wheel while the Fourth Sword lost its original purpose of being a seal years after reappeared?'

Xu Xiaoshou felt that he had guessed almost everything correctly.

Based on the intel that he had gotten, he could only come up with this guess.

If any other circumstance were to happen from now on, then the result might be different.

If there weren't any, or if the changes were minor and negligible, his guess would most likely still be correct.

Thinking about this, Xu Xiaoshou was not surprised. Instead, he felt a bit shocked.

'To be sealed by both the Cardinal Wheel and the Fourth Sword... What could it be?'

These two items were both godly items.

Could it be that was within the Cardinal Wheel?

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly remembered what Fu Zhi had said earlier about the Source of the World and was puzzled.

Could it be that this Source of the World was able to think and move about as well?

Since it was called a source, it couldn't be a person, right?

Other than the Source of the World, there seemed to be nothing else that needed to be sealed.

“Is it the secret of White Cave?”

Xu Xiaoshou suddenly spoke out loud.

He remembered Fu Zhi’s original words. At that time, he said that it could obtain the direction that the Source of the World was pointing or leading.

More importantly, it was possible to solve the secret of White Cave.

What secret did White Cave hold?

Regarding that point, Xu Xiaoshou was unable to guess.

Without entering the White Cave, how could he investigate the secret?

Temporarily putting this question aside, he looked at Xu Xiaoji and asked, “Why did you want to steal this Cardinal Wheel?”

Xu Xiaoji had been watching Xu Xiaoshou thinking hard in front of him and did not dare make a sound.

He only hoped that Xu Xiaoshou would release him after asking him all the questions he had.

Even though this possibility was slim, if he had to make a deal, he wanted to leave the damn place.

With Aje around, Xu Xiaoji did not want to stay there any longer.

If he did, he would go crazy.

Upon hearing the question, he replied directly without even thinking much.

“Based on my gut feeling.”

“This thing was calling out to me. It was as if once I had it, I would be able to uncover its secrets.”

Xu Xiaoji pointed at the Cardinal Wheel as his mind suddenly became alert and started to learn how to withhold some information.

If he had said everything he knew, he might accelerate his death.

“Have you solved it?” Xu Xiaoshou asked.

“No, not yet...”

Xu Xiaoji instantly looked wronged.

He had just gotten it before he was trapped in this place, so how could he have gotten the chance to solve it?

“Secret...”

Xu Xiaoshou did not doubt his words.

Compared to White Cave and Xu Xiaoji’s secret, the more important task was to save Mu Zixi.

“If I give you some time now, can you solve and decipher this thing?”

“I don’t know... Yes!”

Xu Xiaoji initially hesitated. Once he saw Xu Xiaoshou's darkened expressions, he immediately changed his words.

Even if he could not solve it, he had to.

He pulled over the spirit case on the ground and started to study the array patterns on it.

Xu Xiaoshou did not waste any time either. He started to study it as well.

Divine Spiritual Veins were on the spirit case.

This thing had been studied by Fu Zhi for four years before only barely being able to discover something about it.

Xu Xiaoshou was not someone who had been trained in conventional spirit arrays.

He was trained in the Weaving Technique. No matter if it was Divine Veins, spirit array veins, or something else...

As long as they were veins, he could decipher them using the teachings of weaving.

After leaving aside the intriguing sword slot, he immediately dove into it and was attracted by the Divine Spiritual Veins.

Different from the Way of Spirit Arrays, this Divine Secret was of another level.

Its veins were not created on tangible material. It was made of divine ways.

As long as the world existed and was not destroyed, this type of divine method could tap on that divine strength forever and be sealed for eternity.

Xu Xiaoshou felt that it was quite an eye-opener.

The Weaving Technique and Divine Secret had some similarities in terms of their outline, but the directions of the two were different.

The former encompassed a much larger field.

Veins and arrangement, rules and the world...

At least in terms of purpose, this was not something that the Divine Secret could compare to.

This did not mean that the Divine Secret would lose to it.

On the contrary, the latter's expertise on using the Divine Secret of the world to focus on the way of sealing was way above what Xu Xiaoshou could conceive in terms of being used in battle.

He observed it carefully as his expression slowly grew weird.

It seemed that no matter how special this Divine Secret was, as long as it used veins, it would not stray away from the coverage of the Weaving Expertise.

This also meant that using the logic of Weaving Expertise to understand the Cardinal Wheel's array veins seemed to be possible.

It was initially a thought that he wanted to try out. Xu Xiaoshou felt that he had opened a new door of possibilities.

Behind that door was Fu Zhi's stoned face.

He had examined it for four years and had only barely scraped the surface of it.

With just one look, Xu Xiaoshou was almost on the same level as him.

...

After a while...

The more he looked, the more he understood. His eyes started to become brighter. It was as if the clouds had cleared on a cloudy day.

“It’s really possible!”

The Divine Secret’s veil of mysteriousness had left Fu Zhi scratching his head in confusion.

In front of Xu Xiaoshou, who had a vast amount of knowledge obtained from the Weaving Expertise, this thing could not hide any secrets at all. It was as if it was naked with all its secrets displayed...

In plain sight.

Xu Xiaoji’s head was spinning as he looked from the side. He realized that he had made a big promise just now.

This Cardinal Wheel was indeed calling out to him. After obtaining it, he did not know how to use it or what its function was.

Was it worth to forsake his freedom just for this thing?

He looked to the sky as tears were about to roll down his cheeks. He suddenly saw Xu Xiaoshou display an expression of solving the problem and was instantly shocked.

What kind of a joke was this? Did he actually understand?

In the beginning, Xu Xiaoji had been squatting outside the sea of flowers waiting for his chance to strike.

He saw the whole process of Xu Xiaoshou entering the sea of flowers, exploding the spirit array, and suppressing Fu Zhi. He knew that this Cardinal Wheel had stumped Fu Zhi for four years.

This was Xu Xiaoshou's first time looking at it, yet he made such a face.

'What the f**k! You must be kidding!'

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Chapter 400: Quick, Pull It Out

"Xu Xiaoji, can you transform?"

Xu Xiaoshou's line of sight did not leave the Divine Array veins as he spoke.

"Yes."

Xu Xiaoji nodded in disbelief. "Do you understand this Divine Array?"

"Probably."

Xu Xiaoshou shifted his line of sight.

He had already seen through this array's veins. He was just unsure if the things that he saw using Weaving Expertise would contradict its original powers.

Even if he was uncertain, it was still worth a try.

Mu Zixi was still trapped inside. He had to save her.

When Xu Xiaoji heard that, he snickered to himself uncontrollably but did not dare show it.

"If that is the case, does it mean that you have deciphered this array wheel and can enter it to bring the things inside of it out?" He looked at him in surprise.

Xu Xiaoshou shook his head.

“There is the possibility, but it is still lacking something.”

He pointed at the sword slot and said, “Just now, I examined the center point of the array veins and realized that they all congregated to this sword slot.”

“It was something that was thrust into it in the later stages, but it could assimilate with the Divine Secret, turning into a part of the array veins that is inseparable.”

“To activate this Cardinal Wheel, the original sword has to be found. It might be the Fourth Sword, or it might be something else...”

Hearing all of this, Xu Xiaoji was lost, he did not really understand and asked, “Do we have that?”

“No.”

Xu Xiaoshou’s lips curled. “But we have you.”

Xu Xiaoji was surprised.

He immediately understood what he meant.

“Do you mean that you want me to turn into this sword and stab myself onto this array wheel?”

“Yes.”

Xu Xiaoshou smiled as he nodded.

“Are you kidding me?”

Xu Xiaoji was instantly afraid.

The prowess of this Divine Array was not to be joked around with.

It was something that had to do with the power from the heavens. One careless mistake could make it explode with blasts more terrifying than that of the explosion of the sea of flowers.

Would randomly stabbing himself into the slot even successfully help in acting as a bridge of communication for this Divine Array?

Come to think of it, the bigger possibility was that he would become the bridge leading himself to his death.

“I can’t... I can’t do it! I don’t believe in it!”

Xu Xiaoji retreated in shock.

Xu Xiaoshou stepped forward and solemnly held onto his shoulders.

“Trust me.”

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

Resented, Passive Points +1.

Feared, Passive Points +1.

This grab led to three notifications popping up.

Xu Xiaoji almost wanted to go insane.

“How do you expect me to trust you? You just said that it was just a possibility.”

Xu Xiaoshou was stunned for a while before he said, “You heard wrong. I said that it was definitely possible.”

Xu Xiaoji’s face turned green. His legs felt like jelly, so he almost fell.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

He clenched his teeth tightly and struggled to ask, “If it fails, what will happen to me?”

“It won’t fail.”

Xu Xiaoshou stated with confidence.

With a “plop,” Xu Xiaoji sat on the ground. His face was as pale as a sheet.

He looked at the young man in front of him as if he was looking at a demon smiling at him from the abyss.

The demon was saying, “Come on, jump down. You won’t die. My embrace is heaven.”

Was that believable at all?

Only a fool would believe it.

‘Could you at least respect my life?’

‘At the very least, this name was given to me by you!’

‘Everyone should be free and treated equally and with respect!’

“Time to transform... There’s no time.”

Xu Xiaoshou mercilessly waved his hand, breaking Xu Xiaoji’s train of thought.

Cursed, Passive Points +1.

“No, I won’t transform. I don’t want to die yet!”

Xu Xiaoji continued to struggle with the situation.

“I see how it is.”

With that, Xu Xiaoshou turned his head reluctantly and looked at Aje, who was eating a melon.

“Kill him.”

Xu Xiaoji was shocked.

“I will transform!”

Xu Xiaoji's exclamation contained his humiliation and devastation from Aje's treatment.

"How... How should I transform?" he asked shakily.

Xu Xiaoshou laughed. "Examine this sword slot and transform into whatever you think is suitable."

"Don't worry, I will be watching at the back."

"Don't panic. This is not a big problem."

Xu Xiaoji's lips twitched. He was so furious that his blood felt like it was boiling.

His body trembled as he glanced at the sword slot without taking a second look.

With a turn, he transformed into a sword.

It was a black sword with a narrow tip.

The body of the sword looked nice had some element of elegance. There were some bronze veins carved on it, but it was overall dull.

After all, the sword kept trembling, giving it a very cheap and common look.

Xu Xiaoshou was shocked.

Such a lively person had just transformed into a sword.

This was an interesting development.

The world certainly was very interesting.

What kind of body composition did he possess to be able to have such an ability?

Furthermore, there did not seem to be spiritual source activations at all.

"As expected, he is not a human!"

Xu Xiaoshou exclaimed his fascination as he casually grabbed the sword hilt.

"Be more gentle."

This sound of resistance caused Xu Xiaoshou to be stunned.

"This fella..."

He did not reply. He was about to insert the transformed Xu Xiaoji into the sword slot when there was another sound of resistance.

"Slow... Slowly."

"Hmm?"

"Will I really be okay?"

Xu Xiaoshou's brows twitched as he examined the sword in his hand.

"I couldn't tell that you were so afraid of death. Don't worry. I told you that you have me around to back you up!"

The sword was silent for a while before it said a simple but philosophical sentence.

"Being alive is quite nice."

Xu Xiaoshou was dumbfounded. He was at least 70% percent confident. If he wasn't, he would not have let Xu Xiaoji take this risk.

As for whether it would be successful or not... Whether him being a sword would allow for successful communication with the Divine Array Veins...

Regarding this, the remaining percentage that depended on fate was important as well.

Not entertaining Xu Xiaoji's resistance any longer, Xu Xiaoshou inserted the sword into the slot.

With this, the Cardinal Wheel seemed to have been attacked as the array veins lit up.

With a humming sound, the spiritual energy within Yuan Mansion was rapidly sucked dry along with the rich vitality.

Xu Xiaoshou immediately released his hold and took a step back.

"Has it been activated?"

That array vein was actually activated by the sword.

The communication with the Way of the Heavens was complete, but the rules in Yuan Mansion were not complete. Thus, the Divine Array Vein could only absorb that much energy.

The bright light that shone swam like a snake, slithering around before finally gathering on top of the sword slot.

When all of the light had entered the body of the sword, the Ji Sword suddenly stood up tall and straight. A sound of exhaling cold breath could be heard.

Right after that, there was a roar of pain.

"F*ck, Xu Xiaoshou, save me!"

"Pull me out quickly! Pull me out! It hurts!"

"This energy... I can't take it anymore! They are all coming into me! F*ck! F*ck!"

"I... I am going to explode! Ahhh!"

Miserable cries could be heard echoing in Yuan Mansion. It shocked the fish in the spiritual pond so much that they stopped jumping around.

Aje tilted its head as it looked with great interest at this spirit case that could scream.

Xu Xiaoshou immediately went forward and grabbed ahold of the sword hilt.

"That's right, pull me out quickly!" Xu Xiaoji cried both excitedly and painfully.

Xu Xiaoshou stood rooted to the spot.

He grabbed the sword hilt and held on.

The air was silent for a second.

Xu Xiaoji was confused.

“What are you doing?”

Suspected, Passive Points +1.

Xu Xiaoshou took a deep breath as he felt that surging and frightening amount of energy enter his body from the body of the sword, bringing him pain.

He did not pull out the sword. Instead, he softly consoled it.

“Do not panic. It will all be over in a while.”