

L. Wyatt 1571

Chapter 1571: The Most Ruthless Imperial Royal Family

"I didn't expect Second Young Master Myles to know about the 'Magical Inscriptions'. It seems, then, that you also know how the Magical Inscriptions on Young Master Beau's body came about?"

After hearing Myles Swayer's voice transmission, Wyatt Barnes looked deeply at Myles Swayer, then said meaningfully.

This time, Wyatt didn't use a voice transmission but spoke directly.

At this moment, Jordan Swayer's gaze also became sharp, staring intently at Myles Swayer, as if trying to see whether Myles would admit it.

"I don't know what you're talking about, what Magical Inscriptions or not, I've never heard of it."

Myles Swayer didn't expect Wyatt Barnes to speak out directly and was somewhat angry and embarrassed, though he dared not show it, pretending not to understand and playing dumb.

"Second Young Master Myles doesn't know about the Magical Inscriptions? That's quite surprising... Earlier, you were clearly the one who mentioned the Magical Inscriptions to me and even asked me to stand by and watch. Could it be that I heard it wrong?"

Wyatt Barnes said with a smile.

"You're falsely accusing me!"

Noticing Jordan Swayer's increasingly sharp gaze, Myles Swayer's face darkened, glaring fiercely at Wyatt Barnes, "Who exactly are you? What are your intentions? Do you intend to drive a wedge between me and Brother Beau?"

"Falsely accusing?"

Wyatt Barnes laughed, "Second Young Master Myles, you repeatedly claim that I'm falsely accusing... How about this, let's each make a Thunder Punishment Oath to see who is falsely accusing?"

As Wyatt Barnes spoke, he raised his hand, preparing to prick his finger, using blood as the medium to make a Thunder Punishment Oath.

"Who are you, to be worthy of me making a Thunder Punishment Oath against you?"

A flicker of panic appeared deep within Myles Swayer's eyes, but outwardly, he remained aggressive, letting out a cold laugh. Without even greeting Jordan Swayer, he prepared to leave with the masked man behind him.

At that moment, Jordan Swayer seemed to disappear with the wind.

When he reappeared, he was blocking the path of Myles Swayer and the masked man.

"Elder Crawford, what do you mean by this?"

Myles Swayer frowned and said.

"I think you both can make a Thunder Punishment Oath... this way, you can each prove your innocence, right?"

Jordan Swayer said calmly.

Upon hearing this, Myles Swayer's face slightly darkened, "Elder Crawford, who is he, to make a Thunder Punishment Oath against me? Don't forget, this is the Swayer Family. Surely, Elder, you are not intending to side with an outsider?"

"It's not about siding or not siding. Even if I am helping, it's helping you, giving you a chance to clear your suspicion."

Jordan Swayer continued.

While Myles Swayer's face grew darker and he was unable to respond, Jordan Swayer took action.

Circling around Myles Swayer, he struck at the masked man directly.

The aura of the Saint Realm expert, like dark clouds overwhelming a city, swept towards the masked man, causing the unprepared masked man's face to change dramatically.

Though the masked man's strength was not bad, almost at the 'Half-step Saint Realm', he had not yet broken through to the 'Saint Realm', leaving a significant gap between him and a Saint Realm expert.

Confronted with Jordan Swayer's aggressive approach, the masked man dared not be careless, unleashing all his abilities without reservation.

What a joke!

For him, holding back in front of a Saint Realm expert was tantamount to courting death.

However, precisely because of this, the masked man revealed the fact that he was a 'Demon Cultivator'.

When the masked man displayed the power belonging to a Demon Cultivator, Wyatt Barnes, standing beside him, could clearly sense the Demon Sealing Monument in his Storage Ring stirring restlessly.

Wyatt Barnes directly ignored it, as it was not yet his turn to act.

"Indeed a Demon Cultivator!"

Upon discovering the masked man was a Demon Cultivator, Jordan Swayer let out a sneer, and the aura rising from his body became even more intense, clearly showing that he was serious.

Myles Swayer's face changed dramatically, and in panic, he crushed a Jade Slip.

After the Jade Slip shattered, a beam of light as fast as lightning streaked across the sky, appearing like a meteor, and disappeared in a flash.

"A Jade Slip engraved with a 'Warning Saint Marking'?"

Wyatt Barnes raised an eyebrow, not unfamiliar with such a Jade Slip. Back when he was in the Moon Radiance Sect participating in the 'Hunting Assessment', he had acquired a similar Jade Slip.

However, compared to the Jade Slip he had back then, Myles Swayer's was clearly more advanced.

At least, when he crushed the Jade Slip to warn, even Jordan Swayer, a Saint Realm expert, failed to notice in time.

Of course, this was also because Jordan Swayer's attention wasn't on him.

Once Jordan Swayer realized the masked man was a Demon Cultivator, he attacked again, holding nothing back, and effortlessly slaughtered the masked man.

"Myles Swayer, you dare collude with a Demon Cultivator to harm your clan brothers!"

After killing the masked man, Jordan Swayer looked at Myles Swayer with a chilling gaze, his voice as cold as ice.

"Elder Crawford, I truly didn't know he was a Demon Cultivator."

Even at this point, Myles Swayer remained calm, speaking in a detached tone.

"You don't know he's a Demon Cultivator?"

Jordan Swayer sneered, "Save those words for when you're facing the Law Enforcement Elder."

As soon as he finished speaking, Jordan Swayer stepped forward to seize Myles Swayer, intending to take him to the Enforcement Hall.

Just then, a gust of wind blew by, and a medium-built middle-aged man suddenly appeared in front of Myles Swayer. He looked calmly at Jordan Swayer, "Elder Crawford, may I know what wrongdoing my son has committed for you to take him to see the Law Enforcement Elder?"

"Hunter Swayer, you've raised a fine son!"

Upon seeing the middle-aged man, Jordan Swayer frowned and coldly snorted, "Today, no matter what, I must take him to the Enforcement Hall... colluding with a Demon Cultivator and harming his clan brother, these are serious charges!"

"Hunter Swayer?"

Upon hearing Jordan Swayer refer to the middle-aged man, Wyatt Barnes couldn't help but take another look at him.

Hunter Swayer—Wyatt had heard of this name even before coming to the Swayer Family. He was the second head of the family, ranking below the family head 'Micah Swayer' and the three Elders Ancestor. He was also a Saint Realm powerhouse.

As Jordan Swayer finished speaking, he moved to seize Myles Swayer once again.

This time, Hunter Swayer did not intervene, simply watching calmly.

When Jordan Swayer took Myles Swayer away, he turned his head and took a deep glance at Wyatt Barnes before following them to the Swayer Family's 'Enforcement Hall.'

"This Hunter Swayer is not a simple character... Elder Crawford might not be able to handle Myles Swayer after all."

Wyatt Barnes thought to himself.

And the result was indeed as Wyatt Barnes had predicted; although Myles Swayer was punished, it was merely three months of facing the wall at the Enforcement Hall.

"How could the punishment be so light?"

Wyatt Barnes felt puzzled about this.

"Myles Swayer stubbornly insisted that he did not know the masked man was a Demon Cultivator beforehand... Moreover, he shifted all blame related to the Demon Markings onto the Demon Cultivator that I killed, claiming he was unaware of the imprinted 'Demon Markings.' Thus, the Enforcement Hall only charged him with associating with a Demon Cultivator."

Jordan Swayer said in a deep voice, his expression mixed with unwillingness.

"He should be made to take a Thunder Punishment oath to prove his innocence... I suspect he wouldn't dare to take such an oath. If he doesn't, then he's the mastermind behind the scenes."

Wyatt Barnes remarked, believing this could resolve the issue easily.

"It's not that simple."

Jordan Swayer shook his head with a bitter smile.

Soon, Wyatt Barnes learned the 'reason' from Jordan Swayer.

It turned out the Swayer Family wasn't a monolith.

Nominally ruled by the family head 'Micah Swayer,' nearly half of the Swayer Family's upper echelon secretly aligned with Second Master 'Hunter Swayer.'

As a result, the Swayer Family was divided into two major factions.

Additionally, the Swayer Family had five Saint Realm powerhouses, besides Micah and Hunter Swayer, there were three others.

Jordan Swayer was one of them, siding with Micah Swayer.

Among the two other Saint Realm powerhouses, one aligned with Hunter Swayer.

The last one remained neutral.

The neutral party was the strongest figure in the Swayer Family, ranking highest in seniority, even surpassing Jordan Swayer, who outranked Micah Swayer by one generation and was referred to as 'Elder Ancestor.'

According to Jordan Swayer, this 'Elder Ancestor' hadn't appeared for many years.

The last appearance was when Micah Swayer succeeded as the family head.

"I never thought the Swayer Family situation was so complicated... Does this mean that this matter can only be left unresolved?"

Wyatt Barnes asked.

"Since Young Master Beau was not harmed, there's nothing more to do... The Swayer Family may appear glamorous, but it's full of internal and external troubles. Even the family head couldn't easily sever ties with Hunter Swayer's side. If they split, it would undoubtedly shake the foundation of the Swayer Family and provide an opportunity for external enemies."

Jordan Swayer sighed. Though he felt dissatisfied, he was powerless, as that's the current trajectory of events.

"External enemies? Isn't the Imperial Family of Fletcher Kingdom supporting the Swayer Family?"

Wyatt Barnes frowned, "Could anyone ignore the Imperial Family and oppose the Swayer Family?"

"Imperial Family?"

Jordan Swayer shook his head, "Not to mention 'the most heartless Imperial Family,' the relationship between our Swayer Family and the Imperial Family hinges solely on 'Honorable Concubine Lela.' And forces daring to oppose the Swayer Family likely have similar ties or even closer connections with the Imperial Family."

"The open and covert rivalries among our families are actually condoned by the Imperial Family... They even worry when we live peacefully. Perhaps one day when peace reigns, the Imperial Family would deliberately stir conflict among us."

Jordan Swayer sighed towards the end.

Wyatt Barnes nodded, for he understood this.

The Imperial Family of Fletcher Kingdom naturally hoped the lesser powers below wouldn't coexist peacefully, as such peace could lead to their rapid rise, possibly even threatening the Imperial Family's position.

To eliminate this threat, the Imperial Family was naturally content to see lower entities bickering.

Chapter 1572: A Woman from the Mortal Continent

Wyatt Barnes did not care about how the Swayer Family resolved their internal conflicts.

Because those had nothing to do with him.

What he cared about was the materials he asked Family Head Swayer, Micah Swayer, to gather.

Those materials, of course, were not for dispelling the magic markings on the eldest young master of the Swayer Family, Beau Swayer.

The magic markings on Beau didn't actually require any materials; Wyatt just needed to use his mental power and spend a few days to completely remove them.

The complexity was intentionally designed so that the Swayer Family would help him collect some commonly needed materials for repairing the fourth layer of the Jewel Tower.

Furthermore, among the materials Wyatt asked Colton Swayer to collect, many were used for engraving the three-star Saint Markings.

Currently, Wyatt's cultivation had already broken through to the peak of Entering the Saint Realm, with his mental power evolved, ready to officially engrave the three-star Saint Markings.

However, although he could engrave the three-star Saint Markings, he did not have many materials at hand.

Thus, he could only utilize the Swayer Family as labor.

"Mr. Barnes, here are the materials you requested."

It's undeniable that Micah Swayer was efficient as the Family Head of the Swayer Family, gathering all the materials Wyatt listed within just half a month, placed in the Storage Ring, and delivered to Wyatt.

Of course, the smooth process was due to Wyatt not requiring Micah to find the rare materials needed for the Jewel Tower's repair.

Those materials were serendipitous and unattainable, even for a "Grade Seven Family" like the Swayer Family.

Therefore, Wyatt did not demand the impossible.

"In one month, I will return to Family Head Swayer a son full of vitality."

Wyatt took the Storage Ring with a smile and said.

"I believe in Mr. Barnes."

Micah Swayer smiled and nodded, unaware that Wyatt had already skillfully tricked him out of quite a few materials.

Even if he found out, he wouldn't complain.

After all, Wyatt was the only one who could cure his son; it was a classic case of using unique goods to demand high prices.

In the following month, Wyatt visited Beau Swayer every seven or eight days for treatment, spending the remaining time deducing and engraving the three-star Saint Markings...

After a month, engraving the three-star Saint Markings became as easy as a casual task for him.

Meanwhile, he completely dispelled the magic markings on Beau Swayer.

"Mr. Barnes, this life-saving kindness will always be remembered by me, Beau Swayer, and never forgotten."

With the magic markings completely dispelled, Beau fully recovered and solemnly bowed in thanks to Wyatt.

"There's no need to be so courteous, Young Master Swayer."

Wyatt responded with a gentle smile.

At the same time, Wyatt obtained two four-star Taoist Talismans, one four-star Divine Travel Talisman, and one four-star Golden Force Talisman, capable of granting speed and defense akin to Saint Realm power for a quarter of an hour upon use.

After learning that it was Wyatt's first visit to Fletcher Kingdom and he was unfamiliar with the area, Beau Swayer promptly invited Wyatt to stay at the Swayer Family mansion.

Family Head Micah Swayer wholeheartedly agreed with this decision.

Especially a few days later, when Micah learned from Beau that Wyatt was a "three-star Saint Markings Master," he was extraordinarily excited, personally visiting Wyatt to apologize.

"Mr. Barnes, I didn't know before that you were a 'three-star Saint Markings Master.' I apologize for any previous negligence, and I hope you won't mind."

What a joke!

Before Wyatt appeared, the Swayer Family only had one three-star Saint Markings Master.

And that Master was someone allied with Hunter Swayer.

Due to Hunter Swayer's monopoly over the Swayer Family's 'three-star Saint Markings' business, Micah often turned a blind eye to Hunter Swayer's actions, given the family's reliance on Hunter's expertise.

Therefore, upon discovering Wyatt's identity as a three-star Saint Markings Master, Micah immediately aimed to ingratiate himself.

Simultaneously, he offered Wyatt the freedom to stay as long as he wished in the Swayer Family, providing him with the highest Honorary Minister treatment.

Naturally, Wyatt's revelation as a three-star Saint Markings Master had been deliberate since his priority was to establish himself in the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom.

The identity as a three-star Saint Markings Master could indeed help him better establish his footing in the Swayer Family and the Capital City.

Additionally, the role demonstrated his value.

As Wyatt anticipated, several days later, Beau Swayer approached him, asking for assistance in engraving the 'three-star Saint Markings' on a batch of Holy Artifacts, "Mr. Barnes, this batch

of Holy Artifacts is for our Swayer Family's business sales... We will provide the necessary materials for engraving the Saint Markings, and we'll split the profits fifty-fifty with you. How do you feel about that?"

"That's certainly fine."

Though Wyatt knew he could negotiate for more profits, he chose not to.

He did not need those Holy Stones.

Moreover, by extending this favor to the Swayer Family, he ensured they would not neglect his future needs.

His concerns were not about the Holy Stone benefits but the potential profits ahead.

"Mr. Barnes, you..."

Wyatt's immediate consent surprised Beau Swayer, who had been prepared for negotiations.

And the bottom line his father gave him was a profit split of thirty to seventy.

Thirty percent for the Swayer Family, seventy percent for Wyatt Barnes.

He never imagined that Wyatt Barnes wouldn't negotiate at all and agreed directly.

At this moment, he felt somewhat guilty.

"Mr. Barnes, how about we give you a bit more of the profits?"

Beau Swayer said with a wry smile.

"No need, I don't lack Holy Stones."

Wyatt Barnes shook his head, then straightforwardly said, "Of course, if possible, I hope the Swayer Family can help me find my senior brother's whereabouts... I want to know if my senior brother has come to Fletcher Kingdom."

"It's just a small matter. Mr. Barnes, if you can draw a portrait of your senior brother, I'll have my father send someone to investigate throughout Fletcher Kingdom."

Beau Swayer said indifferently.

"Then I appreciate it. Besides, my senior brother is also a 'three-star Saint Markings Master'."

Wyatt Barnes nodded, and as he spoke, he emphasized the fact that Trevor Baillie is a three-star Saint Markings Master, "My senior brother is different from me. I'm used to being idle and might leave the Swayer Family sooner or later... If it's him, he might be willing to stay at the Swayer Family long-term."

As he spoke, Wyatt Barnes added another sentence.

Upon hearing Wyatt Barnes' words, Beau Swayer's eyes lit up.

After spending some time together, he had learned quite a bit about Wyatt Barnes, and had even found out that Wyatt Barnes was younger than him.

At that time, he knew that given Wyatt Barnes' accomplishments at his age, his future achievements would be limitless and that he might not stay with the Swayer Family for long.

Because of this, both he and his father were quite troubled.

But now, the news Wyatt Barnes brought was like dawn breaking, dispelling the shadows deep within his heart.

"Rest assured, Mr. Barnes. As long as your senior brother comes to Fletcher Kingdom, our Swayer Family will definitely find him."

Beau Swayer said confidently.

"Additionally, there's another matter..."

Seeing Beau Swayer about to leave, Wyatt Barnes stopped him.

"Mr. Barnes, is there anything else?"

Beau Swayer asked, not daring to be negligent.

"In Fletcher Kingdom, are there any strong figures ranked towards the top of the Heavenly Ranking?"

Wyatt Barnes asked.

"Yes."

Beau Swayer nodded, "In our Fletcher Kingdom, six people have entered the Heavenly Ranking, with the highest-ranked person being number eleven."

"Can you find him?"

Wyatt Barnes asked again.

"It might be hard to find him in the short term because it's said that he is currently seeking a breakthrough and might be in seclusion... Being a loose cultivator, his whereabouts are unpredictable, and no one knows where he might be secluded."

Beau Swayer shook his head.

"What about the strongest among the other five? Can she be found quickly?"

Wyatt Barnes asked once more.

"The strongest among the other five is ranked twenty-three on the Heavenly Ranking; finding her is not difficult, because she is from a seventh-tier sect in our Fletcher Kingdom's region... Mr. Barnes, are you planning to challenge her?"

Beau Swayer asked curiously.

Beau Swayer had heard from Jordan Swayer about Wyatt Barnes' extraordinary strength, and upon hearing Wyatt Barnes mention looking for Heavenly Ranking experts, he guessed Wyatt Barnes' intention.

Challenging Heavenly Ranking experts, if successful, allows one to replace them.

And that Heavenly Ranking expert will be removed from the list.

The rules of the Heavenly Ranking are designed this way to prevent anyone from deliberately losing to others, for whoever loses will be removed from the Heavenly Ranking.

"Yes."

Wyatt Barnes nodded; he indeed planned to challenge the Heavenly Ranking experts to ensure his name would spread throughout Fletcher Kingdom.

Moreover, he would gain some fame within the Ridge South Anderson Manor area.

Wyatt Barnes wasn't one to show off. The reason he planned to do this was to find Trevor Baillie and others more quickly... He believed that once Trevor Baillie found out he was at the Swayer Family, he would promptly come to reunite with him.

"Mr. Barnes, though I don't doubt your strength... challenging the one ranked twenty-three directly is quite risky. I suspect her current strength might be enough to break into the top ten of the Heavenly Ranking!"

Beau Swayer said apprehensively.

"Why do you say that?"

Wyatt Barnes asked, puzzled as to why Beau Swayer held the person ranked twenty-three in such high regard.

"Speaking of her, she's considered a 'legend' of Fletcher Kingdom... She's young, even younger than you, Mr. Barnes. Additionally, as far as I know, she hails from a distant 'Mortal Continent'! And such a woman from the Mortal Continent has shown an innate talent far surpassing her peers! Initially, she took half a year to rise from rank ninety-five to rank twenty-three on the Heavenly Ranking."

As he spoke, Beau Swayer couldn't help but become respectful, "Moreover, it's been half a year since she broke into the rank twenty-three position."

Chapter 1573: Floating Flame Sect, Miss Romero!

"From the Mortal Continent? And a woman?"

Hearing Beau Swayer's words, Wyatt Barnes was greatly surprised.

Even a woman from the Fletcher Kingdom achieving such accomplishments was enough to astonish him.

After all, that woman's age was even younger than his.

Moreover, from what Beau Swayer said, the fact that this woman could advance so much in just half a year spoke volumes about her talent, far surpassing the younger generation in Fletcher Kingdom.

And just like him, this woman was actually from the Mortal Continent.

"It seems that besides our Cloud Skies Continent, the other two Mortal Continents also have hidden talents,"

Wyatt mused to himself.

Upon learning of the existence of this woman, Wyatt's first thought was that she was from one of the other two Mortal Continents outside of Cloud Skies Continent.

After all, he came from Cloud Skies Continent, and if there were such an outstanding person here, he would have at least heard about it.

Of course, it's also possible that she's from Cloud Skies Continent.

Perhaps, she's just more low-key?

"If I defeat her, I should be able to become famous throughout the entire Fletcher Kingdom, right?"

Wyatt looked at Beau Swayer and asked.

"Of course!"

Beau Swayer nodded affirmatively, "If you can defeat her, not only will you become famous throughout Fletcher Kingdom... your name will also be known even at Anderson Manor in Ridge South. After all, this woman is a well-known figure even at Anderson Manor as of now."

Hearing Beau Swayer's words, Wyatt felt reassured and made his decision, "Then I will challenge her!"

"Have you decided?"

Seeing Wyatt make such a decision after learning about the woman's background, Beau Swayer was momentarily stunned and couldn't help but ask again.

"Yes, I've decided."

Wyatt nodded, "Please arrange it for me."

"There's no need for much arrangement... just send her a challenge letter,"

Beau Swayer shook his head and said, "Leave the matter of the challenge letter to me."

"Thank you."

Wyatt nodded, trusting Beau Swayer to handle the matter.

After Beau Swayer took the portrait with Trevor Baillie from Wyatt's hands, he left to find his father, Micah Swayer, the head of the Swayer Family.

Learning that Wyatt had a senior brother who was also a Three-Star Saint Markings Master and could be recruited into their Swayer Family as long as he was found, Micah Swayer naturally took great interest.

Beau Swayer could foresee that Wyatt wouldn't stay in the Swayer Family for long, just as Micah could foresee it too.

Even though he hadn't interacted much with Wyatt, he could still tell that Wyatt was a 'hidden dragon', ready to soar to great heights, beyond what their small Swayer Family could contain.

This often worried him.

After all, once Wyatt left, it would mean they would be without a Three-Star Saint Markings Master.

Now, with Wyatt's senior brother appearing, although not yet found, it still gave him a glimmer of hope.

"Father, I'll leave the matter of finding Mr. Barnes's senior brother to you... I still need to go issue a challenge letter to the Floating Flame Sect."

After handing the portrait to Micah Swayer, Beau said.

"Issuing a challenge letter to the Floating Flame Sect?"

Upon hearing Beau Swayer's words, Micah couldn't help but furrow his brow, "What's going on? When did you get involved with people from the Floating Flame Sect? How come I don't know about it?"

As he continued questioning, Micah's expression grew more serious.

The Floating Flame Sect was a seventh-grade sect within Fletcher Kingdom, its strength not beneath the Swayer Family.

Now, hearing that his son wanted to issue a challenge letter to the Floating Flame Sect, the first thought that crossed his mind was that his son had clashed with people from the Floating Flame Sect.

In his view, this wasn't good news.

"Father, you've misunderstood."

Beau Swayer shook his head, "It's not that I want to issue a challenge letter to the Floating Flame Sect, but I'm doing it on behalf of Mr. Barnes."

"Mr. Barnes?"

Micah furrowed his brow even deeper, "Does Mr. Barnes have a conflict with the Floating Flame Sect?"

"No."

Beau shook his head and, not waiting for further questions from Micah, explained directly: "Mr. Barnes wants to challenge the female disciple from the Floating Flame Sect who is ranked twenty-third on the Heavenly List... This time, I'm issuing the challenge letter on his behalf, specifically to challenge 'Miss Romero' of the Floating Flame Sect."

"Challenging Miss Romero?"

Knowing that Wyatt didn't have a conflict with the Floating Flame Sect, Micah sighed with relief. However, hearing what Beau said, he couldn't help but feel puzzled, "There might not be many strong people on the Heavenly Ranking within our Fletcher Kingdom, but there are several... Why did Mr. Barnes choose to challenge Miss Romero?"

"That Miss Romero is not an ordinary person."

Upon speaking, Micah Swayer also wore a heavy expression.

Regardless of whether it was Micah Swayer, Beau Swayer, or most people in the Fletcher Kingdom, they only knew that the female disciple who rose in the Floating Flame Sect in the past year had the surname 'Feng', and was referred to as 'Miss Romero'.

As for Miss Romero's full name, none of them knew.

Even within the Floating Flame Sect, there were only a few who knew the full name of Miss Romero.

In the Floating Flame Sect, both the Sect Elders and the disciples called her 'Miss Romero'. She was also the personal disciple of the Sect Leader, and in just a few years of entering the sect, she has occupied the seat of 'chief disciple', commanding the younger generation of the Floating Flame Sect.

A year ago, she was already called the number one below the few Saint Realm experts of the Floating Flame Sect!

"Father, although Miss Romero is indeed not a simple person... do you think Mr. Barnes is a simple person?"

Upon hearing Micah Swayer's words, Beau Swayer was somewhat non-committal.

"Mr. Barnes is certainly not simple... According to Elder Crawford, Mr. Barnes' strength is definitely capable of breaking into the Heavenly List! However, even if Mr. Barnes can break into the Heavenly List, it doesn't necessarily mean he can defeat Miss Romero of the Floating Flame Sect. Six months have passed, and that Miss Romero's strength is probably enough to break into the top ten of the Heavenly List."

Micah Swayer didn't seem optimistic about Wyatt Barnes while speaking.

"Father, I have already mentioned all these to Mr. Barnes... However, despite knowing all this, Mr. Barnes is still full of confidence, clearly having assurance. I believe Mr. Barnes would never shoot without aiming."

Beau Swayer spoke with full confidence in Wyatt Barnes.

Of course, this was also because Wyatt Barnes had pulled him back from Hell Gate and saved his life.

Naturally, he was somewhat biased towards Wyatt Barnes.

"Since Mr. Barnes is confident, you may go ahead and deliver the challenge letter on his behalf... After issuing the challenge letter, I will have Elder Crawford accompany you and Mr. Barnes to the Floating Flame Sect to face Miss Romero in a duel. If I weren't required to personally handle the family matters, I would have wanted to go and witness Miss Romero's elegance in person."

Micah Swayer said, and towards the end, there was a hint of regret in his words.

Although Miss Romero of the Floating Flame Sect was renowned throughout the Fletcher Kingdom, he had never seen her.

"I've long heard that Miss Romero is an unparalleled beauty... This time going to the Floating Flame Sect with Mr. Barnes, I can feast my eyes."

Beau Swayer chuckled.

"Go quickly. After Mr. Barnes' matter is settled, you should come with me to the palace to see His Majesty and discuss the marriage with Princess Delilah Brightfall."

Micah Swayer urged, and towards the end, his face was full of smiles.

Hearing Micah Swayer's words, Beau Swayer blushed and hurriedly left.

"That brat is still shy."

Watching Beau Swayer's figure vanish from sight, Micah Swayer shook his head with a smile full of affection.

One had to say, Beau Swayer was quite efficient with his tasks.

In just two days, the challenge letter dispatched by the Swayer Family had already been delivered to the 'Floating Flame Sect'.

To be precise, it was handed to a disciple at the entrance of the Floating Flame Sect's sect gate.

"The Swayer Family's Honorary Minister 'Mr. Barnes' challenging the 23rd ranked 'Miss Romero' on the Heavenly List?"

The Floating Flame Sect disciple's eyes widened upon seeing the contents of the challenge letter, "Doesn't even give his name, what Mr. Barnes, really putting on airs... Does he really think he can compare with our sect's Miss Romero? Hmph! Another one looking for a beating."

As a disciple guarding the sect gate of the Floating Flame Sect, although not on duty every day, he has received no less than ten challenge letters within the past year.

The content of those challenge letters was without exception, challenging their Floating Flame Sect's Miss Romero.

Although the challengers varied, their results were all the same... defeated by Miss Romero with just one glance!

As Miss Romero's reputation continued to rise, not a single challenge letter was seen in the past month.

Unexpectedly, after a month, another one came looking for a beating.

Moreover, this guy is particularly pretentious, no name, just claiming to be 'Mr. Barnes'.

If Wyatt Barnes knew what this Floating Flame Sect disciple was thinking, he would definitely feel wronged, because he had no knowledge of the contents of the challenge letter.

If he were the one writing the challenge letter, he would naturally include his name.

However, because the challenge letter was written on his behalf by Beau Swayer, and Beau Swayer respected him greatly, he naturally did not dare to put his name directly.

Mr. Barnes, in Beau Swayer's eyes, was a 'honorific title' representing his respect for Wyatt Barnes.

"The Swayer Family? Is it that Swayer Family from the Capital City?"

Another Floating Flame Sect disciple was also surprised upon hearing this.

"Seems like it."

The former nodded.

"Tsk tsk... and it's from the Swayer Family's Honorary Minister. If he loses, isn't the Swayer Family afraid of its reputation being sullied?"

Another Floating Flame Sect disciple mocked.

"Even if the Swayer Family's Honorary Minister loses, it shouldn't significantly affect the Swayer Family... After all, our Floating Flame Sect's Miss Romero is now hailed as the number one in the entering Saint Realm of the Fletcher Kingdom! If it weren't for the guy ranked eleventh on the Heavenly List hiding away, our Miss Romero would have already defeated him and secured the eleventh spot on the Heavenly List."

"I heard from an Inner Sect elder... that Miss Romero's current strength is indeed capable of reaching the top ten of the Heavenly List!"

...

Each Floating Flame Sect disciple spoke with admiration for Miss Romero.

Chapter 1574: Lanni Barnes Rising Like a Rocket

The residence of the Floating Flame Sect is located amidst a range of continuous volcanoes.

Of course, among these volcanoes, only a few in the center are 'active', while the rest are long dormant 'extinct volcanoes'.

The Inner Sect and Outer Sect areas of the Floating Flame Sect are located in the active volcanoes and extinct volcanoes, respectively.

In the Inner Sect area of the Floating Flame Sect, near the most active region of the volcano's lava, lies the sect's 'forbidden area'... simply because those who cultivate here are the Saint level experts of the Floating Flame Sect, akin to guardian deities of the sect!

Usually, only those at the rank of Inner Sect Elder or above can enter when necessary.

However, a few years ago, the rules of the forbidden area were changed because of one person.

She was the first person who, although not a Saint level expert, could cultivate in the forbidden area of the Floating Flame Sect... and she is also a personal disciple taken by the Sect Leader of the Floating Flame Sect, now known by the sect members as 'Miss Romero'.

Now, few people remember how many, in secret, envied and slandered her when this Miss Romero first came to the Floating Flame Sect.

They said she was merely lucky to have become the Sect Leader's disciple and flattered him, which allowed her to cultivate in the sect's most spiritually abundant 'forbidden area'.

It's worth noting that before her, the Sect Leader of the Floating Flame Sect had two other personal disciples, yet neither of them had the qualification to cultivate in the forbidden area.

However, years later, today, no one dares to say Miss Romero is not worthy of cultivating in the forbidden area.

What a joke!

Considering the achievements Miss Romero has made at her age now, she is guaranteed to break through to the 'Saint Realm' in the future, and possibly her future achievements may not be below that of the Sect Leader and the other Grand Elders.

This is because, at her age, neither the Sect Leader nor the other Grand Elders were as accomplished as she is now.

Therefore, there is no one in the Floating Flame Sect who is not convinced by Miss Romero.

In the forbidden area of the Floating Flame Sect, on a platform situated halfway up the mountain, stands a large courtyard.

The large courtyard is lush with flowers and trees, giving a tranquil and fresh impression.

At this moment, within the courtyard, stands a graceful woman, clothed in a fiery red robe, resembling a spirit of fire.

Her waist-length hair cascades like a waterfall, complementing her nearly perfect face, as though a fairy descended to the mortal world.

With willow-like eyebrows, bright eyes, a delicate nose, and cherry-like lips, each feature is crafted by the Creator with perfection.

This woman in the fiery red robe, even calling her beauty enchanting would not be an exaggeration.

"Still one step short."

The woman had just walked out of her room, sighed deeply, and murmured in a low voice, "Brother Barnes, Winnie will soon be able to meet you... Master said that as long as I break

through to the 'Saint Realm', I will be allowed to leave the Martial Dao Sacred Land and return to the Cloud Skies Continent. Rest assured, it won't be long before I take the final step and break through to the 'Saint Realm'!"

At some point, the woman stared southwards at the horizon, becoming absent-minded without realizing it.

In the end, she became completely entranced.

However, it wasn't long before she was startled out of her trance, and the person who disturbed her was none other than the Sect Leader of the Floating Flame Sect, Amelia Tyler.

Amelia was a graceful and noblewoman, and her nearly perfect face clearly showed that when she was younger, her beauty was not much inferior to that of the woman who calls herself 'Winnie'.

"Winnie."

As soon as Amelia appeared, she was beside the woman in red, causing the dazed woman to suddenly snap out of her stupor.

"Master."

Facing Amelia, the woman was respectful, for she knew her accomplishments today could not have been achieved without the unreserved nurturing of the master before her.

"Prepare yourself... in half a month, the Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family will be coming to our Floating Flame Sect, specifically to challenge you."

Amelia raised her hand, handing a letter of challenge to the woman.

"The Swayer Family? The Swayer Family of the Capital?"

The woman took the letter.

"Yes, the Swayer Family of the Capital... The people of the Swayer Family are never simple characters. This Honorary Minister from the Swayer Family, 'Mr. Barnes', is someone I've never even heard of before. You must be careful when facing him."

Amelia reminded her.

"Yes."

The woman nodded, and as she opened the letter and saw the word 'Barnes', she was momentarily taken aback.

"Mr. Barnes? Without even a first name, it seems he must also be an aloof person."

The woman said.

"No matter who he is or how aloof he might be... I have confidence in you."

Amelia said.

Meanwhile, far away in the Fletcher Kingdom's capital, within the Swayer family mansion, the eldest son 'Beau Swayer' once again approached Wyatt Barnes.

"Mr. Barnes, I have sent the challenge on your behalf to the Floating Flame Sect... In half a month, it will be your official challenge day against the 'Miss Romero' of the sect."

Upon seeing Wyatt Barnes, Beau Swayer directly stated.

Wyatt Barnes nodded, and then his gaze shifted as he asked, "The female disciple of the Floating Flame Sect, her surname is 'Romero'?"

"Yes."

Beau Swayer nodded.

"Surname 'Winnie', from a mortal continent... could it be Winnie?"

Even Wyatt Barnes didn't know why, but he suddenly had this thought in his mind.

"Do you know the full name of this Miss Romero?"

Wyatt Barnes took a deep breath and looked at Beau Swayer asking.

"I don't know."

Beau Swayer shook his head, "Not only me, but even most people in Fletcher Kingdom don't know her name... even in Floating Flame Sect, I fear there are not many who know her full name."

Wyatt Barnes nodded again, shaking his head to suppress the suspicion that Miss Romero is 'Winnie'.

"It can't be Winnie! Winnie's talent is good, but that's only in the Cloud Skies Continent... even if her foundation is strong, upon reaching Martial Dao Sacred Land, she's stronger than the average Martial Artist, but it's impossible for her to be so ridiculously strong!"

Thinking of the achievements 'Miss Romero' in Floating Flame Sect made in the past year, Wyatt Barnes completely dismissed the idea that she might be Winnie Romero.

However, recalling Winnie due to Miss Romero in Floating Flame Sect, Wyatt Barnes's heart was filled with melancholy, "Winnie, where are you? Do you know Brother Barnes is looking for you?"

Although Beau Swayer didn't know what Wyatt Barnes was thinking of, he seemed to sense Wyatt Barnes's heavy mood and tactfully left.

He knew that at this moment, what he could do in front of Mr. Barnes was not to disturb him.

Martial Dao Sacred Land, Dragonsmith Clan.

The mountain range where the Dragonsmith Clan resides may be mysterious and elusive to ordinary Martial Artists and Taoist Cultivators; even if they know the location, it's hard to enter.

Yet for some, entering the Dragonsmith Clan's lair is like walking into an unguarded land.

A middle-aged man, accompanied by a withered black-clad elder, swaggered into the Dragonsmith Clan's lair, making no special effort to hide, yet unnoticed by the patrolling Dragonsmith Clan.

Of course, that's because their speed was too fast, so much so that the Dragonsmith Clan with lower cultivation couldn't react in time.

Travel-worn, the two are none other than the House Master of Mansion of Azure Clouds, 'Lanni Barnes', and one of his trusted aides, Withered.

Originally, with the two's speed, they should have reached the Dragonsmith Clan after leaving Moon Radiance Sect.

However, something happened along the way.

"I never expected some from the Fire Worship Sect had left the 'Upper Domain' years ago and came to the 'Lower Domain'... if I'm not mistaken, they're searching for my daughter-in-law 'Keer'."

Even after entering the Dragonsmith Clan's lair, Lanni Barnes seemed distracted.

His thoughts were completely occupied by the people from the Fire Worship Sect he encountered on the road.

Those several, their strength, strong enough not to be much weaker than the Withered beside him... if they all attacked together, Withered might not even be their match!

And after killing several of them, leaving only one alive, and using the 'Soul-searching Technique', he learned they were insignificant figures within the Fire Worship Sect.

But since that one held no significant status in the Fire Worship Sect, Lanni Barnes didn't uncover much useful information.

He only found out they came to the 'Lower Domain' to search for someone, a person long determined by the Fire Worship Sect as 'Saintess'.

By piecing together clues left by his son, Wyatt Barnes, in the Cloud Skies Continent, he also vaguely suspected they were searching for his daughter-in-law, Keer, abducted by those claiming to be from the Fire Worship Sect.

Although he never met Keer, he wasn't unfamiliar with her.

Because he often heard his wife mention Keer, knowing she was his wife's most favored daughter-in-law and someone his wife watched grow up.

Whoosh!

Accompanied by a faint sound of wind whining, an elderly man in a blood-red robe blocked Lanni Barnes and Withered's path.

Just a moment before, Lanni Barnes had already noticed him and swiftly recovered his wandering thoughts.

"I was wondering who dared intrude on our Dragonsmith Clan... turns out it's Old Withered."

The elderly man's gaze quickly fell on Withered, clearly recognizing him.

Soon, his gaze shifted to Lanni Barnes in front of Withered; though Lanni Barnes was unfamiliar to him, seeing Withered trailing Lanni Barnes, he could easily guess Lanni Barnes's identity.

"Greetings, House Master Barnes."

After guessing Lanni Barnes's identity, the elderly man secretively drew a sharp breath, then cautiously saluted.

Lanni Barnes, House Master of Mansion of Azure Clouds, has risen to power in less than forty years.

Forty years, for their Dragonsmith Clan, is as brief as a nap.

Yet in such a short time, Martial Dao Sacred Land witnessed the emergence of a remarkable figure, 'Lanni Barnes'!

From obscurity to leading a force rivaling the Dragonsmith Clan's strength, Mansion of Azure Clouds, and becoming a great power, Lanni Barnes took less than forty years.

Though Lanni Barnes's age is not even a fraction of the old man's, he dared not show disrespect before Lanni Barnes.

Because he knew Lanni Barnes's strength far surpassed his own, capable even of matching their Clan Chief's prowess.

In terms of status, Lanni Barnes could stand shoulder to shoulder with their Clan Chief.

Chapter 1575: Mansion of Azure Clouds? Withered?

"House Master, he is the Five-Clawed Blood Dragon of the Dragonsmith Clan, Zen Blood."

As the elderly man in the blood robe respectfully saluted Lanni Barnes, Withered said to Lanni via sound transmission, "He is also the current Law Enforcement Elder of the Dragonsmith Clan."

"I seek Emperor End."

Lanni Barnes looked at Zen Blood calmly and said with a tranquil tone.

Emperor End?

If Lanni had said he was here to see their Clan Chief, Zen Blood would not have been surprised. But Lanni now mentioned Emperor End, which inevitably startled him.

Emperor End, although also a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon like the Clan Chief, has yet to fully mature.

His strength is decent, but far from comparable with even Zen Blood, let alone the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds here before him.

"House Master Barnes, may I ask your purpose in seeking Emperor End?"

Zen Blood hesitantly asked.

He could sense that this House Master from the Mansion of Azure Clouds likely did not come with goodwill.

"Zen Blood, must our House Master report to you when searching for someone in the Dragonsmith Clan?"

Withered sneered as his gaze fixed coldly on Zen Blood.

Although Zen Blood was a Five-Clawed Blood Dragon, Withered showed no fear, as to him, Zen Blood was an old adversary with whom he could stalemate. Zen Blood could neither defeat him nor could he overcome Zen Blood.

"I certainly did not mean that."

Were Withered alone, Zen Blood would not fear him, but with Lanni Barnes added to the mix, he was utterly intimidated.

Withered alone was enough to restrain him.

Lanni Barnes alone could easily defeat him.

The next moment, Zen Blood saw Lanni Barnes completely ignore him, striding directly into the depths of the Dragonsmith Clan's territory.

Simultaneously, a powerful Divine Sense swept out from Lanni Barnes, encompassing nearly half of the Dragonsmith Clan's territory in an instant, seemingly intent on turning the place upside down.

The strong Divine Sense placed substantial pressure on Zen Blood, although it was not directed at him, its proximity made breathing difficult.

"Rumor has it that this House Master Barnes, despite rising to prominence not long ago, possesses strength unmatched by the leaders of any force equivalent to the Mansion of Azure Clouds... Now it seems the rumors hold true; this House Master is stronger than I imagined."

Zen Blood's heart shook, full of dread toward Lanni Barnes.

Yet, seeing Lanni Barnes so brazenly ignore him in the Dragonsmith Clan's territory, fury welled within him, "House Master Barnes, you..."

Zen Blood just began to speak, intending to stop Lanni Barnes, but a black silhouette appeared in his path, interrupting him.

"Zen Blood, I am curious to see if you have improved all these years."

Blocking Zen Blood was none other than Withered.

Withered's gaunt body was cloaked in black clothing, the hand holding the cane vibrated rhythmically, his eyes emitted a captivating gleam, poised to strike Zen Blood at any moment.

Were Withered alone, Zen Blood would have acted long ago.

However, faced with Withered's obstruction, though unafraid of him, Zen Blood could not halt Lanni.

Thus, he did not attack.

"Go find the Clan Chief!"

This was the only solution Zen Blood could think of; within the Dragonsmith Clan, only the Clan Chief could possibly stop Lanni Barnes.

With this thought, Zen Blood vanished in a flash of bloodlight before Withered's eyes.

And Withered did not pursue but followed closely behind Lanni Barnes into the Dragonsmith Clan's grounds.

"Withered, you've interacted with Emperor End before. Bring him out!"

Lanni Barnes's expression was calm, but deep in his eyes lurked a killing intent.

That Five-Clawed Golden Dragon named 'Emperor End' had nearly killed his son, undoubtedly enraging him completely.

In this world, there were two people he deemed irreplaceable: his wife 'Christina Lee' and his son 'Wyatt Barnes.'

He had left Wyatt in the Cloud Skies Continent, hoping Wyatt would establish a solid foundation there, leading to greater improvement when he finally arrived at the Martial Dao Sacred Land.

Otherwise, he would have taken Wyatt to the Mansion of Azure Clouds long ago.

"Yes."

Withered readily nodded, his eyes also flashing coldly.

Upon learning that the Junior House Master had almost been killed by Emperor End, he felt great remorse.

After all, Emperor End had once passed through the southern region of the Martial Dao Sacred Land, a fact known to Withered and he even had contact with Emperor End. However, as he did not realize Emperor End targeted his family's Junior House Master, he had not intervened.

Had he known Emperor End's target, he would never have allowed Emperor End to head south.

Due to this guilt, Withered searched tirelessly and wholeheartedly for Emperor End using his Divine Sense.

As Lanni Barnes and Withered moved through the area, boldly wielding their Divine Senses to scour, they naturally disturbed numerous Dragonsmith Clan members... initially, these members appeared aggressive, intending to teach the two a lesson.

However, when several Four-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders revealed their true forms and were effortlessly defeated by Withered, they entirely lost their resolve.

"Who are they exactly?"

"They come to our Dragonsmith Clan as if roaming their own backyard!"

"Don't be disgruntled; if you have the ability, go defeat them."

"That elderly man in black clearly regards the middle-aged man highly... but it's this elderly man, seemingly the subordinate, who can easily defeat so many of our Four-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders."

"Unless the Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elder intervenes, I'm afraid no one can be his opponent."

...

Seeing Lanni Barnes and Withered becoming increasingly reckless, a group of Dragonsmith Clan members felt utterly powerless, having no choice but to watch with open eyes.

At the same time, they eagerly awaited the appearance of the Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elder.

"Who is it?! Who dares to intrude into our Dragonsmith Clan!"

Perhaps the cries of the Dragonsmith Clan members were heard by the heavens, because not long after, accompanied by a shout like a thunderclap, a robust figure appeared in the path of Lanni Barnes and Withered. It was a robust, elderly man in green attire.

The robust elder stood suspended in the air, with an aura that commanded respect without anger.

"Elder Lewis!"

"It's Elder Lewis."

"Elder Lewis is a Five-Clawed Divine Dragon of our Dragonsmith Clan, and if he takes action, he can surely handle that old man in black."

...

After the appearance of this robust elder in green, a group of Dragonsmith Clan members, wary of Withered's strength, all had their eyes light up.

Blocked by the green-clad elder 'Lewis,' Lanni Barnes couldn't help but frown, showing an unhappy expression.

"Get lost!"

Withered was even more direct, shouting explosively while raising his hand, and the void seemed to freeze.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

In a radius of a hundred meters, branches of withered trees appeared out of nowhere, vines-like, which in the blink of an eye bound and flung Lewis aside, as if playing.

Though Lewis was bound by the vine-like withered branches and desired to break free, he found that unless he transformed into his true form, he could not escape the bindings of these withered branches.

"Witherwood Domain! You... are you 'Withered' of the Mansion of Azure Clouds?"

Just as Lewis was about to transform into his true form, a flash of insight crossed his mind, deducing something from the domain that bound him.

However, Withered couldn't be bothered with him. After throwing him aside, he ignored him entirely.

Withered stood by, respectfully welcoming Lanni Barnes inside.

As a Five-Clawed Divine Dragon, Lewis naturally had his pride. Seeing Withered dare to ignore him, he instantly flushed with anger, thoroughly enraged!

"Roar!!"

Accompanied by an earth-shattering dragon's roar, Lewis directly transformed into his true form, appearing as a massive azure Divine Dragon hundreds of meters long. Each of his claws bore five sharp talons, unmistakably a Five-Clawed Azure Dragon.

The Five-Clawed Azure Dragon floated in the air, its body spanning hundreds of meters, almost covering the entire sky, giving the impression of a city about to be crushed by a dark cloud.

"Elder Lewis means business now!"

Witnessing this scene, many of the Dragonsmith Clan members' eyes shone brightly, watching intently.

"Who on earth is that old man in black that pushed Elder Lewis to transform into his true form in such a short time... truly extraordinary."

Some Dragonsmith Clan members noticed the details.

"Just now, Elder Lewis seemed to say the man in black is 'Withered' from the Mansion of Azure Clouds?"

One Dragonsmith Clan member questioned.

"Mansion of Azure Clouds? Withered?"

Many Dragonsmith Clan members shook their heads. Being seldom out in the world, it was their first time hearing of such a person.

"Hope he's not that Withered from the Mansion of Azure Clouds... otherwise, Elder Lewis might be in grave danger."

And those among them who had heard of the reputation of 'Withered' showed expressions of apprehension.

"Fellow elders, is that Withered from the Mansion of Azure Clouds really that formidable?"

Immediately, many of the newer members asked in puzzlement.

"Withered from the Mansion of Azure Clouds is a figure on par with our Dragonsmith Clan's Law Enforcement Elder 'Elder Blood'! Over the centuries, he's crossed paths with Elder Blood more than ten times, but each encounter ended in a draw, unchanged."

A Four-Clawed Divine Dragon elder spoke gravely.

"What?!"

His words instantly shocked many wide-eyed young ones around.

As members of the Dragonsmith Clan, they naturally knew the tremendous strength of 'Elder Blood'... ranking within the 'top three' even among their Dragonsmith Clan.

And such a figure had multiple evenly matched battles with this so-called 'Withered' of the Mansion of Azure Clouds.

"Hope he's not that Withered from the Mansion of Azure Clouds."

Instantly, many Dragonsmith Clan members secretly prayed.

But unfortunately, their prayers were destined to be futile.

In the blink of an eye, that elder who transformed into the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon had already exchanged more than ten moves with Withered.

Boom!!

Amid a tremendous sound, in the eyes of all the Dragonsmith Clan members, the emaciated old man in black stood there motionless.

As for their Dragonsmith Clan's 'Elder Lewis,' his massive true form was fiercely struck down, causing tremors in the surrounding mountains, like a massive earthquake had occurred.

Chapter 1576: Misunderstanding?

"Being able to demonstrate the Witherwood Domain with such strong power... you must be Withered!"

At that moment, the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon, heavily injured, ascended again. When looking at the emaciated figure enveloped in black clothing, its eyes were filled with wariness.

"Lewis, let's join forces. I refuse to believe we can't suppress a mere Withered!"

Without responding to the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon 'Lewis', another aged voice appeared.

Shortly thereafter, under the gaze of all, an elderly woman dressed in gray clothes appeared, staring coldly at Withered.

Before anyone could clearly see her appearance, her humanoid body vanished, replaced by a Five-Clawed Divine Dragon, stretching several hundred meters long... However, unlike the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon, she was entirely purple, evidently a Five-Clawed Purple Dragon.

Furthermore, judging by her body length, she was clearly much longer than the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon.

It's known in the Dragonsmith Clan, the longer the body, the stronger the power.

"It's Elder Jelly Tyler!"

"In our Dragonsmith Clan, Elder Jelly Tyler's power is second only to the 'Elder Blood', the Five-Clawed Blood Dragon... With Elder Lewis, she will surely defeat the Withered from the Mansion of Azure Clouds!"

"Withered from the Mansion of Azure Clouds is indeed well-known for his power, but to think of defeating the duo of Elder Jelly Tyler and Elder Lewis is out of the question."

...

After the appearance of the Five-Clawed Purple Dragon, the onlooking group of Dragonsmith Clan members were revitalized, watching the unfolding situation intently, eagerly awaiting the exciting moments.

Two Five-Clawed Divine Dragons battling the formidable Withered from the Mansion of Azure Clouds—this was a spectacle not often seen.

Meanwhile, Withered's expression turned slightly grim upon the Five-Clawed Purple Dragon's appearance.

"Hmph!"

In the midst of Dragonsmith Clan members anticipating Withered's clash with the two Five-Clawed Divine Dragons, Lanni Barnes, momentarily forgotten by them, abruptly let out a cold snort.

This cold snort seemed to possess immense magical power, causing the present Dragonsmith Clan members to shiver.

The next moment, they witnessed an unforgettable scene.

As the middle-aged man accompanying Withered nonchalantly lifted his hand, the void trembled, and space seemed on the verge of shattering.

Simultaneously, accompanied by two thunderous blasts, the Dragonsmith Clan members found to their astonishment that the two majestic Five-Clawed Divine Dragons were both forced downward, as if they were crushed under Mount Tai.

The two Five-Clawed Divine Dragons crashed into the mountains, naturally causing a significant commotion, akin to tectonic shifts.

Especially the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon, injured twice in quick succession, this time more severely, couldn't help but spew mouthful after mouthful of stagnant blood.

The situation of the other Five-Clawed Purple Dragon was hardly better.

"You... are you the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds?"

Seeing Withered respectfully follow behind the middle-aged man who had just attacked them, the Five-Clawed Purple Dragon's eyes flashed a hint of panic as she asked in a trembling voice.

In her view, the only one strong enough for Withered to follow so respectfully, possessing such terrifying strength, would be none other than the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds.

Although she didn't know why the House Master would appear in their Dragonsmith Clan, and with ill intent.

"Leap once more in front of me, perish!!"

Lanni Barnes's face remained calm, but as he looked at the Five-Clawed Purple Dragon, his eyes shot out a knife-like cold light, causing the Five-Clawed Purple Dragon's heart to tremble, not daring to doubt his words, obediently staying put without daring to move recklessly.

"House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds?"

Hearing the Five-Clawed Purple Dragon's words, the heavily injured Five-Clawed Azure Dragon nearly blacked out from fear.

The House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds is a power on par with their Clan Chief.

Just now, he actually showed off in front of such a being?

For a moment, he was so ashamed he wanted to dig a hole and crawl into the ground.

"House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds!"

Meanwhile, the group of Dragonsmith Clan members turned pale.

Even among those rarely venturing outside, they might not know who 'Withered' is, nor who the current House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds is... but they knew of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, a power so formidable it rivals their Dragonsmith Clan.

And for an entity like the Mansion of Azure Clouds, the 'House Master' is naturally an existence no less than their Clan Chief.

Realizing they're confronting a force akin to the Clan Chief, the Dragonsmith Clan members felt their legs soften.

The previously boastful four-clawed divine dragons now silently shut their mouths.

Are you kidding!

This individual here is the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds.

Even if they were obliterated, their Dragonsmith Clan might not possess the strength to avenge them.

With Lanni Barnes's intervention, the Dragonsmith Clan's two Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders were pacified, much less the other members.

Thus, Lanni Barnes and Withered continued together, venturing deeper into the Dragonsmith Clan's stronghold.

"Why hasn't the Clan Chief arrived with such commotion?"

"Not only the Clan Chief, but Elder Blood and several other Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders haven't come either."

...

The group of Dragonsmith Clan members began to secretly stir, feeling slightly uneasy.

The House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds has come with ill intentions.

Yet, their Dragonsmith Clan's Clan Chief and several other elders of the Five-Clawed Divine Dragons are mysteriously absent.

"No need to panic; the Clan Chief and several elders are surely occupied with something important...they will come."

Seeing the figures of Lanni Barnes and Withered gradually fading into the distance, Lewis, the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon who had recently taken human form again, duly reassured.

"Though the House Master is strong, the Clan Chief alone has the strength to face him without fear!"

Jelly Tyler, the Five-Clawed Purple Dragon, also resumed human form, appearing as an elderly woman, her voice raspy as she spoke.

With the reassurances from both elders of the Five-Clawed Divine Dragons, the emotions among the Dragonsmith Clan's members were significantly calmed.

"Found him!"

At that moment, Withered, who had been walking and searching with his Divine Sense, finally discovered Emperor End's whereabouts.

He found Emperor End while he was in closed-door cultivation.

It was due to Emperor End being in closed-door cultivation that the commotion outside did not stir him.

Poor Emperor End, in the crucial moment of his cultivation, was abruptly interrupted by Withered, who barged in and pulled him out.

Although he is a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, the pinnacle among Five-Clawed Divine Dragons, and of the royal line of the Dragonsmith Clan, he had not yet reached full maturity. His power was only slightly superior to Lewis, the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon who ranks lowest among the elders of Five-Clawed Divine Dragons within the clan, and thus he was no match for Withered, barely able to resist.

"Withered senior, what is the meaning of this?"

Being jolted awake and interrupted from his cultivation, Emperor End was naturally furious. Yet upon realizing it was Withered who had interrupted him, he immediately subdued his inner rage, asking in a deep voice.

"Your own deed, do you not know?"

Withered sneered condescendingly, raising his hand to deliver a slap to Emperor End, causing him to feel disoriented.

"Withered!!"

As a member of the dragon royal family, Emperor End's pride and dignity far exceeds that of other Five-Clawed Divine Dragons. He momentarily forgot Withered's superiority and exploded in rage, even transforming into his Five-Clawed Golden Dragon form.

Yet, given his current strength, how could he be a match for Withered?

With a mere reversal of his palm, Withered subdued him, forced him to transform back into human form, and carried him like a dead dog to Lanni Barnes.

During this process, Emperor End, unable to resist, glared wildly with his eyes, as if he could explode with anger at any moment.

This was the first time in his life he had suffered such humiliation!

He secretly vowed that he would not truly be a dragon unless he killed Withered!

"Are you Emperor End?"

Lanni Barnes looked at Emperor End, who was held like a lifeless dog by Withered, asking lightly.

"Who are you?"

Having been subdued by Withered, Emperor End temporarily held back, yet hearing someone questioning him in a near-interrogative tone, he coldly retorted, as if venting his inner rage on Lanni Barnes.

Slap!!

Upon Emperor End's retort, it was as if he had ignited a fuse; Withered, revering Lanni Barnes as a deity, raised his hand and delivered another slap. "Emperor End, your courage is not small indeed, to dare act so brazenly before the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds! Do you really have a death wish?"

"House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds?"

Being humiliated again by Withered, Emperor End, who was about to fight Withered to the death, was completely frightened upon hearing Withered's words.

The House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds is an existence as powerful as their Clan Chief!

Even the fully matured Emperor End of the future would not necessarily stand as the opponent of the House Master.

Most importantly, he had heard of the 'deeds' of this generation's House Master, knowing the strength of the foundation of this generation's House Master far surpasses those of previous generations.

It is said that the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds is not yet a hundred years old!

To possess power comparable to their Clan Chief while under the age of a hundred—is something Emperor End understands very well.

"House Master, are you here for me?"

Taking a deep breath, with his thoughts slightly clearer, Emperor End temporarily calmed down.

Upon noticing the glinting cold light within the House Master's eyes, Emperor End felt a chill rise within, whilst vaguely realizing Withered's treatment of him was likely due to this House Master.

However, he was perplexed, having never offended this House Master, why should he be treated like an enemy?

"House Master, is there some misunderstanding between us?"

Seeing Lanni Barnes remain silent, Emperor End panicked first.

He did not fear Withered.

Once he fully matures in the future, he is confident he can subdue Withered, kill Withered, for it is said, 'A gentleman's revenge is best served ten years later'.

However, he holds no confidence against this House Master.

"Misunderstanding?"

Lanni Barnes laughed, yet it was a cold laugh. "You almost killed my son...do you think there is a misunderstanding between us?"

Boom!!!

Upon hearing Lanni Barnes' words, Emperor End felt as if thunder had crashed within his ears, rendering him completely stupefied.

Chapter 1577: Dragonsmith Clan Chief, Emperor Mountain!

Lanni Barnes' words were no less than a bolt from the blue to Emperor End.

However, after being struck by this bolt from the blue, he immediately regained his composure, and with a bitter smile, said to Lanni Barnes, "Lord House Master, could there be some misunderstanding here? I've never even seen your son, so how could I have attacked him, almost killing him?"

At this moment, Emperor End's heart was filled with grievance, like a little girl who had her buttocks pinched.

The middle-aged man before him was the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, a formidable force on par with their Dragonsmith Clan, with strength that might even rival their clan chief.

An existence like this, even if given a hundred freedoms, he wouldn't dare provoke.

"It seems you truly won't give up until you reach the Yellow River."

Lanni Barnes sneered coldly, but wasn't bothered to explain anything further. Yet, the brilliance in his eyes grew even sharper.

"Emperor End, open your ears and listen carefully... Wyatt Barnes is the Junior House Master of my Mansion of Azure Clouds!"

Withered's eyes were filled with killing intent as he spoke in a deep voice.

Wyatt Barnes!

Withered's words, as they entered Emperor End's ears, were like a massive boulder smashing into a calm water surface, splashing innumerable droplets and leaving Emperor End once again in shock.

Wyatt Barnes—this name was certainly not foreign to him.

Recalling the humiliation he suffered at Wyatt Barnes' hands back then, his anger remained unabated, wishing he could drag Wyatt Barnes out and grind his bones to dust!

Additionally, he suspected that his son had died at Wyatt Barnes' hands.

As a result, he almost considered Wyatt Barnes as his top enemy.

From beginning to end, he never took Wyatt Barnes seriously. In his eyes, Wyatt Barnes was just a crafty young lad. If it hadn't been for his own carelessness back then, he wouldn't have fallen for Wyatt's trick.

That experience was a humiliation that could only be washed away with Wyatt Barnes' blood.

"Old Wu, could you be mistaken? Your Mansion of Azure Clouds is a formidable force in the Martial Dao Sacred Land on par with our Dragonsmith Clan... And that Wyatt Barnes is just a kid from the mortal continent. It's impossible for him to be related to your Mansion of Azure Clouds."

Taking a deep breath, Emperor End said with faint hope.

"Emperor End, perhaps you don't know... Not only does our Junior House Master come from the mortal continent, but our House Master does as well!"

Hearing Emperor End's words, Withered couldn't help but sneer.

And Withered's words completely shattered that last shred of hope within Emperor End, causing his face to change dramatically, revealing a look of horror.

The Wyatt Barnes he hated to the core was actually the Junior House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds!

How could this be possible?!

Even now, Emperor End found it difficult to believe, even though the matter was almost confirmed.

"You nearly killed my son, and if I do nothing, I wouldn't be worthy of being a father."

With a calm yet chilling gaze, Lanni Barnes glanced at Emperor End and said in a flat tone, "However, I won't bully you... I will suppress my cultivation to your level. If you can withstand ten moves from me, I won't kill you."

In Lanni Barnes' words lay an extremely powerful self-assurance.

Suppressed cultivation to the same level?

Ten moves?

Emperor End, who believed disaster had befallen him, suddenly saw his eyes light up upon hearing Lanni Barnes' words.

In his view, against a martial artist of the same level, he had a hundred percent confidence in winning.

Unfortunately, the imagination was beautiful, but reality was harsh.

Lanni Barnes was not at all comparable to an ordinary human martial artist.

Even though Emperor End transformed into a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon right from the start, he could barely withstand Lanni Barnes' eighth move.

Lanni Barnes' ninth move descended effortlessly, severely injuring Emperor End. The once awe-inspiring Five-Clawed Golden Dragon was now as wretched as a large mud eel.

"Impossible!!"

And Emperor End, gravely injured by Lanni Barnes, found it hard to accept this reality.

He could confirm that Lanni Barnes had indeed suppressed his cultivation to be on par with his own.

Yet even so, before Lanni Barnes, he still felt as if his hands were tied, unable to fully unleash his assaults.

Or to put it more accurately, he simply couldn't launch any attacks.

In his eyes, Lanni Barnes was like a mountain, a majestic peak that was insurmountable.

Every move Lanni Barnes made seemed like moving mountains and overturning seas, imposing immense pressure on him... This pressure emanated not only from the external environment but even from within himself, leaving him physically and mentally exhausted, nearly collapsing.

At this moment, he truly realized the terrifying nature of the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds.

"And this was with his cultivation suppressed to the same level as mine... Without suppressing his cultivation, how terrifying would his strength be? Even the clan chief might not be as strong, right?"

In that moment, Emperor End was completely shaken by the power Lanni Barnes displayed, so much so that he even forgot what Lanni Barnes had just said to him.

However, as Lanni Barnes withdrew and stood, a chilling killing intent flashed in his eyes, Emperor End shivered and finally reacted, his face changing dramatically.

"House Master Barnes, I admit that I almost killed Wyatt Barnes... but the reason I wanted to kill him was because he teased me, and he possibly killed my son!"

At this critical moment of life and death, Emperor End also threw caution to the wind, nearly roaring, "Is your son, House Master Barnes, the only child, and my son not a child? He killed my son, shouldn't I take revenge? Where is the fairness in that?"

"Fairness?"

Upon hearing Emperor End's words, Lanni Barnes couldn't help but chuckle coldly, "Emperor End, my age is probably not even a fraction of yours... In the Martial Dao Sacred Land, since

ancient times, it's all about respecting the powerful. In the face of immense strength, fairness simply does not exist! Surely, this is something you can't possibly not know?"

"If you truly want to talk about fairness, then when you killed the members of my son's sect, did you hear them mention fairness?"

"If you truly want fairness, then let me tell you... I, Lanni Barnes, am fairness!"

It was rare for Lanni Barnes to say so much, perhaps because he was happy about Emperor End's impending death, or maybe for some other reason.

In any case, just as his words fell, the aura around him completely changed.

As his aura shifted, the surrounding void trembled, as if the end of the world had arrived.

The terrifying aura emanating from Lanni Barnes surged in an instant, transforming into a monstrous black flame, as if it would incinerate the heavens.

Whoosh!!

As the monstrous black flames soared, half of the sky was enveloped by the black fire. Whether it was Lanni Barnes himself, Withered standing behind him, or even Emperor End standing in the distance ahead of Lanni Barnes, they were all submerged by the black flames.

As the black flames swelled, the aura of destruction spread wherever it passed, and even members of the Dragonsmith Clan watching from afar could distinctly sense this aura of annihilation.

In an instant, some of the lower-ranked members of the Dragonsmith Clan changed their expressions drastically, blood oozing from their seven orifices, clearly suffering severe injuries.

And this was from a distance.

Emperor End, situated in the very center of the black flames, undoubtedly bore the greatest pressure.

In Withered's eyes, with the House Master making a move, Emperor End was undoubtedly doomed!

However, at this moment, Lanni Barnes did not have any joy for Emperor End's imminent demise; his brow furrowed instantly, and he said coldly, "Emperor Mountain, you finally showed up!"

Emperor Mountain!

Upon hearing the House Master's words, Withered's heart trembled.

Emperor Mountain was certainly a name he was not unfamiliar with, as it was the name of the current clan chief of the Dragonsmith Clan.

If there was someone in the Dragonsmith Clan he was most wary of, it was undoubtedly Emperor Mountain.

Emperor Mountain, as the clan chief of the Dragonsmith Clan, was a presence comparable to his House Master, beyond his capability to contend with.

As the black flames in the void dissipated, as if night instantly became day, the Emperor End, who was supposed to be killed by Lanni Barnes, was now enveloped within a layer of golden light. Around the golden light, strands of solid golden streamers continuously weaved, resembling little golden dragons.

Within the grand golden light, besides Emperor End, who was extremely pale, there was also a robust old man.

The old man was clad in a golden robe, standing there, as if blending with the heavens and earth, bringing an immense pressure in an intangible way.

Of course, this pressure was directly ignored by Lanni Barnes.

However, Withered could not ignore it; his face turned solemn as he intentionally resisted this pressure.

This old man was indeed the clan chief of the current generation of the Dragonsmith Clan, Emperor Mountain!

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

...

At that very moment, including the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon 'Lewis' and the Five-Clawed Purple Dragon 'Jelly Tyler', who had been easily suppressed by Lanni Barnes before, five figures appeared behind Emperor Mountain, guarding Emperor End at the center like stars surrounding the moon.

The five figures, besides Lewis and Jelly Tyler, also included Zen Blood, in addition to two other old men.

Just by sensing the aura emanating from the two old men, it could be concluded that even if their strength was not as good as Zen Blood, it was not inferior to Jelly Tyler.

They were indeed two of the other three Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elders of the Dragonsmith Clan.

In the Dragonsmith Clan, traditionally, there are only nine Five-Clawed Divine Dragons.

And in this generation, because of the appearance of the Five-Clawed Demon Dragon 'Emperor Yonah', one of those spots was taken, leaving the Dragonsmith Clan with only eight Five-Clawed Divine Dragons.

Now, besides one Five-Clawed Divine Dragon who happened to be absent from the clan, the remaining eight Five-Clawed Divine Dragons, led by the clan chief 'Emperor Mountain', all gathered together, eyeing Lanni Barnes menacingly.

However, even in the face of seven Five-Clawed Divine Dragons, Lanni Barnes remained unfazed.

It was as if he was facing not seven Five-Clawed Divine Dragons, but seven ordinary people.

"House Master Barnes, it's one thing for you to break into our Dragonsmith Clan... but to think you want to kill our next clan chief, do you really think our Dragonsmith Clan is without anyone?"

One of the two previously unseen Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elders stepped forward, grimly staring at Wyatt Barnes and asked in a deep voice.

"Who do you think you are, to have the right to speak to our House Master with that tone?"

As Lanni Barnes ignored this Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elder, Withered stepped forward, staring menacingly at the opponent, and spoke coldly.

Chapter 1578: The Truth Revealed

"Withered, this is the Dragonsmith Clan, not your Mansion of Azure Clouds!"

The elder, his face flushed from Withered's words, glared coldly and shouted in a low voice.

"Stand down."

Just as Withered was about to speak again, Emperor Mountain interjected, addressing the elder with a calm tone.

Though the elder was a Five-Clawed Divine Dragon, he dared not overstep the authority of Emperor Mountain, the Dragon Clan Chief, and obediently stepped back.

However, his gaze towards Withered still flickered with coldness.

"What? Want to fight me?"

Noticing the chill in the elder's eyes, Withered sneered, "It's not that I look down on you... Within your Dragonsmith Clan, only three people can make me wary. You are not among them."

The elder's face turned red upon hearing this, but he was lost for words.

This was an undeniable fact.

Though he glared angrily at Withered, he was fully aware that he was not his match.

Within their Dragonsmith Clan, only two people could defeat Withered, and another could fight him to a draw. The rest, including himself, were no match for Withered.

Seeing the elder hesitate to speak again, Withered retreated behind Lanni Barnes.

"House Master Barnes, how has Emperor End offended you?"

Emperor Mountain looked at Lanni Barnes with a calm gaze and asked, seemingly unaffected by Emperor End's near-death experience.

"Emperor Mountain, what would you do if someone nearly killed your son?"

Lanni Barnes glanced at Emperor Mountain, a sneer on his face.

"Hmm?"

Upon hearing Lanni Barnes' words, Emperor Mountain's brows furrowed. He had just arrived and knew nothing of the situation.

He turned to look at Emperor End.

"His son is 'Wyatt Barnes'."

Emperor End, having narrowly survived, had a more composed expression. Seeing Emperor Mountain, the Clan Chief, looking over, he sent a message with bitter and helpless words.

Although he had not abandoned his hatred for Wyatt Barnes despite his father's status as House Master of Azure Clouds, he knew he had to yield. He was no match for the House Master and resisting blindly would be disastrous.

"Wyatt Barnes?"

Upon hearing Emperor End's words, Emperor Mountain's brow furrowed again.

He was familiar with the name, as it was tied to Emperor End's quest for revenge.

Unexpectedly, the target from the mortal continent was the son of House Master Lanni Barnes.

Despite Lanni Barnes being much younger than him, Emperor Mountain knew of his terrifying power—the previous House Master of Mansion of Azure Clouds, whose strength was comparable, had reportedly died at Lanni's hands.

Thus, Lanni Barnes ascended as the Mansion of Azure Clouds' House Master.

Though Emperor Mountain hadn't fought Lanni, he knew he might not have the upper hand even if he did.

"Emperor Mountain, today, if he dies, I will leave."

Lanni Barnes stated plainly, leaving no room for negotiation.

Hearing Lanni Barnes' words, Zen Blood and other Five-Clawed Dragon Elders were visibly shaken, with Zen Blood eventually stepping up to ask sternly, "House Master Barnes, what did Emperor End do to warrant this?"

"Zen Blood, I advise you to stay out of this."

Noting Lanni Barnes' lack of response, Withered coldly addressed Zen Blood, "Your Dragonsmith Clan's Emperor End would only deserve death at the House Master's hands! Do you know he almost killed our Junior House Master? Barnes Jr. is the House Master's only son."

"What?!"

Withered's words caused an uproar, with blood draining from the faces of Five-Clawed Dragon Elders, including Zen Blood, all turning to Emperor End.

"Emperor End, is this true?"

Zen Blood sternly asked.

Seeing Emperor End remain silent, the elders cursed him internally for his reckless provocation of such a formidable enemy.

Though labeling Emperor End as the culprit, in this moment of external threat, the elders prioritized the clan's interests, not intending to incite internal conflict.

"Withered, could this be a misunderstanding?"

Zen Blood questioned Withered in a grave tone.

"Misunderstanding?"

Withered laughed, "If there's any misunderstanding, it's your clan's Emperor End misjudging our Junior House Master. Even considering the implausible killing of his son, wouldn't it cleanse the Dragonsmith Clan? Would your clan really prefer the growth of a Five-Clawed Demon Dragon?"

A Five-Clawed Demon Dragon!

With Withered's words, Emperor End's face drastically changed; he hadn't expected Withered to mention this.

The Five-Clawed Demon Dragon was a Dragon Clan taboo.

Years ago, his son, the Five-Clawed Demon Dragon 'Emperor Yonah,' was supposed to be executed but was saved through his cunning plan.

Though leaving Emperor Yonah alive, he couldn't keep him in the Martial Dao Sacred Land, so he sent him to 'Crescent Island' near the mortal continent, Cloud Skies Continent.

Only he knew this secret.

Despite many within the clan suspecting Emperor Yonah hadn't died, lacking evidence to find him left them helpless.

Now, Withered exposed this truth, and Emperor End felt unease growing.

The Dragonsmith Clan Chief, 'Emperor Mountain,' fixed his gaze on Withered, a chilling glare marking his displeasure at Withered's disclosure.

"What? You all weren't aware that Emperor End's son, the Five-Clawed Demon Dragon, died only recently?"

Confident with Lanni Barnes as support, Withered fearlessly mocked the elders, "Lucky for you, the Five-Clawed Demon Dragon, though surviving, ultimately perished... Otherwise, upon growing stronger, your clan would face disaster! Haven't you forgotten the ancestral rule of the Dragonsmith Clan?"

The clan's ancestral rule dictated that any Five-Clawed Demon Dragon found must be killed immediately to avoid future troubles.

"Emperor End, your son really lived!"

Jelly Tyler glared at Emperor End, his expression dark.

Other Five-Clawed Dragon Elders looked equally displeased.

"Tsk tsk... Seems you were unaware."

Withered shook his head, clicking his tongue, "You should also know, the young man from your clan recently sought, 'Wyatt Barnes,' might be a great benefactor to your clan! And, he is also Junior House Master of Azure Clouds."

Withered's words struck like another explosive bomb.

The Dragonsmith Clan was seeking 'Wyatt Barnes,' known to the elders as a task assigned by the clan chief, not Emperor End.

Suddenly, Zen Blood and other Five-Clawed Dragon Elders cast questioning looks at their clan chief, Emperor Mountain, for confirmation.

Emperor Mountain nodded.

Seeing no point in further hiding the truth.

Instantly, Zen Blood and the others wore grim expressions; all nightmare stems traced back to Emperor End.

House Master Barnes had justified reasons to demand Emperor End's life.

In this affair, the Dragonsmith Clan fell short of legitimacy.

As Lanni Barnes squared off against the seven Five-Clawed Divine Dragons of the clan.

Far away in the Fletcher Kingdom's capital, Wyatt Barnes, along with the Swayer Family's eldest son 'Beau Swayer' and elder 'Jordan Swayer,' left the capital for Floating Flame Sect to challenge Miss Romero, ranked twenty-third on the Heavenly Ranking!

Chapter 1579: Mr. Barnes

At this moment, nearly half a month has passed since the Swayer Family's Honorary Minister, Mr. Barnes, issued a challenge to Floating Flame Sect's disciple, Miss Romero.

In this nearly half-month period, this duel has spread through the mouths of some Floating Flame Sect disciples. Although it hasn't been long, almost half of Fletcher Kingdom's people have received the news.

For a time, this duel became the 'grand event' that half of Fletcher Kingdom's people focused on.

Indeed, many powerful individuals have sent invitations to the Floating Flame Sect, preparing to arrive before the duel date to watch the duel.

One of the duel participants, Miss Romero of the Floating Flame Sect, is known by almost everyone in Fletcher Kingdom.

Miss Romero rose a year ago and became famous after bursting into the rankings of the Heavenly List.

If she wasn't very famous at that time, six months later, Miss Romero became completely known to the people of Fletcher Kingdom, and even in Ridge South's Anderson Manor, she has some notoriety.

It's because six months after Miss Romero squeezed into the bottom ranking of the Heavenly List, she struck again, defeating the twenty-third ranked person and taking their place, becoming ranked twenty-third.

Now, six months have passed since Miss Romero moved up to twenty-third in the Heavenly List.

Based on Miss Romero's progress in the previous six months, most people believe that she is now nine times out of ten capable of reaching the top ten of the Heavenly List.

However, if she wants to break into the top ten of the Heavenly List, she must leave Fletcher Kingdom.

It's because none of those who rank in the top ten on the Heavenly List, peak Entering the Saint Realm experts, are from Fletcher Kingdom.

The other participant in the duel, Swayer Family's Honorary Minister, Mr. Barnes, is barely known by anyone, and before this, no one had heard of such a person existing in Fletcher Kingdom.

In just less than half a month, with some deliberate efforts from the curious, people have managed to uncover some information about Swayer Family's Honorary Minister, Mr. Barnes.

Mr. Barnes appeared in the Swayer Family two months ago and upon his arrival, cured the strange illness of the family's elder son, Young Master Beau.

Keep in mind, before that, almost everyone believed Young Master Beau was doomed.

Even the fourth-ranked Saint Refiner from Fletcher Kingdom's Imperial Family was helpless against his illness, asserting that Beau wasn't just sick, but had caught something unclean, cursed.

When the fourth-ranked Saint Refiner from the Imperial Family pronounced Beau's death sentence, almost no one thought Beau could survive.

Mr. Barnes showed up.

Upon appearance, he spent just a month and a half pulling Young Master Beau back from Hell Gate, restoring him to full health, like a person without a scratch.

Moreover, it's heard that Swayer Family's Honorary Minister, Mr. Barnes, will have Young Master Beau accompany him in this challenge against Floating Flame Sect's Miss Romero.

Suddenly, everyone was astonished.

Who exactly is Mr. Barnes, to cure an illness that even a fourth-ranked Saint Refiner, dedicated to medicine, was powerless against? It's practically magical.

Some interested parties have begun deliberately digging into all matters of Swayer Family's Honorary Minister, Mr. Barnes, but haven't even gotten his name, only knowing the Swayer Family reverentially calls him 'Mr. Barnes', including the family head.

This Mr. Barnes seems to have appeared in Fletcher Kingdom from thin air; before this, no trace of his existence could be found.

In the eyes of Fletcher Kingdom's people at this time, as the Swayer Family's Honorary Minister, Wyatt Barnes is shrouded in a veil of mystery.

Even many power factions who send invitations people particularly want to witness the Heavenly List challenge, more so to see 'Wyatt Barnes', the Swayer Family's mysterious Honorary Minister, and discover what kind of person he is.

Among them, the factions usually at odds with the Swayer Family are the most active.

They have been openly and secretly competing with the Swayer Family for many years and had always known the Swayer Family well, however, a sudden appearance of a Mr. Barnes made them feel immense pressure.

The pressure naturally wasn't from Mr. Barnes's strength.

Challenging a Heavenly List expert sufficiently shows Mr. Barnes is only a martial artist or Taoist cultivator at the Entering the Saint Realm, posing no threat to them.

The pressure felt mostly comes from the 'mystery' Mr. Barnes subtly exudes.

After all, he cured a strange illness that even a fourth-ranked Saint Refiner and a group of Saint Realm experts were powerless against, which isn't something a common martial artist or Taoist cultivator at the Entering the Saint Realm can accomplish.

Thus, even before Wyatt Barnes and Floating Flame Sect's Miss Romero's duel began, Wyatt Barnes became renowned in Fletcher Kingdom.

Of course, his fame mainly comes from healing Young Master Beau.

Young Master Beau's strange illness had spread throughout Fletcher Kingdom, almost everyone knew of it; many even traveled thousands of miles to the Capital City, hoping to claim the reward posted by the Swayer Family, yet none succeeded.

Even Wyatt Barnes was a bit surprised when he first heard it from Young Master Beau.

"Mr. Barnes, your reputation is already spreading widely throughout Fletcher Kingdom... even if you lose in your duel with Floating Flame Sect's Miss Romero, as soon as you state your name, your name will sweep through Fletcher Kingdom like a hurricane! Then, as long as your brother is in Fletcher Kingdom, he will surely know you're with our Swayer Family and come to find you."

Young Master Beau said smilingly to Wyatt Barnes.

"What? Young Master Beau has such little confidence in me?"

Hearing Beau Swayer's words, Wyatt Barnes shook his head with a smile and asked somewhat mockingly.

Upon hearing this, Beau Swayer gave an awkward smile, quickly trying to remedy his statement: "Of course not, I was just presenting one possibility."

Although he indeed felt that Wyatt Barnes might not stand a chance against Miss Romero from the Floating Flame Sect, he dared not voice this in front of Wyatt Barnes, afraid of angering him.

However, he underestimated Wyatt Barnes's magnanimity.

When he inadvertently made those comments, Wyatt Barnes could already guess his inner thoughts, yet he didn't mind.

Wyatt Barnes knew very well that some things, no matter how eloquent he might be, would be hard to convince others of.

The only way to make others believe is through actual deeds!

So, after hearing Beau Swayer's explanation, Wyatt Barnes didn't pursue the topic further and instead changed the subject, "Young Master Beau, in a month, Myles Swayer's three-month seclusion will be complete... At that time, he will leave the Enforcement Hall. Since he failed this time, we don't know what he'll come up with to deal with you next. What's your plan?"

As he spoke, Wyatt Barnes looked at Beau Swayer and asked.

Upon Wyatt Barnes mentioning 'Myles Swayer,' Beau Swayer's face immediately seemed to overlay with a layer of frost, chilling to the bone.

Myles Swayer was the main culprit who almost cost him his life last time.

Due to certain reasons, he and his father couldn't completely turn against Beau Swayer's lineage, so they settled the matter by letting it end with the Demon Cultivator's death.

However, in his heart, this matter could never truly be over.

After all, he nearly died!

If he had died, the future of the Swayer Family would certainly be dominated by Myles Swayer.

And if Myles Swayer became the head of the Swayer Family, with his ruthlessness, Beau Swayer and his father's lineage would undoubtedly face a dire fate.

"Mr. Barnes, although I've heard of some of Myles Swayer's deeds before, I never thought he would strike at me so viciously... Having suffered once, I will not suffer a second time!"

After taking a deep breath, Beau Swayer spoke slowly, his tone growing colder, akin to being in an ice cave.

"As long as you are aware."

Wyatt Barnes smiled lightly, holding Beau Swayer in high regard.

As for Myles Swayer, he harbored no fondness.

"If you need my help, don't hesitate."

Wyatt Barnes added.

"Thank you, Mr. Barnes."

Upon hearing Wyatt Barnes' support, Beau Swayer's eyes suddenly brightened. He quickly bowed to express his gratitude, performing the courtesy of a junior.

Although Wyatt Barnes might be younger by a year or two, in his heart, Wyatt Barnes held a highly esteemed position, and he didn't consider him an equal.

"At our current pace, we should reach the 'Floating Flame Sect' by this afternoon, right?"

Looking at the blazing sun on the horizon, Wyatt Barnes asked with a smile.

"Yes, we'll arrive this afternoon."

Beau Swayer nodded, "Once we arrive, we'll rest at the Floating Flame Sect for a night... Tomorrow, we'll familiarize ourselves with the sect's environment, and as 'guests' of the Floating Flame Sect, we'll tour the grounds. As for your scheduled match with Miss Romero from the Floating Flame Sect, it's set for the day after tomorrow."

"Hmm, your arrangements are fine."

Wyatt Barnes nodded. Although Beau Swayer wasn't much older than him, in handling certain matters, even he couldn't keep up.

The phrase 'every field has its expert' perfectly describes such a scenario.

Leaving the Capital City of Fletcher Kingdom, heading towards the Floating Flame Sect, Wyatt Barnes and his entourage naturally included more than just him, Beau Swayer, and Jordan Swayer.

Additionally, there were five individuals hidden in the shadows.

If not for Wyatt Barnes's experience in counter-surveillance from his previous life, he might never have noticed these five individuals.

These five people lurked in the dark like dormant poisonous snakes, poised to strike and possibly kill at any moment.

"Five 'Half-Saint Realm' individuals... And they seem to have practiced some kind of body-concealing secret art. Apart from me, those below the Saint Realm likely wouldn't be able to detect them."

After activating the 'Heavenly Eye,' Wyatt Barnes could clearly sense the formidable aura faintly emanating from these five hidden individuals.

Though they remained concealed, they couldn't escape Wyatt Barnes's 'Heavenly Eye,' completely exposed to Wyatt Barnes's view.

Chapter 1580: Floating Flame Sect Leader 'Amelia Tyler

Of course, the reason for assuming the five people are at the 'Half-step Saint stage' is because they gave Wyatt Barnes the same feeling as the Vice Sect Leader of the Moon Radiance Sect did back then.

Especially after Wyatt Barnes's cultivation broke through to the 'Peak of Entering the Saint Realm,' his perception became even sharper.

These five people followed him when he left the Swayer Family, he was sure of that.

"Could it be that they are five of the 'Eighteen Shadow Guards' of the Swayer Family?"

Recalling some stories he had heard during his time at the Swayer Family, Wyatt Barnes speculated.

During his time at the Swayer Family, he occasionally heard some of the family's direct descendants mention some unknown 'secrets,' which included the Swayer Family's 'Eighteen Shadow Guards.'

It is said that most of the 'Eighteen Shadow Guards' of the Swayer Family are at the 'Half-step Saint stage.'

Each of them might not compare to the strong ones on the 'Heavenly Ranking,' but because they never expose themselves to the sunlight, even those ranked strong on the 'Heavenly Ranking' may falter against them.

And if the strong ones on the 'Heavenly Ranking' are slightly unaware and careless, they might very well die at their hands.

This is the terrifying aspect of the Swayer Family's Shadow Guards.

The Eighteen Shadow Guards of the Swayer Family are directly controlled by the Family Head.

So, these five Shadow Guards should have been sent out by Family Head Swayer, Micah Swayer.

"Family Head Swayer's intentions are indeed thorough... With these five Shadow Guards present, even in case of unexpected situations along the way, we need not worry."

Wyatt Barnes thought to himself.

"However, the foundation of the Swayer Family is indeed frightening... Although both are seventh-rate forces, the Moon Radiance Sect is far inferior."

Perhaps, the number of Saint Realm experts in the Moon Radiance Sect is not less than the Swayer Family.

However, in terms of quality, they might not surpass the Swayer Family.

Additionally, in the aspect of Half-step Saint stage, the Moon Radiance Sect falls far behind the Swayer Family.

The Moon Radiance Sect has only a few Vice Sect Leaders at the Half-step Saint stage, while the Swayer Family, not to mention those Half-step Saint Elders, but even among the Eighteen Shadow Guards, more than half are at the 'Half-step Saint stage.'

In this regard, the Moon Radiance Sect simply cannot compare.

With five Shadow Guards hiding in the dark to resolve problems, Wyatt Barnes, Beau Swayer, and Jordan Swayer faced no obstacles and smoothly arrived at the Floating Flame Sect.

The Floating Flame Sect is a sect similar to the Moon Radiance Sect, hidden among the mountains.

However, the location of the Floating Flame Sect is within a group of extinct and active volcanoes, making it somewhat more prominent than the Moon Radiance Sect.

On the journey, Wyatt Barnes also learned about the 'Floating Flame Sect' from Beau Swayer, realizing that the Floating Flame Sect's strength is somewhat greater than the Swayer Family... all because of its Sect Leader.

The Sect Leader of the Floating Flame Sect is a powerful woman named Amelia Tyler.

And it is this Sect Leader of the Floating Flame Sect whose strength is said to be unmatched among the seventh-rate forces within the Fletcher Kingdom!

Moreover, this is acknowledged by numerous Saint Realm experts from various forces.

What kind of concept is this?

Amelia Tyler, Sect Leader of the Floating Flame Sect, a powerful woman, is recognized as the strongest in Fletcher Kingdom among the seventh-rate forces and below.

Because of Amelia Tyler's presence, even the Imperial Family of Fletcher Kingdom is unwilling to provoke the Floating Flame Sect lightly.

Furthermore, someone even said.

Even within the Imperial Family of Fletcher Kingdom, those who can surpass Amelia Tyler are very few.

Upon learning of the prowess of the Floating Flame Sect's Sect Leader, Amelia Tyler, Wyatt Barnes was surprised for quite a while, never expecting that in such a vast Fletcher Kingdom, a female martial artist could achieve such a feat, which was indeed astonishing.

Additionally, he learned that the 'Heavenly Ranking's' twenty-third ranked Miss Romero he would be challenging is the personal disciple of Amelia Tyler.

For a moment, Wyatt Barnes couldn't help but silently marvel, "Indeed, like teacher, like student!"

Of course, Wyatt Barnes also knew that with the potential Miss Romero is currently displaying, if her future path is smooth, surpassing her mentor Amelia Tyler would definitely be within her grasp.

After learning from Beau Swayer about the presence of 'Amelia Tyler,' Wyatt Barnes was filled with curiosity about this Sect Leader of the Floating Flame Sect, curious about what kind of woman she was, leading a seventh-rate sect to become recognized in Fletcher Kingdom as the 'foremost force' below the Imperial Family.

In the Martial Dao Sacred Land, respect the powerful.

Perhaps, the Floating Flame Sect doesn't even need Amelia Tyler, and might not surpass some other seventh-rate forces.

However, just because of Amelia Tyler's presence, the Floating Flame Sect far exceeds other seventh-rate forces.

In the Martial Dao Sacred Land, when someone is strong enough, supporting a force becomes very feasible.

Upon arriving at the Floating Flame Sect, they were naturally greeted by disciples of the Floating Flame Sect.

However, Wyatt Barnes also noticed that the disciples of the Floating Flame Sect, after learning he was the Honorary Minister 'Mr. Barnes' of the Swayer Family, looked at him with a gaze that showed some pity.

"It seems they are very confident in that Miss Romero."

For Wyatt Barnes, it wasn't hard to speculate, and at the same time, he became increasingly curious about what kind of woman could achieve such outstanding accomplishments in such a short time.

Now, he was somewhat eager to meet that 'Miss Romero'.

However, he also learned from Beau Swayer that to meet Miss Romero, he would have to wait until the day after tomorrow, the day of his duel with her.

Before that, it was almost impossible to see Miss Romero.

It wasn't because Miss Romero needed to prepare for the battle, but because she always abided by her routine, usually staying in the restricted area of the Floating Flame Sect, rarely seen even among the many inner and outer sect disciples.

It is said that in the past year, the disciple of the Floating Flame Sect who has seen Miss Romero the most has only seen her a handful of times.

This only highlighted Miss Romero's increasing mystery, arousing Wyatt Barnes' strong curiosity.

Although the disciples of the Floating Flame Sect didn't have a good attitude towards Wyatt Barnes and his two companions, as hosts, they honestly arranged accommodation for the three of them in a mansion on the hillside of a dead volcano in the outer sect area, which was clean and clearly prepared by the Floating Flame Sect.

"This is your residence. Please have a good rest tonight... Tomorrow morning, our Grand Elder will come to see you."

The Floating Flame Sect disciple said to Wyatt Barnes and his two companions before leaving, seemingly unwilling to stay a moment longer.

The three of them exchanged glances and smiles and then entered the mansion, each finding a room to settle down.

Meanwhile, in the distant Dragonsmith Clan, Lanni Barnes grew a bit impatient.

Since Withered had revealed the 'big news,' the Dragonsmith Clan under the leadership of 'Zen Blood' and the five Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders were filled with discontent towards Emperor End.

At this time, the Clan Chief of the Dragonsmith Clan, 'Emperor Mountain,' greeted Lanni Barnes, saying they would come up with a satisfactory result after discussion.

And Lanni Barnes waited and waited, waiting for an entire afternoon.

If it weren't for his fear of Emperor Mountain, as the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, Lanni Barnes wouldn't have waited so long.

However, after an afternoon passed, Lanni Barnes couldn't wait any longer, "You discussed for an entire afternoon and still haven't come to a conclusion?"

Lanni Barnes' tone was full of dissatisfaction, bringing Emperor Mountain and the others back to their senses.

Aside from Emperor End, who stood pale and didn't participate, the five Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders led by 'Zen Blood' were transmitting their voice to discuss a resolution with the Dragonsmith Clan Chief 'Emperor Mountain.'

After all, this matter indeed had the Dragonsmith Clan at fault.

Not to mention the son of the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds might not have killed Emperor End's son, even if he did, it was helping them, clearing a threat for their clan.

The threat of the Five-Clawed Demon Dragon was terrifying just to think about, as perceived by the five Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders led by 'Zen Blood.'

They believed that if this incident spread and reached the ears of the Dragonsmith Clan members, Emperor End would surely become the target of everyone's anger... and the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, even if he barged into the clan unceremoniously, would not be blamed, because in the eyes of the clan members, he was innocent, even considered as the father of their benefactor.

Despite their pride, Dragonsmith Clan members are a grateful group and do not forget kindness.

Whoever helps them, they remember for a lifetime.

As the Clan Chief of Dragonsmith Clan, Emperor Mountain can decisively make decisions in many matters without considering the feelings of other clan members, including the several Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders.

However, concerning Emperor End's situation, he was also at fault.

After all, he knew Emperor End's son was still alive and had been killed by someone.

Later, he even assisted Emperor End, ordering the clan members across the Martial Dao Sacred Land to hunt down Wyatt Barnes, the enemy of Emperor End.

So, in this matter, Emperor Mountain knew he couldn't ignore the feelings of several Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders.

Still, during the afternoon discussion, he reaffirmed his stance.

That is, Emperor End cannot die!

Emperor End, being a Five-Clawed Divine Dragon and a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, was the only heir apparent for the next Clan Chief of the Dragonsmith Clan.

If Emperor End died, it would mean the Dragonsmith Clan would lose its heir.

In the Dragonsmith Clan, the Clan Chief heirs have always been Five-Clawed Golden Dragons since ancient times, according to clan rules.

No matter how exceptional a non-Five-Clawed Golden Dragon clan member is, they cannot become the Clan Chief of the Dragonsmith Clan.

The Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, more akin to a 'faith' representing the clan, is an irreplaceable belief among them.

"House Master Barnes."

Emperor Mountain looked at Lanni Barnes and said in a deep voice, "We will give you an explanation for this issue."

"As long as you are willing to give me an explanation... Speak, what do you plan to do? Should I take him away to kill him, or kill him in front of you?"

Lanni Barnes glanced at Emperor Mountain casually and said.

Upon hearing Lanni Barnes' words, Emperor End's face changed immediately, showing anxiety as he looked at Emperor Mountain, genuinely worried Emperor Mountain would hand him over.

As the saying goes, 'concern causes confusion,' which describes Emperor End's current state.

Emperor End seemed to forget that he was the only Five-Clawed Golden Dragon besides the Clan Chief 'Emperor Mountain,' and even if he made more mistakes, the Dragonsmith Clan could not cut off the Clan Chief lineage's inheritance.