

Necropolis 1391

Chapter 1391: Robber Slayers

“I only helped you that one time, so how did we become the Robber Couple with me being responsible for everything?” Headache brewing, Lu Yun looked at Qing Ting happily counting her purple crystals.

She’d been the one making the moves this entire time—sealing off an area, defeating her targets, then robbing them.

There’d been one occasion in which she met an unexpectedly strong titled duke. He was able to delay her long enough for the other half step kings around him to furiously counterattack and almost kill Qing Ting.

She’d suffered grievous wounds in short order, but Lu Yun acted at a crucial moment and dispensed of the other half step kings with a few simple gestures. Lacking outside interference, Qing Ting managed to defeat the extraordinarily strong duke with her strength alone and rob him of everything he owned.

It was after that occurrence that they became the Robber Couple. The fierce young woman was the blade, while the young man who rarely took action was the brains behind the operation.

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Spanning three hundred million kilometers across, Dragonsea City was incredibly vast. The cultivators fighting in the city weren’t kings, so Lu Yun and Qing Ting managed to keep their anonymity as they rampaged from west to east, then from east to south.

On the second day after Dragonhollow’s announcement, the “Robber Slayers” alliance within the city spoke with a powerful voice. Headed by twelve titled duke half step kings, there were nearly a thousand cultivators part of it.

The twelve dukes were all Qing Ting’s victims. They’d lost their seed storage, identity token, and some had even lost their personal treasure.

Thankfully, they were still in Dragonsea City. Apart from it turning into a battlefield, it was no different from any other city. Additionally, the seniors of their factions were all camped within. Losing their treasures was no problem—they could borrow one off another or use their seniors’ wealth to buy more.

Everything was naturally under surveillance by the kings in the city, but they couldn’t do anything about the situation. They couldn’t even speak up and warn their factions’ geniuses; the city’s rules would kill them if they did so, and their faction would completely lose the right to participate in the Dragonling Assembly.

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The two main leaders of the Robber Slayers were the Blackclad Duke and the uncommonly strong titled duke—the Seven Slaughters Duke.

“How is this Robber Couple so strong??” You Cang murmured with surprise as the rest of the four looked in the alliance’s direction.

The Robber Slayers were holding a rally. Blackclad and Seven Slaughters stood on a podium and passionately declaimed the couple's various crimes.

Azureclad and the others listened with numb scalps. Who could be so bold as to rob cultivators in broad daylight??

"Your Grace, do you think it's the little princess and that Champion Duke kid?" You Cang suddenly asked with a knowing look.

"Impossible!" Azureclad immediately refuted. "My sister may have acted out a bit much lately, but she's a kind and innocent soul. She'd never do anything like this!"

"Uh huh." Crimsonclad nodded. "Qing Ting is a pure and innocent child, but she's easily persuaded. You hear what they say—how the girl is kind and under the sway of another villain."

Cold sweat beaded Azureclad's forehead. This was... this was possible.

"Oh? Isn't that the Azureclad and Crimsonclad Dukes?" Blackclad called out when he saw the two. "Have you been robbed by that Robber Couple as well?"

Blackclad fancied himself on par with the four famous dukes. Since he was no match for the dastardly robbers, then Azureclad and Crimsonclad shouldn't be either, even if they worked together.

That was why he called out the question while completely ignoring Leng Che and You Cang.

"It really is the Azureclad and Crimsonclad Dukes!" Other cultivators of the alliance shouted with excitement when they saw the two. Compared to the self-styled Blackclad Duke, Azureclad and Crimsonclad were the true idols of many Hongmeng youths. They were the hallmark of the younger generation!

Many recognized them throughout the realm, and if they joined the Robber Slayers, then those evil rogues were dead without a doubt!

"I am the Seven Slaughters Duke from the Exalted Sky Region. He is the Blackclad Duke, and we greet the Azureclad and Crimsonclad Dukes." The uncommonly strong Seven Slaughters Duke walked up to offer a cupped fist salute.

Azureclad and Crimsonclad quickly returned the gesture when they sensed how strong he was.

Seven Slaughters had always been a highly self-assured individual and he'd been fully confident of defeating Azureclad before arriving at Dragonsea City. But now that a little girl had beat him in single combat, his cockiness was completely shattered. He bore none of his customary arrogance when he greeted Azureclad.

"The Robber Slayers have come together for the Robber Couple, correct?" Crimsonclad asked. "We have yet to cross paths with them, so we don't know what kind of characters they are. What are they capable of?"

"Please come with me." Seven Slaughters made a welcoming gesture and launched into an overview of the delinquent ruffians.

The more Azureclad heard, the worse his expression became. This Robber Couple did sound very likely to be Qing Ting and the Champion Duke!

The kid's led my sister astray, alright! See how I teach him a lesson!

Craaaaack.

He cracked the tiles beneath his feet through sheer anger.

"The Azureclad Duke is indeed an unwavering figure for justice, just like the stories say," noted Seven Slaughters, Blackclad, and others.

"Ahem!" Azureclad coughed lightly. "If we defeat the Robber Couple, we only need to take care of the mastermind..."

"That's right!" Blackclad concurred with seriousness. "The girl is pure and innocent, plainly misguided by that scoundrel. We will not make trouble for her as long as she returns our possessions. She is young, after all, and knows no better.

"But the other one! Oh, the other one! I don't want him dead—I want him stripped naked and hanging from the doors of Dragonsea City!" he finished with fury.

"Absolutely." Seven Slaughters nodded. "Accomplices can be gently punished, but the mastermind must be harshly judged without mercy!"

Under the leadership of the Robber Slayers, peace gradually returned to the insanely chaotic battlefield that was Dragonsea City. Many cultivators stopped hunting each other and joined the alliance, simply out of consideration of how large it'd grown. If the alliance shifted focus to taking identity tokens, no one would be able to withstand them.

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Lu Yun shuddered; endless malice had suddenly appeared out of nowhere and circled around him.

"The Robber Slayers?" He took a moment to listen to what was going on.

Qing Ting paled—she was no fool. If the alliance surrounded them, they wouldn't be able to get away.

"Refine this talisman. Let's change our appearance and slip into that alliance." Lu Yun handed a Shapeshifting Talisman to her.

Chapter 1392: Turning Everything Upside Down

"A Transformation Talisman from the Immortal Pagoda! They're worth one premium crystal vein each, how do you have one?!" Qing Ting jumped with shock.

Transformation Talismans came from Lu Yun's personal hand—supplemental grandmaster puppets couldn't refine them. He'd set an astronomical price of one premium crystal vein for each talisman, especially considering they were single use items. There weren't many in the Hongmeng who could afford them, but he still sold quite a few.

Haotian Tower was their biggest buyer. They ardently wished to understand how Lu Yun crafted these talismans, but still didn't have a clue after all of their research.

As flabbergasted as Qing Ting was, she knew not to cause any issues at this critical moment. She meekly refined the talisman and used it to change her appearance. Lu Yun requested that she change into a young man, while he shifted into a ferocious looking man.

The two stumbled and probed their way into the Robber Slayers.

"There sure are a lot of nosy people who like to get involved in stuff. I haven't robbed any of these guys, so what are they going on about?" mumbled Qing Ting as she looked at the indignant cultivators around them.

It'd only been one day since they started making their rounds and they'd robbed just over a hundred people at most. But there were more than three thousand members in this alliance!

"Hey there, have you been robbed by the Robber Couple too?" Lu Yun patted the shoulder of a young man they hadn't robbed.

"No." He shook his head. "But scum like the Robber Couple deserves to die! This has nothing to do with whether or not I've been robbed by them!"

Lu Yun:

Qing Ting:

"Don't you think so?" Flushing, the young man continued, "Though they haven't robbed me yet, I know it's only a matter of time. Since that's the case, we might as well strike first and kill them before that happens!"

"How about you two? Do you feel the same?" He looked seriously at Lu Yun and Qing Ting.

"Don't move!" A flash of sword light shot out from Lu Yun's fingers and hovered behind the young man's heart. He sent his internal force into the young man and restricted the latter's movements.

"This is a robbery!" Qing Ting transmitted viciously.

The young man's eyes widened; the strangers' identities were obvious now. It was the Robber Couple! The Robber Slayers were looking everywhere for them, but they'd changed their appearance and infiltrated the alliance!

Though there were plenty of people around them, no one suspected a thing with how Lu Yun and Qing Ting had made their moves.

"Hand over your seed storage and all of your treasures, or I'll make these breaths your last!" Lu Yun snarled.

The young man shook and quickly followed suit. He hastily handed over his seed storage and treasures, as well as an identity token.

“Oh ho, a minor character like you has an identity token?” Lu Yun hefted the token with a smile and gave it to Qing Ting, then stuck a Puppet Talisman on the young man and took control of him. After exchanging glances with Qing Ting, the two were on their way to their next victim.

Groups a thousand strong sauntered through the city, constantly searching for the Robber Couple. However, it was like the two had vanished into thin air and were nowhere to be found.

No one dared strike out on their own since the Robber Couple had been demonized into being larger than life. The two were so strong that several hundred opponents at the same time were still no match for them!

It was why the alliance had waited until they collected three thousand members before setting out in grand style to locate the Robber Couple.

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Lu Yun and Qing Ting hid among the group, carefully robbing one new victim after another. Each time they were finished, Lu Yun controlled them with puppet dao so they wouldn't raise the alarm.

“Crystal for your thoughts?” he asked curiously when it seemed like Qing Ting had something on her mind.

“I'm thinking that there are more than thirty-three hundred half step kings here. Can I defeat them all if they attack at the same time?” Qing Ting murmured. “I could do that when facing ghosts on my level because they don't know any combat arts. There was no organization to their attacks, but if I face the same number of cultivators...”

“Why don't we give it a try?” Lu Yun nodded.

“But if I make a move, the group of titled half step kings at the front will respond as well. That Seven Slaughters Duke, especially, can slow me down even if I'm sure I can beat him.”

She wasn't concerned about one or two half step kings, but if the alliance's sixteen—which included her brother and the rest—charged at once, they'd swiftly defeat her.

“We'll do it right and turn everything upside down!” Lu Yun grinned. “Don't worry and just focus on the ordinary half step kings. I'll take care of the titled dukes for you!”

“Return to your original features and wear a mask. Don't leave any clues behind for others to use.” He handed a mask to Qing Ting.

“But... you...” She looked uncertainly at him.

“Don't worry about it, I have the Stellar Sword and it's only sixteen titled dukes!” There was a mask on Lu Yun's face too now, completely obscuring the looks of the Champion Duke.

If he owns a Transformation Talisman, is his current appearance his real appearance then? The thought suddenly occurred to Qing Ting.

Hummm.

Cerulean radiance suddenly rose from the crowd.

“Yoooooo!” Lu Yun roared and waved his sword around. “This is a robbery! You sixteen idiots up ahead, hand over all of your worldly belongings!”

His shout stunned everyone—the Robber Couple had appeared right in front of the Robber Slayers and wanted to rob the alliance!

Azureclad felt the world spin around him. If the Champion Duke was here, then his sister should be nearby too. What in the heavens are these two doing??

Before he could react, he saw Lu Yun charge straight at him.

“I’ve been looking for you!” Blackclad spat venomously and unsheathed his flying sword, rushing back out at Lu Yun. The initial twelve titled dukes of the Robber Slayers also shifted into motion.

“We need to go as well!” Azureclad set his jaw. “He’s part of Coiling Dragon right now, so he can’t die here!”

Azure sword light exploded in the air before he could move and formed a stunningly magnificent sword curtain, sealing off the premises.

“Everybody freeze! This is a robbery!” a masked Qing Ting roared at more than thirty-three hundred half step kings.

Azureclad wished he could faint dead away on the spot. Or something like that.

Chapter 1393: Walk My Own Path

The two members of the Robber Couple had appeared at the same time and wanted to rob more than thirty-three hundred half step kings of the Robber Slayers!

It felt like the world was turning on its head.

Lu Yun charged the twelve titled dukes while Qing Ting rushed the other thirty-three hundred half step kings.

Madness, complete madness!

“What are we afraid of?” someone roared. “There’s two of them and more than three thousand of us! Kill them! We’ll take them down and take back our stolen wealth!”

This was a half step king that Lu Yun and Qing Ting had robbed before; his words snapped everyone out of their stupor.

Rays of scintillating brilliance seared the air as all sorts of flying swords and treasures hurtled through the void. They crashed down on Qing Ting in a messy heap, but the Robber Slayers felt a bit hobbled in their actions.

The Robber Couple had emerged from their own ranks—a vastly different situation than they’d dreamed up! It’d been general consensus that they’d find the villains and overwhelm them in one massive mob, but reality turned out to be the robbers infiltrating the crowd and skillfully separating them into distinct sections, making it impossible for the half step kings to work together.

Qing Ting's sword was uncommonly sharp and each stroke stole a cultivator's ability to move. As she battled other cultivators, she also comprehended a new level of mastery in her cultivation realm—one impossible to experience when fighting ghosts.

The biggest difference between cultivators and ghosts was that the former possessed combat arts!

She was as if a dragon coursing through the crowd. Fending off attacks aimed at her from every possible direction from more than twenty people at any given time, she needed to constantly flare with powerful strength and defeat her opponents. She needed to both defend and attack, and block the combat arts of others!

She scrambled slightly at first and had to rely on the sharpness of her sword against her opponents. Since she couldn't defeat them with one stroke, it was incredibly taxing on her internal reserves.

Blood trickled out of the corner of her mouth, but her combat arts and moves became more precise as time went on. She gradually shifted to paying the smallest price possible to defeat or block an opponent's combat arts.

The dazzling sword light from Azureclad gradually faded away. It didn't take long before more than three hundred cultivators lay prone on the ground.

Qing Ting surreptitiously swallowed a few pills as she fought, healing some of her less serious injuries and recovering some of her internal force.

The twelve titled dukes of the Robber Slayers were beside themselves! They wanted to take on the female robber, but her male counterpart blocked them each time. Lu Yun's Stellar Sword enabled him to fight twelve titled dukes on even footing, thoroughly chilling their hearts with his prowess.

"Azureclad Duke, please move against the girl or we'll all be jokes!" Blackclad yelled at Azureclad when one of Lu Yun's blows threw him back.

Azureclad and the four others had hesitated when Qing Ting revealed herself. When they saw how ferocious Lu Yun and Qing Ting were—successfully challenging more than thirty-three hundred opponents—they wanted to withdraw.

But Blackclad's request pushed Azureclad into the limelight. If he left now, his sterling reputation of a lifetime would truly become a joke.

"Leng Che, You Cang, go help the Seven Slaughters King take down the Champion Duke. Don't show him any mercy!" Azureclad clenched his teeth. "Little Ying, come with me to force Qing Ting off the battlefield!"

He was completely convinced that his sister had been led astray by that brat. The current situation was too dangerous; more than three thousand half step kings lacking titled kings to maintain order was a more frightening sight than the ghosts outside Cloudexit City!

"Alright!" You Cang and Leng Che exploded with battle strength and charged Lu Yun.

"They're as strong as titled dukes!" Seven Slaughters and Blackclad jumped with shock. They hadn't thought that the two sidekicks they'd ignored all this time would be this strong! In fact, the two followers were almost as strong as them!

“Piss off!” Lu Yun split out two shadows of himself that rushed at Leng Che and You Cang when they arrived, slashing at both of them.

Startled, they swiftly reacted. They hadn’t thought that Lu Yun would be able to spare attention for them while he battled twelve titled dukes.

Bam!

Bam!

Two enormous explosions later, both of them smashed into the ground, all of their bones broken by Lu Yun’s terrible stroke.

His sword intent scattered throughout the melee, forming his first stroke—Dragonrise—with utmost perfection. The meaning behind his second move was also brewing. He wanted to make use of this battle to temper his second stroke, pinpoint its weaknesses, and improve upon them.

As wondrous as cultivation in the Army Pagoda was, trials of life and death were equally pivotal.

“What are you doing here?” Qing Ting transmitted with a frown when she saw her brother and Crimsonclad. She was stronger than both of them, but if they dogged her footsteps, she would ultimately be defeated.

“This is completely out of line, you’re being so ridiculous! Robbing thirty-three hundred half step kings?! Do you want to be the death of me??” Azureclad transmitted through grit teeth. “Leave this place immediately and never have anything to do with that Champion Duke ever again!”

He burst with azure sword light that transformed into a huge dragon. Snarling, it pounced on Qing Ting—appearing to be a vicious attack to outsiders, but in reality a front that would let his sister escape.

The remaining three thousand cultivators heaved sighs of relief to see the Azureclad Duke take the field.

Boom!

Qing Ting blasted apart his dragon of sword qi.

“You!!” Azureclad’s jaw dropped.

“Qing Yan, this is the Dragonling Assembly!” Qing Ting declared furiously. “Everyone has their own path to walk, as do I! I am not your shadow or your puppet on strings!”

Whoosh!

She brandished her sword and came for her brother.

“You don’t know what’s right from wrong!” Crimsonclad turned irate to see Qing Ting charge them. A proud phoenix call echoed from her body as fiery smoke swept toward the girl.

Her lips curving upward, Qing Ting stabbed forward and redirected the smoke an instant before her blade touched it.

Kaboom!

A huge mushroom cloud rose into the air, completely demolishing the unprepared and defenseless cultivators nearby. They were all within her sword curtain; there was nowhere to run to.

Chapter 1394: The Dragonsea City Lord

Rather than being a simple combat art, Qing Ting's sword curtain was closer to a king's forcefield. It was a kind of existence that combined both sword formation and combat art. This was further proof that her potential far exceeded her brother's—she'd comprehended the existence of something like a forcefield while still a half step king.

Her sword curtain was nigh invincible; no one would be able to defeat it unless they were definitively stronger than her.

She hadn't dared deploy her sword curtain against opponents in Cloudexit City as there'd been numerous ghost kings there. A simple twitch from a ghost king would immediately dismantle the sword curtain.

But now, no kings could join the fights in Dragonsea City and her strength was vastly improved from before. Thus, she quickly deployed a sword curtain spanning ten thousand kilometers across and fired off attacks from multiple angles at the same time. She didn't stay in one place and knocked down cultivators one after another.

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Qing Ting detonated Crimsonclad's attack with a combat art and blew all of the cultivators around them into a stupor, but didn't damage her own sword curtain. Roughly eight hundred cultivators sprawled on the ground with blank expressions.

"That's some unbelievable control!" Azureclad jumped with surprise. When had his sister grown to such heights?

The eight hundred were affected to the point of losing their mobility, but none of them were in danger of losing their lives. Azureclad, at least, wouldn't be able to exercise this fine degree of control.

Though Qing Ting could already defeat him before the Dragonling Assembly, he'd held back in many areas since he naturally wouldn't use full force against his sister. Who would've thought that Qing Ting had also held back, and to a greater magnitude than him?

Most importantly was that Qing Ting had yet to use her golden body since arriving in the city!

Crimsonclad was likewise dumbfounded and Qing Ting was hardly willing to fight her brother. She swiftly slipped away to another spot and continued attacking cultivators that'd managed to survive the blast.

There were less than two thousand standing of the thirty-three hundred half step kings!

At a loss, Crimsonclad and Azureclad remained dumbly where they were.

"Perhaps... you really are wrong," Crimsonclad murmured. "She's not your shadow or a marionette..."

“My baby sister’s finally grown up and filled out her wings, but she needs to experience some challenges before she can soar into the sky. C’mon, let’s go take out that Champion Duke and then partner with the other half step kings to teach the lass a lesson!” Azureclad broke into easy laughter. He didn’t mind that his sister had overtaken him.

Crimsonclad was mystified, but nodded in agreement with his plan. She’d chosen to forget his reaction toward Qing Yu.

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In one of the highest towers at the center of Dragonsea City.

Numerous kings sat in arrangements as befitting their status, gazing down with amusement at the happenings in the city.

“Large scale slaughter happens in all Dragonling Assemblies, and there is always so much blood and gore flowing through the streets that one can wade through it. But what an interesting turn of events has taken place this time!” A young girl with black hair, black lips, and wearing a black silk dress scanned everything in the city with interest.

“The Trueriver King well deserves our respect for raising someone like the Champion Duke!”

The Trueriver King was part of the list of invitees, but hadn’t headed out of town to attack foreign cultivators since he wasn’t a king of Azure Dragon Region.

Qing Yu and the little fox were also among present company—though Dragonhollow Mountain had invited Lu Yun, not them. He’d responded with the excuse that he was refining a treasure and sent the Intranse King instead. Qing Yu was here purely out of curiosity.

There were several other heavyweights present as well, all of them notable figures in the realm. The weakest among them was peak sixth step kingdom and quite a few seventh step kings could also be glimpsed among the crowd.

To the ordinary cultivators of the Hongmeng, sixth step kings were lofty presences not to be offended at all costs. Seventh step kings were furthermore legendary characters who rarely appeared in the realm.

Some powerhouses appeared only when a cultivator reached a certain height—as the saying went, the higher one stood, the further one saw. There were many high level kings in the Hongmeng, but they socialized among their own circles and rarely bothered to show themselves in the public eye.

“The Robber Couple is quite merciful—they only take possessions and not lives. How interesting,” chuckled a young man with a beautiful piece of jade embedded between his brows.

“If they really set out to strike with full force, your precious Seven Slaughters Duke would be deader than dead,” teased someone else.

“One should be prepared to die at the Dragonling Assembly. If he dies to a peer, that only means he was inferior to his opponent,” the young man responded calmly. “But Coiling Dragon City’s lucked upon some good helpers this time. If we include that Crimsonclad Duke, all six of them possess the battle strength of titled dukes. It looks like Coiling Dragon’s about to become the strongest city of the region.”

“Not necessarily.” A man in long azure robes shook his head. “As strong as their helpers are, their foundations are not enough. They don’t stand a chance of surpassing my Azure Dragon City.”

The man was plainly from Azure Dragon; their lead representative, the Crippled Dragon King, had already charged out of the city to commence a killing spree. Hence, this man in long robes was in charge of the faction for now.

Given that Coiling Dragon’s Mountain King didn’t have the right to participate in the gathering, that meant this man’s status and strength was even greater than the Mountain King’s. Azure Dragon was the only faction of Azure Dragon Region who had the right to sit down with all of these heavyweights.

“Azure Scaled-Dragon King, do you think there is someone from your Azure Dragon City who is the match of that Qing Ting or Champion Duke?” the young man grinned.

“Just wait and see.” The Azure Scaled-Dragon King remained noncommittal.

Qing Yu and the little fox looked at each other, both of them remaining silent. The Trueriver King fidgeted uncomfortably—he had well and truly become a scapegoat for everything that the Immortal King did.

But ever since the Trueriver Sect left Multitude City, it’d received boundless support from the Immortal Pagoda. Their strength had grown by leaps and bounds, and the king was on the verge of setting foot into seventh step kingdom.

Bah, it’s just being a goat. Fine then.

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The fighting in the city was about to reach its climax. Lu Yun and Qing Ting had diligently practiced self control and restrained the power of their combat arts to the best of their abilities. Though they refrained from taking a life whenever possible, fatalities were inevitable when fighting a pitched melee against more than three thousand opponents.

Qing Ting’s sleeves were dyed with blood and Lu Yun had killed two titled dukes. The arrival of Azureclad and Crimsonclad increased his pressure manifold, making it impossible to perfectly control his blows.

Qing Ting was also beginning to buckle and released her golden body to forcefully withstand the attacks. However, it was also broken several times.

Hummm.

Azure-golden splendor exploded from her body and melded into her sword curtain.

“Chaaaaarge!” she roared, releasing a piercing dragon croon from the Azuresky Sword and sending out an azure-golden dragon from it.

Chapter 1395: This Is All Borrowed, Borrowed, Borrowed!

After prolonged battle and clashing with thousands of half step kings, Qing Ting’s cultivation finally underwent a quantitative change. Her strength advanced another step forward and combined her golden body with the sword curtain.

The sword curtain that shimmered over ten thousand kilometers suddenly vanished and assimilated into the azure-golden dragon. It then sank into Qing Ting's body to become one with her. She walked forward in a strange pattern, flashing through the area and using extremely straightforward moves to systematically defeat every cultivator present.

She defeated all thirty-three hundred half step kings of the Robber Slayers after an hour!

Meanwhile, Lu Yun found himself battling the sixteen titled dukes anew. After a period of rest, Leng Che and You Cang recovered enough to join the fray again.

Qing Ting quickly scanned his situation before breathing out easily. A smile drifted onto her face. She'd finally forced out her potential with the aid of thirty-three hundred half step kings and incorporated her golden body with the sword curtain. She'd even activated her azure dragon bloodline and successfully grasped the footwork of the cultivation method within her bloodline.

Lu Yun was likewise using the sixteen titled dukes to temper his sword dao, so she naturally wouldn't interfere.

"Oi, are you dead yet?" she asked tiredly and kicked the nearest cultivator.

"Ah... not yet." He smiled ruefully back. The girl's stroke had been unexpectedly forceful and shattered the circulation of his inner force, as well as immobilized him. He couldn't even circulate enough energy to heal himself.

"No? Then this is a robbery!" Qing Ting dimpled. "Hand over your seed storage and treasures!"

"You've already robbed me once!" he chuckled wryly.

"I just saw you take out pills from storage and swallow them. Cut the bullshit, do you want your life or wealth?" she glared ferociously.

The cultivator quickly severed his connection with the seed storage and floated it out alongside his treasures.

Thus satisfied, she swallowed a pill to recover her internal force and stamina and began making her rounds, continuing her mighty enterprise of robbery.

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The sixteen titled dukes had long since progressed to shaking with trepidation. They hadn't thought that the other robber would really be able to defeat so many half step kings. What kind of monster was she?!

The one in front of them wasn't to be trifled with, either.

Actually, all of them wanted to retreat, but every time they were about to do so, they were forced back by one of Lu Yun's moves and had to fight on. They were using every trick in their arsenal and showcasing almost all of their trump cards, but they still couldn't do anything about him.

Beads of sweat dotted Azureclad's forehead.

"Damn it, that kid's using us to hone his sword dao! They're not robbing us at all, they're using us to cultivate!" Seven Slaughters roared with indignation.

The truth of the matter didn't occur to everyone until the duke spelled it out like this. They looked at the Robber Couple in a new, fearful light. How could there be someone so bold as to use Hongmeng geniuses in the Dragonling Assembly for practice?!

This was even more frightening than being robbed!

Being robbed meant losing their personal wealth—an insignificant loss in the grand scheme of things. Not only was the Robber Couple stealing their belongings, but they were also filching combat arts and cultivation methods!

They were distilling the essence and discarding the dross, taking in the merits of a hundred other families to strengthen their own!

This was more than a little frightening.

Azureclad fully understood what Qing Ting meant by “walk my own path”, and he finally understood why his little sister had suddenly improved by leaps and bounds. Could someone's rate of improvement be slow if they followed the madman who was the Champion Duke and copied this crazy method of training?

The Pill of Creation and golden fruits had just been gifts of potential to Qing Ting. Potential didn't equate to strength!

But now, she'd fully excavated her potential and developed it into strength!

The thoughts of the sixteen titled dukes scattered into disarray.

Hummm.

Lu Yun's sword flashed in a movement different to what he'd shown thus far, giving rise to a cerulean dragon from his body. It shot into the skies and soared the nine heavens.

The second stroke... Dragonsoar!

Making use of enormous pressure from sixteen titled dukes, Lu Yun finally perfected the second move of his sword dao. Though there were many flaws and holes within it, those could all be perfected.

He shot into the air himself and struck out with cerulean dragon-shaped sword light. The force behind his gesture was so overwhelming that the sixteen titled dukes were all blasted into the ground.

“Dragonsoar is finally complete,” he sighed with relief. “This move is more than ten times stronger than its predecessor. Not only is it incredibly powerful, but many of its flaws have also been made whole.”

As strong as the previous Dragonsoar had been, the meaning behind the move had paled far in comparison. This was the difference between a technique with roots and one without.

“Alright, time for the real business now!” He landed from the air and shouted at the sixteen titled dukes scattered over the ground, “This is a robbery! Hand over your seed storage and treasures!”

“What...” Azureclad and Crimsonclad's jaws dropped. The Champion Duke was robbing them?! Them?? He was one of them!!

“What what?? I’ll start with you! Hand over your seed storage and treasures, or I’ll strip you naked and hang you on the city doors!” Lu Yun snarled. Those two had almost ruined things for him and Qing Ting just for the sake of their own reputation. He wasn’t going to play nice with them.

Crimsonclad was the first to capitulate as she looked at Lu Yun’s murderous eyes. She might as well die if Lu Yun really stripped her naked and hung her on the city doors.

Many of the remaining titled dukes had already run into the Robber Couple, but their factions had made them whole again. They’d recreated seed storage and filled it with pills and purple crystals.

“What a bunch of paupers,” Lu Yun grumbled as he scanned the storage. “You’re lofty titled dukes, but this is all you own?”

“You robbed me of everything I own already! This is all borrowed, borrowed! BORROWED!!” screamed the Blackclad Duke.

He’d rather die than surrender last time, but had given up when Lu Yun threatened to hang him naked on the city doors. Who would’ve thought the bastard would use the same tactic again?!

“Okay.” Lu Yun nodded with dissatisfaction.

Qing Ting finished pillaging the other half step kings and the two left casually on the wind.

Thus marked the end of the mighty Robber Slayers in Dragonsea City, and the alliance became a colossal joke in the Hongmeng with the sixteen titled dukes nailed firmly to pillars of humiliation.

Chapter 1396: Ghost Dragon Reappears

After robbing thirty-three hundred cultivators of the Robber Slayers alliance, not only were Lu Yun and Qing Ting newly made tycoons, but they were also in possession of three hundred additional identity tokens.

That was three hundred spots for the Dragonling Assembly!

“Three hundred tokens?” Qing Ting looked blankly at the tokens in her hand. She’d never thought that she’d end up with so many. With their usage, they were more valuable than her newfound gains.

“Dragonhollow Mountain passed out three thousand identity tokens and now we have a tenth of them?” It felt quite surreal to her.

“Three thousand tokens?” A sudden idea occurred to Lu Yun.

“Ah, um, did you take my brother’s token? And the other guys too?” Qing Ting suddenly asked awkwardly.

“Yep.” Lu Yun nodded. “Your brother’s not that old but somehow thinks like he’s first beneath the heavens. He needs to be taken down a peg or two, or he’ll end up dead in a ditch someday.”

“Then take him down many many pegs!” Qing Ting nodded solemnly. She trusted Lu Yun more than her own brother—after all, she was so strong now strictly because of him. This was even more the case after he lent her two thousand premium crystal veins for the half step Hongmeng treasure... No, it wasn’t lending, but an outright gift.

“What should we do now? Keep after my brother?” she asked.

“Nah, that’s enough for now. All we need to do is to teach him a lesson and improve his memory. If we keep at it, this might turn into an internal demon for him.” Lu Yun shook his head. “Let’s go get even richer!”

“Even richer?” Qing Ting lit up. “How?”

“Let’s keep robbing people and take all of their identity tokens. When we have them all, we’ll sell the tokens back to them!” Lu Yun cackled.

Qing Ting:

“What is it? Is something wrong?” he asked askance when he saw her expression.

“No!” Qing Ting rapidly shook her head. “Champion Duke, you’re a genius! C’mon, let’s keep robbing!”

The Robber Slayers came to a dismal end and the Robber Couple continued to reign invincible throughout Dragonsea City. It took less than half a day for another two hundred tokens to find their way into Qing Ting’s hands.

Increasing numbers of cultivators entered the city during this time; though Azure Dragon kings were outside the city killing foreigners, it was impossible for them to kill everyone given how large the region was.

Additionally, there were also tremendous powerhouses among the foreign kings. No matter who came, even from the Immortal Region or Ten Valleys of Evil, they needed to adhere to Dragonhollow Mountain’s rules. No king was allowed to take action inside the city.

The new arrivals had naturally heard of the Robber Couple, but they didn’t think much of it. Two half step kings? So what of them, even if they were titled dukes?

The Dragonsea cultivators were just blowing things out of proportion.

But when Lu Yun and Qing Ting sought them out while wearing bizarre masks and incapacitated the newcomers, thereby taking all of their wealth, the foreigners finally understood that the stories about the Robber Couple were real.

Even titled dukes counted among their victims!

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The third day.

This was the final day of the chaotic melee in Dragonsea City. The path to Dragonhollow Mountain would open the next day. Anyone with the right to participate could set foot on it and enter the real Dragonling Assembly on the mountain.

“Twenty-five hundred tokens... Is everyone with the right to participate already in the city?” Lu Yun and Qing Ting looked quizzically at the amount of tokens they’d taken.

“Some people have been robbed so many times that they just fall to their knees when they see us...” Qing Ting recounted one such scene with resignation. She’d actually started feeling sorry for them after seeing how bedraggled they were.

“There seems to be people copying us in the city and they’re keeping their distance from us!” Lu Yun suddenly thought through something. “Remember when we ran into someone who we didn’t rob, but his pockets were empty and he insisted that we’d robbed him?”

“Someone’s pretending to be us!” Qing Ting understood.

“We haven’t run into anyone from Azure Dragon City yet, have we?” Lu Yun asked with a frown.

“That’s true.” Qing Ting furrowed her brows as well. “Though I’ve never met anyone from Azure Dragon City, I can recognize them. Right now, it’s like they aren’t in the city as well.”

Being the greatly beloved daughter of the Coiling Dragon city lord, Qing Ting had trained by her father’s side all this time. Since Azure Dragon City was their faction’s number one rival, Qing Ting’s father had naturally taught her ways to distinguish cultivators from that city.

If the Crippled Dragon King and Azure Scaled-Dragon King of Azure Dragon City were both present, then the city had obviously sent its cultivators to the assembly too.

“Heh heh heh... hahaha!” Odd laughter rose around them as seven half step kings appeared out of nowhere, surrounding Lu Yun and Qing Yu.

“The Robber Couple? You’ve looted quite a few treasures these days from your exploits around the city!” Their leader was a young man with azure hair dressed in deep green satin robes. He was magnificently handsome and a sharp light glinted from his pale green eyes. “Hand over all of them or I’ll strip you naked and hang you on the city doors!”

Lu Yun frowned deeply, not looking at the speaker. His eyes were fixed on someone standing in the back—Ghost Dragon!

He was here again and had claimed one of Azure Dragon City’s spots!

Lu Yun had saved Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix from the little boy last time, but only ended up with a handful of paper for his troubles. It hadn’t been their real selves and it didn’t seem like the Ghost Dragon in front of him was real either.

It was highly likely that apart from Ghost Dragon and Ghost Phoenix, even the Spacetime King was controlled by the eerie little boy.

“We meet again, Ghost Dragon. To think that you’d go to Azure Dragon City after you fled from Coiling Dragon. Those of Azure Dragon don’t know who he is, do you?” Qing Ting said coolly.

“Do you mean to say that he’s a ghost?” The young man shook his head. “So what? Even ghosts will submit to us if my Azure Dragon City is strong enough!” His lips stretched into a leer. “Cut the bullshit and hand over everything you have, or be stripped naked and hang from the city doors!”

Azure Dragon City had closely observed everything the Robber Couple had done over the past couple of days. Now that they dared attack Lu Yun and Qing Ting—that meant they were wholly confident in defeating the two!

“Alright!” Lu Yun grinned. “Let’s see who’s going to be hanging from the city walls at the end of this!”

Whoosh!

The Stellar Sword appeared in his hand and flared with a blossom of pure blue sword light.

“What an idiot, kill him!” The six behind the young man moved into action at the same time.

Chapter 1397: The Battle of the City Walls

Today marked the final day of confusion in Dragonsea City. Combined with the enormous kerfuffle raised by the Robber Couple—kings that’d previously departed from the city to attack foreigners returned with mixed feelings.

They were currently situated in the tallest building at the city’s center and looked down on everything.

“Those two hold all of the identity tokens for the Dragonling Assembly, don’t they?” The Dragonsea city lord’s expression was less than pleasant.

The gathering was meant to be a glorious display of talent from around the realm. One could still retain their participation privileges even if they were defeated, but that didn’t appear possible this time given how things had developed.

“This matter is no one’s fault,” shrugged Crippled Dragon King. “Dragonhollow Mountain should’ve anticipated that this kind of situation would take place, given that they’d made that kind of decision. There are more than a few heaven-defying geniuses in the Hongmeng.”

He didn’t think much of anything since he was fully confident in the seven geniuses from Azure Dragon City. The young man with green hair, in particular, had once defeated a second step ghost king by himself. He was a secluded genius secretly nurtured by Azure Dragon City, much like Qing Ting and Golden Dragon of their respective factions. All of them had emerged from seclusion specifically for this Dragonling Assembly.

Golden Dragon, however, had been defeated. It remained to be seen whether Qing Ting or the green-haired young man was superior.

Dragonsea City was a faction under Dragonhollow Mountain’s banner, and her city lord one of the mountain’s elders. He glanced at the Crippled Dragon King and inclined his head without further comment.

“The youngsters from Azure Dragon and Coiling Dragon are really going all out. If one side loses, they might actually be hung on the city walls... This fight should be called the Battle of the City Walls,” the Fog King of Crouching Dragon City remarked with schadenfreude.

Dragonfeather nodded. “It is indeed the Battle of the City Walls. It won’t be pretty no matter who wins.”

“Are you afraid, Dragonfeather?” smirked Crippled Dragon.

“Just a tad,” Dragonfeather replied coolly. “I am rather afraid that these two young’uns will hang the Azure Dragon City geniuses on the city walls. My two fists can only handle so many attackers and I might be overwhelmed by Azure Dragon’s revenge.”

“Hahahaha!!” Crippled Dragon threw his head back with laughter. “You’re as glib-tongued as always. How about a bet?”

“Oh?” Dragonfeather blinked.

“I hear that your city lord’s newly obtained a half step Hongmeng Treasure. If our Qing Di hangs your Qing Ting and Champion Duke on the city walls, how about you give it up to us?” Crippled Dragon smiled as Dragonfeather frowned.

“And what if Qing Ting and the Champion Duke hangs your geniuses up on the walls?” he replied expressionlessly.

Qing Ting purchasing a half step Hongmeng treasure from the Firmament Pavilion hadn’t been a secret. Anyone could easily find out through simple investigation.

“Then we forfeit a half step Hongmeng treasure to you too! And we will absolutely not seek vengeance on Coiling Dragon City—how about it?” Crippled Dragon smiled through narrowed eyes.

“That will do.” Dragonfeather agreed with a nod.

Crippled Dragon was a seventh step king and many times stronger than Dragonfeather. But given the numbers of high level kings present, Crippled Dragon wouldn’t possibly go back on his words.

“I would request the two ladies of the Immortal Pagoda and the Trueriver King to bear witness. After all, the Champion Duke is a disciple of the Trueriver Sect.” Dragonfeather raised a cupped fist salute to Qing Yu, the little fox, and the Trueriver King.

“We will.” Qing Yu nodded. “But this Battle of the City Walls doesn’t just involve Azure Dragon and Coiling Dragon, it pertains to the Immortal Pagoda as well. It would lose face for us if the Champion Duke swung from the city walls.

“How about this, the Immortal Pagoda will bet a Hongmeng treasure. It’s yours if we lose, and you must pay us one if we win.”

Crippled Dragon gaped at Qing Yu. He didn’t know her background, but her words were a bit frightening. A Hongmeng treasure?

Were these ultimate treasures cabbages by the side of the road, to be bought and sold however one wished?

Qing Ting had been able to purchase the half step treasure simply because it was a half step, not a real ultimate Hongmeng treasure.

A true ultimate treasure couldn’t be measured in terms of purple crystals. Their market price was undefinable and one could only hope to happen across one. There was one such treasure in Azure Dragon City—part of the city’s foundations and not something that the Crippled Dragon King could make the decision on.

Trueriver smiled ruefully; his sect was well and truly tied to the Immortal Pagoda now. But... that didn't seem so undesirable. It looked like the Immortal Pagoda had only gifted them nine thousand premium crystal veins, but they'd actually sent over much more than that.

"Fine, fine, then it's the Immortal Pagoda. There's nothing that bad about them," he mumbled to himself.

"Young lady... does the Immortal Pagoda possess an ultimate Hongmeng treasure?" Crippled Dragon asked with some condescension.

"Yes." Qing Yu nodded and flipped her hand, materializing a small black flag. "This flag is the Duskwater Flag, an ultimate treasure that can both defend and attack. Will it do?"

A strange note hummed through the atmosphere as almost all gazes shot to the flag, thick greed and desire brimming in them.

In the Azure Dragon Region, only Azure Dragon City and Dragonhollow Mountain possessed ultimate treasures. Here was another one in the girl's hands!

Dragonfeather shuddered and firmly grasped his emotions in hand. He knew full well that this girl was most likely a ninth step king!

Crippled Dragon swallowed hard and exchanged a glance with Azure Scaled-Dragon. They nodded to each other.

"I must discuss this with the city lord." Crippled Dragon took out a communication talisman.
"...accepted! The city lord agrees to bet against you with our Hongmeng Pearl!"

He looked again at the Duskwater Flag, his greed wholly unconcealed. There was likely no one in the Hongmeng who could withstand the allure of an ultimate treasure of the realm.

"Then may the Dragonsea city lord bear witness," Miao smiled at the city lord.

"The Immortal Pagoda is quite awash in wealth to bring out even an ultimate treasure!" he chuckled.

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Lu Yun, Qing Ting, Qing Di, and the others of Azure Dragon City naturally didn't know about the kings' bet, or that their fight had been named the "Battle of the City Walls". They'd certainly protest if they knew—this wasn't a battle, it was going to be a one-sided beating!

But they were deadly serious about the fight. Lu Yun swung his sword with dashing flair, calling upon his sword dao and executed two half step kings.

Executed!

It was impossible to show mercy in a fight of this caliber, only the death of one side was possible. They would kill with one stroke when the opportunity presented itself!

Qing Ting also killed one, but the remaining four battled with increasing ferocity. Ghost Dragon and another half step king targeted Lu Yun, while Qing Di and the remaining half step king blocked Qing Ting.

Many of the city's buildings were destroyed in their fearsome battle.

Chapter 1398: Suppressed By Order

Lu Yun stared fixedly at Ghost Dragon, viciously aiming every single one of his moves at Ghost Dragon's vital points. He needed to be swift, decisive, and ruthless.

Though the Ghost Dragon in Dragonsea City wasn't the real one—just another paper figure drawn by the bizarre little boy—Lu Yun had to remain firmly on his guard. The current Ghost Dragon was stronger than the version that'd appeared in Coiling Dragon City. If it wasn't for the experience that Lu Yun had gained over the past two days and him perfecting the second technique of his sword dao, he would be no match for his former friend.

Ghost Dragon remained expressionless, not reacting much to Lu Yun. But the more he was thus, the more frustrated Lu Yun became.

After being exposed, many people knew that Ghost Dragon was part of the ghost race. Thus, there was no need for him to hide anything and he could call upon his strongest battle strength at any time. Qing Di was right—even ghosts would submit to Azure Dragon City if the faction was strong enough!

It wasn't ghosts and enemies that were frightening, but one's own weakness and impotence.

Though everyone understood that Ghost Dragon was here with ulterior motives, Azure Dragon City had still dared recruit him. They were wholly confident of keeping him in check and under control.

Such was the difference between the weak and the strong.

Compared to Azure Dragon, Coiling Dragon was indeed a weakling.

“Champion Duke!” Ghost Dragon suddenly howled. “I couldn't use my full strength last time in Coiling Dragon City. We fight for real this time!”

Humm!

He flared with dense ghostly qi that overflowed with the wails of ten thousand ghosts. Ghost Dragon and his dragon-shaped spear swiftly disappeared into the energy.

He immediately reappeared everywhere the ghostly qi touched, stabbing out with his spear and locking Lu Yun in place. Shocked, the half step king assigned to fight with him swiftly retreated to the side and didn't dare work with Ghost Dragon any further. It was too likely that he'd be dragged down onto the wrong side.

Instead, he turned around to coordinate with Qing Di and attack Qing Ting!

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“Should we help?” the Blackclad Duke asked quietly. Some of the other half step kings in the city had gathered around to spectate the epic battle.

“Help? Help who? Neither side is worth helping!” Seven Slaughters sneered. “At least the Robber Couple did their deeds out in the open—the seven guys from Azure Dragon City used their name to rob others. That's a bit underhanded. Let them have their dogfight, we'll just watch the show!”

Puzzled, Seven Slaughters took another look at the Azureclad Duke standing off to the side. The Robber Couple had been exposed as little princess Qing Ting of Coiling Dragon City and the Champion Duke of the Trueriver Sect.

Those two were part of the Coiling Dragon faction, yet they'd robbed people from their own city quite a few times. Even the Azureclad Duke walked around with a long face.

Was there internal discord within Coiling Dragon City?

Seven Slaughters couldn't make sense of it. From his perspective, he would absolutely join a strong band of robbers if his Exalted Sky Region boasted of one. There was nothing wrong with what the Robber Couple had done; this was the Dragonling Assembly—a chance for the younger generation to fight and train against each other. Robbing others was also a kind of training.

Blackclad shrank in on himself and spoke no further. As strong as he was, he was at most on par with Qing Di's followers. Maybe a tiny bit stronger than Leng Che and You Cang, but not quite rivaling Azureclad and Crimsonclad.

He'd finally identified his true level of strength and no longer strutted around with such self assurance.

"But... an identity token for the assembly is very important. We didn't travel a hundred million kilometers to Dragonsea City to simply watch a show. We'll make our move when both sides are injured!" Seven Slaughters whispered.

Blackclad nodded, while Azureclad and Crimsonclad were preoccupied with the Battle of the City Walls.

"Well? Are you disgruntled to be beaten by your own baby sister?" teased Crimsonclad.

Azureclad shook his head with a rueful chuckle. "She was always so young in my eyes and so inexperienced. It looks like I'm the young'un here and the one who needs to see more of the world. She's taught me quite a lesson.

"Let us wait for now—everyone in the city is watching their fight. When both sides are injured, we'll buy some time for Qing Ting and the Champion Duke."

Azureclad could naturally tell that this fight wouldn't be decided so quickly. Seeing as this was the last day of the chaotic melee in the city, both parties would be grievously injured if they wanted to swiftly decide the outcome.

"Mmhmm." Being a clear-minded person, Crimsonclad nodded in agreement.

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Faced with endless copies of Ghost Dragon in the ghostly qi, Lu Yun deployed Dragonrise. A cerulean dragon crouched at the bottom of an abyss slowly lifted its head and emanated the aura of a divine dragon.

Second move—twin dragons soar!

Two enormous cerulean dragons soared into the sky at the same time, forming the layout of twin fish of yin and yang. They bore down on Ghost Dragon with indomitable sword light.

This second move that was called Twin Dragonsoar was part of Lu Yun's perfection of his sword dao. While the two dragons were the cerulean blue of Stellar Light Magneticus, silver light danced in their eyes.

There were thirty strands of order in Lu Yun's body. Since he couldn't use the other hellfire for the time being, he incorporated the fire of order into his sword dao.

The combination of order and sword dao enabled him to release power more than thirty times stronger than his usual capabilities.

He repeatedly slayed Ghost Dragons within the ghostly qi; a strange power lingered after the copies died and was absorbed by the order of fire.

A thirty-first tendril of fire appeared.

"This strange power is the complete opposite of order... Is this what the hell of order suppresses?" Understanding dawned in Lu Yun's mind. "What order suppresses is... chaotic disorder. Only through suppressing that can order come into being, and thereby life!

"I can meld my sword dao with order and develop the sword dao of order. It'll be able to cut through disorder then!"

Following his thoughts, a hint of change appeared in his dragon-shaped sword dao. It was the most minute of changes, but it caused a drastic chain reaction. A silver seed appeared in Lu Yun's sword dao!

A seed for the hell of order!

The fires of the Hadal, Sanguine, Nihil, Abyssal, and Nether Hells emerged from the Tome of Life and Death and surged into the seed, the flames fully becoming Lu Yun's.

Hummm.

The cerulean sword light morphed into pure silver. Two silver dragons around Lu Yun snarled and rushed into the ghostly qi.

It dispersed seconds later as Ghost Dragon fell heavily to the ground.

Chapter 1399: Auction

Ghost Dragon looked expressionlessly at Lu Yun. He hadn't thought that he'd still be defeated when he fought at full strength!

Bam!

Just as Ghost Dragon struggled to his feet to get away, Lu Yun landed from the sky and rested his foot on his opponent's chest. In front of the stupefied eyes of everyone present, Ghost Dragon turned into a paper figure.

A deathly silence descended; even Qing Ting and Qing Di's movements slowed.

"How come that Ghost Dragon's turned into paper?!" Qing Ting shrieked.

“Don’t tell me that you already knew he was a piece of paper.” Dragonfeather turned to Crippled Dragon and Azure Scaled-Dragon with derision. “When you speak of the ghosts submitting to you, do you mean in the form of paper?”

The two kings glowered and didn’t respond. It was true—they hadn’t seen through Ghost Dragon’s true self. Most importantly was that, after his defeat, Qing Di and the others were no match for Qing Ting and the Champion Duke!

Indeed, Lu Yun swiftly joined Qing Ting’s fight after he disposed of Ghost Dragon and quickly dispatched the two half step kings.

Qing Di was very strong, stronger than the Azureclad or Seven Slaughters Duke, in fact. It wouldn’t be that easy for Qing Ting to defeat him. However, that would’ve held true before all of her newly gained experience. Now that her potential was fully excavated, there was no purpose in continuing this level of fight.

Thus, Lu Yun and Qing Ting joined hands against Qing Di and flung him to the ground after a dozen breaths.

“Despicable!” Qing Di cried out when he hit the ground. “You’re just bullying others through sheer numbers!”

“Sheer numbers?” Lu Yun snorted with laughter. “Who’s bullying who, huh?”

Qing Di flushed and looked piteously at Qing Ting. “Qing Ting, I’m your cousin. You aren’t really going to rob me, are you?”

As the stories went, the city lords of Azure Dragon and Coiling Dragon were blood brothers. They’d founded different cities due to a difference in opinion, and the brother at Azure Dragon was much stronger.

Qing Di was the son of the Azure Dragon city lord and him calling Qing Ting “cousin” confirmed the tales. That also made the Dragonfeather King the Azure Dragon city lord’s younger brother, since he was the Coiling Dragon city lord’s younger brother.

“So what if you’re my cousin? I robbed my own blood brother! Cut the crap. Seed storage, your treasures, and do you want to hang yourself on the city doors or shall I?” Qing Ting responded with an impatient eye roll.

Still observing the proceedings, Azureclad quickly ran off. He was rather concerned that his sister would rob him again!

Though the two cousins had never met each other before, the connection between their bloodlines was undeniable. Qing Di had also activated the bloodline of the azure dragon to attain his current level of strength.

The three survivors of Azure Dragon City handed over all of their belongings and identity tokens to Qing Ting, then docilely climbed up the city doors and hung themselves by the collar.

Crippled Dragon and Azure Scaled-Dragon looked on, livid. It was no matter that Qing Di had lost—it was a monumental one that they’d lost an ultimate Hongmeng treasure!

“An ultimate Hongmeng treasure is solemn business. We will visit you in person to retrieve it after the Dragonling Assembly,” Miao dimpled at Crippled Dragon.

He glowered so fiercely that it seemed like thunderclouds were spontaneously gathering over his head.

“Ah, yes, Crippled Dragon King, you should stop calling Dragonfeather trash,” the little fox continued to rub things in. “He’s the Azure Dragon city lord’s younger brother, and you are hmm... a subordinate.”

“Please be calm, everyone. The path to Dragonhollow Mountain will open tomorrow and all of the identity tokens should be in those two children’s hands. We need to be on good terms with Coiling Dragon City,” the Dragonsea city lord quickly jumped out to play mediator when she saw that Crippled Dragon was about to lose his temper.

“And?” Crippled Dragon sneered. “Will they be returning the stolen tokens?”

“That’s out of our hands,” Miao quickly responded before Dragonfeather could. “They belong to the Champion Duke and Qing Ting now. It’s up to them how they want to handle things. But I’m confident that they’re reasonable people who will return the tokens.”

Dragonfeather was about to speak, but shut his mouth when he heard this assertion. He’d planned on using those tokens to build some relationships with the factions present.

Though Lu Yun and Qing Ting had been the ones to collect them, everyone at the Dragonling Assembly was well acquainted with each other. Lu Yun and Qing Ting hadn’t conducted mass scale slaughter, either, so this matter could be easily smoothed over.

Dragonfeather was also irritated about another matter. From the perspective of outsiders, it would seem that Coiling Dragon City fell under the Immortal Pagoda banner. But as annoyed as he might be, the Inrance King had spoken up on his behalf just now and firmly taken that cocksure Crippled Dragon down a peg.

No one else spoke—they were all looking at Lu Yun and Qing Ting down in the city.

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Lu Yun and Qing Ting were in no hurry; taking inventory of their spoils was the most important item on the agenda. They’d obtained many treasures other than identity tokens—purple crystals, pills, treasures, and more.

Though most of the cultivators here weren’t kings, they were the precious jewels of their factions. Everyone’s combined wealth could be piled into a massive mountain.

Qing Ting’s eyes almost resembled purple crystals. She flung herself into the fabulous heap, counting this and caressing that.

“This is all for me?!” She couldn’t believe her eyes; there were almost ten thousand seed storages here! Their contents were worth several tens of millions of crystal veins!

This was such an enormous sum that she was going weak at the knees just thinking about it!

“Yep, you’re the one who got the seed storage, anyhow.” Lu Yun waved her off and counted their identity tokens. There were two thousand nine hundred and ninety-six tokens here. If adding theirs, that only made for two thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight tokens.

We’re two short.

Other than Ghost Dragon’s being impossible to track down, that meant there was another token somewhere in a corner of the city. However, he couldn’t be so merciless. If he was determined to track down every last token, some unexpected developments might occur as a result.

“Do you really plan on selling these tokens back to them?” Qing Ting asked carefully. “How much do you want for them?”

Ears perked up and new hope flared in the cultivators when they heard that the Champion Duke wanted to sell the identity tokens.

Lu Yun extended a finger.

“A hundred million?” Qing Ting ventured hesitantly.

Moods lifted in the crowds around them. Though a hundred million was pricey, they could still afford it. A token for the assembly was priceless; its value couldn’t be measured in purple crystals.

“Nah, it’s a starting price of a hundred premium crystal veins. This is gonna be an auction!” Lu Yun declared with gusto.

Qing Ting suddenly felt her brains inadequate to be hanging out with her friend.

Chapter 1400: Eighth of the Hongmeng

“A hundred premium crystal veins?? That expensive?!” The city erupted at Lu Yun’s words.

A hundred premium crystal veins was indeed too expensive... ridiculously so!

The group of kings looked askance at each other, not understanding what the Champion Duke wanted to do.

“Thank goodness we killed quite a few ghost kings during this time and earned a lot of premium crystal veins from the Immortal Pagoda. We should be able to afford an identity token,” some kings thought with relief, but didn’t say anything out loud. Kings were forbidden to take action in Dragonsea City—they would suffer severe consequences.

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“You think it’s too expensive? That’s fine, this is an auction. I’m not forcing you to buy them,” Lu Yun responded, unconcerned. “I now give you one hour to prepare the crystal veins. I only want crystal veins or their equivalent in purple crystals. Nothing else will be accepted.

“Only one token will be up for sale at any given time, and each auction will last for only ten breaths. Whoever is the highest bidder after ten breaths will win the token. If there is no one bidding after ten breaths, then it will be considered a failed auction and the identity token will be destroyed on the spot.”

His explanation sent shudders of dread through the cultivators present before they left without another word. As expensive as a hundred premium crystal veins were, it was still feasible given their background. However, there were more than ten thousand cultivators in Dragonsea City and only three thousand tokens.

“Aren’t you... aren’t you afraid of being mobbed by the entire city?” Azureclad and Crimsonclad asked with bewilderment.

“They’re a bunch of losers that we already beat, so who cares about them?” Qing Ting snorted. “If they dare do anything, Champion Duke and I will just rob them again!”

She looked at her brother as she spoke. She’d beaten him more than once in broad daylight and taken all of his treasures. When Qing Ting and Lu Yun’s identities were first revealed, the city’s cultivators had initially vented their fury on Azureclad and the others.

But when they saw that he and his friends were treated the same by the Robber Couple, their fury turned to pity. He would’ve been beaten to death by the crowds otherwise.

Lu Yun shrugged and said nothing.

“Then, our identity tokens... can we...” Azureclad asked hesitantly.

“Don’t worry, I won’t make you guys pay, but I also can’t give them to you right now. If I do, someone will definitely beat you to death as soon as you leave or at the very least, rob you.” Lu Yun compressed his lips while Azureclad smiled ruefully.

He finally understood the gap between him, the Champion Duke, and Qing Ting. The two had dared to rob all ten thousand cultivators of Dragonsea City and beaten them so thoroughly that their victims quailed with fear, unwilling to even think of resistance.

And now, they were openly auctioning off the identity tokens they’d taken!

This wasn’t just boldness of execution from supreme skill, but boldness of execution from Hongmeng-level skill!

“Cousin... cousins! What about me?” weakly called out Qing Di from the city gates.

“You?” Qing Ting snorted and didn’t answer.

The cultivators that’d left had gathered their crystal veins, but they didn’t dare come close. Qing Ting and the Champion Duke were invincible as long as the kings stayed away. The cultivators were afraid that they’d be robbed again.

“Champion Duke and the little princess of Coiling Dragon City... we’ve collected the purple crystal veins, but you won’t rob us again, will you?” someone asked. He was hiding in his sect’s stronghold and didn’t dare show himself.

“The time for robbery is over, it is now the time of auction,” Lu Yun declared. “Feel free to come. Qing Ting and I won’t be attacking any further.”

“Really?” Some skepticism remained.

“Who do you think I, the Champion Duke, am? Not only do I represent Coiling Dragon City, but I also represent the Trueriver Sect and Immortal Pagoda. How could I possibly go back on my word?” Lu Yun snorted with laughter. “Qing Ting is the little princess of Coiling Dragon City—do you not trust her?”

Relief overcame the others in the city when they heard his words. They could be skeptical of Coiling Dragon City and the Trueriver Sect, but they would never be skeptical of the Immortal Pagoda!

The pagoda had thoroughly won the realm over after setting a bounty for ghost crystals. No scandal had ever appeared in this matter, and the rate of exchange had never differed.

Though many felt that the Immortal Pagoda was filled with fools that possessed more money than brains, it couldn't be denied that their sterling reputation had been made on the basis of this bounty.

“One hour is up, we begin the auction now!” Lu Yun took out the first identity token.

“One thousand premium crystal veins!” came a clear call. A young man roughly sixteen years old with red lips and white teeth squeezed through the crowd.

“One thousand premium crystal veins?!” Cultivators choked on their own spit. This wasn't how auctions were conducted!

The young man was the disguised Dragon Butterfly.

“It's yours.” Lu Yun tossed the identity token to the young man while he took out a storage ring in return. There were one thousand premium crystal veins inside.

Though the Redbud King had gifted all of the minor crystal veins in Redbud Mountain to Lu Yun, Dragon Butterfly still held many in storage since she was the mountain's big dragon.

Gazes so hot that they almost spat fire centered upon Dragon Butterfly upon seeing this upstart spend one thousand premium crystal veins to purchase an identity token. It would already be insane if the tokens were bid up to two hundred crystal veins, but this random brat raised the price ten times over with the first auction!

“Champion Duke, look at how viciously everyone looks at me after I've bought one of your tokens... Shouldn't you protect me?” Dragon Butterfly said piteously.

“Alright then.” Lu Yun nodded. “Stand over here. I'll rip apart anyone who tries to take your token.”

His promise set off uncontrollable shaking in the crowd. The Champion Duke was never one for empty promises.

“Can we all receive your protection after we buy a token?” Unrest shuffled through the crowd. There was still most of the day left—those who purchased an identity token could very well be attacked by others.

“Yes.” Lu Yun nodded. “The second token!”

“One hundred and fifty premium crystal veins!”

“One hundred and eighty!”

“Two hundred!”

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The Dragonsea city lord and others looked wordlessly at the auction. They'd expected to see a bloody struggle between the strongest of the younger generation, a struggle that would become more ghastly and harrowing the longer it dragged on. The city itself might even be dyed red...

But now, it was a farce because of those two strange characters!

“Though these two aren't on par with Hua Fengwen of a hundred thousand years ago, they're not that far off,” the city lord commented meaningfully. “It's up to the fights on Dragonhollow Mountain to see if they can reach his heights.”

“Is Hua Fengwen that strong?” the little fox asked.

“Very,” nodded the city lord. “He slew a fifth step king before he became a titled king and successfully fled from a seventh step king. After he became a titled king, the first target he hunted down was the seventh step king who'd once pursued him.

“Do you think his title of the Eighth King is a joke? No! It means he is eighth in the Hongmeng, the eighth of the realm's wondrous geniuses!

“He accomplished that feat without fortuitous encounters or heaven-sent luck.”