

I Don't Want to Get Hurt, So I'll Max Out My Defense

Chapter 16: Chapter 16 Life-bound Spiritual Treasure

Li Xiaobai did not understand cultivation. Besides the cracks on the ground, he could not discern any strangeness in the two's moves and could only stare in dumbfounded silence.

The poison fog on the arena had completely dissipated, and in their moves, not even the basic effects of their cultivation techniques were present, leaving the other disciples utterly confused.

Their level was too low to comprehend the deeper meaning behind such maneuvers, but the more powerful disciples' eyes were all wide open, afraid of missing even the smallest detail.

The Elders, too, had solemn expressions, watching the battle in the arena intently. Such strength was comparable to their own, and even if their cultivation levels were a bit lower, their combat awareness and understanding of cultivation techniques were nothing to scoff at.

Indeed, Misty Peak was a place of geniuses!

The two people on the stage were free of all distractions, oblivious to the exclamations from below, seeing only their opponent.

Su Yunbing was also startled. She had not expected that her second junior sister's cultivation had reached such a level without her noticing. Relying on ordinary means, she truly couldn't defeat her in a short time.

However, it was about time for the competition to end.

Su Yunbing's eyes hardened, and a cold light burst forth from them. With a flip of her wrist, a huge hammer appeared in her hand.

The hammer was ridiculously large, with the head alone being at least three meters wide. The handle was unreasonably long, covered in wild totemic engravings that stimulated the onlookers' brains.

It was hard to imagine that such a delicate and petite body could wield such a massive hammer.

"Junior sister, you've held out against your senior for quite some time, which is quite commendable. You can step down now," she said.

As soon as she finished speaking, she exerted force in her hand, luminance swirling, and the hammer transformed into a series of afterimages smashing toward Ye Wushuang. The head of the hammer flashed with a dark light, revealing a rare and strange beast, and a faint sound of sonic boom echoed through the air.

Ye Wushuang's complexion changed, the oppressive might carried by the hammer causing her hair to stand on end. Dark green smoke converged around her as the internal cultivation technique within her body ran wildly, attempting to block the hammer.

"Puff!"

The hammer broke through the cultivation technique without any resistance and struck Ye Wushuang's chest. Her internal energy became chaotic, and blood spurted wildly from her mouth as her body was flung backward.

Su Yunbing slammed the hammer down on the ground and exhaled a deep breath. Defeating Ye Wushuang made her feel much more comfortable, and it balanced her mood significantly.

Feeling the buzzing and trembling of the ground, Li Xiaobai couldn't help but swallow nervously. His senior sister was terrifying, able to swing such a huge hammer.

Seeing the exaggeratedly large hammer on the stage, Feng Wuxie's face changed dramatically, and he blurted out, "That's a Life-bound Spirit Treasure!"

"What's a Life-bound Spirit Treasure?" Li Xiaobai asked.

"It's a magic treasure nurtured with one's own blood essence. Anyone who has a Life-bound Spirit Treasure is peerless in their own rank. Su Yunbing must have advanced to this extent, her cultivation level must be at least the sixth level of Golden Core!"

Feng Wuxie was truly frightened. He himself was only at the third level of Golden Core, and it was laughable that he had always thought of himself as a leading figure in the Immortal Feather Sect.

In front of Su Yunbing, he was nothing.

"It's been a long time since we've sparred. Senior sister has reached this level; it looks like she has far outstripped us!" Liu Jinshui murmured to himself.

"Third senior brother, if you were to face the eldest senior sister, what chance would you have of winning?"

Yang Chen asked with a frown, as the bravery shown by Su Yunbing was too overpowering.

"Stop talking nonsense. We all know the abilities of the eldest senior sister too well. If she were to use her cultivation techniques and martial skills, we wouldn't stand a chance in a single exchange!"

Lin Yin said with an indifferent expression, as such an outcome did not surprise him.

Yang Chen seemed to recall some unpleasant memories and also fell silent.

"Junior sister isn't hurt, is she?"

Li Xiaobai asked, the stains of blood on the stage still fresh and startling to look at.

"Don't worry. For Senior Sister Ye, this is but a minor injury. A bit of cultivation technique circulation should heal her quickly," Liu Jinshui said.

"For the second match, Su Yunbing wins!"

The referee was also stunned, having felt the threat of death from the residual power of the hammer, and it took him a long time to regain his composure.

All the disciples below the stage were shocked. The totem engravings on that hammer, and the strong oppressive feeling it emitted, deeply stirred everyone's hearts.

The disciples of Misty Peak are terrifyingly powerful!

Su Yunbing laughed heartily, shouldering the hammer and walking down from the stage with an air of complacency on her face.

"Junior sister, your skills are still lacking. Go back and practice some more!"

"Hehe, senior sister's lesson is well taken!"

Ye Wushuang's complexion had regained much of its color but was still somewhat pale, not betraying the signs of serious injury she had sustained.

Li Xiaobai grew even more amazed, originally thinking the eldest senior sister was already freakish in her abilities, not expecting that the second senior sister would be even more so, healing such severe wounds in the blink of an eye.

It was truly unfathomable.

"The third match, Misty Peak's Lin Yin versus Misty Peak's Ling Feng!"

The competition had to continue, the referee announced with a shaky voice, before hastily leaving the stage, not daring to stand too close when disciples of Misty Peak sparred.

"Come on up, fifth junior brother."

Lin Yin seemed relaxed, his figure shimmering as he stepped onto the stage.

Ling Feng appeared somewhat nervous, even more silent than usual.

"Fifth junior brother, it's okay, there's no shame in losing to the third senior brother," Liu Jinshui patted Ling Feng on the shoulder, comforting him.

"Yeah, the third senior brother is seasoned in battle, his whole being is intent on killing, there's no disgrace in losing," Yang Chen said in his usual careless manner.

Ling Feng nodded, his figure flickered, and he instantly appeared on the stage.

Li Xiaobai's eyes widened as he watched the two on stage, why did it seem that Ling Feng was so afraid of Lin Yin?

Could something have happened in the past?

On the stage, Ling Feng clasped his hands and said, "Please show mercy, senior brother!"

"Certainly."

Lin Yin, with his hands behind his back, spoke indifferently.

"Then this junior brother will offend!"

The palms of Ling Feng pushed forward evenly, igniting a fiery red glow that soared to the sky, a scorching burst of heat hitting the face.

The stage was instantaneously scorched black, seemingly starting to melt here and there.

"Raging Sun Palm!"

Unlike the battle with his senior sister, Ling Feng started with a major move, as the stage was enveloped in overwhelming flames, obscuring the view inside.

Li Xiaobai, still employing the same tactic, carefully drained the nearby flames, adding several hundred attribute points once again.

Quite good!

It was evident that the fierce battle within the arena was intensifying, the air temperature kept rising, and many disciples were already drenched in sweat.

The flames on the stage turned from fiery red to purple-black, the temperature rising by more than tenfold, directly burning a hole through the center of the stage.

It was difficult to imagine how Lin Yin could still strike back in such an environment.

A moment later,

The ground suddenly trembled, the flames in the center gradually dissipated, revealing the figures of the two men.

Lin Yin casually held Ling Feng by the collar with one hand and nonchalantly tossed him off the stage.

Ling Feng coughed up blood, his body covered with a layer of frost, convulsing uncontrollably, as Ye Wushuang quickly stepped forward to administer treatment.

"Misty Peak, Lin Yin wins!"

The referee struggled to spit out the words.

Everyone was petrified, no one knew what had happened on the stage, the sky-full of flames had already caused enough alarm, but it turned out Ling Feng had been defeated in an instant, what kind of move was that?

"Senior sister, did you see clearly?"

Liu Jinshui asked Su Yunbing.

"One move, defeated Ling Feng, Junior Brother Lin Yin's cultivation level is not much different from mine, only lacking the condensation of the Life-bound Spirit Treasure," Su Yunbing took a deep breath and spoke slowly.

"Hiss!"

"The third senior brother has reached this step too?"

Chapter 17: Chapter 17: The Mighty Misty Peak

Life-bound Spirit Treasures are considered standard equipment for high-level cultivators.

One could start refining them upon reaching the Golden Core Stage, but as ordinary cultivators just entering this stage have relatively weak spiritual power, nurturing one could be somewhat troublesome.

Thus, most people choose to start nurturing their Life-bound Spirit Treasure at the sixth level of the Golden Core Stage, but from Su Yunbing's performance, it was clear that she didn't wait until then; she probably started right after entering the Golden Core Stage.

Such daring was indeed formidable.

Down below, Ling Feng appeared somewhat disheartened, defeated in one move; the gap between him and the third senior brother was so vast.

"Junior brother, take it easy. Victory and defeat are common in warfare. Just keep practicing diligently, and you can win it back!"

Su Yunbing said in a carefree manner.

"Yes, junior brother, you joined after Lin Yin, so a momentary win or loss doesn't count for much."

Ye Wushuang also offered words of comfort.

Lin Yin stepped down from the stage slowly, silent and lifeless as ever: "You've gotten a bit stronger than before, a large ant I suppose."

Hearing this, Ling Feng's eyes lit up, as if he had been recognized, and his spirits instantly revived.

Li Xiaobai thought Ling Feng was a bit unusual. The encouraging words from the senior sisters didn't cheer him up, yet the shame from the third senior brother revitalized him; could it be that he was a masochist?

"Thank you for the instruction, senior brother. I understand now!"

Ling Feng returned to his cool demeanor.

Feng Wuxie had been focusing on the residual frost on his hand, with an extremely unsightly expression. Although he couldn't clearly see what was happening inside the ring, he could sense the events occurring within.

The cultivation technique Lin Yin used must involve cold and chilling energy, chilling to the extreme. Whether Lin Yin or Ling Feng, both had cultivation levels higher than his own.

Was Misty Peak really so magical?

"For the fourth match, Misty Peak's Yang Chen will face True Disciple Chen Ping!" the referee announced the continuation of the match.

"It's my turn."

Yang Chen was quite excited and leaped onto the stage.

"Brother Yang!"

Chen Ping's gaze shifted evasively; three years ago, he had been brutally defeated by Yang Chen on this very platform. Now he was even less able to ascertain his opponent's cultivation level, feeling somewhat intimidated and reluctant to engage.

"Junior brother Chen, don't be polite. Take action, let your senior brother see if you've made some progress over these three years!"

Yang Chen's attitude was outrageously arrogant, not taking Chen Ping seriously at all. Chen Ping's face flushed with embarrassment, he unsheathed his longsword and thrust it towards Yang Chen.

"Spirit Snake Swordsmanship!"

His body turned into a streak of bright silver light, constantly weaving throughout the arena, looking for Yang Chen's vulnerabilities.

Yang Chen didn't bother with any defensive gestures and stood wide open in front of Chen Ping, seemingly provoking his opponent to attack.

"Dance of the Myriad Demons!"

Chen Ping's figure flickered rapidly, the platform flashed with silver light, and dozens of afterimages appeared, each dragging a longsword and stabbing towards Yang Chen from all directions.

The disciples below held their breath. Among the many clones, only one was real. If they misidentified it, it would be a devastating blow.

They believed that if it were them on the platform, they would definitely not be able to defend against this technique and would be defeated instantly.

"Long time no see, and you're still up to the same old tricks. Though there are more clones, what good does that do?"

Yang Chen burst into laughter.

His arm twisted at an inconceivable angle and effortlessly caught the sword tip stabbing towards the back of his neck.

With a slight exertion of strength between his fingers, the longsword crumbled to dust.

Turning around, he landed a palm on Chen Ping's chest, causing him to spit blood and collapse unconscious on the ground.

Defeating a True Disciple in two moves, crushing a Spirit Sword with his bare hands, Yang Chen performed these feats as if they were effortless, shockingly dominating the scene.

The many disciples realized they had been mistaken about something. They had always thought Misty Peak simply handed out favors, which was why their disciples were more powerful than ordinary Inner Sect Disciples.

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But today's encounter proved entirely different. It wasn't that he became strong through backdoor means; instead, it was because his strength was so formidable that the Sect Leader specially allowed him to take a backdoor approach and establish his own faction.

"Misty Peak, Yang Chen wins!"

The referee carried Chen Ping away.

The fourth match was Liu Jinshui versus Feng Wuxie.

Feng Wuxie smiled politely, stepping forward to greet everyone.

"Xiaobai junior brother, congratulations on also entering the top ten and securing the qualification for further study. Don't slack off in your cultivation."

"Liu junior brother, please, I'm really looking forward to exchanging blows with a Misty Peak disciple."

Liu Jinshui's eyes whirled, and he sighed, waving his hand.

"Referee, I admit defeat. We have all already made it into the top ten, what's the point of continuing? Let's finish early and call it a day!"

Liu Jinshui's shocking words stunned Feng Wuxie, and the rest of the disciples were taken aback as well.

Was there no need to continue competing once one had secured the qualification for further study?

What kind of logic was that?

Where was your ambition?

From afar, the Elders were unable to contain their anger.

"What does this rascal think the grand competition is for?"

"Is the competition something he can abandon whenever he pleases?"

"Forget about it, the guy has already surrendered. There's no rule in the grand competition that says disciples aren't allowed to admit defeat!"

"This is infuriating..."

The Sect Leader was helpless too. Misty Peak always liked to stir up some trouble, but he could also see that this chubby fellow truly lacked any fighting spirit.

He feared that participating in the grand competition was merely to snatch a spot for further study; once he had secured a spot, not even the Heavenly King could compel him to fight.

A perfect example of not making an effort without profit!

The referee hesitated upon hearing this: "Are you sure?"

"Certain!"

"Alright then, Misty Peak disciple Liu Jinshui voluntarily admits defeat, True Disciple Feng Wuxie wins!"

"Today's grand competition ends here; tomorrow we will decide the top three in the competition!"

"I urge the disciples to reflect on their shortcomings when they return, to promptly spot and rectify their mistakes, and not let down this rare opportunity."

After uttering these words, the Sect Leader, accompanied by the Elders, left.

The disciples were caught up in a heated discussion, overwhelmed by what they had witnessed today.

All being disciples of the Immortal Feather Sect, why were some so outstanding?

Only today did they realize that there were such powerful disciples among their ranks, which was genuinely surprising.

Feng Wuxie sidled up to Li Xiaobai and chuckled, "Congratulations to the Misty Peak brothers and sisters. Once we all head to the Holy Demon Sect, please provide support. Mutual help and cooperation is the way forward!"

"Of course, of course, once we are in the Holy Demon Sect, we should become closer!"

Li Xiaobai greeted him with a smile, different from his fellow senior brothers and sisters.

He was a weakling who didn't need to cultivate and hence needed to make friends, and he felt that Feng Wuxie gave off a good vibe, like a guy-next-door.

Moreover, he owed his success in selling so many elixirs to this person's help.

"Yes, indeed. We must visit each other more often."

Feng Wuxie had an implicit message, which Li Xiaobai didn't catch, remaining all smiles.

"Yes, yes, by the way, senior brother, do you like bathing?"

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Chapter 18: Chapter 18 Demonic Beast Rampage

The scene was quite bizarre. Feng Wuxie was trying to devise ways to take out Li Xiaobai and seize his treasures, while all Li Xiaobai could think of was how to improve his relationship with his senior brother and enhance their emotional bond.

For a moment, Feng Wuxie was somewhat caught off guard.

"Ahem, ahem, let's do it another day, junior brother. I need to focus on my cultivation and prepare for tomorrow's contest, so I shall take my leave!"

"Senior brother, take care!"

Watching Feng Wuxie's retreating figure, Li Xiaobai smiled. What a nice senior brother, mild in temperament and kind to others, without showing any airs despite being a true disciple.

When compared to the likes of Lin Mang and Hao Jian, these were also true disciples, but why was there such a big gap in their behavior?

"Hehe, it's just as well that he didn't come; I thought the pool was too small anyway!"

Liu Jinshui had complaints about Feng Wuxie's behavior. To him, such a person was clearly a smiling tiger, but why couldn't his little junior brother see that?

"Let's go, let's continue our bath. That bathhouse is ours from now on!"

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Atop the mountain, the group of seven senior and junior brothers neatly soaked in the pool, shivering with comfort.

"Junior brother, what exactly is this water made of? You've managed to create another pool in such a short time."

Ye Wushuang couldn't stop thinking about the substance contained in the water.

She studied medicine and found such magical water naturally attractive.

"Unspeakable, unspeakable..."

Li Xiaobai shook his head, feeling that the more he soaked, the more comfortable it became.

"Who cares what material it is. In the future, if we want a bath, we just find our junior brother. He can't run away," Yang Chen said in a daze.

This was just a pool of very ordinary water, but it somehow filled them with pleasant bliss, and they were almost sleepy.

Suddenly, an angry roar came.

"You little rascals, Elder has been looking for you at the mountain foot for half a day, and here you are, hiding in this place indulging in luxury!"

"Who made this bathhouse? Is this what cultivators should be doing?"

At some point, Feng Lingzi came up along the slope of the mountain, guessing that his disciples must be hiding here.

"Master, lower your voice. We are practicing here!"

"Don't believe it? Master, why don't you come in and soak too?"

Su Yunbing was very dissatisfied with Feng Lingzi's shouting; she was almost asleep and was abruptly awakened by his loud voice.

With Feng Lingzi's interruption, the rest of them were completely devoid of sleepiness, with wretched expressions.

"All of you out and stand properly. It's utterly disgraceful, each of you. Going to the Holy Demon Sect, do you also plan to be so lazy?"

"You represent the face of Immortal Feather Sect. You must not become complacent!"

Feng Lingzi puffed his chest and glared, his face full of fury.

Reluctantly, the few in the pool stood up, dried their clothes with their cultivation, and lined up.

"Li Xiaobai, why are your clothes still dripping wet?" Feng Lingzi asked with a frown.

"Master, I don't know how to dry them," Li Xiaobai said.

"Just like your senior brothers and sisters, dry your clothes with your cultivation. Aren't you a genius? Do I need to teach you such a minor thing myself?"

"Master, I've only realized the way to get stronger quickly; I haven't grasped the method to dry clothes quickly."

Li Xiaobai lied through his teeth, which infuriated Feng Lingzi again; with a sweep of his hand and a gust of wind, the dripping clothes were instantaneously clean and dry.

[Attribute Points +10...]

Delicious!

"I didn't come over today just because I had nothing better to do after a full meal. Recently, a major incident has occurred outside, are you aware of it?"

Feng Lingzi composed himself and spoke slowly; he did indeed have important business.

"Is it a demonic beast uprising?" Third Senior Brother Lin Yin asked.

"Yes, that's right, a demonic beast uprising. For the past two months, there have been signs of unrest among the beasts in the Divine Beast Mountain Range, and today, they finally erupted. An envoy from Zhenyuan Country has notified our sect of this matter, and the Sect Leader is currently deliberating strategies with a few elders."

Feng Lingzi nodded, relieved that there was at least one disciple who was reliable.

"Then Master, if you're not joining in on the strategy discussions, what are you doing here with us?" Yang Chen asked, puzzled.

Feng Lingzi's forehead throbbed with visible veins as he repeatedly reminded himself that these were his precious disciples, whom he could neither hit nor scold, and he was not necessarily able to beat them, either.

"I have come naturally because I have a matter to entrust. The incident is of great importance; I will head to other towns first. Tomorrow, the Sect Leader will notify you all to go to Zhenyuan Country to clear out the demonic beasts."

"As for the cause of the outbreak, I suspect that it is very likely due to the emergence of treasures, otherwise these demonic beasts would not be so excited and agitated."

"During your trip to the Divine Beast Mountain Range, in addition to slaying demonic beasts, you must also search for treasures. There are many Heaven

and Earth Treasures in the mountain range, and whether you can get them will depend on your luck."

"You must be careful. When you are abroad, be sure to beware of being killed for your treasures and do not meddle in other's business. Xiaobai is the junior brother; you should all look out for him."

"I'll leave it at that. Prepare well and don't be careless. I shall take my leave."

Feng Lingzi turned around and disappeared on the spot.

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Li Xiaobai pondered how to deal with the demonic beast uprising, only to see his senior brothers and sisters confusedly soaking in the bathhouse again, which left him rather speechless at their carefree attitudes.

Once more, the group sat in a row and soaked in the pool together.

"Senior brothers and sisters, is the demonic beast uprising that Master mentioned dangerous?" Li Xiaobai couldn't help but ask.

"It's not dangerous. In the nooks and crannies of the Divine Beast Mountain Range, the strongest demonic beasts are at the Golden Core Great Perfection stage, and it's not even certain whether there are any at the Nascent Soul Stage. We go in and it's a bloodbath!"

Lin Yin said indifferently. He had spent many years traveling abroad and was very knowledgeable about these matters. Perhaps to others, the Divine Beast Mountain Range was a dangerous place, but to him, it was nothing special.

"Listen to your Third Senior Brother; he's experienced and knowledgeable. If he says there's no problem, then there's basically no problem," Su Yunbing said nonchalantly, not concerned about the trip to the Divine Beast Mountain Range, confident in her unparalleled prowess at her level.

"That's right, when the time comes, we brothers will sweep through the Divine Beast Mountain Range and take all the treasures for ourselves!"

Liu Jinshui became excited at the mention of treasures.

He was the most enthusiastic about treasures; one that could trigger a demonic beast uprising must be something significant.

"What kind of place is Zhenyuan Country, then?"

"Zhenyuan Country? It's a nation with a rather high opinion of itself. The people there seem to have a natural sense of superiority. Every time I go there, I come back infuriated," Yang Chen said.

"Indeed, I'd rather not get involved with them at all. Those people have no self-awareness," Liu Jinshui agreed wholeheartedly.

"They're just a bunch of bookworms. Too much studying has made them silly, so they see everyone else as fools," Ling Feng said with detachment.

"We are going to the Divine Beast Mountain Range; we'll just be passing through Zhenyuan Country, so we won't have much to do with them," Ye Wushuang frowned.

"No matter how high they hold their tails, they'll have to bow down before me!" Su Yunbing said with rising killing intent.

Li Xiaobai always felt that his senior brothers and sisters could make enemies wherever they went. The hate was already at its peak even before they arrived; following them was just too difficult.

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At the same time

Inside the Sect's grand hall, the elders were once again engaged in a heated argument.

"Absolutely not, when Zhenyuan Country comes to us proactively, it could hardly be for anything good. It's most likely they just need the smaller sects to serve as cannon fodder for them!"

Chapter 19: Chapter 19: The Complacent State Preceptor

"But with the demonic beast upheaval, there must be some treasure that has emerged. Shall we just sit here idly!"

"No matter what, I just can't stand it. We both know full well Zhenyuan Country's behavior. I'm afraid they've already formed an alliance with the Great Sect, and our role will just be cannon fodder!"

The Elders argued non-stop, with most of them unwilling to aid Zhenyuan Country amidst the demonic beast turmoil.

Ultimately, it was because the people of Zhenyuan Country were too unpopular. Not only were they arrogant, but they were also selfish, always centering themselves in everything, which resulted in no one wanting to side with them.

"Although Zhenyuan Country has its character flaws, its strength is not to be underestimated. They may not have Nascent Soul Stage powerhouses, but they do have up to a hundred Golden Core Stage experts. This time, they've sent a State Preceptor in person, which likely means they have discovered something and they want a batch of cannon fodder to scout ahead for them."

"We shouldn't pass up this opportunity."

The Great Elder spoke, well-informed about these matters. Zhenyuan Country's history of exploiting smaller sects wasn't new, but this also indicated there indeed was a treasure to be found, an opportunity.

Hearing this, the Elders quieted down, considering the interests at stake.

"I have made a decision on this matter. Elder Sun will lead the team. Aside from the disciples who ranked in the top ten of the grand competition, a few Inner Sect Disciples should also go out to gain experience and broaden their horizons!"

"The Great Elder is right; this mission isn't simply a rescue. There has to be an origin for the demonic beasts' rage. If we find it, and if there's a chance, we could also get a share."

The Sect Leader declared definitively.

He also disapproved of Zhenyuan Country's behavior, but the issue at hand was critical. Given that Zhenyuan Country was the closest to the Divine Beast Mountain Range, various other forces would likely send people to station there.

If the Immortal Feather Sect didn't make a move, they would inevitably face criticism.

Moreover, this time, he truly wanted to see if he could gain some advantages from the incident.

"So be it, then. That's decided."

"Hehe, with those lads from Misty Peak around, do we need to worry about our people being bullied by Zhenyuan Country?"

"That's right, we might even have a shot at grabbing the treasure for ourselves!"

"Now that it's settled, let's go meet this envoy from Zhenyuan Country. Let's not keep them waiting too long..."

"..."

The following morning,

Li Xiaobai opened his eyes to find he was still soaking in the pool, surrounded by a few fellow brothers and sisters. It seemed that everyone had gotten used to sleeping in the pool.

He checked the System panel before him.

[Defensive Power: Copper Skin, Iron Bone (4000/5000) can advance.]

After soaking all night, Attribute Points had increased by another thousand, all of which had been added to defensive power.

The feeling was exhilarating; this was the kind of operation where one could get stronger by simply bathing. This was the privilege of a transmigrator.

This System was indeed well-suited for him.

According to what Feng Lingzi said, the Sect Leader would announce the expedition to Zhenyuan Country today. Li Xiaobai was very much looking forward to subduing the demonic beasts.

Being away from home, with fewer eyes watching, he could be bolder in acquiring Attribute Points.

He exchanged for several bottles of discarded elixirs and swallowed them all at once, as his Attribute Points continued to rise.

Li Xiaobai stood up, "Senior brothers and sisters, it's time to set off."

The joy of bathing was always fleeting; today's task was the competition, coupled with listening to the Sect Leader's speech. The group climbed out leisurely, realizing the day was already bright, and without further ado, they dragged Li Xiaobai down the mountain.

Today, the Sect Leader would talk about the Divine Beast Mountain Range; this was a major event, and they dared not treat it lightly.

By the arena, the Sect Leader and all the Elders were already waiting, and the disciples of Misty Peak, arriving belatedly, merged into the crowd.

Seeing that all the disciples had gathered, the Sect Leader's expression was very serious as he began to speak about the Divine Beast Mountain Range matters.

"Ladies and gentlemen, a major event has recently taken place in our Northern Region, and I believe the well-informed disciples have already received the news. There has been a Demonic Beast rampage in the Divine Beast Mountain Range."

"Many nearby nations and villages have suffered serious Demonic Beast attacks, and our neighboring Zhenyuan Country sent an envoy yesterday to explain the situation."

"In order to strengthen the friendly relations between our two states, the Immortal Feather Sect has decided that Elder Sun will lead a team, taking the top ten from the grand competition and the top twenty Inner Sect Disciples to the Divine Beast Mountain Range to slay the Demonic Beasts!"

"This person beside me is the State Preceptor of Zhenyuan Country, Li Shejin!"

The Sect Leader introduced him with great importance, giving plenty of face to this Li Shejin. However, the other party did not give the Sect Leader any face at all.

He snorted lightly, brandished the whisk in his hand, and strode forward two steps with an air of importance.

Sitting below, Li Xiaobai wore a strange expression on his face. Li Shejin? Was there actually someone with this name?

Indeed, it was a vast and strange world where anything could happen. Today was an eye-opener for him. Li Shejin was a skinny middle-aged man.

His face was gaunt, his eye sockets deep, and his vigor severely lacking, clearly the type who indulged in alcohol and was given to excesses, a complete wastrel.

Just this arrogant attitude alone was enough to make numerous disciples feel disgust.

The senior brothers and sisters were right; these people from Zhenyuan Country really had a high opinion of themselves and a strong sense of superiority.

They came to ask for help from the Immortal Feather Sect and yet behaved so condescendingly; it was truly the height of arrogance.

"I am the State Preceptor of Zhenyuan Country, Li Shejin. You can refer to me as Lord Li. My cultivation level is at the third layer of the Golden Core Stage!"

"Speaking of which, you disciples who have never traveled far should thank me. Originally, I was just going to give you a heads up, but your Sect Leader insisted so politely that this time, I will take you to experience the real Cultivation World and let you sheltered flowers see some blood!"

Li Shejin held his head high and chest out, full of pride.

Only, his sharp, thin voice was quite grating on the ears, making it uncomfortable to listen to.

The faces of the crowd darkened. This behavior of the State Preceptor of Zhenyuan Country clearly showed disdain for the Immortal Feather Sect, and anger burned fiercely in their hearts.

Su Yunbing, who was beside them, couldn't hold back anymore and was about to open her mouth to curse, but Ye Wushuang quickly covered her mouth with his hand.

"Senior Sister, we are within our Sect right now. It's not appropriate for us to create too much friction. Once we go outside, we'll let him know who really is the sheltered flower!"

Ye Wushuang's eyes flashed coldly, clearly extremely displeased as well.

"Heh heh, not bad, this guy probably thinks he's the boss and hasn't figured out the situation yet. Once we're out there, we'll just let him bleed a bit!"

Liu Jinshui also chuckled.

Li Xiaobai watched Li Shejin on stage, who continued to talk without pause, and inwardly paid a silent tribute to the man for three minutes.

This guy probably didn't know that his next few hours had already been clearly arranged by others.

Li Shejin, oblivious to the disciples' reactions, continued to be engrossed in his self-aggrandizing mode, talking on and on incessantly.

When it came to theories, he was very impressive, which irritated the Sect Leader and the Elders so much that they were about to turn green.

No matter what, they were still a Sect. They had never been humiliated like this; even in front of great Sects, they hadn't lost face to such an extent.

This mere State Preceptor of Zhenyuan Country was now acting superior and pointing fingers at their disciples!

"Hehe, State Preceptor, with the Demonic Beasts rampaging, we must suppress them quickly!"

"This time, we will trouble you to lead these unaccomplished disciples of mine to Zhenyuan Country to see the world..."

Chapter 20: Chapter 20: Must Take the Bathhouse Away

"Hehe, I have my own plans in mind, all of your Immortal Feather Sect disciples look like they've never seen the world before, I'm just giving them a precautionary admonition in advance," he said.

Hindered in his speech, the State Preceptor was obviously displeased.

"Rest assured, State Preceptor, we have already warned them, life and death are predestined, these are experiences they must go through," the Sect Leader stated.

"This time, we're indeed troubling the State Preceptor," the Sect Leader said with a fist-bump salute, smiling as he spoke.

"Hmm, don't worry, which disciples will be accompanying me to Zhenyuan Country? There's no need for those with too weak abilities to go," said Li Shejin leisurely, his eyes darting around until they landed on a few from Misty Peak.

Su Yunbing and Ye Wushuang were both beauties, with an ethereal quality to their presence.

Li Shejin's small eyes glinted with excitement as he pointed toward the people from Misty Peak: "Those disciples over there are good, I'll take them!"

As soon as these words were uttered, the whole place mourned for him in silence.

The State Preceptor's lustful nature was undisguised, he didn't even try to hide it. He actually set his sights on two female disciples from Misty Peak, guaranteeing there would be no peace on this trip.

The Sect Leader by his side was also breaking out in a cold sweat; he feared that as soon as those from Misty Peak left the sect, they would slaughter the State Preceptor on the spot.

Instinct told him that the people from Misty Peak were absolutely capable of doing such a thing.

"Hehe, honored by the State Preceptor's favor, then this humble girl will obediently comply. The seven of us, brother and sisters, will accompany you," Su Yunbing said out of character, with a bloom of smiles that made Li Shejin salivate aggressively.

In his mind, he was already fantasizing about rollicking with these sisters in Zhenyuan Country. In his view, these disciples were all naïve; he thought he could easily manipulate them into submission with just a bit of scheming.

What Zhenyuan Country wanted, it never failed to obtain.

But what he failed to notice was the strange, cold glint in the eyes of those from Misty Peak.

Li Xiaobai felt a sense of trepidation; his fellow disciples were lawless, if they were let loose, this State Preceptor might not stay alive for more than five seconds.

The Sect Leader and the Elders had the same thought. While everyone really wanted to teach the State Preceptor a lesson, after all, he was a cultivator from a great nation, and killing him would cause great trouble.

"Cough cough, I guess that's about everything that needs to be said. You all go back and prepare, gather at the sect gates in two hours. This mission will be led by the Great Elder of the Holy Demon Sect. The top ten disciples of the competition will directly follow him back to the Holy Demon Sect, without needing to continue the contest," the Sect Leader instructed.

"This time, we must uphold a friendly attitude in our exchanges and do our utmost to help Zhenyuan Country eradicate the Demonic Beasts," the Sect Leader couldn't help but admonish again.

"Understood!"

The demeanor of the people from Misty Peak was surprisingly agreeable, which was out of character for them. Whatever the Sect Leader said went.

But the more compliant they were, the more the Sect Leader worried. Nevertheless, it wasn't appropriate to say more at the moment, and he could only hope for Li Shejin to be lucky. If you want to play with fire, I can't stop you.

The disciples below dispersed in an uproar, going back to start preparing for their departure. They truly didn't want to linger for even one more second; Li Shejin was just too repulsive.

With his greasy appearance and lecherous gaze, he really made one feel uncomfortable.

Li Xiaobai always wondered why Li Shejin seemed not very strong, yet he had such a domineering attitude. Could it be because of Zhenyuan Country's formidable strength?

He quietly approached Liu Jinshui, who seemed to have a clear understanding of many things.

"Brother Liu, do you know why the State Preceptor is so arrogant? It feels like his strength isn't very impressive," Li Xiaobai inquired.

"Hehe, well, that's a long story. This involves many historical issues, and the story of Zhenyuan Country actually begins with one person," Liu Jinshui responded with a smirk.

"Over a thousand years ago, a person from our Immortal Spirit Continent broke through the Feathering Stage and ascended to the Upper Realm. His name was Great Immortal Zhenyuan, born in a nation known as Dayuan Country. After his ascension, that country was renamed Zhenyuan Country,"

"Since Great Immortal Zhenyuan had walked the path of Confucianism, proving his way with vast and upright Qi, he exuded an abundant scholarly aura. The cultivators of Zhenyuan Country aren't very strong, but they've managed to mimic that scholarly air quite well, looking down on everyone with an air of superiority."

"Moreover, it's said that they have connections with some of the powers in Central Province. Although they keep tight-lipped about it, it's quite evident, especially since they have hundreds of Golden Core Cultivators. We all understand that very clearly."

"It's precisely because of this that everyone gives them face,"

Liu Jinshui went on to explain.

Li Xiaobai understood in his heart that this was a nation that had once produced an Immortal and had ties with the forces in Central Province, which was why they were so arrogant.

Indeed, this world still values strength above all else, but to think that Zhenyuan Country, with its hundreds of Golden Core cultivators, was deemed worthless by Senior Brother, seems even more arrogant than Li Shejin.

"But this Li Shejin has angered Senior Sister. He's as good as dead. Senior Sister's temperament won't care who's backing him. She'll swing her hammer without hesitation!"

Li Xiaobai deeply agreed. Senior Sister's behavior was quite odd; it was clear that she was looking to stir up trouble.

Just as he had expected, they probably hadn't even reached Zhenyuan Country yet, but were already on the brink of maxing out their hatred.

Back in his cave dwelling,

Li Xiaobai quickly checked his system panel. He was about to head out and confront demonic beasts, so he was making a last-minute check to see if there was anything he might use.

[Host: Li Xiaobai.]

[...]

[Defense: Copper Skin, Iron Bone (4200/5000).]

[Skills: Hatred Hundred Percent, Muscle Flaccidity, Sword Shattering the Sky.]

[Items: Somewhat Careful Helmet, Golden Silk Soft Armor.]

[Attribute Points: 0]

[Store: Opened.]

After browsing through the store, Li Xiaobai was well aware of his role; he had no offensive power of his own. To defeat his opponents, he had to rely on skills and items.

Acquiring skills depended on chance. What he could control were the items available in the store.

After looking around the store, although he had over a thousand Lower Grade Spirit Stones in hand, compared to the prices in the store, it was a drop in the bucket, and he couldn't purchase just anything.

After some selection, Li Xiaobai identified a few nice items.

[Thousand Mile Transmission Talisman]: Upon using this talisman, instantly move a thousand miles away to a random location. (Price: 1000 Lower Grade Spirit Stones)

[Flying Broom]: A flying mount. Ride the Flying Broom to soar across the heavens and earth, powered by Spirit Stones. One Lower Grade Spirit Stone can be used for one hour. (Price: 1000 Lower Grade Spirit Stones)

[Golden Body Talisman]: Upon use, it can block one hit from a Nascent Soul Cultivator. (Price: 1000 Lower Grade Spirit Stones)

Each of these items was a lifesaver, and coincidentally, their prices matched his entire wealth.

For the time being, he would take note of these items and purchase them when needed.

It was at this moment that the voices of a few Senior Brothers and Sisters arguing came from outside the house.

"We must take the bathhouse with us!"