

L. Wyatt 1581

Chapter 1581 Angry Emperor Mountain

"House Master Barnes, as the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, you should be quite familiar with our Dragonsmith Clan... If Emperor End weren't a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, given his grave mistake, I would hand him over to you without hesitation."

Emperor Mountain looked at Lanni Barnes and said, "But he is a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon! The significance of a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon to our Dragonsmith Clan is something you, House Master Barnes, must clearly understand. There's no way we can hand him over to be slaughtered."

Emperor Mountain's words were decisive, leaving no room for negotiation.

"Indeed!"

At this moment, even the Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elders of the clan, who would have loved to give Emperor End a beating, nodded in agreement.

On this matter, they stood unconditionally on the side of the Clan Chief.

If Emperor End were not a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, they would not have spared him, even without Lanni Barnes's intervention.

However, because Emperor End is a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, as members of the Dragonsmith Clan, for the sake of the clan's greater good, they have no choice but to protect him, as he represents the future of the clan.

This generation's Clan Chief of the Dragonsmith Clan, Emperor Mountain, although he possesses seemingly endless life.

Nonetheless, according to the clan's rules, a thousand years later, Emperor Mountain must leave the Dragonsmith Clan... to be precise, leave the Dragonsmith Clan in the Martial Dao Sacred Land's Lower Domain.

At that time, Emperor Mountain needs to join the Dragonsmith Clan in the Martial Dao Sacred Land's Upper Domain.

This is the mission of a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon of the dragon royal family and a rule set by the Upper Domain Dragonsmith Clan, which even Emperor Mountain cannot defy.

And when that time comes, after Emperor Mountain leaves, the Lower Realm Dragonsmith Clan will need a new Clan Chief.

And this Clan Chief can only be a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon.

Currently, in the Lower Realm Dragonsmith Clan, Emperor End is the only Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, so it is only justified that he's destined to be the next generation's Clan Chief of the Dragonsmith Clan.

Even though a group of Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elders, led by Zen Blood, are very displeased with Emperor End's actions, they have no choice.

Regardless of whether the Dragonsmith Clan still has another Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, they would not so mindlessly protect Emperor End.

Hearing the words of Clan Chief 'Emperor Mountain,' Emperor End breathed a sigh of relief.

At this moment, he realized that he had been too anxious earlier. As a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon and the next successor of the Dragonsmith Clan, the clan would never let anything happen to him.

"Emperor Mountain, I'm not interested in knowing the significance of a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon to your Dragonsmith Clan. All I know is that this Emperor End almost killed my son! Furthermore, your clan is making a grand search for my son. Do you intend to find him and then hand him over to Emperor End to be killed?"

As Lanni Barnes spoke, his tone was laced with boundless anger.

In his fury, the headband restraining Lanni Barnes's long hair snapped instantly, and his hair flowed without wind, complementing the overwhelming demonic energy emanating from him, making his long hair appear as if they were living serpents.

Simultaneously, Lanni Barnes's aura completely transformed.

His normally black pupils seemed to be covered with a layer of blood-red hue.

He radiated an overwhelming killing intent that directly targeted the seven Five-Clawed Divine Dragons of the Dragonsmith Clan.

Apart from Emperor Mountain, Emperor End, and the five Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elders led by 'Zen Blood,' all had a drastic change in expression.

The less powerful Emperor End and Lewis were even forced by the killing intent to turn red-faced and cough up blood.

Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Buzz! Buzz!

...

At the same time, the void centered around Lanni Barnes seemed to utterly distort.

Many flowers, plants, and trees in the mountain forest were uprooted.

Even the distant members of the Dragonsmith Clan could feel immense oppression and retreated, fearing to be caught in the crossfire.

"What a powerful aura!"

After retreating, a group of four-clawed Divine Dragon elders showed heavy expressions, their eyes filled with fear.

Other members of the Dragonsmith Clan were already petrified, "Is this... the aura of the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds?"

At this moment, Lanni Barnes was like a 'Demon God' ruling over heaven and earth.

The power of the Demon God was unstoppable!

"House Master Barnes, do you really intend to let things progress to this extent?"

Emperor Mountain's face darkened, his body shining with golden light, transforming instantly into a kilometer-long Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, whose might far exceeded that of a prior Five-Clawed Azure or Violet Dragon.

Once the kilometer-long Five-Clawed Golden Dragon appeared, spiraling in the sky, it obscured the blazing sun, plunging most of the Dragonsmith Clan's territory into darkness.

"Is that... the Clan Chief's true form?"

At this time, a group of Dragonsmith Clan members hiding at a distance, raised their heads and saw Emperor Mountain's true form, expressions filled with horror.

"The Clan Chief's true form has appeared... Could it be that he intends to fight the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds?"

Several members of the Dragonsmith Clan had drastic changes in expression.

If these two titans of the Martial Dao Sacred Land's Lower Domain were to battle, most of the Dragonsmith Clan's territory would be doomed to destruction.

"Emperor Mountain, it seems you're planning to fight me."

Facing the true form Emperor Mountain had taken, Lanni Barnes appeared calm, seemingly unaffected by the immense aura emanating from Emperor Mountain's massive form.

In contrast, the face of Withered behind Lanni Barnes was somewhat grim.

Though Withered was strong, even within the Mansion of Azure Clouds, capable of ranking among the top.

However, against a top-tier powerhouse like Emperor Mountain, standing on equal footing with Lanni Barnes, his strength was considerably weaker.

"House Master Barnes, if you insist on killing Emperor End, I will have no choice but to fight you to protect him."

Emperor Mountain's voice boomed like thunder, "Of course, if you are willing to choose another resolution, our Dragonsmith Clan would naturally consider you a friend... We Dragonsmiths never act against friends."

"Oh? Are you threatening me?"

Lanni Barnes laughed, a surge of black flames suddenly rose around him, the demonic flames were overwhelming, as if they could devour everything.

Simultaneously, Lanni Barnes's eyes seemed to erupt with two scarlet flames, ready to consume all they beheld.

Seeing the increasing momentum of Lanni Barnes's aura, which even suppressed his own, Emperor Mountain's massive pupils showed traces of apprehension and ire.

On one hand, he was wary of Lanni Barnes's power.

After all, Lanni Barnes rose to prominence in a relatively short time, yet his strength was widely recognized, even ranking ahead of his on the Extreme Saint Ranking.

Going against Lanni Barnes, to be honest, he wasn't more than fifty percent confident in victory.

On the other hand, he was annoyed by Lanni Barnes's lack of willingness to back down. Didn't Lanni Barnes see that he was trying to make peace?

Here was the Dragonsmith Clan; as the Clan Chief, he couldn't easily diminish the clan's prestige.

Yet, he found that Lanni Barnes seemingly couldn't grasp his intentions and genuinely wanted a showdown.

The problem was, even if he truly wanted to battle Lanni Barnes, he wouldn't choose to do it here.

Chapter 1582 Leader Singleton

"House Master Barnes, speak... What conditions do you require to spare Emperor End's life?"

Witnessing Lanni Barnes's genuine intent to clash with him, Emperor Mountain conceded first. Though unafraid of battling Lanni, he hesitated when considering the potential repercussions for the Dragonsmith Clan should he lose.

As Clan Chief of the Dragonsmith Clan, he represents the clan's every action, hence he wouldn't dare rashly jump into combat.

"Clan Chief!"

Seeing Emperor Mountain's compromise, the faces of Zen Blood and the others were not looking good.

Though they too understood it's unwise to completely fall out with Lanni Barnes, the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, the sight of the Clan Chief compromising at their very doorstep left them feeling extremely aggrieved.

Of course, they didn't dare vent their anger at Lanni Barnes, as Lanni himself wasn't in the wrong.

For a moment, Zen Blood and the others glared resentfully at Emperor End. Had he not been a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, they would've taken matters into their own hands long ago.

However, Emperor End ignored Zen Blood and others.

Realizing the Dragonsmith Clan would protect him regardless, he felt no fear.

Yet, when looking at Lanni Barnes, a chilling cold light also lurked deep within his gaze.

The events of today, the shock brought upon him, only now could he begin to settle.

Never had he expected that the renowned House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, Lanni Barnes, was the father of the Wyatt Barnes he wished to kill.

Now assured of his survival, his thoughts began to expand once more.

His hatred toward Wyatt Barnes intensified even more.

Of course, he dared not show it now.

"Wyatt Barnes, who would've thought you're Lanni Barnes's son... The humiliation your father has brought me today, I will make you pay back a hundred times over! Unless you cower forever in the Mansion of Azure Clouds, under your father's protection; otherwise, I, Emperor End, will surely kill you!"

In his heart, Emperor End raged incessantly. If Wyatt Barnes appeared before him now, he would tear Wyatt apart without hesitation!

Now, he no longer bothered with thoughts of whether Wyatt was possibly the perpetrator behind the death of his son, Emperor Yonah.

For even if Wyatt had nothing to do with Emperor Yonah's death, he still wouldn't let Wyatt go.

"What's the matter? Emperor Mountain, you've transformed into your true form and you're not going to play with me a bit to stretch my muscles?"

Hearing Emperor Mountain's words, Lanni Barnes showed no intention to restrain the overwhelming devilish flames coursing through his body, instead he sneered and inquired.

These words brought a flush of embarrassment to Emperor Mountain.

Of course, given that he was now in his thousand-meter long Five-Clawed Golden Dragon form, it was impossible to see his facial expression.

In moments, Emperor Mountain's massive form vanished, transforming back into human shape—a dignified elder dressed in a golden robe, his stout physique standing there like a towering structure, exerting an intangible pressure.

With the thousand-meter long Five-Clawed Golden Dragon disappearing, it was as if most of Dragonsmith Clan's dwelling plunged into darkness only to be re-illuminated.

"Did they not fight?"

For a brief period, all the distant members of the Dragonsmith Clan couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

Although keen to witness personally the duel between their Clan Chief and the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, they equally dreaded the thought of havoc wrecking their Dragonsmith Clan abode should they truly engage in battle.

"House Master Barnes, show mercy when possible!"

Just as Emperor Mountain was transforming back into human form, yielding somewhat before Lanni Barnes, a voice seemed to emerge from everywhere, hauntingly speaking.

"Hmm?"

Hearing this voice, Lanni Barnes furrowed his brow. The voice sounded familiar, yet he couldn't promptly recall who it belonged to.

Contrary to Lanni Barnes, Emperor Mountain felt relieved upon hearing the voice, as though he found salvation.

Moments later, a figure barely discernible to both Lanni Barnes and Emperor Mountain skimmed across the sky, in the blink of an eye appearing beside Emperor Mountain and revealing himself.

The newcomer was, surprisingly, a young man.

The youthful man's stature was imposing, his face possessing a certain charming devilishness, a coin-like mark adorning his brow akin to a totemic symbol.

Clothed in a flowing black robe, the robe fluttering soundlessly, with his blood-red hair cascading over his shoulders, lending an enchanting yet distinctive allure to his devilish handsome visage.

The first impression this youth gave was simply 'beauty'.

"Leader Singleton."

In face of this alarmingly young-looking man, Emperor Mountain offered him a greeting proactively.

He didn't expect this person to make his return.

Previously delaying his appearance was due to meeting this person, hence the postponed arrival.

"Leader Singleton!"

Zen Blood and several other Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elders bowed respectfully toward the youth.

"Leader Singleton? Could it be... the one from the Shadow Mountain Black Market?"

Standing aside, Emperor End's expression altered slightly, his face showing amazement as he stared at the strangely handsome black-robed young man, his heart filled with shock.

"Why are you here?"

Upon seeing the black-robed youth, even Lanni Barnes couldn't help but furrow his brows.

He showed no such expression when facing Emperor Mountain.

Yet, before this black-robed youth, a sense of apprehension unfurled within.

"House Master Barnes, if you can visit the Dragonsmith Clan as a guest, why can't I? Perhaps I've arrived here even before you... But, were it not for the powerful aura both you and the clan chief emitted, confronting each other, I might not have sensed it, nor returned here."

The black-robed youth smiled seemingly amiably toward Lanni Barnes.

Of course, it was merely outwardly amiable.

Glimpses of cold light occasionally flickered deep in his eyes, evidently at odds with Lanni Barnes.

"Hmph! Your Shadow Mountain Black Market's business extended into the Dragonsmith Clan... Don't you find your reach excessive?"

Lanni Barnes sneered.

"That's not for House Master Barnes to worry about... However, I am more curious, why has House Master Barnes come to the Dragonsmith Clan? Making such an overbearing entrance, unyielding in might."

The black-robed youth showed intrigue while looking at Lanni Barnes.

"That's not for you to concern yourself, Leader Singleton. Your Shadow Mountain Black Market's reach doesn't bother me... But, concerning today's affair between myself and the Dragonsmith Clan, you'd best not interfere, or I won't mind paying a visit to your Shadow Mountain Black Market's lair!"

Lanni Barnes spoke coldly.

Upon hearing Lanni Barnes's near-threatening words, the black-robed youth's friendly smile vanished as well, "House Master Barnes, does the Mansion of Azure Clouds intend to simultaneously declare war on my Shadow Mountain Black Market and the Dragonsmith Clan?"

"Leader Singleton, if you wish to witness such a scene, I certainly wouldn't mind fulfilling that! However, you might need to inquire Clan Chief Emperor Mountain whether his Dragonsmith Clan is willing to accompany your Shadow Mountain Black Market in madness!"

Lanni Barnes scoffed, seemingly unfazed by the black-robed youth's threats.

Chapter 1583: Dragon Washing Pool

Upon hearing Lanni Barnes' words, the young man in the black robe immediately looked at Emperor Mountain, who was now a bit embarrassed.

The two people before him were the House Master of Mansion of Azure Clouds and the Leader of the Shadow Mountain Black Market. Mansion of Azure Clouds and the Shadow Mountain Black Market had always been rivals. If unnecessary, he naturally did not wish to be involved.

Moreover, he was very clear in his heart.

Even if the Dragonsmith Clan joined forces with the Shadow Mountain Black Market to oppose Mansion of Azure Clouds, they might not really be able to destroy it.

And if they failed to destroy Mansion of Azure Clouds, what awaited his Dragonsmith Clan was endless disaster.

The Shadow Mountain Black Market, however, was different from them; it had always been a rival to Mansion of Azure Clouds. Even if they were to feud again, it wouldn't affect the Shadow Mountain Black Market much, but it was a far-reaching matter for the Dragonsmith Clan.

Furthermore, the conduct of the Shadow Mountain Black Market had always been questionable.

If it were just cooperating with the Shadow Mountain Black Market in certain aspects, that would be fine. After all, there were many forces on Martial Dao Sacred Land that had more or less cooperation with the Shadow Mountain Black Market, but most just aimed to earn benefits from it without wanting to mingle together.

Once their Dragonsmith Clan became allies with the Shadow Mountain Black Market and birds of a feather, the reputation of the Dragonsmith Clan on Martial Dao Sacred Land would inevitably be significantly affected.

The Shadow Mountain Black Market mostly engaged in shady dealings, and its reputation on Martial Dao Sacred Land was not commendable.

If the Dragonsmith Clan truly mingled with the Shadow Mountain Black Market, they, proud as Dragonsmith Clan, might become despised by all, crying for their demise.

This was something Emperor Mountain did not want to see.

Therefore, whether it was fear of Mansion of Azure Clouds or reluctance to have close ties with the Shadow Mountain Black Market, Emperor Mountain could not agree to team up with the Black Market against Mansion of Azure Clouds.

"Leader Singleton, I appreciate your kindness... but this time, it was indeed our Dragonsmith Clan's fault."

Facing the gaze of the young man in black robes, Emperor Mountain refused.

"Hmph!"

Upon hearing Emperor Mountain's refusal, the young man in the black robes' expression changed, finally snorting coldly, "If that's the case, I won't get involved in your petty affairs."

The young man in black robes, the Leader 'Singleton' of the Shadow Mountain Black Market, turned into the wind and disappeared without a trace.

Although Leader Singleton had long guessed that Emperor Mountain would make such a choice, facing it truly, he couldn't help but curse Emperor Mountain for not appreciating favors.

However, since he couldn't drag the Dragonsmith Clan down against Mansion of Azure Clouds, there was no need for him to stay here any longer.

"Leader Singleton, Lanni Barnes has a son named 'Wyatt Barnes'! I suspect he might not be at Mansion of Azure Clouds right now; perhaps even Lanni doesn't temporarily know his whereabouts."

Just before the Leader of the Shadow Mountain Black Market, Singleton, left, a voice transmission reached his ears.

"Lanni Barnes' son? Wyatt Barnes? Interesting, truly interesting!"

Receiving this information, Leader Singleton's eyes lit up, but since he left the Dragonsmith Clan immediately, no one noticed his gaze.

Leader Singleton had no doubts about the authenticity of this information.

Because, upon receiving the voice transmission, he realized who delivered it, and it was that other Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, Emperor End.

Although currently Emperor End appeared insignificant in his eyes, not worth mentioning.

However, due to Emperor End's Five-Clawed Golden Dragon bloodline, he had paid attention to Emperor End and knew he was a meticulous individual who always seeks revenge.

Precisely a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon with a vengeful nature.

Though he didn't know exactly how the conflict between the Dragonsmith Clan and Lanni Barnes started, from the current situation, it was evident to him that all originated from 'Emperor End'.

For this reason, he had no doubts about Emperor End's voice transmission.

And the voice transmission to the Shadow Mountain Black Market Leader Singleton, delivered by Emperor End, had a glint of cold light in his eyes as he murmured to himself, "Wyatt Barnes, just wait for the Shadow Mountain Black Market people to trouble you... Perhaps, I won't even need to act; the Shadow Mountain Black Market people might solve you thoroughly."

Actually, Emperor End couldn't be certain if Wyatt Barnes was at Mansion of Azure Clouds right now.

The reason he transmitted this to the Shadow Mountain Black Market Leader was in the hope the other would trouble Wyatt.

Of course, even if Wyatt was truly at Mansion of Azure Clouds, unless Wyatt stays indoors, he believed the Shadow Mountain Black Market wouldn't let Wyatt roam freely outside.

Being Mansion of Azure Clouds' rival, the Shadow Mountain Black Market wouldn't miss any chance to strike Mansion of Azure Clouds.

Especially when it involves Mansion of Azure Clouds' House Master's only son!

"House Master Barnes, state your terms... I believe you already have an idea in mind."

Emperor Mountain looked at Lanni Barnes and straightforwardly spoke.

Not giving him a way out, Lanni had to offer himself a solution, even if embarrassing, for he had no other choice.

"Three years later, let my son enter your Dragonsmith Clan's 'Dragon Washing Pool'."

Facing Emperor Mountain's straightforwardness, Lanni Barnes did not say much else but directly stated his condition.

He also knew that if he pushed Emperor Mountain too hard at this time, it would not bring him any benefits.

Although he did not fear Emperor Mountain, nor the Dragonsmith Clan, the foundation of the Dragonsmith Clan compelled him to be cautious... simply because the Dragonsmith Clan had close ties with the 'Upper Domain'.

Rumor has it that the Dragonsmith Clan is divided into 'Upper Domain Dragonsmith Clan' and 'Lower Realm Dragonsmith Clan', and the Dragonsmith Clan before him is merely the 'Lower Realm Dragonsmith Clan'.

Dragon Washing Pool!

Lanni Barnes finally stated his demand, for his son, 'Wyatt Barnes', to enter the Dragon Washing Pool in three years.

As soon as Lanni Barnes spoke, the faces of Emperor Mountain and the five Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders of the Dragonsmith Clan all changed. None of them expected Lanni Barnes to make such a request, because it was simply too outrageous.

"Impossible!"

Before Emperor Mountain could respond, Emperor End roared, "The Dragon Washing Pool is our Dragonsmith Clan's 'Holy Land', only the Five-Clawed Golden Dragon can enter... House Master Barnes, do not push us too far!"

"Push too far?"

Upon hearing Emperor End's roar, Lanni Barnes merely laughed, "Not letting my son enter the Dragon Washing Pool is also fine, then I shall take your life. I want to see whether your life is more important to you, or the opportunity to enter the Dragon Washing Pool is more

important... you should think clearly, even if you cannot enter the Dragon Washing Pool in three years, after five thousand years, you still can go in."

"But if you die, don't mention five thousand years, even fifty thousand years later, the Dragon Washing Pool will have nothing to do with you!"

Lanni Barnes's words were spoken with forceful conviction.

Every word hammered into Emperor End's chest like a heavy blow, causing his face to turn pale and leaving him in disarray.

Although he knew that the Dragonsmith Clan would protect him, when directly facing Lanni Barnes, fear arose from the depths of his heart.

The Dragon Washing Pool is the holy land of the Dragonsmith Clan, opening once every five thousand years.

Within those five thousand years, the Dragon Washing Pool ceaselessly nurtures the essence of heaven and earth in its own way.

Since the Dragon Washing Pool opens only once every five thousand years, and each time only one person can enter, this opportunity becomes particularly precious within the Dragonsmith Clan.

Because of this precious opportunity, it is usually reserved for the young Five-Clawed Golden Dragon.

After entering the Dragon Washing Pool, apart from a considerable improvement in one's cultivation, the most crucial aspect is the complete release of one's potential, which is the most important.

It's said that the Dragon Washing Pool can stimulate potential from every corner of the body.

Even the current Clan Chief 'Emperor Mountain' of the Dragonsmith Clan has not entered it.

In fact, Emperor Mountain is known as a 'tragedy'.

When he was young, there was another Five-Clawed Golden Dragon of the same generation in the Dragonsmith Clan who outshone him in every aspect, thus snatching the opportunity to enter the Dragon Washing Pool five thousand years ago.

Before entering the Dragon Washing Pool, that Five-Clawed Golden Dragon's strength surpassed Emperor Mountain, but not by much.

However, after emerging from the Dragon Washing Pool, he possessed the ability to easily suppress Emperor Mountain.

The power of the Dragon Washing Pool is evidently tremendous.

In that era, that Five-Clawed Golden Dragon was also recognized as the heir to the next Clan Chief of the Dragonsmith Clan.

However, because soon after emerging from the 'Dragon Washing Pool', he gained strength surpassing all other members of the Dragonsmith Clan besides the then Clan Chief, he grew arrogant and caused trouble everywhere.

Eventually, it's said he offended a lady from a powerful faction visiting from the Upper Domain and was killed by a retainer beside her.

Thus, a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, who should have led the Dragonsmith Clan to glory after being baptized by the 'Dragon Washing Pool', fell and became the greatest regret of the Dragonsmith Clan.

Under such circumstances, Emperor Mountain, a 'backup option', smoothly ascended to power.

However, he became one of the rare Clan Chiefs in the history of the Dragonsmith Clan who never entered the Dragon Washing Pool.

Now, as Emperor Mountain is no longer young and his strength has reached a certain level, even allowing him to enter the Dragon Washing Pool again would not significantly enhance his power, making it somewhat meaningless.

Therefore, with the Dragon Washing Pool opening in three years, Emperor Mountain plans to let Emperor End enter.

He believes that after the baptism of the Dragon Washing Pool, Emperor End will inevitably surpass him and become a formidable Clan Chief of the Dragonsmith Clan.

Because he did not enter the Dragon Washing Pool back then, despite his strength, it wasn't enough to dominate the 'Lower Realm', demanding caution even in front of leaders of equal power like Lanni Barnes.

It's known that before him, every Clan Chief who entered the Dragon Washing Pool in their youth, when adhering to the Dragonsmith Clan rules to go to the 'Upper Domain', possessed nearly invincible strength in the Lower Realm!

The effectiveness of the 'Dragon Washing Pool', needless to say.

Precisely because of this, when Lanni Barnes proposed the condition for his son Wyatt Barnes to enter the 'Dragon Washing Pool', Emperor End was anxious enough to jump out, even momentarily forgetting that Lanni Barnes was not someone he could provoke.

His anxiety stemmed from not wanting to follow in Emperor Mountain's footsteps.

In the history of Dragon Clan chiefs, Emperor Mountain is undoubtedly a 'tragedy', and if Wyatt Barnes were to obtain the chance to enter the Dragon Washing Pool three years later, Emperor End would similarly become a 'tragedy' like Emperor Mountain.

Chapter 1584: Lanni Barnes's Condition

In Emperor End's view.

The 'Dragon Washing Pool' will open in three years.

If he can enter by then, he will undoubtedly undergo a complete transformation and achieve accomplishments far greater than Emperor Mountain in the future.

However, if he misses the opportunity in three years, even if he can enter the Dragon Washing Pool five thousand years later, he would have missed the optimal age... Although the Dragonsmith Clan is exceptionally long-lived, generally only those under five thousand years old are considered young dragons.

Once they reach five thousand years, many things become fixed.

Generally, those with average talent at the age of five thousand achieve little in their lifetime.

And now, with just one sentence from Lanni Barnes, his hope has been extinguished.

How can he be reconciled with that?

However, facing the formidable Lanni Barnes, he dare not say much and could only look at Emperor Mountain, hastily transmitting: "Clan Chief, the 'Dragon Washing Pool' is the cornerstone of our Dragonsmith Clan, and it only opens once every five thousand years, you must not hand this opportunity over to Lanni Barnes! If outsiders use the Dragon Washing Pool in three years, our Dragonsmith Clan will fall silent for another five thousand years!"

In his words, Emperor End released his trump card.

As a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, he naturally knows Emperor Mountain's aspirations and knows his regret for not being able to enter the 'Dragon Washing Pool' back then.

Of course, Emperor Mountain's regret is not about the enhancement of his own strength.

Emperor Mountain regrets that because he couldn't enhance his strength through the 'Dragon Washing Pool', he didn't lead the Dragonsmith Clan to glory... Presently, although the Dragonsmith Clan is still a top force in the Lower Domain of the Martial Dao Sacred Land, it is no longer comparable to the Dragonsmith Clan of the past, and the root of all this lies with him as the clan chief.

Just like the previous generation of the Dragonsmith Clan Chief, who, after being refined by the 'Dragon Washing Pool', was incredibly powerful, dominating the land, and led the Dragonsmith Clan to the true peak of the Lower Domain of the Martial Dao Sacred Land.

In that era, the Lower Domain of the Martial Dao Sacred Land had barely any forces daring to confront the Dragonsmith Clan.

Now, although the Dragonsmith Clan appears glorious on the surface, in reality, it is already on a decline.

All roots lie in the lack of deterrence in the Dragonsmith Clan, and this deterrence comes from the clan chief's own strength.

As this generation's clan chief, Emperor Mountain's strength is not enough to create deterrence.

Otherwise, he wouldn't be cornered into seeking peace by Lanni Barnes today.

If it had been the previous generation of the Dragonsmith Clan Chief, there would never have been any fear of Lanni Barnes, as that chief's strength at the time was nearly unrivaled across the Lower Domain of the Martial Dao Sacred Land.

The Dragonsmith Clan Chief of that generation was also ranked 'Top Three' on the 'Extreme Saint Ranking'.

Hearing Emperor End's transmission, Emperor Mountain felt a surge of annoyance.

If it hadn't been for this guy causing trouble, how could the Dragonsmith Clan be so passive this time?

If it hadn't been for this guy causing trouble, how could Lanni Barnes make such demands?

However, even without Emperor End's transmission, Emperor Mountain would also find it hard to agree to Lanni Barnes' demands.

Although Emperor Mountain wouldn't vie for the opportunity to enter the 'Dragon Washing Pool' in three years, he had long decided to give that opportunity to Emperor End because Emperor End is the predetermined next clan chief within the Dragonsmith Clan. If he can enter the Dragon Washing Pool and receive baptism, it would certainly allow the Dragonsmith Clan to relive the glory days of the previous clan chief.

By then, once Emperor End grows, the Dragonsmith Clan will fear neither the Mansion of Azure Clouds nor the Shadow Mountain Black Market!

As the clan chief of the Dragonsmith Clan, Emperor Mountain is quite qualified, at least he always stands from the Dragonsmith Clan's perspective rather than a personal one.

If he were a selfish person, the opportunity to enter the Dragon Washing Pool in three years would never go to Emperor End.

Although entering the Dragon Washing Pool now wouldn't give him much of an enhancement, if he were selfish, he wouldn't miss any chance for improvement, no matter how small.

It is precisely because he considers everything from the Dragonsmith Clan's perspective that he allows Emperor End's wilfulness and recklessness.

Like before, when Emperor End sent away his son, the Five-Clawed Demon Dragon 'Emperor Yonah', he was actually well aware of it, just chose not to expose it.

And the last time Emperor End threatened him into finding Wyatt Barnes, he complied without hesitation.

He didn't do it because he feared Emperor End, but because he feared that if Emperor End left the Dragonsmith Clan in anger, the clan would lose its heir and he would become a sinner in the clan.

Even if what he did for Emperor End went against his principles, he still did it for the future of the Dragonsmith Clan.

Emperor Mountain is such a person, or rather, such a dragon.

His whole life has been lived for the Dragonsmith Clan.

Therefore, Lanni Barnes' conditions are something he cannot agree to.

Taking a deep breath, Emperor Mountain looked at Lanni Barnes and said firmly, "House Master Barnes, since you know of our Dragonsmith Clan's 'Dragon Washing Pool', you should also know its significance to our clan... You should know that we dragons can never let outsiders enter the Dragon Washing Pool."

"I've said, we can leave the Dragon Washing Pool aside... However, Emperor End must be handed over to me!"

Lanni Barnes spoke in a calm tone, casting a glance toward Emperor End as he spoke.

From the beginning to the end, he appeared not the least bit surprised by Emperor Mountain's refusal.

"House Master Barnes, you are making an unreasonable demand!"

Emperor Mountain said in a deep voice.

"An unreasonable demand?"

Lanni Barnes' face darkened, and he sneered, "Emperor Mountain, you seem to have misunderstood something... Do you think I, Lanni Barnes, came to your Dragonsmith Clan looking for trouble without reason? If it weren't for someone from your clan being too overbearing, even if you invited me with great pomp, I wouldn't want to come to this wretched place of yours!"

Dragonsmith Clan, a wretched place!

Such words, throughout the entire Martial Dao Sacred Land, hardly anyone would dare to say them.

Yet Lanni Barnes said them, making the faces of Zen Blood and several other Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elders turn alternately blue and white, yet they dared not show any dissatisfaction.

This House Master Barnes is clearly in a rage.

At this moment, anyone provoking him would be heading directly into the line of fire, wouldn't they?

They're not foolish.

"House Master Barnes, I've already admitted that my Dragonsmith Clan is at fault in this matter... Other than these two demands, I can agree to any other request you have."

Emperor Mountain sighed, speaking somewhat helplessly.

His heart was filled with bitterness.

If only he had entered the Dragon Washing Pool five thousand years ago, how could he be in such a passive position now?

If he had entered the Dragon Washing Pool back then, he was confident that today he could easily crush Lanni Barnes with his power.

"I'm not interested in making a third demand..."

Lanni Barnes spoke indifferently, causing Emperor Mountain's expression to change, and Emperor End, along with several Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elders led by Zen Blood, also showed altered expressions.

They didn't expect Lanni Barnes to be so resolute.

Either let his son enter the Dragon Washing Pool in three years.

Or kill Emperor End.

"House Master Barnes... "

Emperor Mountain furrowed his brow, face gloomy, already considering whether to lure Lanni Barnes away from the Dragonsmith Clan territory and then have a decisive battle with him.

"I haven't finished speaking."

Lanni Barnes interrupted Emperor Mountain, speaking calmly, "Although I'm not going to make a third demand, I'm willing to add some conditions to my son's request to enter the Dragon Washing Pool... These conditions are also very fair to your Dragonsmith Clan. If you agree, I'll leave immediately and won't pursue Emperor End's previous actions."

Emperor Mountain exchanged glances with several Five-Clawed Divine Dragons, seeing confusion in each other's eyes.

"House Master Barnes, please speak."

Emperor Mountain quickly looked at Lanni Barnes again, showing a 'willing to listen' expression.

"As far as I know, although your Dragonsmith Clan's Dragon Washing Pool is set to open in three years... the specific opening time is determined by you, the Dragonsmith Clan Chief. It can even be postponed until six years later... Am I correct?"

Lanni Barnes looked at Emperor Mountain and asked.

"House Master Barnes is indeed very knowledgeable about our Dragonsmith Clan's Dragon Washing Pool."

Emperor Mountain smiled bitterly, cursing inwardly that Lanni Barnes hadn't been eyeing their Dragonsmith Clan's Dragon Washing Pool for a long time. Otherwise, why would he know so much about it? "The Dragon Washing Pool opens in three years, the exact day determined by me, but can be postponed up to three years, and if not entered within six years, it won't be possible again for nearly five thousand years."

"Seems to match what I know."

Lanni Barnes nodded, then looked at Emperor End again, speaking calmly, "My condition is... that the Dragon Washing Pool be postponed by two years, opening in five years. Before it opens, there will be a battle between my son and Emperor End, and the winner will enter the Dragon Washing Pool! Does this satisfy you, Clan Chief Emperor Mountain? If not, then there's nothing more to say, we'll fight!"

As he said this, Lanni Barnes looked at Emperor Mountain, ready to engage in battle at any moment.

"Five years?"

Hearing this, Emperor Mountain didn't immediately agree but first looked at Emperor End.

Among those present in the Dragonsmith Clan, only Emperor End had interacted with Lanni Barnes' son 'Wyatt Barnes' and had some understanding of him.

However, when looking at Emperor End, he saw Emperor End's eyes light up with strong confidence, showing no reluctance towards Lanni Barnes' proposed additional condition.

"Emperor End, are you confident?"

Emperor Mountain asked telepathically, seeking further confirmation.

"Clan Chief, accept his terms!"

Emperor End replied telepathically, full of confidence in his tone, "That Wyatt Barnes, I've interacted with him. Although he's talented, it's just that... Forget five years, even if you give him ten or twenty years, he won't be my match! That Lanni Barnes really underestimates me, to propose such a condition."

As he spoke, Emperor End's tone was full of disdain.

"Are you certain?"

Emperor Mountain was still somewhat hesitant, "Since Lanni Barnes proposed such a condition, he surely wouldn't do so without reason... You must consider this seriously. If you lose in five years, you will lose the chance to enter the Dragon Washing Pool! At that time, our Dragonsmith Clan will also be forced into silence for another five thousand years... If you fail, you will not only miss a great opportunity, but you will also become the sinner of the Dragonsmith Clan!

Sinner of the Dragonsmith Clan!

Emperor Mountain's words did strike hard, causing Emperor End to fall into silence.

Emperor End kept replaying the scenes of his interactions with Wyatt Barnes in his mind. After a while, he confidently responded to Emperor Mountain, "Clan Chief, I am sure! Although Wyatt Barnes has decent talent, it's not to an extraordinary level... Forget whether he can survive until five years later, even if he does, I am fully confident I can defeat him then!"

Chapter 1585: The Key to Activate Dragon Washing Pool

Recalling earlier when he transmitted a message to Shadow Mountain's black market leader 'Dugu' about Wyatt Barnes, Emperor End felt momentarily at ease.

In his view.

Five years from now, whether Wyatt Barnes is still alive is uncertain.

Even if he survives, he is unlikely to be a match for him; Emperor End is quite confident in his own strength.

"Five years, expecting Wyatt Barnes to defeat me? Simply dreaming!"

Emperor End was full of disdain for the additional condition Lanni Barnes had proposed, not believing in Wyatt Barnes' ability to defeat him in five years.

"Clan Chief, if you ask me, Lanni Barnes is scared of our Dragonsmith Clan, he just doesn't dare to show it openly... he put forth such conditions likely to find himself a stepping stone out. Deep down, he probably also doesn't think his son can defeat me in five years."

Emperor End confidently transmitted to Emperor Mountain.

However, Emperor Mountain was a cautious man, "It's not that I haven't considered what you're saying, it's just unlikely... Lanni Barnes, ever since his rise, has always been incredibly formidable! You should know what the original Mansion of Azure Clouds was like, yet he alone managed to uphold the Mansion of Azure Clouds. Even people like Withered and Asa Honorston, who didn't care much for the former House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, deeply admired him."

"This Lanni Barnes is not a regular character... the conditions he proposed, aside from showing compromise, likely aim for our Dragonsmith Clan to agree to give his son a chance to compete in the 'Dragon Washing Pool'."

Emperor Mountain continued, always feeling that rashly agreeing to Lanni Barnes' condition was somewhat inappropriate.

Yet, Lanni Barnes' response showed that this was his 'bottom line'.

Therefore, though Emperor Mountain was reluctant to accede to Lanni Barnes' demand, he didn't outright reject it, wanting to hear Emperor End's opinion.

After all, Emperor End was the one most unwilling to have the opportunity to enter the Dragon Washing Pool fall into the hands of others.

However, as of now, Emperor End seemed highly confident.

Seeing Lanni Barnes' face growing more somber, with demonic energy rising from him, Emperor Mountain knew he needed to make a decision.

"Emperor End, so your suggestion is... that I agree to him?"

Emperor Mountain once more transmitted to inquire Emperor End's view.

"Agree to him! In my view, he's just bluffing."

Emperor End replied with unwavering certainty.

Seeing Emperor End's firm stance, facing Lanni Barnes' pressure, Emperor Mountain finally nodded in agreement, "House Master Barnes, I can agree to your request... the day to open the 'Dragon Washing Pool' is set to be five years later. Five years hence, if your son Wyatt Barnes can defeat Emperor End, the chance to enter the Dragon Washing Pool will be yours. But if your son fails, the opportunity remains with Emperor End."

"Since Clan Chief Emperor Mountain has agreed, then please hand over one of the keys to open the Dragon Washing Pool... does Clan Chief Emperor Mountain wish to entrust the 'Sun Key' to me for safekeeping, or the 'Moon Key'?"

Once Emperor Mountain agreed, Lanni Barnes spoke indifferently.

The Dragon Washing Pool of the Dragonsmith Clan opens once every five thousand years, and each opening requires the two keys passed down among the Dragonsmith Clan, the 'Sun Key' and the 'Moon Key'. Only by using them together can the Dragon Washing Pool be opened.

These two keys are typically held by the clan chief of the Dragonsmith Clan.

So now Lanni Barnes directly requested the key from Emperor Mountain.

"House Master Barnes, isn't this unnecessary? Could it be that as clan chief of the Dragonsmith Clan, I would deceive you?"

Emperor Mountain frowned in response.

The Sun Key and the Moon Key are revered 'sacred artifacts' of the Dragonsmith Clan, and naturally, he was reluctant to hand over either of them, even just temporarily for Lanni Barnes' safekeeping.

"I am not reassured."

Lanni Barnes' response was straightforward, straightforward enough to sour Emperor Mountain's expression because Lanni Barnes was questioning his integrity.

"House Master Barnes, in that case... if you don't believe me, shall I swear a Thunder Punishment oath?"

Emperor Mountain looked at Lanni Barnes.

"The Thunder Punishment oath naturally must be taken, but I also need to hold onto one of the keys to open the Dragon Washing Pool... You can rest assured, Clan Chief Emperor Mountain, five years later, regardless of whether my son wins or loses, I will return the key to you. For this, I am also willing to swear a Thunder Punishment oath."

Lanni Barnes stated.

Seeing Lanni Barnes being so uncompromising, Emperor Mountain naturally couldn't refuse further, for if he did, it would imply Emperor Mountain's cowardice.

"Emperor End, do not disappoint me."

Muttering inwardly, Emperor Mountain raised his hand and produced a crescent-shaped key, jade-like in craftsmanship, and under the sunlight, it faintly emitted a soft glow, appearing exquisite.

This key is one of the two required to open the Dragon Washing Pool, the Moon Key.

After receiving the Moon Key from Emperor Mountain, both Emperor Mountain and Lanni Barnes each took a Thunder Punishment oath.

The Thunder Punishment oath made by Emperor Mountain was nothing more than to promise Lanni Barnes that if Wyatt Barnes defeats Emperor End in five years, he would let Wyatt Barnes enter the 'Dragon Washing Pool'.

Whereas Lanni Barnes' Thunder Punishment oath was that if Wyatt Barnes loses to Emperor End in five years, he won't pursue the Dragon Washing Pool and must return the Moon Key intact to the Dragonsmith Clan.

"Clan Chief Emperor Mountain, see you in five years."

After they made the Thunder Punishment oath, Lanni Barnes gave Emperor Mountain a slight glance and said.

Without waiting for Emperor Mountain's response, he turned and left with Withered, disappearing from Emperor Mountain and others' sight in the blink of an eye.

"Clan Chief, the way the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds spoke clearly shows he has confidence in his son... Wasn't your hasty agreement a bit impulsive?"

The Five-Clawed Azure Dragon Elder 'Lewis' asked with a frown.

Zen Blood and several other Five-Clawed Divine Dragon elders also slightly frowned at this moment.

"With things developing to this point, do you think I could still refuse? From Lanni Barnes' attitude just now, that was already his bottom line! Besides, Emperor End is the one among us who knows Lanni Barnes' son the best. If even he thinks I should agree to Lanni's request, do you think I should refuse?"

Emperor Mountain spoke calmly.

For a moment, Zen Blood and others looked at Emperor End, chattering, "Emperor End, are you really confident?"

"Emperor End, don't just put on a brave face. If it's not possible, say so. If you lose in five years, not only will you miss a great opportunity, but you might also become the sinner of the Dragonsmith Clan!"

"Emperor End, this is not a matter to joke about!"

...

Elders of the Five-Clawed Divine Dragon, one after another, commented about Emperor End.

"Elders, I understand your concerns."

Emperor End looked at Zen Blood and others, "I have dealt with Lanni's son, 'Wyatt Barnes.' When I saw him last, he was just a Martial Artist who had reached Small Perfection in Entering the Saint Realm... Do you think someone at Small Perfection in Entering the Saint Realm can defeat me in five years? Even if he's Wyatt Barnes, not Lanni Barnes, even if we give him all the advancement that Lanni had back in the day, he still wouldn't be my match!"

After saying this, Emperor End let out a low snort and then walked away.

Although he spoke with great confidence, he dared not be complacent.

After all, this matter is of utmost importance.

In the coming five years, he planned to spend all the time in closed-door training. Recently, he had noticed some loosening in his cultivation bottleneck. If he could make further progress, his strength would closely rival the level of a powerful elder like the Five-Clawed Jelly Tyler Elder.

Five years later, he was confident in surpassing the Five-Clawed Azure Dragon Elder 'Lewis.'

Of course, this didn't mean Emperor End thought Wyatt Barnes could be a threat to him in five years, but he wanted to defeat Wyatt with the utmost power to make Lanni Barnes realize how foolish he was.

Today, although he didn't dare act presumptuously in front of Lanni Barnes, in his heart, he wished he could dismember Lanni Barnes into a thousand pieces.

Of course, he knew he didn't have that kind of power.

So, he could only seek other ways to take revenge on Lanni Barnes and disgust him.

And the battle with Wyatt Barnes five years from now would undoubtedly be an opportunity. By then, he would show his strongest self and defeat Wyatt Barnes in a swoop, plunging Lanni Barnes into despair.

Lanni Barnes had no idea about Emperor End's thoughts, of course.

Moreover, Lanni Barnes wasn't interested in knowing.

After leaving the Dragonsmith Clan, Withered, who was closely following Lanni Barnes, couldn't help but ask with doubt, "House Master, can the Junior House Master really defeat that Emperor End in five years? Although Emperor End hasn't fully matured yet, he is, after all, a Five-Clawed Golden Dragon, the royalty among the Dragonsmith Clan... With his current strength, he's already comparable to some of the weaker Five-Clawed Divine Dragon Elders in the clan."

Hearing Withered's words, it's evident he also couldn't believe that five years later their Junior House Master could defeat Emperor End.

After all, Emperor End's foundation lay there.

Even with Emperor End's current strength being extremely formidable, even if he made no progress in five years, their Junior House Master might not necessarily be his opponent.

"Withered, you're not an outsider, so I won't hide it from you."

Lanni Barnes' eyes flashed, and he spoke unhurriedly, "The reason I made such a request was actually due to the instruction of that 'Destiny Elder!' Even I find it hard to believe that my son could beat Emperor End in five years, as it's quite unrealistic."

Lanni sighed lightly as he spoke to the end.

"Destiny Elder?"

Upon hearing Lanni's words, Withered's eyes lit up.

"Actually, it was the second time I've seen the Destiny Elder... However, that meeting, he came to see me personally at the Mansion of Azure Clouds. His cultivation is profound and unpredictable, so much so that he appeared before me without any of my sensing... You should know what that means."

Lanni Barnes also looked somber as he spoke to the end.

"He... Might he be a powerful figure from the 'Upper Domain'?"

Withered gasped and asked.

"I am sure he's from the 'Upper Domain'... Moreover, I feel his strength, even placed in the Upper Domain, would be an extremely remarkable existence."

Lanni Barnes continued.

"It is said that the Destiny Elder is elusive, and even the Shadow Mountain Black Market Leader, Du Gu, has sought him out multiple times, but to no avail... To think, House Master, you have met him twice, and the second time he even came to you intentionally."

Withered laughed and said.

Chapter 1586: Who Acknowledges Whom as Father

"If Du Gu finds out that the Elder of Secrets took the initiative to visit the House Master, he might be so angry that he'd blow his top!"

Withered's face displayed a radiant smile that was more difficult to look at than crying, as if witnessing the moment when Du Gu, the leader of the Shadow Mountain black market, lost his temper.

Lanni Barnes smiled faintly, choosing not to respond.

In truth, this matter also puzzled him greatly.

The first time he encountered the Elder of Secrets by chance, he felt exceptionally lucky, especially when the elder was willing to divine for his son, which filled him with immense joy.

The second time, the Elder of Secrets took the initiative to visit again, and it was also regarding his son, which left him feeling overwhelmed with favor.

Yet, amidst the astonishment, his heart was filled with doubt. What kind of charm did his son possess to draw the concern of such a powerful figure as the Elder of Secrets?

He considered many possibilities as a result.

However, those possibilities all seemed somewhat unrealistic.

Nevertheless, ever since Asa Honorston came looking for him and informed him of the Dragonsmith Clan's extensive search for his son, Wyatt Barnes, he held the Elder of Secrets in even higher reverence, akin to a deity.

Just because, during the Elder of Secrets' second visit, he mentioned the Dragonsmith Clan.

Though he didn't specify the matter, he did suggest that, if possible, he should strive to secure a chance for his son, Wyatt Barnes, to enter the Dragon Washing Pool.

Additionally, he spoke of the importance of the Dragon Washing Pool to the Dragonsmith Clan, mentioning that at a critical moment, a compromise could be made by establishing a 'Five-Year Agreement.'

The Five-Year Agreement was the prior arrangement he had with Emperor Mountain.

And this agreement was also the decision of the Elder of Secrets; he was merely following through.

Though he never imagined his son could defeat Emperor End in five years, he had great faith in the Elder of Secrets. The elder's miraculous calculations completely won him over, making him believe in the elder's words without a doubt.

Because of this, the subsequent events unfolded.

Soon after, Withered learned all of this from Lanni Barnes, and he was full of admiration, "In the past, I only heard of the Elder of Secrets' miraculous calculations, but this time, I truly gained insight! Perhaps, when he came to you, House Master, he had already calculated the connection between the Junior House Master and the Dragonsmith Clan."

"House Master, are we heading back to the Mansion of Azure Clouds?"

Withered looked at Lanni Barnes and asked.

In his view, what the House Master should be doing now is returning to the Mansion of Azure Clouds and then issuing orders to search for the Junior House Master everywhere.

"There's no rush to return to the Mansion of Azure Clouds."

However, confronting Withered's inquiry, Lanni Barnes shook his head, "We're going to the Bibo Han Mansion!"

Bibo Han Mansion!

Hearing Lanni Barnes' words, Withered expressed confusion, "Going to Bibo Han Mansion?"

"Yes, to Bibo Han Mansion. If I'm not mistaken, that other daughter-in-law of mine should be there... we're going to bring her home,"

Lanni Barnes said with a smile.

Although the jade slip Wyatt Barnes left in the Crimson Heaven Kingdom of the Cloud Skies Continent did not mention 'Bibo Han Mansion,' combining the message Wyatt left on the Condensing Sound Jade Piece, he realized that his daughter-in-law named Jovie Lee should now be at the home of a young mistress named Julia from the Martial Dao Sacred Land.

Furthermore, he also heard Withered mention that people from the Bibo Han Mansion had been leaving the southern area of the Martial Dao Sacred Land, searching a large sea area extensively.

Combining his son's message, he speculated that the major movements of the people from Bibo Han Mansion were likely in search of his son, Wyatt Barnes.

Because his son mentioned leaving Crescent Island with a girl named Julia and losing each other due to certain situations.

In addition, according to Withered's description, when the people from Bibo Han Mansion came looking for someone, they were led by a Beast Tamer and a young girl.

That young girl was likely the girl named Julia mentioned by his son.

Considering everything, he realized that his daughter-in-law Jovie, after Crescent Island was destroyed, most likely went to the Bibo Han Mansion.

Thus, he was now going to the Bibo Han Mansion to bring his daughter-in-law home.

"Natalie has mentioned this daughter-in-law many times in the past, always singing her praises... Now, I finally have the chance to meet her in person this time,"

anticipating the encounter with the unmet daughter-in-law, Lanni Barnes's heart was filled with expectation.

The fact that Lanni Barnes was heading to 'Bibo Han Mansion' with Withered was obviously unknown to Wyatt Barnes, as he was currently sitting quietly cultivating in his room.

In a foreign environment and with plans to accompany the Grand Elder of the Floating Flame Sect to roam the sect's settlement early the next morning, he chose not to enter the Jewel Tower for cultivation.

As time passed, the sky gradually darkened.

By dusk, the clouds were ablaze with red, and looking to the horizon, the sky appeared as though stained with blood, glaring and striking.

"Young Master of the Swayer Family, an old friend is here. Aren't you coming out for a look?"

A raspy voice akin to a duck's quack suddenly came from outside the room, infused with True Energy, clearly reaching Wyatt Barnes' ears, interrupting his cultivation.

For a moment, Wyatt Barnes frowned.

Just from the voice, he could tell the visitor came with ill intentions.

"Who is it?"

Realizing the person was directed at Beau Swayer, Wyatt Barnes stepped out of the room, just in time to see Beau Swayer stepping out with a somber expression.

From another room, Jordan Swayer also emerged.

"Mr. Barnes."

Beau Swayer originally had a gloomy face, but upon seeing Wyatt Barnes, he forced a smile and took the initiative to greet him.

"The people outside seem to be here for you."

Wyatt Barnes said.

"Yes, it's a Junior Sect Master of a seventh-rate sect opposing our Swayer Family, and I have a long-standing grudge with him... I apologize, Mr. Barnes, for disturbing you. I'll resolve this matter immediately, ensuring that he won't disturb your peace again, Mr. Barnes."

As he spoke, a glint of coldness flashed deep in Beau Swayer's eyes.

If it were just him, he wouldn't be so angry.

Because there's always been a grudge between them, it's not unusual for the other party to act like this.

However, due to Wyatt Barnes's presence, He felt extremely guilty, thinking the other's appearance disrupted Wyatt Barnes's peace.

In his eyes, Wyatt Barnes was like an elder figure whom Beau Swayer respected deeply.

Disturbing Wyatt Barnes's peace was akin to slapping Beau's face.

"I'll go out with you to take a look."

Wyatt Barnes added.

"Okay."

Beau Swayer did not decline, and after responding, he flew out of the mansion with Wyatt Barnes and Jordan Swayer.

Currently, in the sky outside the mansion, there were two people floating, one young man who appeared similar in age to Beau Swayer, and an elderly man with white hair and white eyebrows, the latter bearing an inspired demeanor that seemed celestial and graceful.

However, unlike the old man, the young man donned in brocade attire, but his eyebrows carried a hint of roguishness.

With just a glance, Wyatt Barnes discerned from the other's lofty posture that he was a complete wastrel.

He had always had little fondness for such wastrels.

"Trace Wind, the conflict between us isn't a matter of days... If you usually shout like this, I might let it go. However, today, you've disturbed Mr. Barnes!"

Beau Swayer looked at the brocaded youth, a fierce gleam flashing in his eyes, and said in a deep voice, "You, apologize to Mr. Barnes immediately!"

"Mr. Barnes?"

Faced with Beau Swayer's seriousness, Trace Wind laughed mockingly, his gaze flickering over Beau Swayer before settling on Wyatt Barnes, "The Mr. Barnes you're talking about, is it him? Beau Swayer, are you joking? This guy looks like just a young kid who surely isn't older than you, yet you respect him as you would a father. Are you trying to make him your father?"

"Never thought the dignified young master of the Swayer Family had such a hobby... Hahaha..."

As Trace Wind said this, he laughed unscrupulously.

It had to be said, his words were extremely venomous and utterly merciless.

"Trace Wind, you're courting death!"

Even though Beau Swayer had a good temper, hearing Trace Wind's words made him unable to tolerate it, almost growling with anger, True Energy surged from him just as he was about to attack Trace Wind.

Seeing Beau Swayer's rage, a hint of a successful plot flashed in Trace Wind's eyes.

Though the glimmer was fleeting, Wyatt Barnes caught it clearly, and seeing this, he stepped forward immediately, blocking Beau from taking action.

Seeing Wyatt Barnes stopping Beau Swayer, Trace Wind's brow furrowed, then relaxed as he continued to mock, "Tsk ts... Beau Swayer, are you planning to hide behind your dad for your whole life?"

Due to Wyatt Barnes stopping him, Beau had calmed down a little, but hearing Trace Wind's words, he couldn't help but get furious.

"Left is 'dad', right is 'dad'... It seems you really lack a father."

Wyatt Barnes glanced at Trace Wind nonchalantly, saying.

"What are you..."

Trace Wind's face darkened, just about to say 'what kind of thing are you,' but as the 'thing' was about to leave his mouth, Beau Swayer quickly, as though instructed, said sharply like rapid-fire fireworks detonating, "Son, say 'thing' for me."

"Thing!"

And the 'thing' on Trace Wind's lips promptly came out.

"Son is really obedient."

Beau Swayer laughed, his smile radiant.

Seeing Trace Wind's flushed face, eyes bloodshot, Beau Swayer continued, "Trace Wind... no, son, listen to your dad and hurry to apologize to Mr. Barnes."

At this moment, Beau Swayer was bursting with glee inside.

He wondered why he hadn't realized before that Mr. Barnes had this side to him?

Earlier, it was due to Wyatt Barnes's reminder that he hurriedly led Trace Wind into a trap with his words like setting off rapid-fire fireworks.

And Trace Wind smoothly fell into the trap.

"Beau Swayer, you're courting death!"

When had Trace Wind ever been humiliated like this? Instantly enraged, his aura surged, and in the blink of an eye, the area within a hundred meters was filled with intense rifts, as if the void was being torn apart.

Chapter 1587: Senior Oracle!

"Entering the Saint Realm Great Perfection!"

Noticing the fierce aura filling the hundred-meter radius, Beau Swayer's expression changed.

Although he was just a martial artist in the Small Perfection of the Saint Realm, he could clearly sense that it was the aura of a domain.

Condensing True Energy into a domain is a technique of the Great Perfection of the Saint Realm!

He never expected that his former archenemy would break through to the 'Great Perfection of the Saint Realm' before him.

Recalling the earlier scene, he wiped a cold sweat in secret, realizing that Trace Wind's mockery was likely a deliberate attempt to provoke him into action, and then crush him with the strength of the Great Perfection of the Saint Realm.

In the past, when Trace Wind was still in the Small Perfection of the Saint Realm, he and Trace Wind were equally matched.

Now, with Trace Wind having broken through to the Great Perfection of the Saint Realm, he admitted to himself that he was no match.

Thinking of this, he couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief, grateful for Mr. Barnes' warning earlier, otherwise he might have ended up embarrassing himself.

"Beau Swayer, do you want to die?"

Meanwhile, after the explosive shout, Trace Wind could no longer hold back and made a move against Beau Swayer. The humiliation Beau Swayer caused him at that moment made him forget his original intentions and take the initiative to attack Beau Swayer first.

Seeing Trace Wind display the cultivation of the Great Perfection of the Saint Realm and about to strike Beau Swayer, Jordan Swayer, standing to the side, furrowed his brows.

Just as he wanted to step in and help, the old man with white hair and white eyebrows behind Trace Wind locked his aura on him, preventing him from acting recklessly.

"Jordan Swayer, matters between the younger generation should be resolved by themselves," the white-browed old man said calmly.

"Hmph!"

Although Jordan Swayer did not fear the white-browed old man, he knew he was being watched by many and couldn't possibly assist Beau Swayer.

However, he wasn't worried.

He believed Wyatt Barnes wouldn't stand by and do nothing.

As Jordan Swayer suspected, just as Trace Wind's domain swept in, intending to suppress Beau Swayer, Wyatt Barnes intervened.

Without any visible movement from Wyatt Barnes, the void within a hundred meters trembled once more, and an even fiercer aura abruptly emerged, accompanied by tens of thousands of solidified sword lights.

Tens of thousands of sword lights hovered in the air, emanating an unparalleled sharpness, each capable of tearing through all.

Ten Thousand Sword Domain!

The tens of thousands of solidified sword lights that appeared were naturally the 'domain' Wyatt Barnes had hurriedly unleashed. As soon as it appeared, it crushed Trace Wind's incompletely nurtured domain in its infancy. Under his Ten Thousand Sword Domain, Trace Wind's domain was shattered and ceased to exist.

Of course, the reason such a complete obliteration was possible was primarily due to Trace Wind having recently broken through to the Great Perfection of the Saint Realm, resulting in an unfamiliar control over his domain.

"Stop!"

The white-browed old man hadn't expected Wyatt Barnes to take action, especially since he had implied earlier that this was a matter for the younger generation.

Wyatt Barnes, though seemingly young, was, as an Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family, and a person even the Swayer Family's head respected, he assumed, considerably older in actuality—possibly not much younger than himself.

Initially, he believed this Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family would respect his status and not intervene in matters of the younger generation.

Unexpectedly, the Swayer Family's Honorary Minister brazenly attacked Trace Wind. With a flick of his wrist, he mercilessly unleashed his domain, obliterating Trace Wind's domain.

Though Wyatt Barnes's domain left the white-browed old man in awe, for he had never seen such a terrifying domain before.

Countless swords emerged simultaneously, creating an intense oppressive feeling.

However, Wyatt Barnes's actions greatly angered him.

Just as the white-browed old man was about to intervene, Jordan Swayer intercepted him, "Old Man Fagg, you just said, matters of the younger generation should be resolved by themselves... Are you planning to go back on your word?"

As he spoke, Jordan Swayer wore a mocking smile, inwardly delighted, feeling that the other party was digging a pit for himself to fall into.

"Jordan Swayer, you have the nerve to mention 'younger generation'! He is the Honorary Minister of your Swayer Family, with cultivation at the Half-Step Saint Realm. His age is likely comparable to the head of your Swayer Family!"

The white-browed old man replied with a cold laugh.

"Then you are mistaken... Although Mr. Barnes is the Honorary Minister of our Swayer Family and a Half-Step Saint Martial Artist, he's younger than young Beau," Jordan Swayer said calmly.

Younger generation?

In truth, among those present, the Honorary Minister of their Swayer Family was likely the youngest.

"Younger than Beau Swayer?"

The white-browed old man, knowing who young Beau referred to as Beau Swayer, was skeptical upon hearing that the Swayer Family's Honorary Minister was younger than Beau Swayer.

To verify, he immediately used a mental secret technique, extending his Divine Sense to probe Wyatt Barnes's age.

Moments later, the feedback from his Divine Sense revealed that the Swayer Family's Honorary Minister was only thirty-six years old.

Thirty-six years old!

Upon discovering Wyatt Barnes's age, the white-browed old man was utterly dumbfounded.

Thirty-six years old, with a cultivation at the half-step Saint Realm?

Such talent, although perhaps not up to par with the Floating Flame Sect's 'Miss Romero', is likely not far behind.

Yet, thinking about how Wyatt Barnes is still someone even the head of the Swayer Family 'Micah Swayer' respects makes it seem absurd... A dignified house master of a seventh-level family in Fletcher Kingdom actually respects a thirty-six-year-old young man. If word got out, who would believe it?

"Hmm?"

Originally, Wyatt Barnes, although he shattered Trace Wind's domain, didn't plan to treat Trace Wind this way.

After all, behind Trace Wind is a sect not weaker than the Swayer Family.

Although his strength is now impressive, it has not swelled to the point where he can contend with a seventh-level sect, so his actions were somewhat restrained.

However, when he noticed Old Man Fagg's Divine Sense sweeping over him, probing without restraint, it stirred anger from deep within his heart. He then no longer held back and with a turn of his hand, left Trace Wind gravely injured.

The gravely injured Trace Wind, after a scream of agony, flew out like an arrow released from a bowstring.

After flying a considerable distance, he fell silent.

"Junior Sect Master!"

Seeing Trace Wind being blasted away by Wyatt Barnes, his aura weakened to an extreme degree, as if it could break at any moment, Old Man Fagg's face changed. He rushed over and caught Trace Wind.

Upon discovering that there were barely any intact bones throughout Trace Wind's body, Old Man Fagg's face instantly turned glacial, his eyes filled with murderous intent as he looked at Wyatt Barnes, "How dare you use such ruthless means on my Junior Sect Master... Even if you're an Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family, our 'Empty Sink Sect' will not let you go!"

"Empty Sink Sect? Such audacity! I would like to see what means your Empty Sink Sect has... If you want to deal with Mr. Barnes, you'll have to get past me, Beau Swayer, first!"

Seeing Old Man Fagg dare to threaten Wyatt Barnes, Beau Swayer was immediately enraged. He flew out, positioned himself in front of Wyatt Barnes, shielding him from behind, and spoke coldly.

"Hmph!"

Old Man Fagg did not expect Beau Swayer to protect Wyatt Barnes so mindlessly. His face turned grim, and after a cold snort, he left, anxious to return to heal his Junior Sect Master.

Though Wyatt Barnes did not take Old Man Fagg's threat to heart, Beau Swayer's protection still warmed his heart.

"Mr. Barnes, you need not trouble yourself with what Old Man Fagg said. He's all talk... Even if the Empty Sink Sect truly wants revenge, they'd have to get through me and my father first!"

Beau Swayer turned around, the anger on his face completely vanished, replaced by a smile.

"Hmm."

Wyatt Barnes nodded.

"I truly didn't expect that the Empty Sink Sect's Trace Wind would achieve the breakthrough to Entering the Saint Realm Small Perfection before you, Beau."

At this moment, Jordan Swayer remarked.

"I find it odd as well... That Trace Wind has always been comparable to me in strength, even in terms of cultivation progress, he's been about the same. Yet now, I'm still a distance away from the breakthrough to Entering the Saint Realm Small Perfection, but he has broken through first."

Beau Swayer frowned and said.

"Perhaps he had some fortuitous encounter."

Jordan Swayer suggested.

"Then he truly is incredibly lucky!"

Beau Swayer snorted.

The arrival of the two from Empty Sink Sect was nothing but a small episode for Wyatt Barnes and his companions.

However, for the two from Empty Sink Sect, especially the Junior Sect Master 'Trace Wind', today's experience was an utter humiliation.

"That Honorary Minister of the Swayer Family, if he doesn't die, I, Trace Wind, will not be human!"

Even though he was immobilized by injuries, lying in bed, Trace Wind still gritted his teeth and growled lowly, eyes filled with hatred.

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

As night fell, Lanni Barnes and Withered were already within the 'Harmony Lane Compound' area.

After some time, as they approached Harmony Lane Compound, Lanni Barnes suddenly halted, his face alight with surprise.

Seeing his house master suddenly show such demeanor, Withered was puzzled, not understanding what had happened to make the house master so unsightly.

Yet, despite his curiosity, Withered dared not disturb Lanni Barnes.

Moments later, Lanni Barnes looked at Withered and said, "Old Withered, I ask you to bring my daughter-in-law out of Harmony Lane Compound... Furthermore, avoid contact with people from Harmony Lane Compound if possible. Just bring my daughter-in-law out."

Although unaware of why Lanni Barnes was making such an instruction, Withered held his words in high regard.

"Yes, House Master."

After responding, Withered set off alone to Harmony Lane Compound's location.

After Withered left, suddenly someone appeared beside Lanni Barnes.

It was an elderly figure wearing a patched, tattered robe, with gray hair and a beard on his chin. Despite the disheveled appearance, he gave off an aura of an 'old beggar'.

However, standing before this 'old beggar', Lanni Barnes was extremely respectful and did not dare to show any negligence, "Junior Lanni Barnes greets Senior Oracle!"

Chapter 1588: Jovie Lee's Crisis

Senior Oracle!

Listening to Lanni Barnes call this 'old beggar' by that name, it became clear that the 'old beggar' was none other than the Heavenly Secret Elder, the legendary figure in the Dao Martial Holy Land known for being a "Dragon unseen when seen".

Perhaps, even most martial artists and Taoist cultivators in the Dao Martial Holy Land, who had only heard of the Heavenly Secret Elder, wouldn't recognize him in this form, completely different from the sage-like figure they had imagined.

Even if the real Heavenly Secret Elder stood before them, proclaiming himself, they might not believe it.

However, this old man was indeed the Heavenly Secret Elder!

"Isn't it strange why I don't let you go to the Bibo Han Mansion, or let your people come into contact with those from the Bibo Han Mansion?"

Looking at Lanni Barnes, the Heavenly Secret Elder smiled faintly and asked.

Earlier, Lanni Barnes intended to take Withered to the Bibo Han Mansion, to reveal his identity and bring his daughter-in-law 'Jovie Lee' back.

However, because of the Heavenly Secret Elder's transmission, Lanni Barnes changed his mind.

This was also the reason for Withered's confusion about Lanni Barnes' sudden decision.

Because it wasn't Lanni Barnes' idea; it was the Heavenly Secret Elder's suggestion.

"Senior must have a reason for directing me so."

Lanni Barnes said.

"In fact, my intention is similar to why you didn't take him away from the Cloud Skies Continent back then... Perhaps, now you are eager to find him and bring him back to the Mansion of Azure Clouds to nurture him! However, unknowingly, that might not be the best path for him. His achievements shouldn't be confined to the 'Lower Domain'."

The Heavenly Secret Elder smiled as he spoke.

"Shouldn't be confined to the Lower Domain?"

Lanni Barnes was slightly shocked, clearly understanding that the Heavenly Secret Elder meant that his son, Wyatt Barnes, had more potential than to be limited to the Lower Domain.

"In short, your son has a deep connection with me, and I don't wish to see him stray from the right path... Just know that this is better for him. As for the Mansion of Azure Clouds, it is still his home, and I do not intend to prevent him from reuniting with you and your wife... I just hope he finds you himself, rather than you finding him. Do you understand?"

The Heavenly Secret Elder added.

"Yes."

Lanni Barnes nodded, feeling overwhelmed inside, never expecting his son's talent to be so high that the Heavenly Secret Elder held him in such high regard.

"Senior Oracle, you mentioned earlier that my son has a deep connection with you? May I ask what that connection is?"

Lanni Barnes inquired.

"He is 'Yan Yu', I am 'Tian Ji'."

Faced with Lanni Barnes's question, the Heavenly Secret Elder replied with just a simple phrase, only a mere eight words.

And as his words fell silent, the Heavenly Secret Elder vanished again, disappearing into thin air from Lanni Barnes's sight, as if he had never been there.

"He is Yan Yu, I am Tian Ji? What can that mean?"

Having already experienced the Heavenly Secret Elder's mysteriousness, Lanni Barnes was not surprised.

"It seems my son Wyatt's opportunity is even more extraordinary than all I've encountered... Even this mysterious Heavenly Secret Elder has approached me three times because of him."

Lanni Barnes sighed.

Although it was the first time he encountered the Heavenly Secret Elder, thinking back, it was the Elder's intentional revelation of his whereabouts that allowed him to meet him.

Moreover, even if he had met him, if the Heavenly Secret Elder had not been willing to divine for him, he might not have heard the Elder's valuable wisdom.

Now, Lanni Barnes realized that meeting the Heavenly Secret Elder was entirely because of his son Wyatt Barnes.

Although, he did not know what deep connection existed between the Heavenly Secret Elder and his son.

If Wyatt Barnes were to hear the sentence the Heavenly Secret Elder left behind, he would no doubt be greatly surprised.

Because after he received the Supreme Heart Sword inheritance from Sword Saint Breezy Wind, according to Breezy Wind's message, he had become the sole inheritor of the 'Yan Yu' lineage.

Before him, Sword Saint Breezy Wind was also a member of the 'Yan Yu' lineage.

Of course, Sword Saint Breezy Wind was the previous generation's Yan Yu inheritor.

To a certain extent, Sword Saint Breezy Wind could be considered Wyatt Barnes's master, and he was also the master that Wyatt Barnes acknowledged in his heart.

Before this, whether it was 'Enzo Hawkins' from the Cloud Skies Continent or the later City Lord of Hill Mountain City 'Tabo Garcia', he merely recognized them as 'teachers', not 'masters'.

Teacher, master—though differing by one word, the meanings they represent are profoundly different.

Yan Yu, Tian Ji.

If someone knew or even understood about the top sect from a distant era, the 'Seven Terminating Sect', upon hearing these four words, their mind would surely conjure up eight words instantly.

First, Yan Yu; second, Tian Ji.

Yan Yu and Tian Ji were the first two of the Seven Terminating Sect.

If Yan Yu lineage represented the supreme martial prowess of the Seven Terminating Sect,

then Tian Ji lineage represented the boundless wisdom of the Seven Terminating Sect.

Yan Yu and Tian Ji inherently formed a powerful alliance. Together with the remaining Five Incomparables, they made the Seven Terminating Sect invincible, and in that distant era, their prominence even surpassed the top three sects of the Dao Martial Holy Land, momentarily suppressing all three.

Of course, in that era, the dominating force of the Seven Terminating Sect also couldn't be separated from the then first Yan Yu inheritor.

At that time, the inheritor of the Misty Rain was none other than the Sword Saint 'Breezy Wind'!

In that era, Breezy Wind was an undeniable influential figure. Perhaps some might not know about the Seven Terminating Sect, but no one didn't know about Sword Saint Breezy Wind.

Of course, because the Seven Terminating Sect had been dormant for too long, there were no records of the 'Seven Terminating Sect' even in the archives of Mansion of Azure Clouds.

Thus, Lanni Barnes didn't know about the existence of the Seven Terminating Sect, let alone that the first two Terminations were Misty Rain and Destiny.

If he knew, he would certainly have understood the meaning behind Senior Oracle's words.

Jade Waves Hanson Residence.

In a brightly lit, tranquil room, a woman with breathtaking beauty was gently rocking a cradle, her eyes as gentle as water gazing at the sleeping infant inside, her face filled with a satisfied smile.

At some unknown time, a purple figure flashed through the woman's mind, casting a shadow over her expression.

"You rascal, we have a child now... Our child is born, do you know that?"

The woman murmured softly.

From the woman's whisper, her identity was evident; she was one of Wyatt Barnes' two fiancées, Jovie Lee.

"And Keer... I wonder if she's safe. If she is, now the child in her belly should be born too, right?"

Thinking of Keer made sadness flicker in Jovie Lee's eyes.

She and Keer had been close as sisters for a long time, and their sudden calamity was enough to tug at her heartstrings.

Although it was unclear whom the sleeping infant in the cradle resembled, his sword-like brows were strikingly similar to Wyatt Barnes's, with a trace of similarity in his overall features.

This was due to his young age.

He would definitely resemble Wyatt Barnes more as he grew.

This was the son Jovie Lee had given birth to for Wyatt Barnes.

Jovie Lee stared at the infant in the cradle, utterly focused on his features, lost in her gaze.

Compared to their child, she resembled him even more.

At this moment, Jovie Lee was unaware of impending danger approaching her.

"Young Master, are you really going to do this? Even though Miss Julia and those three little ones are gone, with Lord Ruby here, you might be discovered before you even approach her room."

A young man with a hint of hesitation in his eyes spoke to the well-dressed youth walking ahead of him.

The well-dressed youth was none other than 'Yearly Hanson', who had entertained dark thoughts about Jovie Lee when she first arrived at Jade Waves Hanson Residence, and was also the grandson of the only Clan Elder there.

"Hmph! Do you think I'm as brainless as you?"

Yearly Hanson sneered at the lackey trailing him, disdainfully saying, "Before coming here, I already asked Uncle Patel to divert Ruby... Now that Ruby isn't here, that little girl is no more than meat on my chopping block, ready for me to slice? Alas, she's already given birth; otherwise, I'd really want to taste a pregnant woman."

"Hmph! It's all Karina Hanson's fault for guarding her so well that I couldn't find an opportunity... This time, she's gone with those three annoying little ones; heaven is aiding me!"

Yearly Hanson muttered as he stealthily reached the outside of Jovie Lee's room with the lackey.

"Alright, you stay outside and wait, lest someone sees you and it affects things."

Yearly Hanson said to the lackey before heading towards Jovie Lee's room.

The lackey responded and exited, while Yearly Hanson eagerly pushed open Jovie Lee's door.

Though her door was shut, it practically collapsed before Yearly Hanson, who opened it with a swift motion.

Grunt!

The door opened abruptly, the soft sound startling Jovie Lee into alertness.

"It's you!"

Seeing Yearly Hanson enter, Jovie Lee's expression changed slightly as she shouted angrily, "What are you doing here?"

"Little beauty, do you really not know what I'm here for?"

Yearly Hanson shut the door behind him, chuckling wickedly, his eyes filled with lust.

"Get out!"

Jovie Lee continued shouting angrily, "If you don't leave, I'll find Lord Ruby."

"Ruby? At this moment, Ruby is unlikely to return for now... So, don't count on her"

Yearly Hanson chuckled, inching closer to Jovie Lee step by step.

At this point, Jovie Lee knew that Yearly Hanson's visit was premeditated, her face pale, but she was resolute; even if it meant dying, she wouldn't let this beast succeed!

However, thinking of her newly born son brought a palpable ache to her heart.

"Child, if your mother leaves, don't blame her..."

Jovie Lee's mind was already brewing thoughts of self-destruction; she would rather perish than let Yearly Hanson succeed.

Just then, a transmission reached her ears, "You're 'Jovie Lee'? Is your fiancé called 'Wyatt Barnes'?"

Accompanying this transmission was an elderly figure appearing in the room out of thin air, behind Yearly Hanson, going unnoticed by him.

A withered old man, enveloped in a gray robe, clutching a cane, akin to a ghost.

Chapter 1589: The Death of Yearly Hanson

"Who... who are you?"

Upon hearing the words of the gaunt old man, Jovie Lee stared at him, momentarily forgetting Yearly Hanson's presence.

"Little beauty, don't bother struggling... If there was someone behind me, do you think I wouldn't notice?"

Yearly Hanson chuckled, drawing closer to Jovie Lee, his eyes showing undisguised lechery.

"You, at merely Entering the Saint Realm, think you can detect me?"

At this moment, an abrupt, hoarse voice sounded, making Yearly Hanson's face change dramatically, realizing that Jovie Lee was not bluffing and there was indeed someone behind him.

In an instant, before he could turn around, a figure inexplicably appeared before his eyes.

It was an old man, shrouded entirely in a gray robe, holding a cane made from unknown material, standing behind Jovie Lee's cradle, his gaze falling upon the baby inside.

The baby's face was chubby and very cute.

With just one glance, the old man saw that the baby's brows bore a striking resemblance to that of his household's House Master.

In that moment, he guessed the child was fathered by Lanni Barnes, "The Junior House Master's child! The House Master will be overjoyed to know he has a grandchild."

Now, looking at the child in the cradle, Withered's cold, gaunt face managed to reveal a rare smile.

Of course, his smile looked even more unsightly than a cry.

Leaning down, Withered gingerly picked up the child, careful not to awaken it, as if cradling a fragile treasure.

"You..."

Seeing Withered lift her child, Jovie Lee's face slightly changed, but upon seeing the gentle motion and the smile on the old man's face, she refrained from stopping him.

She could tell the old man meant no harm.

Yet, she still wondered why the old man knew her name and her man's name.

"You're not one of my Ripple Hanson Mansion's people!"

At this moment, Yearly Hanson finally regained his senses, glaring angrily at the old man, "Old man, I don't care who you are, if you're smart, get lost! My grandfather is the Supreme Elder of Ripple Hanson Mansion, you..."

"Noisy!"

Yearly Hanson's voice disturbed the child in Withered's arms, its brows twitching slightly, on the verge of waking. Withered's smile disappeared completely as he uttered a low growl, the entire room enveloped in a bizarre aura, sending chills down one's spine.

Moments later, around Yearly Hanson's body, out of thin air appeared branch-like deadwood vines.

These deadwood branches extended out like sharp swords, piercing through his body before he could finish speaking.

One by one, the deadwood branches penetrated through Yearly Hanson's body.

Some went through his heart, others through his abdomen, and some through his head.

Overall, the scene was extremely gruesome.

Nevertheless, although this scene was gory, it did not frighten Jovie Lee, for she had witnessed similar sights on her journey, especially last time on Crescent Island, the hellish scene had already hardened her heart.

In fact, witnessing Yearly Hanson's demise, a sense of pleasure rose in her heart.

After all, she had already contemplated perishing in an explosion just moments ago, even if it meant her fragrant soul shattered, she wouldn't let Yearly Hanson succeed.

In that instant, her heart was filled with reluctance, an unwillingness to part with her man, Wyatt Barnes, and her newborn child.

"Young Madam, come with me... the House Master is waiting outside for us."

Withered, holding Jovie Lee's child, spoke to Jovie Lee.

"You... called me Young Madam?"

Hearing Withered's words, Jovie Lee was taken aback.

"Your fiancé is our Junior House Master... naturally, you are the Young Madam."

Not waiting for Jovie Lee to respond after his words, Withered lifted his hand, extending an invisible force, forcibly taking Jovie Lee out of the room, away from Ripple Hanson Mansion.

After being taken away, Jovie Lee was still somewhat dazed.

When did her man become the Junior House Master?

Soon, under Withered's guidance, Jovie Lee met Lanni Barnes.

Seeing this young man with brows bearing a resemblance to her man, no words were needed for Jovie Lee to know who he was.

For, before this, her man had mentioned him.

"You... you are... father?"

Jovie Lee looked at Lanni Barnes, dazed for a while before finally calling out "Father."

After calling out, her peerless beauty blushed slightly.

"You must be Jovie, right? Just as Natalie described, exceptional... This child is..."

Lanni Barnes, upon seeing Jovie Lee, was also impressed, silently admiring his son's excellent taste. Yet quickly, his attention shifted to the child Withered held, not having looked closely at the child yet, hence he hadn't noticed the child's brows bearing a five, six-part resemblance to his son Wyatt Barnes, as well as several similarities to himself.

"This is the child of Wyatt and me."

Jovie Lee said, her face flushed.

"What?!"

Although he had some suspicions, upon hearing Jovie Lee's confirmation, Lanni Barnes's face instantly lit up with joy, and he immediately reached out to take the child from Withered's hands.

It was more of a 'snatch' rather than a receive.

Holding the child, looking at the expression between the child's eyebrows, Lanni Barnes's face was full of a bright smile, grinning from ear to ear.

He had become a grandfather!

Unknowingly, Lanni Barnes's eyes were slightly moist.

"Dad, you..."

At this moment, Jovie Lee recalled the strength displayed by the elder who brought her out earlier, and the elder also mentioned that her man was some 'Junior House Master'. She glanced at Lanni Barnes, then looked at Withered, her face showing confusion.

As far as she knew, in the Martial Dao Sacred Land, any force that could be called a 'Mansion' was at least as strong as a Fifth-Rate Power like the Pebble Hanson's, or even stronger.

However, Lanni Barnes was completely focused on the grandson in his arms and hadn't heard Jovie Lee's words.

But Withered quickly clarified for her, "Young Madam, the House Master is the master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds... In the Lower Domain of the Martial Dao Sacred Land, the Mansion of Azure Clouds is a top-notch power, far beyond what the Pebble Hanson House can compare to! Even looking across the entire Martial Dao Sacred Land, our Mansion is a near Third-Rate Power."

A near Third-Rate Power!

Hearing Withered's words, Jovie Lee couldn't help but tremble inside.

During her time in the Pebble Hanson House, because she had nothing else to do, she read many dossiers related to the various introductions of the Martial Dao Sacred Land within the Pebble Hanson House.

Among these dossiers, there was mention of near Third-Rate Powers.

Although near Third-Rate Powers are essentially Fourth-Rate Powers, because their strength far surpasses ordinary Fourth-Rate Powers, they are labeled as near Third-Rate Powers.

And near Third-Rate Powers, in the Lower Domain of the Martial Dao Sacred Land, are already considered top-tier powers.

The scrolls Jovie Lee referred to also included descriptions of the 'Upper Domain' and 'Lower Domain' of the Martial Dao Sacred Land. She also knew that many years ago, the Martial Dao Sacred Land had split in two, with the Upper Domain becoming completely independent, and people from the Upper Domain rarely appearing in the Lower Domain.

People from the Upper Domain generally do not interfere with the affairs of the Lower Domain.

Now, upon learning that her man's father was the House Master of a near Third-Rate Power in the Lower Domain of the Martial Dao Sacred Land, how could she not be shocked?

"Dad!"

Upon learning of Lanni Barnes's identity, Jovie Lee knelt in the air immediately.

"Jovie, what are you doing?"

Seeing this, Lanni Barnes's face changed slightly.

"Dad, Sister Keer is missing. Please, Dad, help find her."

Unknowingly, tears streamed down Jovie Lee's face like rain.

Back then, after leaving Crescent Island as if fleeing, she came to the Pebble Hanson House after much trouble.

However, due to her physical condition, she couldn't go back to find Keer.

And because of her, Karina Hanson, with Little Black, Little White, and Little Gold, stayed by her side, not leaving, until her child was born. Only then did Karina Hanson take the three little guys back to Crescent Island, but they haven't returned yet.

"Ah. You truly share a deep sisterly bond."

Hearing Jovie Lee's words, Lanni Barnes sighed and raised his hand, an invisible force lifting Jovie Lee up, "Jovie, Keer is fine, don't worry."

"Sister Keer is fine?"

Hearing Lanni Barnes's words, Jovie Lee's eyes lit up, "Dad, is this true?"

"It's true."

Lanni Barnes nodded, then recounted his return to the Cloud Skies Continent and the sound jade slip that Wyatt Barnes left for Jovie Lee, including its contents, "Although Keer was taken by the woman from the Fire Worship Sect, since that woman claimed to be Keer's twin sister, she should not harm her."

"I've never heard Keer mention she had a twin sister."

Upon hearing this, Jovie Lee was slightly surprised.

"Perhaps even Keer herself doesn't know her true identity."

Lanni Barnes sighed and then spoke of what he learned later, including the possibility that Keer was predetermined by the Fire Worship Sect to be a future Saintess.

"Dad, does this mean even you can't bring Sister Keer back from the Fire Worship Sect?"

Jovie Lee asked.

"The Fire Worship Sect, even in the Upper Domain of the Martial Dao Sacred Land, is a top-tier force! In the Martial Dao Sacred Land, there are Three Sects and Nine Flows. The Fire Worship Sect is one of the Three Sects... As for the Nine Flows, they refer to all the forces in the Upper and Lower Domains of the Martial Dao Sacred Land, divided into a total of Nine Flows. In the Upper Domain, there are still many First-Rate, near First-Rate, Second-Rate, near Second-Rate, and Third-Rate Powers."

"But even a typical First-Rate Power in the Upper Domain is nowhere near a match for the Fire Worship Sect! Moreover, my Mansion of Azure Clouds is merely a top power in the Lower Domain."

Lanni Barnes spoke with a sense of powerlessness.

If the Fire Worship Sect were just a Lower Domain power, he would have long gone to reclaim his daughter-in-law, Keer.

"The Fire Worship Sect... is that powerful? How could Sister Keer be involved with them... With her being taken by the Fire Worship Sect, what will she do? And what about the child in her belly?"

Jovie Lee's pretty face was filled with worry.

"What?! Keer is pregnant too?"

And in hearing what Jovie Lee almost muttered to herself, Lanni Barnes's expression changed dramatically.

Chapter 1590: A Sleepless Night at Han Residence by the Blue Waves

Upon learning that Keer was also pregnant, Lanni Barnes's face turned extremely grim.

Originally, knowing he was going to have two grandchildren should have been something to be happy about... But the problem was, only one grandchild's safety was currently ensured.

The other grandchild's fate was still uncertain.

According to the message from his son, Wyatt Barnes, Keer had been taken by her twin sister, and her sister had been treating her well, so for now, Keer seemed to be safe.

However, the child in Keer's belly was a different matter.

"If Keer is really considered a 'Saintess' by the Fire Worship Sect... If people from the Fire Worship Sect find out she is pregnant, they wouldn't just kill her but wouldn't allow the child inside her to live either!"

This was what Lanni Barnes was most worried about.

Although he didn't know much about the 'Fire Worship Sect,' he knew that sects like the Fire Worship Sect did not allow their Saintesses to have much contact with men, let alone become pregnant.

"Keer's twin sister, though a member of the Fire Worship Sect, likely wouldn't harm her own sister... However, to protect Keer, she might choose to remove the child in Keer's womb!"

Thinking of this, Lanni Barnes was deeply worried.

That was his grandchild!

Soon, Lanni Barnes took a deep breath, slightly calming his agitated emotions, and regained his composure.

Because he knew, being anxious now was of no use, as the situation was beyond his control.

Now, he only hoped that Keer could safely give birth to the child. Of course, if the safety of Keer was at stake and he had to choose one over the other, he would rather Keer survive well.

He believed that even his son, Wyatt Barnes, would think the same.

"Jovie, you should come back to the Mansion of Azure Clouds with me first. Your Aunt Natalie... no, I should call her Mother. Your mother has been talking about you for a long time. She will definitely be very happy to see you."

Lanni Barnes said to Jovie Lee.

"Dad, bad... Have you found him?"

Jovie originally wanted to call Wyatt Barnes 'bad egg,' as she usually did, but in front of Lanni Barnes, she corrected herself in time as she spoke.

"The matter concerning him is somewhat complicated; we'll discuss it on our way back."

Lanni Barnes said.

Jovie nodded obediently, and then she seemed to recall something, looking at Lanni Barnes and saying: "Dad, if I just leave like this, Julia will definitely be very worried..."

"Withered, go to the Mansion of Yearly Hanson one more time."

Lanni Barnes said to Withered. Of course, this was just what he said in front of Jovie Lee; secretly, he conveyed some messages to Withered about what things should and should not be said.

As the matter concerned his son's future, he didn't want to go against the wishes of the Elder Destiny.

"Yes, House Master."

Withered replied and left, going back to the Mansion of Yearly Hanson.

"Let's set off first."

At this moment, Lanni Barnes also called out to Jovie Lee, holding his grandson, and used invisible force to carry Jovie towards the direction of the Mansion of Azure Clouds.

Soon, Withered returned to the vast residence of the Mansion of Yearly Hanson. He hovered in the void, and when he spoke, his voice, imbued with rich True Origin, swept down like a violent storm, spreading across the entire Mansion of Yearly Hanson.

"Inform Miss Julia that our Young Madam and her child have gone home with me."

This was Withered's original words.

As Withered's voice spread across the Mansion of Yearly Hanson, Withered also disappeared into thin air in the sky above the Mansion of Yearly, even before the Mansion's experts could extend their Divine Sense to detect him.

However, the Mansion of Yearly Hanson was destined to be restless that night.

As the group of experts in the Mansion of Yearly Hanson was startled by Withered's voice, the lackey beside Yearly Hanson, who was guarding outside the large courtyard arranged for Jovie Lee by Ruby for Julia, also heard the voice descending from the sky.

"Mother and child?"

Upon hearing the voice, the lackey beside Yearly Hanson immediately frowned, "Knowing Miss Julia and it's mother and child... isn't it referring to that woman inside and her not-long-born son?"

"Wasn't she supposed to spend a romantic night with the Young Master?"

As the thought occurred to him, the lackey vaguely sensed something was amiss and hurried into the courtyard, arriving at the door of the room where Jovie Lee had previously stayed.

"Young Master, Young Master."

The lackey stood outside the door, called a few times, but after a while, there was no response at all, which startled him, changing his expression slightly.

Taking a deep breath, he tried pushing the door, only to find that it was ajar and easily opened.

As the door swung open, the moonlight poured into the room, revealing a horrifying scene within... A young man in fine clothing lay on the ground, his entire body stained with blood.

The body had more than a dozen bloody holes, making it impossible to distinguish his appearance.

However, having followed Yearly Hanson for years, the lackey knew Yearly Hanson so well that he instantly confirmed that this young man in fine clothing was indeed his Young Master, Yearly Hanson.

"Young Master!!"

Seeing this, the lackey couldn't help but cry out in fear.

And as his cry echoed, a ghostly figure appeared behind him, and a cold voice asked: "Why are you here?"

"Lord Ruby, Young Master he... he..."

The person who arrived was 'Ruby,' who had just rushed back.

Upon hearing the voice that descended from the sky, the first thought that flashed through her mind was that someone had taken Jovie Lee and her son away.

So she rushed back immediately.

However, even though she hurried back, she found Yearly Hanson's lackey standing outside Jovie Lee's room, which made her face change drastically, and she quickly rushed inside.

Once inside, she discovered Yearly Hanson's corpse.

Yearly Hanson's appearance was already unrecognizable, but she recognized his clothes.

Her face immediately darkened, realizing the reason why Yearly Hanson appeared here, and her gaze toward him revealed a cold killing intent.

Realizing that Yearly Hanson was already dead, she looked at the bewildered lackey standing at the door and asked sternly, "What exactly happened here?"

"I... I don't know."

The lackey shook his head; he truly knew nothing.

"Why are you here? And why is he here?"

Ruby asked with a somber expression.

Under Ruby's severe gaze and realizing Yearly Hanson was dead, the lackey dared not hide anything, and truthfully recounted the events.

Including the diversion of Ruby.

"Brought it upon himself!"

After hearing the whole story, this was the first thought that came to Ruby's mind. Regardless of who killed Yearly Hanson, she felt his death was well-deserved.

However, moments later, she felt a bit puzzled.

"Calling Jovie Lee the Young Madam... and Jovie Lee's man is Wyatt Barnes! I heard Miss Julia mention that Wyatt Barnes' father is also a strong figure in the Martial Dao Sacred Land... Could it be that his men came to take Jovie Lee and her son?"

The more Ruby thought about it, the more certain she became, and she felt relieved.

If it were truly like this, it would be easier to explain to Miss Julia.

"Yearly!!"

Meanwhile, when the Mansion of Azure Clouds quieted down after being disturbed by the voice descending from the sky, a furious roar arose, stirring up the entire Mansion of Azure Clouds once again.

"He found out."

Upon hearing this roar, Ruby smiled wryly; she could tell it was the voice of their Mansion of Azure Clouds' Elder.

And that Elder was Yearly Hanson's grandfather.

Yearly Hanson was also his only grandson.

Now, hearing his angry roar, it was clear he had discovered Yearly Hanson's death.

More precisely, the Elder had already discovered Yearly Hanson's Soul Bead was shattered.

She glanced around the room and noticed it wasn't chaotic, leading Ruby to guess some things, "In other words, when Yearly Hanson had ill intentions, Wyatt Barnes' father's men happened to arrive and killed Yearly Hanson and took Jovie Lee and her son away?"

Thinking of this, Ruby also breathed a sigh of relief.

If something had happened to Jovie Lee, not to mention Miss Julia wouldn't forgive her, she wouldn't forgive herself either.

Fortunately, Jovie Lee was safe.

As for Yearly Hanson's death, she didn't care because she never liked Yearly Hanson before. If it weren't for Yearly Hanson's grandfather being the Elder of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, she might have personally dealt with Yearly Hanson long ago.

"It's... it's the Elder!"

Yearly Hanson's lackey outside turned deathly pale upon hearing the furious roar shaking the Mansion of Azure Clouds.

He could imagine that if the Elder found out something happened to his grandson, he would surely not spare him.

After all, he was someone who followed Yearly Hanson.

Even if he wasn't an accomplice, he was still a person from Yearly Hanson's side; Yearly Hanson died, and he was unscathed... How would the Elder perceive this?

Thinking about it filled him with despair.

"Lord Ruby, you must help me... I had nothing to do with this! I also advised the Young Master not to provoke Miss Julia's guests, but he wouldn't listen."

The lackey knelt before Ruby, pleading frantically.

"I cannot help you in this matter... When the Elder arrives, just tell the truth."

Ruby said calmly.

As she spoke, a glint of coldness flashed in her eyes, "If you dare to deceive in front of the Elder, even if he spares you, I won't!"

Ruby's words sent a shiver down the lackey's spine, and he lowered his head, "Lord Ruby, I understand... I understand."

The Elder's wrath from the Mansion of Azure Clouds naturally had enormous implications.

Soon, Jovie Lee's former room was filled not just with Ruby and Yearly Hanson's lackey, but also the Elder of the Mansion of Azure Clouds and its two Protectors.

Of course, it was partly because the House Master of the Mansion of Azure Clouds was away recently; otherwise, he would surely be present as well.

"Yearly!"

The Elder of the Mansion of Azure Clouds, an aged man in blue attire, looked at Yearly Hanson's corpse with reddened eyes, exuding a fearsome aura that seemed to lower the room's temperature slightly.