

Myth Beyond 1951

Chapter 1951 Extravagant

"This profound ark is equipped with twenty grand cannons. As long as sufficient energy is provided, it can handle any profound ark in the Southern Expanse without difficulty." Dongfang Hao explained further.

"In truth, the celestial-class profound ark before you is far more capable than the president has stated. It easily ranks among the top across the entire Primal Chaos. Perhaps he was overly cautious in his introduction." Dongfang Xue added, feeling the need to inform Yun Lintian of this important detail.

Yun Lintian listened with awe. "Are you certain you want to entrust this profound ark to us?"

He had initially expected a profound ark capable of swift travel across the Southern Expanse, but the one presented before him was essentially a mobile fortress.

"Of course. This is a small price to pay for my daughter's life," Dongfang Hao stated.

Dongfang Xue was deeply touched. Given the nature of powerful families, she did not expect such a display of affection from her father.

"Then I will not refuse your generosity," Yun Lintian responded calmly, though he remained skeptical of Dongfang Hao's true motives. He had already witnessed Dongfang Hao's ruthless nature, and family loyalty seemed absent in his actions.

"Shall we explore the interior?" Dongfang Hao suggested, guiding everyone aboard the profound ark.

"The latest updated star map of the Great Expanse is installed here," Dongfang Hao announced, gesturing as a holographic map materialized in the air.

Yun Lintian reached out and tapped the map, zooming in on the Nine Heavens Realm. A detailed map materialized, revealing a familiar blue star: Earth. According to Lan Qinghe, the time flow differed between Earth and the Divine Realm, suggesting it had likely only been a year or so since his "death."

The prospect of reuniting with Yang Ningchang and Lynn filled him with anticipation. He wondered how they were doing.

Zhu Ding and past adversaries no longer held any significance to him. In his current power, they were insignificant, and any potential revenge would be effortlessly swift.

Yun Lintian scanned the map further, noticing the God Tomb situated near the central region.

"You can take your time studying the map later," Dongfang Hao offered gently, leading them towards the living quarters.

The interior of the profound ark could be summed up in one word: extravagant. Despite his own lavish spending habits, even Yun Lintian was humbled by the luxuriousness within. The profound ark truly lived up to the immense resources poured into its creation.

Following Dongfang Hao's guidance, Yun Lintian and his companions gained a thorough understanding of the ark's vital functions, allowing them to operate it with ease.

"This is a minor hub," Dongfang Xue explained. "It connects to the main hub in the Southern Expanse, offering routes to the Nine Heavens Realm. With the celestial-rank profound ark, you should reach your destination in just a few days."

"Be wary of pirates. They are often lurking around transport hubs to look for prey," she cautioned.

"Understood," Yun Lintian acknowledged.

They soon arrived at an open space dotted with ancient-

looking stone gates, evidently teleportation formations.

An elderly man clad in black, surprised to see Dongfang Hao, approached them. "President Dongfang?"

Dongfang Hao landed and explained, "I'm here to see off my esteemed guests."

The man scrutinized Yun Lintian's group, pondering their background. It was the first time he had witnessed Dongfang Hao personally sending someone off.

"Gate number three is prepared. You may use it at your convenience," the man informed him, choosing not to delve further.

Turning to Yun Lintian, Dongfang Hao said, "This is as far as I can accompany you. I wish you the best of luck."

"Thank you very much. Farewell," Yun Lintian replied, cupping his fists. He then proceeded towards gate number three with Long Qingxuan and the others.

Dongfang Hao watched them disappear into the gate before nodding to the old man and taking to the skies once more.

"Did you punish Fu Yong, Father?" Dongfang Xue inquired as she flew beside him.

"He failed his duty to protect you, nearly causing a catastrophe. I've reassigned him and will find you a new butler soon," Dongfang Hao responded calmly.

"Oh," Dongfang Xue sighed softly. Fu Yong had been her longtime companion, and she was saddened by the separation. However, she understood there was nothing she could do.

Little did she know, Fu Yong was no longer among the living...

Chapter 1952 Cloud Dragon

The Southern Expanse Transport Hub bustled with activity. A constant stream of people poured in daily, making it the most populous realm in the Southern Expanse. These individuals, unlike the members of the Ten Thousand Treasures Group, solely came for trade purposes.

As a white light faded, Yun Lintian and his companions found themselves transported to a platform in an open space. The surrounding crowd briefly acknowledged their arrival before directing their attention elsewhere.

"This place is even more bustling than the Far East Realm," Zhang Yu remarked, observing the dense crowd.

Yun Lintian readily agreed. "Unlike the formal and serious environment of the Far East Realm, this environment offers a more free-spirited atmosphere."

He likened the entire space to a vast bazaar, teeming with numerous small businesses.

"Let's explore first," Yun Lintian decided, diving into the crowd.

"Newly captured slaves! Unbeatable prices! Come take a look!" A loud voice immediately caught Yun Lintian's attention as he navigated the streets.

Inside an iron cage, several individuals stood out due to their appearance - beautiful women adorned with demonic horns, radiating an undeniable magical allure.

"Succubus?" Yun Lintian murmured to himself, surprised to discover the existence of these legendary creatures.

"Considering purchasing them? Just look at those figures... tsk, tsk," Zhang Yu remarked teasingly, her gaze lingering on the captivating women within the cage.

Yun Lintian rolled his eyes playfully. "Do you think I'm some kind of pervert?"

"Are you not?" Zhang Yu responded in a coy tone.

Yun Lintian ignored Zhang Yu's teasing and continued browsing the area. Finding nothing of interest, he decided to leave.

Just as he was about to head for the operation hall, Yun Lintian's senses picked up a familiar energy signature. It belonged to the pirates he had encountered previously.

A large group of figures emerged in Yun Lintian's field of vision, leaving no doubt that they were members of the Stellar Sea Pirate Group.

"Look at that woman. What a stunning beauty!" one pirate exclaimed, pointing towards Yun Lintian's group.

The other pirates were immediately captivated by Long Qingxuan's beauty. Even her veil couldn't fully conceal her radiant features.

"Magnificent," another pirate mumbled.

Yun Lintian inwardly sighed. He had previously requested Long Qingxuan to conceal her appearance, but her beauty proved impossible to completely mask, attracting attention wherever they went.

Ignoring them, Yun Lintian proceeded towards the operation hall.

"Welcome to the Ten Thousand Treasures Group. Esteemed guests, for your convenience, kindly present your membership cards," a young woman greeted each visitor with a warm smile at the hall's entrance.

Without wasting time, Yun Lintian retrieved the Fleeting Cloud Profound Skyship and quickly departed from the hub.

After a day's travel, they reached a remote location, and Yun Lintian switched to the newly acquired profound ark, resuming their journey.

"I think we should find a name for our new vessel. Any ideas?" Yun Lintian inquired while lounging in the main hall.

"I have an idea!" Qingqing enthusiastically chimed in, raising her arm. "How about 'Qingqing's Favorite New Home'?"

Yun Lintian's lips twitched slightly. "Perhaps something else?"

"The choice is yours," Zhang Yu said, rising from her seat with her teacup and moving to a secluded corner.

Yun Yi followed suit, silently leaving the room.

Long Qingxuan, meanwhile, had already disappeared.

Yun Lintian sighed, massaging his temples. His naming sense was undoubtedly his weakest point.

"White... smooth as jade..." he murmured, observing the profound ark's characteristics. "Alright, then. We shall call it the Cloud Dragon Ark."

"Uninspired," Zhang Yu commented with a shake of her head.

Yun Lintian shot her a playful side-eye. "Then why don't you suggest a better name?"

Zhang Yu simply ignored him, returning to her book.

"I'll find time to paint a dragon pattern on it," Yun Lintian muttered to himself.

Qingqing pouted beside him. "I hate you, big brother,"

She turned her head away angrily.

"My apologies," Yun Lintian chuckled, offering her a few treats in an attempt to appease her.

BOOOM!

Suddenly, a deafening explosion erupted. The shockwave rippled through the surrounding space, yet the Cloud Dragon Ark remained remarkably stable, unfazed by the tremor.

Yun Lintian exchanged a glance with Zhang Yu, and they both swiftly made their way to the control room.

In the distance, numerous stars blazed infernally, an awe-

inspiring yet unsettling spectacle.

Chapter 1953 Origin

Amidst the lingering smoke and debris from the explosion, two figures clashed, their auras radiating the power of High Gods.

"Feng Ling," a slender woman in a flowing white robe called out, her voice strained but resolute. "I've told you countless times you've misunderstood me. There is nothing between me and Ye Xuan."

Feng Ling, her crimson robes swirling around her, scoffed. "Spare me your lies, Nangong Yuxuan. Your manipulative ways won't fool me. Everyone in the Nine Heavens knows you for who you truly are—a shameless harlot who steals other women's husbands!"

Nangong Yuxuan, a flicker of despair visible through her veil. She remained silent and decided to leave. Her aura surged as her figure moved into the distance in the blink of an eye.

"Coward!" Feng Ling roared, her crimson blade a blur as she pursued.

"Such childish squabbling," Zhang Yu muttered, his lips curling in disgust. "Even at the pinnacle of power, these women bicker over trivial matters. It seems humanity's pettiness transcends even the boundaries of worlds."

Yun Lintian, however, furrowed his brow. Their conversation held a hidden clue: these women hailed from the Nine Heavens Realm, a location several days' travel away based on his star map. What could have brought them here? It was unreasonable for them to run this far. Updated from novelb(i)n.c(o)m

As Nangong Yuxuan spotted the imposing Cloud Dragon Ark, a flicker of surprise flickered across her face. Such a powerful vessel was an unexpected sight in this remote region of space.

Without dwelling on it, she poured on the speed, aiming to distance herself from her pursuer.

Noticing the Ark, Feng Ling followed suit, masking her presence as best she could. Their trajectory led them directly towards the Nine Heavens Realm.

"Imagine the devastation a High God battle wreaks," Zhang Yu remarked softly. "A true god, I wouldn't be surprised if they could level entire realms with a thought."

Yun Yi nodded in agreement. His understanding of profound strength vastly improved since reaching the Lesser God Realm. "Anything below the True God level is indeed insignificant in their presence."

Yun Lintian didn't think about this matter further and declared. "Let's activate stealth mode."

Without a word, Yun Yi tapped a sequence on the control panel. The Cloud Dragon Ark shimmered, cloaked in a faint white light, and vanished into the vastness of space.

Yun Lintian returned to the lounge, intending to visit the Land of Beyond Heaven and inform Hongyue of the situation.

Upon entering the Land of Beyond Heaven, he was immediately greeted by the sight of Yun Niu, a familiar face he hadn't seen in a while.

"Niuniu?" Yun Lintian called out in a gentle voice.

Long Qingxuan shook her head, replying, "I have no idea. My father never spoke of my mother or his lineage."

Yun Lintian's brows furrowed in surprise. "Your mother?"

He had always assumed Long Qingxuan was born from the power of the Primordial Azure Dragon God.

"We dragons differ from other divine beasts," Long Qingxuan explained. "While we possess the ability to create life through our power, such offspring are inherently weak. Unless compelled by necessity, we typically procreate in the traditional manner."

Nodding in comprehension, Yun Lintian recalled the Dragon God Realm within the Great Expanse. It was a possibility that Yun Niu originated from this realm, perhaps brought to the Beyond Heaven King.

Without further deliberation, he activated the Gate of Beyond Heaven, transporting himself and Yun Niu directly to Heavenly Cloud Mountain within the Azure World.

"Lintian," Yun Xia acknowledged his presence upon sensing his arrival.

Yun Lintian offered her a gentle greeting, "Grandma."

Yun Xia observed Long Qingxuan and Yun Niu, seemingly grasping the reason for their visit.

Anticipating his question, she stated, "When my master found Niu'er, she was bound by a peculiar seal. The seal only dissipated a few years ago."

"Her origin remained unknown until the emergence of the dragon bloodline within her."

After contemplating, Yun Lintian suggested, "Perhaps Niu'er originates from the Dragon God Realm."

"The Dragon God Realm?" Yun Xia echoed, perplexed.

Yun Lintian proceeded to explain about the Great Expanse and the current state of the Dragon God Realm.

A thoughtful expression crossed Yun Xia's face as she uttered, "The royal clan... it is a strong possibility."

Overwhelmed by the sudden revelation, Yun Niu struggled to process the information.

Yun Lintian gently placed a hand on her head, offering words of comfort, "It's alright. We're all here for you."

Chapter 1954 Growth

Biting her lip, Yun Niu grappled with the unexpected revelation. Previously unaware of her lineage, she now faced the possibility of being linked to the Dragon God Clan.

To prevent her from being overwhelmed, Yun Lintian diverted the conversation. "How are things here, Grandma?"

"Everything is progressing smoothly with a healthy spirit of competition," Yun Xia responded.

Nodding slightly, Yun Lintian scanned the Azure World with his spiritual sense, quickly locating familiar faces like Lin Canghai and Yang Gouming. They appeared to be thriving.

"Grandma," he began, "would you consider leaving with us? You've been here for quite some time, and I could find someone to oversee the Azure World in your absence."

Yun Xia gently shook her head. "This is where I belong. This world needs a protector you can trust, and that, unfortunately, is your burden."

"Very well," Yun Lintian conceded. "Remember, you can always access the Moon God Realm through the Land of Beyond Heaven if you require anything."

"Take Niu'er with you," Yun Xia advised. "This world is too small for her potential."

Apprehension washed over Yun Niu. The thought of leaving Yun Xia filled her with unease.

Smiling, Yun Xia reassured her, "Don't you want to learn about your heritage?"

Yun Niu shook her head firmly, her voice trembling slightly. "It doesn't matter. I only want to stay with you."

Yun Xia offered a warm smile and patted Yun Niu's head. "My dear girl, you've blossomed into a young woman. It's time to discover your purpose in life. You can't remain here forever."

Yun Niu's eyes welled up, her head hung low.

"Remember," Yun Lintian interjected softly, "this isn't a permanent goodbye. You can return whenever you wish."

With a heavy heart, Yun Niu murmured her agreement.

"Go," Yun Xia said gently.

"We'll be taking our leave first," Yun Lintian acknowledged, stepping into the gate with Long Qingxuan.

"I'll come visit you often, Grandma," Yun Niu promised softly before following Yun Lintian through the gate.

As the gate vanished, Yun Xia gazed up at the sky. "It brings me joy to know you've grown stronger, brother," she whispered.

Upon returning to the Land of Beyond Heaven, Yun Lintian wasted no time and went directly to the Moon God Realm.

"That wretched Qin Juehai!" Hongyue fumed. "He sacrificed the Sword God Realm to exploit the residual power left behind by Jian Yun, allowing him to breach the wall."

"Well, that's unfortunate." Yun Lintian said gently. "Don't worry. We will find him in no time."

"Are you leaving already?" Hongyue inquired.

"I want to check in on my Fifth Sister first," Yun Lintian explained. "It's been quite some time since I last saw her."

"Go ahead," Hongyue conceded. "Inform me when you arrive at the Nine Heavens Realm."

With a dismissive wave, she closed her eyes.

After a moment's thought, Yun Lintian offered, "If you're bored, you can join me. I've placed the gate inside the profound ark."

"Hmm," Hongyue simply responded.

Without further delay, Yun Lintian activated the gate and transported himself to the Neverending Burning Hell.

Upon entering the Golden Crow Temple, a scorching phoenix flame greeted him immediately. Yun Lintian effortlessly deflected the flame with a wave of his hand and quickly located Nantian Fengyu.

He found her engulfed in the Phoenix flames, her entire body glowing a vibrant crimson, seemingly one with the fire itself.

To his surprise, Nantian Fengyu had already reached the Divine Emperor Realm's first level.

Suddenly, a deafening phoenix cry ripped through the air as Nantian Fengyu opened her eyes. The sound caused Yun Lintian's soul to tremble, and the Divine Phoenix's soul within him resonated in response.

"Junior Brother," Nantian Fengyu greeted with a joyful smile upon recognizing Yun Lintian.

"Fifth Sister," he returned the greeting. "How have you become so powerful in such a short time?"

"I'm unsure," Nantian Fengyu shook her head. "The Phoenix's soul within me awoke, and ever since, my profound strength has risen dramatically."

"However, I've encountered a bottleneck," Nantian Fengyu explained. "This place is no longer suitable."

"Do you want to come with me to the Nine Heavens Realm?" Yun Lintian offered.

"The Nine Heavens Realm?" Nantian Fengyu echoed, her voice laced with confusion. Her seclusion had left her unaware of recent developments.

Yun Lintian provided a concise summary of the situation.

"Let's go then," Nantian Fengyu rose to her feet.

Chapter 1955 The Nine Heavens Realm

After checking the overall situation of the Divine Realm, Yun Lintian visited Lan Qinghe and explained everything to her.

"The Far East Trading Group... It's old man Dongfang Ming," Lan Qinghe said in surprise. "I didn't expect Yun Tian to have associated with Dongfang Ming's son."

"As for the God Tomb, there is indeed a trap. However, it only exists around the ancestral hall. They must have tried to enter there."

"What kind of trap is that?" Yun Lintian asked curiously.

"Since ancient times, whenever the tomb of a high-level figure is created, the creators ensure no one can disturb their eternal rest. The tomb of ancient gods is no different. Anyone trying to disturb them will be eliminated or imprisoned," Lan Qinghe explained.

"Yun Tian must have found a way to bypass the seal, allowing everyone to leave. While his strength might be inferior, his knowledge has long surpassed everyone. I'm not surprised he could do it."

"A seal?" Yun Lintian immediately understood the situation Dongfang Hao and the Beyond Heaven King had experienced inside the tomb.

"I have never experienced it myself, as no one dares to go near the ancestral hall area. These people must have been insane if they thought they could do something there," Lan Qinghe shook her head.

"Who created the God Tomb, Senior?" Yun Lintian asked curiously.

"No idea," Lan Qinghe shook her head. "There are many rumors about it, but none of them have been proven."

"However, there is a tomb keeper family inside. When you meet them later, try to stay away from them. They have the protection of the tomb and can mobilize the power there."

"Tomb keeper?" Yun Lintian was puzzled. "How could those people approach the ancestral hall with the tomb keeper around?"

"They are strong but not invincible. With enough true gods, they should be able to keep them occupied," Lan Qinghe replied. Updated from novelb(i)n.c(o)m

"Staying in the perimeter is the best choice with your current strength. You can slowly absorb the power there. Within a thousand years, you should be able to reach the High God Realm or even higher."

Yun Lintian found it incredible. "Since the environment inside the God Tomb is so beneficial, how could they allow people to enter?"

The "they" in his words referred to the powerhouses around the Great Expanse.

"You can only go there once. It doesn't matter to them whether others can go in," Lan Qinghe explained.

"You will understand later. They have been recruiting people everywhere to enter the God Tomb. It has become a business for a long time. The Chaos Goddess herself has never stopped them. After all, it only benefits the Nine Heavens Realm."

"I see," Yun Lintian nodded slowly.

"Do you know where Senior Divine Phoenix is?" Yun Lintian inquired, changing the subject.

According to Jin Huian, the Divine Phoenix had traveled to the Primordial God Forsaken Land, but Yun Lintian had not encountered her there.

"I don't know," Nantian Fengyu frowned. "She hasn't been seen since."

"I see," Yun Lintian frowned slightly. "Well, I trust that she is safe."

"It doesn't matter to me," Nantian Fengyu said nonchalantly. "Her fate is not my concern."

Yun Lintian sighed inwardly, observing her. It seemed Nantian Fengyu held onto the grudge in her heart.

"We've arrived," Yun Yi's voice resonated through a speaker.

Yun Lintian and the others turned their attention to the wall projector immediately.

At that moment, the projector displayed a massive and visually stunning energy ring shrouded in an aura of mystery. A gigantic blue sphere, undoubtedly the Nine Heavens Realm depicted on the star map, lay behind the ring.

"Deactivate stealth mode," Yun Lintian instructed. According to Dongfang Hao, displaying one's identity was a common regulation for entering the Nine Heavens Realm.

As the Cloud Dragon Ark emerged into the open space, a group of practitioners promptly appeared.

"Halt!" An old man in a gray robe, seemingly the leader of the group, spoke. "Please comply with our procedures."

Yun Lintian glanced at Hei Shou and said, "Return to the Land of Beyond Heaven first."

Hei Shou silently acknowledged and quickly entered the gate.

Following this, Yun Lintian promptly stepped out with everyone else.

"Greetings, Senior. We are newcomers here. Please advise us on the necessary procedures," Yun Lintian said politely, cupping his fists.

The old man scanned Yun Lintian's group with his gaze, pausing briefly at Linlin and Gui Xuan.

"State your purpose for coming here and provide your identities," he instructed.

"Hailing from the Celestial Realm, we seek to broaden our experiences here. We've heard that the Nine Heavens Realm offers a particularly conducive environment for this purpose." Yun Lintian spoke eloquently.

Chapter 1956 Return (1)

"The Celestial Realm?" The old man gave a slight nod. Perhaps due to the Cloud Dragon Ark, he harbored no doubts regarding Yun Lintian's identity.

"You can proceed by paying the toll fee," he continued. "It's one million high-grade divine stones."

Nantian Fengyu frowned, voicing her disapproval. "That's exorbitant! You are clearly robbing us!"

The old man's gaze met hers, and he spoke nonchalantly, "You are free to leave if you wish."

Just as Nantian Fengyu was about to retort, Yun Lintian interjected.

"No problem," he said with a smile, tossing a storage ring towards the old man. Updated from novelb(i)n.c(o)m

The old man cast a satisfied glance at the pile of divine stones within the ring. "You may enter. Remember to conduct yourselves with propriety. This realm doesn't tolerate reckless behavior."

"We appreciate the reminder. We'll take our leave now," Yun Lintian said, cupping his fists in respect before returning to the Cloud Dragon Ark and steering it towards the blue sphere.

As they watched the Cloud Dragon Ark slowly traverse the energy ring, the old man's brow furrowed.

"Something seems amiss with them, leader," a middle-aged man behind him spoke.

"I know. I'm not blind." the old man replied. "However, think about it. Could an ordinary person afford a celestial-rank profound ark? Furthermore, his composure under pressure is unlike that of someone of his apparent status."

"Should we report to our superior?" the middle-aged man inquired.

"Are you stupid?" the old man scolded. "We just swindled them out of a million stones. Do you wish to relinquish it?"

The middle-aged man silenced himself immediately.

"Keep this matter confidential, all of you," the old man warned. "We cannot afford to antagonize either party. Understood?"

"Yes!" the middle-aged man and the others responded in unison.

The Cloud Dragon Ark traversed the energy ring smoothly and entered the blue sphere. Unlike their departure from the Great Devil Realm, they encountered no resistance here, allowing the ark to enter effortlessly.

Soon, a vast starry sky unfolded before Yun Lintian's eyes. While similar to the Great Expanse outside, the number of stars here was significantly lower.

A day passed, and the Cloud Dragon Ark approached its destination. Yun Lintian, standing at the helm, gazed intently upon the vibrant blue sphere brimming with life, its continents shrouded in a soft, white mist. Earth. His home.

A maelstrom of emotions coursed through him, past memories vivid as a cinematic reel. He had once believed his return impossible, and even if achievable, those he knew would be long gone. Yet, fate offered him this unexpected opportunity.

As Earth materialized before him, he struggled to articulate his feelings. Was it happiness, fear, or unease? He couldn't discern.

The blue sphere seemed protected by an invisible barrier, woven perhaps by celestial gods, explaining the absence of others.

After meticulously checking the surroundings, ensuring no one lurked nearby, Yun Lintian addressed the group, "Let's go."

He then stored the ark and, accompanied by everyone, slowly flew towards Earth.

As they drew closer, various objects orbiting the planet became visible.

"What are those?" Nantian Fengyu inquired, her curiosity piqued.

"Those are satellites," Yun Lintian explained. "Devices crafted by mortals to observe their world from afar, gather information, and communicate across vast distances."

Nantian Fengyu displayed surprise.

"According to Senior Lan," Yun Lintian elaborated, "no practitioners reside here. This world is solely inhabited by mortals."

Bang!

Suddenly, Nantian Fengyu and the others slammed against an unexpected invisible barrier. Only Yun Lintian, Qingqing, and Linlin effortlessly passed through.

Surprised, Yun Lintian glanced at Qingqing and Linlin perched on his shoulders, seemingly drawing a conclusion. He was also relieved to see this scene. Without a doubt, no one could enter Earth with this barrier around.

"Hold on," he instructed, flying back. "Everyone, grasp my arms."

Understanding his plan, they quickly complied, approaching and grasping his arms.

With that, they proceeded forward, seamlessly passing through the barrier and entering the sphere.

Soon, the once vibrant blue sphere morphed into a tapestry of greens, browns, and blues, continents sprawling beneath swirling clouds.

Looking at the familiar scenery, Yun Lintian uttered, his voice echoing with emotion. "I'm back."

Chapter 1957 Return (2)

Nantian Fengyu wrinkled her nose in disgust. "The air quality here is terrible," she said. "It's much worse than any mortal realm I've seen."

Zhang Yu frowned. "Strange, there's no spiritual energy here. Technically, any star should possess the ability to generate it. Yet, this Earth doesn't even have a trace."

She scanned the entire world with her spiritual sense but found nothing out of the ordinary. She wondered how such a barren world could create a heaven-defying figure like Yun Lintian.

Meanwhile, Long Qingxuan and Yun Yi weren't particularly interested in understanding the world. They just wanted to see Yun Lintian's hometown.

Yun Lintian took a deep breath to compose himself. He glanced at China, and his figure instantly appeared above Hangzhou City.

The city hadn't changed much since his departure. It was still bustling with activity.

Long Qingxuan, rarely one to ask questions, inquired, "Is this your hometown?"

"Yes," Yun Lintian replied, a hint of emotion in his voice. "I was born and raised here."

Nantian Fengyu, curious about the city that shaped Yun Lintian, said, "Let's go down."

Yun Lintian, perhaps eager to see Lei Hao, completely forgot to conceal his presence as he quietly landed in a remote alley.

The moment he stepped out, his appearance immediately drew the attention of everyone around him.

"Look! That young man is so handsome!" someone exclaimed from the crowd.

"Is there a cosplay event today?"

"Hey, look at the women with him. They're stunning!"

More and more people started pulling out their mobile phones to take pictures of Yun Lintian's group.

Zhang Yu frowned slightly, ready to use her power to shield them from sight, but Yun Lintian stopped her.

"It's fine. They mean no harm," Yun Lintian said nonchalantly. He wasn't particularly concerned about the attention, after all, he could erase their memories with ease.

At this moment, a beautiful woman holding a GoPro camera approached Yun Lintian's group. "Excuse me, everyone. Can I interview you?"

Yun Lintian looked at her and replied gently, "Sorry, we're running late."

"Oh, sorry," the woman said, not pressing further.

Yun Lintian scanned the surroundings and spotted two men observing Lei Hao from afar, who clearly had no intention of intervening. These individuals must be Xu Longfeng's subordinates.

"Do we need to intervene and assist him?" a young man among them asked hesitantly.

A middle-aged man beside him lit a cigarette and replied, "Is this your first time here?"

"Yes," the young man responded. "My superior instructed me to protect the target's life."

The middle-aged man exhaled a puff of smoke and said, "Don't worry, they won't dare to kill him. Our only responsibility is ensuring his survival."

"Why?" The young man couldn't grasp the situation.

"It's not our place to interfere. Just keep an eye on him," the middle-aged man said impatiently.

Upon hearing their conversation, Yun Lintian's eyes grew cold as he muttered. "Xu Longfeng... I always thought you were a man of honor. It turned out that I was blind."

Seeing Lei Hao remain silent, Bu Fan glanced at his subordinates.

Bang! Bang!

Immediately, the group of soldiers began vandalizing the store by smashing furniture.

Bu Fan looked at the signboard and chuckled. "Number one fried rice in the world? How ambitious you are."

As he spoke, Bu Fan immediately kicked the signboard.

Bang!

Lei Hao's hands froze. He slowly placed the garlic down and gripped the small knife tightly.

"What? Don't tell me you plan to fight us with that tiny knife?" Bu Fan sneered.

The man he faced was the legendary Quick Shot Lei Hao, a name that resonated throughout the mercenary world. Bu Fan often encountered his name during missions.

Disappointment initially filled Bu Fan when he learned of Lei Hao's disability, which gradually morphed into loathing. When Zhu Ding instructed him to monitor Lei Hao, Bu Fan readily accepted the mission.

Lei Hao's expression hardened. He slowly turned his wheelchair around, preparing to fight.

Suddenly, a familiar male voice echoed, "I thought you had grown up, Ah'Hao. It's just a signboard. You don't have to be angry. I can write it again."

Chapter 1958 Situation

Everyone turned toward the door to see a handsome young man standing there. Updated from novelb(i)n.c(o)m

With a clang, the knife clattered to the ground as Lei Hao's eyes widened in disbelief. "B-Boss?" he stammered.

Bu Fan and his subordinates gaped at Yun Lintian, stunned as if they had witnessed a ghost. As Zhu Ding's men, they had naturally seen Yun Lintian before.

While the man before them appeared younger than the Yun Lintian they remembered, there was no doubt it was him. Yet, how was this possible? Everyone had witnessed Yun Lintian's corpse firsthand.

"N-No way... H-How...?" The middle-aged man in the distance looked at Yun Lintian in shock.

Meanwhile, the young man beside him remained puzzled.

"Is that you, Boss?" Lei Hao repeated, his voice trembling. Tears welled up in his eyes.

"Why, can't you remember me anymore?" Yun Lintian chuckled as he walked into the store.

He bent down, picked up the broken signboard, and examined it. "I never knew my calligraphy was this bad," he remarked.

"You..." Bu Fan stammered, struggling to grasp the situation.

Yun Lintian turned to Bu Fan and asked, "Did Zhu Ding send you here?"

Bu Fan remained silent, staring at Yun Lintian, unsure of how to respond.

"Did your brain stop working?" Yun Lintian smiled. "Let me refresh your memory then."

He raised his hand and swung the broken signboard towards Bu Fan's head with lightning speed. Bu Fan was completely caught off guard.

Bang!

Bu Fan was sent flying, crashing into the wall with a resounding impact.

Bu Fan's subordinates snapped out of their daze and instinctively reached for their waists, attempting to draw their guns.

However, Yun Lintian had already launched himself at them.

Crackle! Bang!

A flurry of kicks and punches followed. Bu Fan's subordinates were knocked down one after another, their limbs snapping under the force of Yun Lintian's attacks.

Dusting his clothes off, Yun Lintian turned to Lei Hao. "You've shown great tolerance. I'm proud of you."

Tears welled up in Lei Hao's eyes. "Boss!"

He was now completely convinced that the man before him was truly his older brother.

He glanced at the unconscious Bu Fan and his men on the floor. "They are Zhu Ding's people. If you wish to find him, you can question them."

"Doesn't matter," Yun Lintian said nonchalantly. "You can leave."

"Are you certain?" the middle-aged man frowned.

Yun Lintian didn't reply.

The middle-aged man took a long look at him and said, "The entire street is sealed. There are no outside eyes or ears here."

He turned and dragged the young officer away.

"Well, I misjudged them," Yun Lintian admitted.

"They helped me quite often in the past." Lei Hao spoke, looking at Bu Fan and the others. "So, Boss, what's next?"

Yun Lintian raised his hand, and a few fireballs flew towards Bu Fan, reducing them to ashes instantly.

Lei Hao was bewildered, his mind seemingly frozen. "Boss... You..." he stammered, unable to articulate his disbelief.

"Remember those xianxia novels we used to read?" Yun Lintian inquired.

Lei Hao swallowed hard and asked, "Are you saying... you've become a cultivator?"

"Yes," Yun Lintian confirmed. "When I woke up again, I found myself in a cultivation world. I just returned today."

"This is... unbelievable," Lei Hao said in a daze. No matter how much he tried to disbelieve it, the evidence was undeniable.

Just then, Qingqing and Linlin walked into the store and jumped onto Yun Lintian's shoulders, followed by Nantian Fengyu.

"Are you finished, Junior Brother? Let's go buy a phone," Nantian Fengyu asked.

"Junior brother...?" Lei Hao was startled by the appearance of Nantian Fengyu, Linlin, and Qingqing.

"This is my fifth sister, Nantian Fengyu," Yun Lintian explained gently.

Nantian Fengyu glanced at Lei Hao and said. "Since you are my good junior brother's brother, you can call me sister."

"S-Sister..." Lei Hao said cautiously.

"This is Linlin and Qingqing. They are my adorable sisters." Yun Lintian introduced them.

"Hello, little sisters." Lei Hao spoke.

"Let's give him legs." Nantian Fengyu glanced at Lei Hao's missing legs with pity.

Chapter 1959 Pandemic

"Give me legs?" Lei Hao stared, stunned.

Yun Lintian retrieved the Fruit of Immortality and presented it to Lei Hao. "Take this."

Lei Hao examined the exotic fruit radiating a strange aura. He reached out cautiously to receive it. Glancing at Yun Lintian for confirmation, he took a bite. Updated from novelb(i)n.c(o)m

The moment the fruit touched his tongue, a warm current surged through Lei Hao's body. It was incredibly comforting.

Yun Lintian placed a hand on Lei Hao's head, activating the crown's power to transform his profound vein.

Moments later, Lei Hao's legs gradually grew back, and his appearance reverted several years, making him look younger.

"Unbelievable..." Lei Hao felt as if he were in a dream. The long-lost sensation of his legs had returned.

"Congratulations," Yun Lintian said with a smile. "You are now a cultivator."

"A cultivator?" Lei Hao echoed, stunned. He rose slowly from the wheelchair, experimenting with his "newborn" body.

He could clearly perceive his newfound strength.

"I'll teach you some profound arts later," Yun Lintian offered. "Do you have any money on you?"

"Money?" Lei Hao stammered, surprised. "Yes, I have some."

As he spoke, he retrieved his mobile phone.

"Let's go!" Nantian Fengyu chirped with excitement. If not for Yun Lintian's warnings, she would have stolen a phone long ago.

Yun Lintian grasped Lei Hao's arm and whisked him to the nearby shopping mall.

"So, this is a movement technique?" Lei Hao gasped in shock, finding himself standing in the mall in the blink of an eye.

"Yes," Yun Lintian replied, surveying the mall. "Why are people wearing masks?"

"There's a pandemic called COVID. It just started three months ago," Lei Hao explained.

"Oh?" Yun Lintian cocked his head slightly. "This is clearly a man-made virus."

"Really? I knew it," Lei Hao agreed readily.

Yun Lintian waved his hand, and instantly, all the COVID viruses vanished from the Earth. "Done."

"Done?" Lei Hao was confused.

All the soldiers around the courtyard instantaneously collapsed unconscious.

Lei Hao gulped nervously at the scene. Ordinary people were powerless against cultivators.

"Can I do that someday, Boss?" he asked hopefully.

"Certainly. Even beginners can manage that." Yun Lintian chuckled and entered the courtyard.

At that moment, Xu Longfeng sat upright in a pavilion, engrossed in a book.

"It's been a year, and you've aged considerably, Uncle Xu," Yun Lintian spoke as he entered the garden.

Xu Longfeng's expression froze. He slowly raised his head, eyes widening in disbelief. "You... Lintian?"

"It's me," Yun Lintian confirmed, approaching the pavilion.

"Long time no see, Uncle Xu," Lei Hao greeted kindly.

"Your legs...?" Xu Longfeng subconsciously looked at Lei Hao's legs, utterly bewildered.

Ignoring Xu Longfeng's confusion, Yun Lintian sat down opposite him. With a wave of his hand, his own teapot and cups materialized. He then poured tea for everyone.

"Please," Yun Lintian offered, placing the teacup in front of Xu Longfeng.

Xu Longfeng was too preoccupied to care about the tea. He stared intently at Yun Lintian's face, trying to verify his identity. "What's happening? How are you...?"

"It's unimportant. The key point is that I'm alive," Yun Lintian said with a smile, taking a sip of tea.

"What tea is this, Boss?" Lei Hao gasped after taking a sip. He could feel his body strengthening.

"Spirit Tea," Yun Lintian replied.

"Spirit tea?" Lei Hao acknowledged with a nod, continuing to sip the tea with a content expression.

"Let's move on from my situation," Yun Lintian suggested. "Perhaps you could tell me what happened, Uncle Xu?"

Xu Longfeng took a deep breath to compose himself. "Since you're here, I presume you already have an idea. Nonetheless, I'll recount the entire ordeal."

He gently lifted the teacup, about to take a sip, when he paused. "Wait. How did you bring them out of thin air?"

It was only then that Xu Longfeng noticed the oddities. Yun Lintian's group had arrived unharmed, with no sounds of battle.

Yun Lintian simply smiled, offering no explanation.

Xu Longfeng recognized his rudeness. "My bad. I shouldn't have asked. Well, it all began after I submitted Project Eve to my superiors..."

Chapter 1960 Corruption

"The appearance of Project Eve caused a huge stir in the country. The information suggests it could be used to create super soldiers. As a former mercenary, you understand the implications of super soldiers," Xu Longfeng explained.

"Initially, Project Eve was to be overseen by the Phoenix Protocol. They're a secret unit that handles medical projects. However, the military deemed Project Eve too crucial and, as head of the National Security Council, Zhu Tianlong used his authority to wrest control of it."

"Wait. When did Zhu Tianlong become head of the NSC?" Lei Hao interjected, confused.

Xu Longfeng glanced at Yun Lintian. "After you disappeared. He claimed all the achievements your group accomplished over the years."

"The Hell Church," Yun Lintian uttered calmly.

"Yes," Xu Longfeng confirmed with a nod. "The fact that you dealt a crippling blow to the Hell Church was kept secret."

"What a scoundrel!" Lei Hao cursed in anger. He grasped the situation now. Essentially, Zhu Tianlong had secretly stolen credit for everything Yun Lintian's group had done and used it to climb the ranks.

He turned to Xu Longfeng and inquired, "Are those old geezers blind? I don't believe they're unaware of it."

Xu Longfeng met Lei Hao's gaze and sighed. "Politics are a game of interests and maintaining balance. While Zhu Tianlong's methods were certainly underhanded, he does possess undeniable talent. Additionally, he's nearing retirement age next year. They saw no harm in letting him have the position."

"Unbelievable!" Lei Hao exclaimed, unable to accept it. "This is blatant corruption!"

Yun Lintian offered a faint smile. "Corruption exists everywhere in the world. It's how it's wielded that matters."

"You could learn a thing or two from your boss," Xu Longfeng remarked to Lei Hao.

"I understand," Lei Hao took a deep breath to compose himself.

"Now, Uncle Xu," Yun Lintian began, "how did you end up in this situation?"

"Following your disappearance, Zhu Wuxing and Zhu Ding took advantage of the opportunity to eliminate the remaining Hell Church members within our borders. They even fabricated evidence, accusing me of collaborating with the Hell Church," Xu Longfeng sighed in helplessness.

"If not for my past merits, I'd likely be six feet under by now. Alas, I underestimated those brats."

Yun Lintian sipped his tea and inquired, "I'm curious. Why did they spare Ah'Hao?"

"Why else?" Xu Longfeng scoffed. "That's a question for the deranged Zhu Ding."

"This..." Xu Longfeng stammered, bewildered.

"This cup guarantees you'll live to be a hundred," Yun Lintian informed him with a smile.

A serious expression washed over Xu Longfeng's face. "What exactly are you?"

Yun Lintian remained silent, the question unanswered. He rose to his feet. "I must take my leave for now, Uncle Xu. Perhaps you could consider saying goodbye to this courtyard soon."

With those closing words, Yun Lintian vanished alongside Lei Hao and Nantian Fengyu in a wave of his hand.

Xu Longfeng stared blankly at the empty seat before him, his mind momentarily overloaded.

After a while, he mumbled to himself, "Dimensional power? Could it be connected to his father?"

Yun Lintian's group materialized silently in a deserted New York alleyway.

Lei Hao scanned his surroundings. "New York? Why are we here, Boss?"

"She's here," Yun Lintian replied softly. With a wave of his hand, several sets of clothing materialized.

"Sister Lynn?" Lei Hao acknowledged with a nod. It would be difficult for the Hidden Dragon Group to make a move here.

"Let's change first," Yun Lintian addressed Nantian Fengyu, who was engrossed in taking a selfie.

"Oh," Nantian Fengyu responded, snapping her fingers and changing her clothes in an instant.

It was November, and the New York weather had turned quite chilly. Yun Lintian donned a simple black jacket and a pair of sweatpants.

Cradling Qingqing in his arms and with Linlin perched on his shoulder, Yun Lintian exited the alley and headed towards a coffee shop across the street.

Inside the coffee shop, Lynn listlessly stirred her coffee. Her beauty remained undimmed, but her previously flowing blonde hair was now cut short, and her face bore the marks of exhaustion, as if sleep had eluded her for a long time.

Yun Lintian watched her silently through the window. Guilt gnawed at him as he saw her current state. He should have mustered the courage to accept her feelings in the past...