

Protect OCL 81

Chapter 81 - The Stepping Stone on the Emperor's Path

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A few days later.

On Zhuwei Lake, which spans tens of thousands of acres, more than a hundred boats were already at work.

Among them were transport ships, dredging boats, and so on, all suitable for used in calm inland waters. To gather these vessels, Wang Shouzhe mobilized many of his connections.

In particular, the Chen Clan of Donggang, where inland waterways crisscross, numerous small boats and boat-building workshops were found in abundance.

Chen Fangjie, his future brother-in-law, was quite helpful. From purchasing small old boats to customizing dredging boats, he helped intensively, and even took care of transportation.

Wang Shouzhe, in reciprocation to his future brother-in-law's generosity, presented him with five thousand dan of newly harvested wheat grain. After some processing in the mill, it would turn into high-quality flour.

The byproduct, bran, which was used to feed livestock in previous years, was now in high demand.

In previous years, the five thousand dan of new wheat was indeed valuable, but this season was extraordinarily different. Because of the low yield of new wheat, its value far exceeded those of previous years.

Through their cooperation with Wang Shouzhe, the Chen Clan of Donggang secretly obtained significant benefits.

It's important to understand that many members from prominent families are accustomed to fine rice and flour; their demands are much higher and harder to fulfill than common people.

In any case, both parties were delighted.

The inland boats were quickly assembled, and Wang Shouzhe's "century project" was swiftly underway.

In the past, the family would dredge part of the river every winter, and the silt would be used to fill the fields etc. At that time, the work was done with five men to a boat.

One man steered the boat, while four others dredged. After reaching the destination, the silt would be unloaded, and then the boat would return for more dredging...

It sounded easy but in reality, this work mode was very inefficient. The small-scale dredging in winter mainly utilized the idle season, so the low efficiency was tolerable.

But for a massive project, every bit of labor saved would add up to significant savings over time.

Under Wang Shouzhe's guidance, the dredging workers were all strong laborers. Five people to a team, once on board an empty boat, they would quickly fill it using their dredges. Then, they'd switch to another empty boat and continue dredging.

The boatmen tended to be somewhat older and did not need to participate in the dredging, just sail the boat. At the destination, there would be a team dedicated to unloading the boat, and another team responsible for filling in the land.

Once the silt was unloaded, the loaders would replenish the boat with empty bamboo baskets. The boatman would then immediately sail the boat back and start the next round of work.

After some experimentation and adjustments, they gradually established an assembly-line type of operation.

The dredge used by the workers was heavy, with iron bars all around, especially at the scraping part where there were sharpened iron bars. The middle part consisted of closely woven space in wicker-work. This work required a lot of strength.

However, each dredge could bring up fifty to sixty pounds of silt. Just a few dredges could fill a large bamboo basket. Smaller boats could carry a few dozen bamboo baskets.

Larger boats, those designed for dredging and inland transportation, could carry over a hundred bamboo baskets. The largest boat could carry more than three hundred bamboo baskets.

A five-man dredging team, including resting time, could on average excavate and fill about eighty baskets in two hours. Therefore, larger boats would enlist several teams, leaving a final team to finish off the dredging.

In addition, some weaker women, children, and elderly people would be responsible for weaving bamboo baskets, cooking meals, cleaning, or leveling the silted land as auxiliary work.

Overall, the dredging and land-filling work was carried out smoothly.

The current dredging workers reached a strength of eighty teams, amounting to four hundred people. There were one hundred and fifty boatmen, fifty unloaders, eighty land-fillers, and the remaining auxiliary workers numbered just under a hundred.

The total number of people involved in the project was nearly eight hundred.

Even so, the daily dredging and filling amounted to around three to four thousand cubic meters, roughly equivalent to one-thousandth of the first phase of the project.

According to the current labor and material resources, even if they worked every day, it would still take about six years to complete the first phase of the project, and that didn't include inclement weather like monsoons and winters that would hinder construction.

Acquiring new land and expanding clan production were never meant to be easy tasks.

The ancestors of the Wang family would have gone through untold efforts and time to bring Ping'an Town to its current status. Conquering nature was never an easy feat for mankind.

Wang Shouzhe's awning boat calmly sailed through Zhuwei Lake, observing the vigorously progressing construction work up close.

"Brother Shouzhe," Liu Yuanrui exclaimed with deep emotion, "Only now do I realize how difficult it was for our forebears to establish the family's base. Each piece of family property is steeped in the life's dedication of our ancestors."

"Indeed, when our old ancestor Zhou Xuan first moved south, the entire region of Ping'an Town was a savage land where fierce beasts roamed," Wang Shouzhe also felt the weight of their ancestors' efforts, "At that time, our ancestors had a much harder time than us."

Wang Shouzhe stood on the bow of the boat, overlooking the vast Zhuwei Lake. What seemed like an immense project only occupied a small part for actual construction, "The construction scale needs to be further expanded. There are still many people in Ping'an Town who are starving."

Among the current eight hundred people, many were tenant farmers of the Wang family, and some were distant relatives of the Wang family who came to participate in the construction and management. The number of people recruited externally was only about four to five hundred.

If he wanted to truly alleviate the disaster, merely recruiting so many workers wasn't enough. The team would have to keep expanding and the number of dredging boats would have to increase. At the very least, the entire construction team had to reach around two to three thousand people.

Carrying out large projects where productivity was relatively low was quite challenging. Even when a lot of resources and manpower were used, the progress was still slow.

However, for such foundational work of dredging and filling, except for operating in an assembly line process, there was no better approach. He didn't have the ability to manufacture large excavators.

After satisfying Liu Yuanrui's curiosities about the lake, the awning boat returned to the main residence.

At this point, Wang Zhong had someone report that the independent cultivator who had previously killed a wealthy farmer had been found hiding near Dingpu Ferry in a secluded warehouse.

Wang Shouzhe's eyes narrowed, evincing his intent to kill.

He didn't discriminate against independent cultivators, knowing that many of them had tough lives as well. However, what he hated the most were those who committed crimes recklessly and then walked away casually.

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Time passed.

A secluded warehouse, a place used by a prominent family specifically for storing salted and smoked fish.

Recently, sales for smoked fish had been excellent, the stock had all been sold out, but the smell of fish remained.

A few independent cultivators with ferocious expressions sat around weakly, their morale quite low.

"Boss, is there any news from Liu Clan?" a man in his thirties anxiously asked, "Isn't it just about arranging a boat to cross the river? Is it really that difficult?"

"The Wang family seems to have gone crazy, they actually had Deputy Garrison Commander Wang Dingzu blockade Dingpu Ferry. They even sent troops to guard some wild ferry crossings. It's obvious they are targeting us," said a middle-aged independent cultivator in his forties with scars on his face, "Everyone, just hang on a bit longer. Once we tide over this, we will be fine."

"Boss, I heard that the Wang family and Liu Clan have come into conflict," another independent cultivator said anxiously. "Do you think Liu Clan will try to silence us?"

"They wouldn't dare!" The scarred independent cultivator scoffed. "This is not the first time we have done some dirty work for the Liu Clan. I have kept a lot of evidence in hand. If anything happens to us, someone will deliver the evidence to Wang Dingzu. Given the relationship between the Wang family and Liu Clan, they certainly won't let it go."

Independent cultivators roam the world seeking benefit. Naturally, they are sometimes used by some prominent families to do their dirty work and often hear about the plot of killing after they're no longer of use.

Therefore, independent cultivators aren't fools. They can certainly take money to work for you, but thinking you can clean up afterwards without a mess is almost impossible. All the independent cultivators who have managed to survive until their forties are shrewd to boot. The dangers they experience in their lifetimes, aren't ones the sons of prominent families could even compare to.

"Boss is wise, truly wise. Once we catch a breath, we need to slice a big chunk of meat off the Liu Clan."

The other independent cultivators also let out a sigh of relief, singing the boss's praises and cursing the Liu Clan.

It was okay to hang on for a while and weather the storm. The Wang family only wanted to flex their muscles and boost their reputation. After all, it wasn't their wealthy tenants who were murdered.

Just then.

"Clap! Clap! Clap!"

Amidst the applause, a young man's voice rang from outside, "Listen up everyone! See how these independent cultivators operate and learn a thing or two. Always leave yourself a way out, that's a great survival philosophy."

"Yes, fourth brother." two young boys obediently responded.

"Stop blabbering, let's get to it."

"Luo Qiu, the fourth brother is right. No matter how gifted you are, there will always be someone in this world who is more talented than you."

The faces of the group of independent cultivators darkened dramatically.

The scarred independent cultivator leading them did not become agitated, but responded calmly, "Since you've managed to find us here, you surely must be well-prepared. Why don't we have a chat?"

Between his words.

Wang Shouzhe, leading his two brothers and two sisters, walked into the warehouse.

He did not directly respond to the independent cultivator's words, instead continuing his talk with his siblings, "You must remember, don't do anything that you don't want others to know. Our Wang family's ancestor Zhou Xuan ventured south to establish Ping'an Town.

In the process, he killed fierce beasts and expanded our territory, giving both the Wang descendants and countless civilians a place to live. We, the descendants, can't compare to the merit points of our deified ancestors, but we must guard our home, uphold the bottom line, and not bring shame to the family."

"You must remember, families like the Liu Clan and Zhao Clan operate without any regard for laws and have no bottom line," Wang Shouzhe calmly stated, "They may rise for a while, but cannot flaunt their arrogance forever. Those clan members will sooner or later bring destruction upon their own heads."

"Yes, fourth brother." Wang Luo Jing nodded solemnly.

Wang Shou Yong and Wang Shouliao also seemed somewhat stirred up, their excited faces flushing red. "Our Wang family is a legitimate successor of an established family directly descended from Zhou Xuan's lineage. We are fundamentally different from families like the Liu and Zhao Clans."

"I, Wang Luo Qiu, you all don't have to remember my name." Fierce determination flashed in Wang Luo Qiu's eyes, "I'm charged with the expectation of our ancestors and carry the duty of reviving our Wang family. You insignificant henchmen are nothing but stepping stones on my rise to power, nothing but small fry!"

"Boom!"

Like a cannon ball, Wang Luo Qiu charged into the group of independent cultivators.

Wang Shouzhe's lips twitched.

If only this girl wouldn't rush in like that, couldn't she let me finish educating them about our family honour and enforce a proper worldview?

That girl's temper!

Chapter 82: Monster Slaying! Equip Burst_1

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With that said,

Wang Luoqiu was truly exceptional, her movements were swift and decisive, a straight shooter, tough and aggressive. It was clear she had rigorously practiced basic footwork and basic boxing.

Every punch and every move she made seemed like the result of countless refining, and her simple techniques were conducted with the ferocity of a ferocious dinosaur.

However, those independent cultivators were not easy ones, each one of them is a desperate rogue.

Therefore, Wang Shouzhe immediately waved his hand, letting Wang Shu Yong and Wang Shu Lian also join the fight. Both of them, one fourteen and the other fifteenth, recently, under the supervision of Wang Luoqiu, they have been insisting on their cultivation fiercely.

Each wielding a longsword they entered the battlefield, their movements and swordsmanship have also improved a lot, looking professional.

Although it is not easy for independent cultivators, they are quite ruthless and experienced. But the disciples from prominent families have great advantages, their family background is relatively deep, systemic training is more perfect.

In general, the disciples of prominent families are stronger.

In addition, there was Wang Luo Jing, who was equally ambitious.

She took out a weird-looking flute and started to play it softly. The frequency of the sound was so high that it was extremely unpleasant to human ears.

Suddenly!

"Buzz, buzz, buzz."

A swarm of bees flew into the warehouse, although they are called bees, they are very different from the bees on Earth. Each one is about the size of a little finger, their bodies are slightly tinged with black. Their size is even larger than the average wasp. The largest one among them is about the size of a little girl's fist.

Purple Crystal Spirit Bees!

Being classified as Spirit, they naturally do not belong to the ordinary bee species.

The most common spirit bee, is the famous Tiger Head Spirit Bee, but the Tiger Head Spirit Bee is a group of Level One Fierce Insects, no matter how well it is cultivated, even paired with the Bee Emperor, the overall combat strength of it can barely reach Level Two.

However, the Purple Crystal Spirit Bee can grow to its maximum potential, and can reach a Level Two combat power as a group, and if the Bee Emperor advances to Level Three! The overall combat strength would be extremely powerful. Even if the Old Ancestors of the Spirit Platform Realm sees it, they will choose to detour.

However, Wang Luo Jing's bee group is too small, and currently it can only barely be counted as possessing the combat force of a Level One Fierce Insect, and can only be used against the small minions at Qi Refinement Realm first stage.

"Buzz buzz buzz." The Purple Crystal Spirit Bees targeted a ruthless independent cultivator in the Qi Refinement Realm level three. Although the cultivator had decent strength with a strong and aggressive aura, making it impossible to survive as a desperate rogue otherwise,

Unfortunately, he had no experience in dealing with an Insect Master. He swung his battle knife continuously, the cold blade under the impetus of mysterious energy oscillated unpredictably. It's a force to be reckoned with. This kind of hacking is very difficult to use against bees.

After a few slashes, his physical strength and mysterious energy consumption had greatly decreased, but he only killed two or three bees. However, he has been stung by the Purple Crystal

Spirit Bees five or six times on his body. Under the paralysis of the toxin, his movements have slowed a lot.

The independent cultivator knew he was in a bad situation, if things continued this way, he would undoubtedly die. In a state of emergency, he roared in anger, "You cheap wench, dare you." He pounced at Wang Luo Jing like a fierce tiger.

Unfortunately, Wang Luo Jing is now also very different from the past. She was taken care of everywhere by controlling the disaster relief of the Insect King. While many gifts were also given by families in public and private.

In addition to the resources of the clan beginning to tilt towards her, she is now gradually developing into a little rich woman.

Her own efforts, coupled with plentiful resources. She quickly progressed from the high segment of the first stage of the Qi Refinement to the second stage. She launched the basic movement technique of the Wang family, moving flexibly like a little swallow, continuously pulling away from the rogue cultivator.

The basic movement technique of the Wang family might sound low-end.

However, in reality, this basic movement technique, which has been gradually summarized and improved by countless ancestors of the Wang family, has the function of honing the foundation. It is also extraordinary in its effectiveness, being much stronger than the movement techniques of most independent cultivators.

In recent days, Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu have practiced a lot together. But after being repeatedly rushed and beaten by Wang Luoqiu, she gradually explored the tactics that insect masters should have and was determined to strengthen her movement techniques.

"Not bad." Wang Shouzhe was watching every part of the battlefield, Luo Jing's tactics were absolutely correct, being the Insect Master she had to play the advantage of the Insect Master, not being rushed is basic.

"Ah!"

Suddenly, the independent cultivator who was chasing Wang Luo Jing cried out in pain and fell on the ground convulsing, foaming at the mouth.

Wang Shouzhe looked carefully and saw a large centipede about two feet long. It had unknowingly ambushed itself on the road and bit the independent cultivator's leg.

"This is?" Wang Shouzhe inhaled sharply recognizing the species of this centipede to undoubtedly be an Iron Line Centipede. This kind of centipede is highly poisonous and aggressive. When it is fully grown, it can reach a length of feet and can compete with a Level Two beast.

When did Luo Jing hide such a trump card?

Fortunately, it was only a juvenile, otherwise once it matures, even Wang Shouzhe would have a hard time dealing with it. However, mature Iron Line Centipedes are not that easy to control. With Wang Luo Jing's current strength, it's impossible to control it.

The most praiseworthy thing was her bravery and strategy during the battle, using poisonous insects to scheme against the enemy, which pleased Wang Shouzhe greatly.

At this time, Wang Luo Jing, who had taken care of an independent cultivator,

Her complexion was a little pale, evidently due to large consumption. But her spirit was still high: "Wang Luoqiu, your little sister has already taken care of one. Can you do it? If you can't, sister can help you."

She has always been overshadowed by Luo Qiu, even her cultivation realm was always half a step behind her. Now that she finally took the lead, she couldn't help but show off.

Wang Luoqiu's opponent was also an independent cultivator at the third stage of the Qi Refinement Realm, who was around forty years old. He looked wretched, but he had a lot of battle experience. Plus, he kept using hit-and-run tactics, saving his energy and mysterious energy, not directly confronting Wang Luoqiu, but always looking for a chance to escape.

"No need!" Wang Luoqiu gritted her teeth and replied, "Nameless rat, eat your little auntie's punch."

Her mysterious energy exploded, a flush swept across her small face as she charged recklessly like a little tyrant dragon, each punch and kick caused the air to explode and resonate.

She liked to use her fists and feet, not weapons, often saying, "Missy's fists and feet are the best weapons."

Usually, she would fight with Wang Shou Yong on the third level of Vital Energy Refining Realm. Although he was hard to beat, it was nowhere near as strenuous as today. This independent cultivator was as slippery as a mouse, coupled with Wang Luo Jing's mockery, made her temper flare up.

"Stupid fellow, I've caught you."

"Using the same escape move twice in front of your grand aunt."

Suddenly,

She grabbed the independent cultivator's arm and threw him forcefully.

"Boom!" The wretched independent cultivator was thrown out by her, making a large hole in the storage room's brick wall.

Without waiting for the Independent cultivator to get up, she howled and pounced, punching him smashingly. While smashing, she cursed, "You ugly thing, you dare mess with your little grand aunt with your tricky movement technique. Bah, who do you think you are, Wang Shouzhe?"

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Every punch of hers was ferocious.

Wang Shouzhe watched intently, somewhat startled by this lass's unexpected strength, thinking that it couldn't have been built on the Wang family's Basic Quenching Body Technique alone?

As for the Wang family's "Mysterious Energy Technique", it was known for its moderation, where would such terrific explosive power come from? It seemed, he would have to check her body when he returned, to see where the issue lay.

However, why was his name, Wang Shouzhe, being mentioned in her cursing?

"I surrender, I surrender, Grand aunt stop beating me." The slippery independent cultivator shrieked incessantly.

Wang Shouzhe intervened, saying, "Luo Qiu, stop, don't kill him, we still need him."

"Hmph, for the sake of Fourth Brother, I'll stop." At this crucial moment, Wang Luoqiu was more obedient and immediately stopped her hand.

Then, she picked up the half-dead slippery independent cultivator and began rummaging through his body. Even Wang Shouzhe was stunned by her move.

Moreover, since when did she start calling Fourth Brother?

"Luo Qiu, what are you doing? This independent cultivator is so dirty, and he's all bloodied." Wang Luo Jing, surprised and worried, said in a hurry.

"What is dirty? I am scavenging war trophies. Stop acting, didn't you hide to sneak a peek at the cheat sheet?" Wang Luoqiu spoke without lifting her head, "Honestly, cultivation is resource-intensive nowadays. Our family is too poor, so there's no other option than to fight beasts, burst some resources and equipment to barely maintain our cultivation status."

"Cough, cough!"

The independent cultivator suffering from the powerful punch coughed up blood and tried to argue, "Young, young lady. I, I'm not a wild beast."

"Ignorant."

"Slap!" Without any hesitation, she knocked him unconscious, and continued scavenging, "The humanoid beast is a type of beast too. Huh, gold tickets! Woohoo~Missy is rich."

She was utterly delighted.

No wonder she scavenged several gold tickets, equivalent to fifty Qian Gold, from the humanoid beast.....er, the independent cultivator's body. There were also some scattered Qian Gold, Copper Coins, shillings, and some miscellaneous materials, roughly worth about ten Qian Gold.

There was also a short sword that seems to be forged from high-quality refined steel, not a common weapon, worth about seven to eight Qian Gold.

The rarest thing was the movement technique scripture "Chasing Wind" that she found. Though it was still a lower-level scripture, it was stronger than the typical ones, who knew where the independent cultivator had gotten it.

Such luck surprised Wang Shouzhe. However, thinking about it, these independent cultivators often help the Liu clan with shady dealings, so having more resources on their bodies seemed reasonable.

At this point,

Wang Luo Jing also couldn't sit still, she too started to scavenge her war trophies. Her opponent, from the Horizontal Refinement faction, was not weak either.

Unfortunately, he underestimated Wang Luo Jing who was a Level One Insect Master, especially one adept at tactics, and failed due to panic and negligence.

On the other hand, Wang Luo Jing also found a considerable amount of resources on him and became extremely happy. This girl seemed to be a little money-grubber too.

After inspecting the war trophies, she picked up an ancient book and said, "Luo Qiu, this Body Refining Technique, although it's not as systematic as our Wang's Basic Quenching Body Technique, has its unique points. I'll trade it for your 'Chasing Wind'."

"No can do. Your Body Refining Technique; I can only use it for reference, and there's limited benefit. If you want to swap, make up the difference of twenty Qian Gold."

"If I make up twenty Qian Gold, your trashy short sword must be included."

"Get lost! This short sword is forged from high-quality refined steel, an omnipotent sharp weapon."

Wang Shouzhe's cheek twitched uncontrollably, what's with the buzz about cheat sheet in the family? And what's with the third-rate online game lingo in these girls' conversation?

He felt a tremendous generation gap.

Chapter 83: The Real Strength of Wang Shouzhe

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The two girls have reaped their rewards and in their satisfaction, have started trading with each other.

In contrast, the two older boys at home are still locked in battle with their respective opponents. Their opponents, who were only at the high level two of the Vital Energy Refining Realm, excelled at joining forces and attacking together.

Forced into a corner, the brothers had no choice but to team up. The battle between them was heated, evenly matched.

More importantly, the scar-faced bandit leader had not yet made a move.

Among the bandits, his cultivation base was the highest, nearly reaching the fifth level of the Vital Energy Refining Realm. It wasn't easy for an independent cultivator like him, to reach this level in his early forties.

They were not like the clan disciples and heads of households who received substantial support each year, and even got extra rewards if they performed well.

The cultivation resources for independent cultivators were often very unstable, the majority of which they had to risk their lives for.

Some might say, since independent cultivators are so poor, why not join the prominent families as heads of households? Such an opportunity was indeed one of the ways out for independent cultivators, but the recruitment standards of every prominent family were stringent, requiring clear backgrounds and good morals as the minimum requirement.

Even so, most prominent families were still reluctant to recruit independent cultivators. They preferred to stick to their own path of cultivating their charges from a young age.

If the prominent family needed the services of independent cultivators, they would usually hire them as disposable pawns or use them to do some dirty deeds.

The scar-faced independent cultivator hadn't made a move because he was being watched by Wang Shouzhe all the time.

The young man, who looked just eighteen or nineteen, gave him an unfathomable feeling, clearly, his strength was far superior.

This terrifying oppressive feeling was something he had only experienced when facing advanced stage masters in the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

Such a young advanced stage master of the Vital Energy Refining Realm would definitely be a legitimate son, lavishly nurtured by the prominent family and destined to follow the path of the Spiritual Platform.

In Ping'an Town, there was only one individual who had reached such a level in the rumors.

He had tried several times to escape, but he always remained within Wang Shouzhe's line of sight. He knew that if he made a move, he would be met with a thunderous blow from Wang Shouzhe.

At this point, he couldn't bear it any longer, swallowing his saliva, he said, "Your Excellency must be Wang Shouzhe, the clan leader of the Ping'an Wang family. Given that I have fallen into your hands, I admit defeat." His name was, of course, not his real name. In the world of independent cultivators, similar names could be found everywhere.

"Hehe~" Wang Shouzhe didn't respond, only continuing to watch the battle between Wang Shou Yong and Wang Shouliao. As for Scar Fifth, not knowing Wang Shouzhe's intentions, he could only sit still and wait.

The two men of the Wang family, who previously had an average work ethic and mediocre cultivation due to pressure from their elders, struggled because most of the family's resources were tilted towards Wang Shouzhe.

Therefore, their adaptation to cultivation only remained at a subsistence level, never daring to dream about walking the path of the Spiritual Platform.

It wasn't until Wang Luoqiu stirred things up that it "provoked" their desperate cultivation. They were showing some promise, but their opponents were equally skilled, keeping the scales evenly balanced.

This time they came out to suppress the bandits, Wang Shouzhe was planning to kill two birds with one stone, not to let any bandit get away, to train his brothers and sisters, and to establish a correct worldview for them.

The fight was going on for so long without any results.

Wang Luoqiu started her sarcastic attacks again, "Wang Shou Yong, Wang Shouliao, can you be any more useless? Luo Jing, let's each pick one and end this." Her eyes were filled with excitement, clearly eager to make another score to fatten up her purse.

The two men, red in the face and gritting their teeth, started to fight back with force. Finally, after several risky attacks, they managed to take down the two independent cultivators. Their performance was only mediocre at best.

The Wang family's "Xuan Yuan Technique" is a middle-grade cultivation technique, and all kinds of basic movement techniques and combat skills in the family are good. They should have built a solid foundation. In comparison, the independent cultivators who are usually incomplete in even the "Low-grade cultivation technique" should have the relative advantage.

However, they had to exchange injuries before they barely managed to defeat their opponents on the same cultivation realm.

Their faces were naturally red, but Wang Shou Yong and Wang Shouliao had thickened their skins due to their sister's frequent ridicule and quickly learned to claim their spoils of war just like the two girls.

"Well done, there seems to be some grinding effect." Wang Shouzhe somewhat accepted it and praised them, "Shou Yong, Shou Lian, you both fought bravely and have improved a lot. Although you are injured, as men, we must weather some storms to see the rainbow. Go and get your wounds dressed."

He had been watching them earlier. If his younger brothers were in great danger, he would naturally intervene immediately.

"Yes, Fourth Brother." The two boys obediently moved aside to dress their wounds, with a flush of triumph on their faces. This came from both the joy of victory and the delight of being praised by their elder brother.

The family elders had stricter rules for the boys than the girls, which generally resulted in more down-to-earth personalities. As for the girls, in their view, they were destined to marry someday and it was enough for them to be decent.

Wang Shouzhe was the brother they admired and revered the most. To be praised by him was a first for them, and they were very pleased.

"Not bad, you guys have shown some manliness, and have surprised me a bit. It seems that my special training for you guys has not been in vain." Even Wang Luoqiu, who had been sarcastically speaking earlier, alongside Wang Luo Jing, her face slightly pale, helped to apply the medicine for her two brothers and bandage the wounds.

Normally, she may come across as harsh, but in the end, they were siblings with a common bloodline. How could she not feel sorry for them when they were injured?

At this time, Wang Shouzhe finally turned his attention to the scar-faced independent cultivator, calmly speaking, "Surrender, you stand no chance."

Scar Fifth's face was ashen, and his beads of perspiration were falling like rain. "Mr. Wang, I was wrong. I shouldn't have been deceived by the Liu and Zhao clans and helped them commit such atrocious acts. As long as you spare me, I will hand over all the evidence to you, to ensure that the Liu and Zhao clans receive their due punishment."

He keenly understood the deep grudges between the Wang and Zhao and Liu clans.

"Sounds tempting." Wang Shouzhe responded with a cold expression, "Sadly, if I agree to this, how could I answer to my conscience? The only path left for you is surrender and confession. Then we can ensure you a dignified death."

"If... if you don't agree, you cannot get the evidence." Scar Fifth threatened ominously, "You will lose a golden opportunity to deal with the Liu and Zhao clans."

"I don't care whether you confess or not." Wang Shouzhe calmly replied, "Your evidence means nothing to me. It wouldn't be enough to contradict the Liu and Zhao clans."

"You!" Scar Fifth gradually became ferocious, like a cornered beast. "Alright, you forced me into this. I have no choice but to fight!" His only route to survival had been blocked by Wang Shouzhe, so he resolved to swallow a Dan medicine pill.

In an instant.

His complexion turned crimson, his eyes filled with brutal ferocity, his Mysterious Energy began surging around his body and his form seemed to swell up.

"Brother, be careful. That's a Frenzy Pill. They say that after consuming one, the user can fight beyond their level." Wang Luo Jing was greatly worried, pulling out her Worm flute.

Even Wang Luoqiu grew pale: "That's vile, he actually took a Frenzy Pill. Brother, let's work together and take him down."

"No need. He's too dangerous for you to handle, stay back." Wang Shouzhe casually pulled out his sword, striding leisurely towards the Independent Cultivator, "I arranged this day for everyone to gain experience. Remember this moment and never underestimate your enemy. They might be hiding some lifesaving tricks."

"Yes, Fourth Brother." "Yes, Four Brother." "Wang, Fourth Brother, be careful."

Wang Luoqiu also noticed the man was extremely dangerous, starting to worry for Wang Shouzhe.

"Roar!"

The Independent Cultivator, with his eyes full of cruel bloodlust, gripped his giant knife and slashed frenziedly at Wang Shouzhe. The forceful, domineering aura around the knife seemed to threaten to smash the entire warehouse in two.

Wang Shouzhe's expression didn't change. He casually thrust his sword, nimbly lightning-fast, aimed at the side of the knife.

"Clang!"

A metallic noise rang out, as Wang Shouzhe broke through the ferocious knife attack with ease. The blade flew backwards; the muscular Independent Cultivator was knocked back as if struck by a hefty blow and staggered backwards.

"Impossible!" The fragment of logic left in Scar Fifth's mind induced panic. He was confident that his strike, even if failed to injure, could have forced his opponent to retreat.

"Sigh!"

"You severely underestimated the capabilities of the Wang Family and myself." Wang Shouzhe lightly sighed, "You, thinking that you could risk your life against me by merely taking a Frenzy Pill. Heh."

After a soft chuckle, Wang Shouzhe's figure dashed towards him like smoke, fast, yet elusive.

He struck with his sword.

A thick, white sword glow formed, like a bolt of lightning, it aimed straight for the Independent Cultivator's head.

"Willow Catkin Body Method,"

"Wang Clan Xuan Yuan Sword Technique."

Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu both recognized this method and technique of the Wang family almost at the same time, a Middle Grade Movement Technique and a Middle Grade Sword Technique.

Previously, they had experienced Wang Shouzhe's Willow Catkin Body Method, which was elusive, unfathomable, and frustrating. He hit them again and again without even letting them touch the corners of his clothes. However, this was the first time they had seen their Fourth Brother use the family's ultimate technique, the "Xuan Yuan Sword Technique".

"Clang!"

Scar Fifth blocked just barely, stepping back while spitting blood. But before he could even gasp for breath, an even more powerful second strike closely followed.

Next, he blocked...

The third strike!

"Clang!" Amidst a bell-like metallic sound, Scar Fifth's sword broke into two halves. The impact knocked him backwards, and he spat blood while falling onto the ground, unable to rise again.

"Hmm!"

The four younger siblings were witnessing Wang Shouzhe's true skills for the first time. All of them were stunned and excited, thinking: Fourth Brother is truly powerful, extremely powerful!

"This is the power of our Wang Family's Xuan Yuan Technique combined with Xuan Yuan Sword Technique." Wang Shouzhe landed lightly as if he had just done a trivial matter. Smiling, he explained to them, "Its potency is ordinary during the early stages, but as the mastery of Xuan Yuan Technique progresses, the power becomes more profound. You all must diligently cultivate the Xuan Yuan Technique.

This method becomes stronger the more you progress."

"Yes, Fourth Brother."

Even Wang Luoqiu's face turned red with excitement, nodding repeatedly, filled with admiration for Wang Shouzhe.

Chapter 84: The Old Ancestor's Domination!_1

...

"Fourth brother, let me help you collect the spoils of war." Wang Luoqiu threw herself onto the job with enthusiasm, her movements becoming more and more skilled, "We've gotten rich! This guy is quite wealthy."

She scraped together a stack of gold notes, over ten in total, and some scattered Qian gold coins. This man alone had over a hundred and twenty Qian gold. In his sack, there were also some typical knickknacks carried by independent cultivators: healing medicines, some strange and exotic fragments, pottery jars, and even two Little Pei Yuan Dan cultivation pills, along with a few secret manuals.

However, the secret manuals of independent cultivators mostly held commonplace skills and were rarely of excellent quality in the eyes of a prominent family. His secret manuals of blade techniques and movement techniques were not of great value and were just good for reference and confirmation at most.

"Sigh, fourth brother, you're too violent," Wang Luoqiu said pitifully, picking up the broken blade, "A top-quality steel dagger that would have cost a dozen or so Qian gold is now only valued at two or three Qian gold."

Despite her complaints, she still quickly collected all of the spoils of war.

At that time, a middle-aged man's voice came from outside the warehouse door: "Shouzhe, has everything been taken care of? May we come in?"

As he spoke, a stern and stable middle-aged man fully armed in armor walked in, leading more than a dozen soldiers who were also in full armor, each carrying a spear and wearing a long knife at their waist.

"Uncle, I'm grateful for your help this time," Wang Shouzhe said while giving a slight bow to the middle-aged military leader, "Otherwise these thieves might have escaped from Ping'an Town."

This man was one of the core force of the Wang's sixth generation, Wang Shouzhe's uncle Wang Dingzu. He was the one chosen by the clan in this generation to pursue the official and military path. He was very talented and had reached Level Eight of the Vital Energy Refining Realm in his forties.

"Shouzhe, you're being too polite," Wang Dingzu said with a smile, also bowing his hands in return, "Besides, capturing the killer is part of our responsibility as the government office of Ping'an Town. I'll take these people away and interrogate them overnight. Perhaps we can pry something interesting out from them."

"Thanks, uncle," Wang Shouzhe said, pulling out a bag of dozens of Qian gold and handing it to Wang Dingzu, "Uncle, your brothers have been working hard day and night. Please thank them for me."

"Alright, I'll accept this on behalf of those rascals. After all, it's not easy being a soldier," Wang Dingzu did not decline, smiling and instructing the soldiers behind him, "What are you all standing still for? Hurry up and thank Leader Wang."

"Thank you, Leader Wang," the soldiers hurriedly expressed their gratitude one after another, simultaneously showing gratefulness to Wang Dingzu. These days, having a considerate superior who cared about his subordinates was not easy.

That bag of Qian gold looked heavy, and the men could each get a decent share.

Wang Shouzhe and Wang Dingzu shared a knowing smile.

This was the mutual support relationship between the clan and its official and military members. A clan member in the government office would take care of the family, and the family would be the official's strong backup, giving him as much support as possible within their ability.

The power of the prominent families was substantial, but the control of the government was not weak either. At least, in every area, it was the government that operated the actual management, holding righteousness and moral grounds.

Moreover, these soldiers were not simple. They were not mere servants or employees of the family, but real cultivators of Profound Martial.

Among them, there were descendants of prominent families, collateral family members, and some independent cultivators of decent family backgrounds, and even more of those born into generational military families.

A clear distinction existed within the members of the prominent families, one being the family members who did not have other ways out, sought a way through the official and military system. The other kind was like Wang Dingzu, chosen by the family due to their potential and suitability, letting them primarily develop in that system to extend the family's influence.

Therefore, these soldiers, after receiving long-term training, generally had better combat abilities than the independent cultivators. Independent cultivators were very wary of soldiers and did not dare to offend them under normal circumstances.

Following Wang Dingzu's instructions, his group of soldiers, looking fierce as wolves and tigers, bound all the independent cultivators scattered across the ground and took them all away.

Before leaving, Wang Dingzu looked at Wang Luoqiu sternly yet with a hint of indulgence, "Luoqiu, you must behave when following your fourth brother to do tasks, and do not be willful."

"I know, Daddy," Wang Luoqiu obediently replied, blinking her innocent eyes. In front of her father, she put on her innocent young girl act.

Afterward, Wang Dingzu turned his attention to Wang Shoulian with an even more serious expression. He just snorted coldly and left without uttering another word, leading his soldiers away.

Wang Shoulian shivered, sweat seeping out on his forehead. The majesty of his father had long been ingrained in his heart.

"Shoulian," Wang Shouzhe patted his shoulder and said, "It's okay, you did well this time."

Some of the Wang clan's elders, perhaps due to their high expectations of themselves and their male members, were often stringent and demanding. Sometimes their excessive severity and criticism would make them appear unsure of themselves and lack confidence.

"Thank you, fourth brother," Wang Shoulian let out a sigh of relief, his expression regaining some color, "I will work hard to win approval from my father."

After comforting his younger brother,

"Alright, let's end this small test here." Wang Shouzhe put away his smile, his eyes grew sharp again. "Let's summarize the gains and losses of this mission."

"Firstly, all of you fought bravely, and this is commendable. However, some of you disobey commands, act independently, and show no awareness of teamwork." Wang Shouzhe did not hesitate to direct his gaze at Wang Luoqiu, "30 family merit points will be deducted from you."

The merit system of the family had its initial version and started to be implemented. Of course, it had to undergo months and years of testing and continuous adjustments to truly be perfected.

"What?" Wang Luoqiu jumped up, "30 points? Wang Shouzhe, are you out of your mind..."

"Disrespecting the Clan Leader, 5 points deducted." Wang Shouzhe took out a notebook and began to record.

"....."

Wang Luoqiu was almost in tears. The family had gradually implemented the serial pathway and the merit system, which she fully supported. As per the current rules, merits were not cheap; each point was equivalent to a single piece of Qian Gold. Having 35 points deducted at once, her heart was almost shattered.

Fortunately, they had just defeated a humanoid monster, which could somewhat compensate for the loss. This was not a loss.

"Everyone, gather and organize the spoils of war, under unified management, and hand them over to the family warehouse." Wang Shouzhe said, "As long as it's a team task assigned by the family, the spoils need to be uniformly processed and put into the family warehouse for merit points conversion."

Wang Luoqiu attempted to privately take the equipment first, making a deduction of 10 points, while Wang Luo Jing, Wang Shou Yong, and Wang Shoulian followed blindly, each of them having 5 points deducted."

"What?" Wang Luoqiu's anger surged as she felt wronged, with tears almost falling from her eyes.
"Wang... No, fourth brother, why can't I take the equipment that I got."

"Team combat has its own rules." Wang Shouzhe began to lecture her, "Do you think the independent cultivator was defeated by you alone? Of course not... the reconnaissance investigation by the household head earlier and your father's strategic blockades in various places, those are all intangible merits.

Furthermore, do you think you alone would be able to take on a whole bunch of them without my defense and the spread out enemy attention by our teammates?"

"Fourth brother is right, I was wrong." Wang Luo Jing readily admitted.

"Fourth brother, I was also wrong, can you not penalize me?" Wang Luoqiu was almost in tears, feeling her purse rapidly shrinking.

"Of course, no penalty is not an option." Wang Shouzhe said sternly, "But once the penalty is over, let's talk about rewards. This mission made a total of 100 merit points. The confiscated spoils converted to 315 merit points, totaling 415 merit points. As the main force of the team, I contributed fifty percent, so we'll calculate my part as 205 points.

The remaining 215 points, Luoqiu got 60 points, Luo Jing got 55 points, Shu Yong and Shu Lian each got 50 points..."

Wang Shouzhe explained the rules of teamwork to his younger brothers and sisters, and their respective merits were calculated clearly.

At the same time when they were rejoicing and worrying individually...

The main residence of Liu Clan.

In a secluded and quiet loft.

The head of Liu Clan, Liu Shengye, was solemnly bowing and saying, "Old Ancestor, this is the whole story. The Wang family has gone too far this time. They are trying to kill us with this low-cost disaster relief. If we do not take any action, the family will not only suffer heavy losses, but also a significant drop in prestige."

After he finished speaking...

An elderly man with white hair, tall build, stout and spry, showing a touch of caution in his eyes, asked, "How is Wang Longyan doing?"

This imposing figure, who seemed like a reclusive old immortal, was indeed the Old Ancestor of Liu Clan —— Ancestor Zhide.

"Reporting to the old ancestor, Wang Longyan has been hiding in her lair. But the previous signs indicate that she is probably not long for this world." Liu Shengye said respectfully.

"She doesn't have much time left and the Wang family still dares to provoke us, Liu Clan and Zhao Clan? Could their younger generation Family Head be suffering from madness?" Zhide's tone was calm.

The beads of perspiration formed on Liu Shengye's forehead as he blurted out, "So, the meaning of the elder ancestor is, Wang Longyan's injury has healed?" If that was the case, trouble would be in store for both the Liu and Zhao clans.

Zhide pondered for a while, slowly shaking his head, saying, "I am fully aware of her injury, and healing it would be an uphill struggle."

"Then why..." Liu Shengye was also a little confused, "Could it be that the Wang family intended to tempt the old ancestor to take action, thus creating an opportunity for Wang Longyan for a do-or-die fight? Unfortunately, the Wang family hasn't been recruiting household heads and house servants to strengthen themselves in fifty years, and Wang Longyan had been continuously secluding herself.

We have no way to send a spy to probe Wang Longyan's actual injuries."

"She wants to strike back before dying?" Ancestor Zhide sneered playfully, "Being impulsive and reckless, Wang Longyan could be capable of that. It's just a pity, does she still think that I, Liu Zhide, am the same Liu Zhide from fifty years ago?"

"Did the old ancestor possibly already...?" Liu Shengye looked surprised.

"Nothing more than a slight progress in my powers, barely entering the third level of the Spiritual Platform Realm. What is there to be so surprised about?" Zhide spoke modestly, "However, combined with that Defensive Spiritual Device: Purple-Gold Bowl, I could barely cope with her, even during her peak times, let alone now that she has only half of her life left."

What Zhide had been most worried about was Wang Longyan's backlash before her death, trying to die along with him. How could he not be prepared for this?

"Then the elder ancestor's meaning is...?"

"I was not willing to take risks and wanted to wait for Wang Longyan to die on her own. Unfortunately, they are now trying to undermine the foundation of the Liu Clan. They are seeking their own doom.

I will immediately write a letter to my old friend Bojun, it's time for us to cooperate again after so many years." Zhide's eyes flashed with a cold glint, calmly saying, "Regardless of the Wang family's intentions, it must be suppressed."

"The elder ancestor is domineering!" Liu Shengye was extremely excited.

Chapter 85: The Bloodline of the Old Ancestor

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Two days later.

Before dawn.

Wang Shouzhe opened his eyes from his bed, naturally feeling the slow progression of his cultivation. After reaching the seventh level of the Qi Refining Realm, the difficulty of cultivation had notably increased.

If he hadn't had an abundance of spirit food and the occasional Little Pei Yuan Dan to consume, along with the assistance of spirit stones for cultivation, he probably would not have seen any progress in his cultivation.

However, the process of cultivating and advancing was all about perseverance. It was a lengthy process of perseverance, like water wearing away stone.

If everyone could gain levels simply by taking a couple of pills, then the world would already be filled with unparalleled masters. Likewise, the prominent families wouldn't need to exhaust all their effort and resources just to raise a Spirit Platform Old Ancestor.

Even the Profound Martial family, with its heritage and resources, found cultivation incredibly difficult. Not to mention the independent cultivators who wandered aimlessly.

Recently, Wang Shouzhe had read through a few manuscripts circulating within his family.

One of them was specifically about independent cultivators, where the main character experienced all sorts of miraculous encounters continuously, even stumbling upon a young sacred beast while walking down the street. They also inherited top-grade cultivation techniques from accidentally falling off cliffs, and went on to defeat numerous young masters of major families.

There were even numerous mainline daughters from those families who fell for him and desired to marry him.

It was honestly absurd, most likely written by an independent cultivator solely for self-entertainment.

The path of an independent cultivator was often ten times more difficult, or even more so, than that of a prominent family descendant.

Even the occasional independent cultivators who managed to marry into a prominent family due to their exceptional conditions and opportunities would usually only marry into the side branches. Rarely would they marry a woman from the mainline family.

Marrying the daughter of a mainline family? That was something they shouldn't even dream of.

It wasn't that there weren't any independent cultivators who were lucky or had undergone miraculous transformations of their bloodline and talents, managing to reach the peak of their lives. But those were rare events statistically. Under identical conditions, descendants of prominent families would always be able to go further and higher.

Moreover, should an independent cultivator ever reach the peak of their potential, their inevitable next move would be to establish their own family. That way, their descendants wouldn't have to walk the difficult path of an independent cultivator.

In the words of Wang Shouzhe's past incarnation from Earth, the social hierarchy in this world was essentially stratified and it would be extremely difficult to climb up a single step.

Putting aside those miscellaneous thoughts for now.

With the attendance of the little servant Wang Gui, Wang Shouzhe washed and had his breakfast.

His usual breakfast had essentially become White Jade Spiritual Rice Porridge and some pickled Spirit Fish, the standard set meal.

Breakfast was the foundation of the day. After consuming these delicious spirit foods, one would feel invigorated. Not long after, he could sense that his depleted Qi and blood from cultivating had started to slowly recover.

After taking a brief rest for digestion, he proceeded with his daily Profound Martial Cultivation.

As a Profound Martial cultivator who clearly intended on traversing the Spirit Platform Realm, it is necessary to practice Martial Arts. Otherwise, depleting resources to painstakingly cultivate to the stage of an Old Ancestor, only to end up an empty shell, would surely be laughable?

The practice of Profound Martial Fighting Technique also didn't have any shortcuts. Daily diligence was required. It was indeed a process of constant effort. This was another advantage that the descendants of prominent families held over independent cultivator. They did not have to constantly move around and live uncomfortably, and could more truthfully cultivate.

After he finished practicing, he cleaned himself and went to visit the Old Ancestor of Long Yan.

At this time, Long Yan Residence was much more bustling than usual. Not only had Old Ancestor Meng arrived early for a visit, even the Liu siblings were here.

Everyone paid their respects in turn.

"Grand Aunt." Old Ancestor Meng respectfully said, "I was greatly enlightened by your guidance the other day. I could feel my bottleneck, which had troubled me for years, start to loosen up. I suspect it won't be long before I could break through to level three."

He couldn't help but feel emotional. His own natural talents weren't bad. He had achieved Spirit Platform Realm in his forties. He was young and lively then, with aspirations of reaching the Heavenly Human Realm within his lifetime.

However, three or four decades had passed, and his cultivation had been stuck at Peak Level Two for eight years. The progress was so slow, that reaching the Heavenly Human Realm felt like a distant dream, let alone reaching the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm.

"Meng, you are too polite, your talents are good. With a few more years of hard work, I believe you will naturally break through," Old Ancestor Long Yan said calmly, "The Spirit Platform cultivators in our minor prominent families face two major difficulties. First, there is a shortage of resources. Second, there is a lack of guidance from the elders; every step they take is extremely difficult."

"Grand Aunt, you are absolutely right. I originally thought that after reaching the Spirit Platform, everything would be smooth sailing. I didn't expect the road to becoming a Heavenly Human to be insurmountable. If I were to exhaust my resources for cultivation, I'm afraid that more than half of the Gongsun Clan's resources would be consumed by myself.

If that were the case, what would happen to my descendants?" Old Ancestor Meng sighed, "However, upon reflection, I realize that this is normal. How easy would it be to form a Heavenly Human family? Among the dozens of prominent families in our Changning, only two are Heavenly Human families."

For the younger figures such as Wang Shouzhe, they listened to the idle chat of their elders, without interjecting.

However, much to Wang Shouzhe's dismay, he found himself calculating that the path to becoming a Celestial Being was indeed tough, mainly due to the lack of resources for cultivation.

Consider the fact that nurturing one Old Ancestor was already a huge burden, let alone saving resources to cultivate the next generation of Old Ancestors.

Crucially, even if an Old Ancestor of the Spirit Platform Realm merely wanted to maintain their state, an immense amount of resources were required. Suppose an Old Ancestor wanted to travel the path of the Celestial Being, in that case, a massive quantity of resources would have to be constantly topped up.

Nurturing one Old Ancestor was already a strenuous endeavor. Just imagine the immense expenditure if two Old Ancestors had to be fostered, or even three from the Spirit Platform realm?

So, for every additional family member reaching the Spirit Platform Realm, there would be...a larger budget to foot. You had to expand the clan's estate, increase the scale of production, and seize more resources.

This was the basis of the saying, "Scaling the Spirit Platform is easy, but keeping it is difficult." Most families hence would cultivate beings of the Spirit Platform Realm at a controlled pace, both limits set to prevent an excess of Family Heads reaching the Spirit Platform realm from developing and to ensure that there were no breaks in the succession of achieving this realm.

This was the reality for most low-ranking prominent families.

However, concerning the resources...

For Wang Shouzhe, this seemed to be a challenge he could handle rather easily. If he could assimilate the whole of Ping'an Town under his command, he could even afford to nurture three Old Ancestors in the Spirit Platform Realm.

"Shouzhe," began Old Ancestor Meng after letting out a sigh, turning his attention to Wang Shouzhe. "About the young lady you asked about the other day..." he continued, stopping short, casting a glance at the siblings Liu Yuanrui.

"Old Ancestor Meng, please speak freely," Wang Shouzhe responded with a smile. "Yuanrui and little sister Ruolei are part of our family. There are no secrets we can't share."

Of course, this was just Wang Shouzhe being polite. He wouldn't let them know of the most important secrets of the Wang family so easily. However, since Liu Ruolan would become the future matron of the Wang family, it was indeed normal for both sides to establish a close alliance.

With just a casual remark, the fondness of Liu Yuanrui and Liu Ruolei towards Wang Shouzhe increased greatly. Both promised that they wouldn't disclose any news they had heard externally.

This was especially true for Liu Ruolei. Before she came, she had claimed time and again that she would teach her future brother-in-law a lesson for her sister. Unexpectedly, she switched sides as soon as she arrived. After spending several luxurious days in Wang's family, she didn't feel like going home anymore.

"If I misspeak, please correct me, Grand Aunt," Old Ancestor Meng began diplomatically. "As I also follow the Way of horizontal refining and tempering, I have conducted substantial research on bloodlines related to War Bodies. But regardless of the bloodline, it all boils down to our Old Ancestors' bloodlines.

By Old Ancestors, I do not refer to the Old Ancestors of each clan or family who have reached the Spirit Platform Realm, but the real Old Ancestors, those who once stood at the peak of humankind."

"It is rumored that in ancient times, those human Old Ancestor possessed all kinds of magical and powerful War Body bloodlines. Some had infinite strength, some were indestructible, some were immortal, and some could evaporate a lake or boil the sea with a wave of their hand.

These human ancestors passed down their bloodlines from one generation to another, with various bloodlines mixing and consequently spawning even more bloodlines. Over the years, these bloodlines have become increasingly diluted amongst subsequent generations. After countless years, the bloodlines of our ancestors have almost entirely disappeared.

Only a small number of fortunate ones could awaken some parts of their Old Ancestor's bloodline, either through luck or opportunity."

"Of course if one cultivates to the Spirit Platform Realm and their physical abilities are further strengthened, they will inevitably awaken some part of their Old Ancestor's bloodline," Old Ancestor Meng added. "Just like myself, after reaching the Spirit Platform Realm, I manifested a trace of Gengjin Bloodline. However, your Grand Aunt was different. She was born with middle-grade qualifications.

What does middle-grade represent? It naturally implies that a bloodline has already formed and can be termed middle-grade. I remember that Grand Aunt Long Yan awakened the Water Element Bloodline."

"Indeed, I awakened the Water Element Bloodline in my youth. When I reached the Spirit Platform Realm, it evolved into Mysterious Ice Bloodline, which was much more substantial compared to the Water Element Bloodline," added Old Ancestor Longyan casually.

"The Water Element Bloodline should be the main bloodline of the Liu family, and they cultivate the 'Heart Tactics of the Water Element', which makes it easier to awaken the Water Element Bloodline during breakthrough to the Spirit Platform realm. Since my mother was a direct daughter of the Liu family, it was natural for me to awaken a thin Water Element Bloodline."

After speaking, Old Ancestor Longyan cast a glance at Liu Ruolei, her eyes filled with a slight hint of amusement and gratification.

Wang Shouzhe, seized by a sudden thought, also turned to look at Liu Ruolei. His future little aunt had used some kind of hiding object. It was likely that she had awakened some thin bloodline, most likely the thin Water Element Bloodline.

The Old Ancestors' conversation had given Wang Shouzhe a deeper understanding of the awakening of bloodlines in the Profound Martial world.

Unfortunately, he, Wang Shouzhe, had yet awakened any bloodline from his Old Ancestors. Could it be that he would have to wait till he was promoted to the Spirit Platform Realm, and could only rely on the transformation of his physical abilities to stimulate some ancient bloodline randomly?

He couldn't accept that. Just when he was preparing to ask some more questions.

Unexpectedly.

The voice of the head of the household, Wang Wu, came from outside, "Pardon my intrusion, Family Head."

"What is it? Please go ahead." Wang Shouzhe had a hunch, if it wasn't the matter he anticipated coming about, Wang Wu would not have dared to disturb them at the Long Yan Residence.

"A scout report just came in from the front," said Wang Wu from outside. "Both the Liu Clan and the Zhao Clan have dispatched their elite forces. Accompanied by their two Old Ancestors, they are coming towards us in a formidable manner."

As expected!

Wang Shouzhe narrowed his eyes. His series of strategies, especially his trick of substituting construction for relief, had already impacted the foundation of both the Liu and Zhao clans.

Those two old guys finally couldn't stay seated anymore.

Liu Yuanrui and Liu Ruolei, on the other hand, turned pale with apprehension as they processed the news.

Chapter 86: Showing Gratitude for the Wang Family's Gifts_1

...

"Brother Shouzhe, it appears that your plan has pushed the Liu and Zhao families desperate," Liu Yuanrui said with a serious expression. "With two old ancestors joining forces and coming here, I'm afraid their intentions aren't good. We need to prepare in advance."

"We were careless and did not expect the Liu and Zhao to be so frantic. Not only did they fail to annex our land, but they also dared to create trouble here." With a worried look on her face, Liu Ruolei expressed regret, "If I had known this earlier, I should have written a letter to invite our own ancestor to be a guest. With Old Ancestor Meng here, we wouldn't have had to worry about them."

After spending time together for a while, she had truly accepted Wang Shouzhe as her future brother-in-law and treated him like family.

The Liu and Wang families will undoubtedly restore their intimate relationship, as they had a hundred years ago, after this union.

"That's all right, with Old Ancestor Meng here to support us, they won't benefit from causing trouble this time," Wang Shouzhe said calmly with a smile.

Liu Ruolei only saw the surface of the plan, the destruction of the enemy's land annexation plan, it seemed like a just act in the eyes of the masses.

What she didn't know was how much resource and hope had the Liu and Zhao families invested in their annexation plan. Not to mention the amount they pledged for the loan - two estates, which were almost worth 6000 Qian Gold. Can they recoup that now?

After Zhong Luoxian and Dantai and jade finished receiving the Liu Clan, they "received" the Zhao delegation. They used the same act on both families, completing their schemes separately.

According to Wang Shouzhe, a painstakingly created script cannot be used just once.

"Old Ancestor Meng is here..." Liu Ruolei's face brightened, "Brother Shouzhe, did you already calculate that they would come to cause trouble?"

Liu Yuanrui had a sudden realization, "I wondered, with Shouzhe's strategic capabilities, how could he not prepare for the Liu and Zhao families causing trouble? Impressive, truly impressive. I wondered why Old Ancestor Meng came here quietly, my sister and I were needlessly worried."

"How could you be? I'm grateful for the concern from both Yuanrui and Sister Ruolei," said Wang Shouzhe, saluting politely.

The Liu siblings hurriedly returned the formal salute.

"The Liu and Zhao families should be kept waiting for a while. They do not have the qualifications for me to welcome them personally." Wang Shouzhe mocked with a smirk, turning his gaze back to Old Ancestor Meng, "Old Ancestor Meng, I still want to ask about the Bloodline Awakening of our old ancestor.

You mentioned before that Middle-Grade talent has something to do with Bloodline Awakening, but does the Middle-Grade talent come first or the Bloodline Awakening?"

"Every Profound Martial artist who has a lower-grade talent, in reality, already has some manifestation of the ancient Profound Martial ancestors' Bloodline from Lower Class C to Lower Class A. It's merely a matter of the level of Bloodline Talent," Old Ancestor Meng explained patiently.

"If an individual displays some special Divine Skills in their bloodline, then their martial talent must have reached Middle Grade. Even if it hadn't been initially, after awakening the special Divine Skills bloodline, their martial talent will evolve to Middle Grade."

"That young girl in your family, her name is Luo Qiu, right? She should have awakened some ancestral War Body bloodline. However, there have been many War Body bloodlines in human history, and there are various mutations. Her War Body bloodline is still very thin, so it's difficult to identify what type of War Body it is at this time.

Once she reaches the Spirit Platform Realm, her body will metamorphose, and her bloodline will strengthen. It will then become clearer as to what type of War Body it is."

"I understand. Once a mutation occurs in the bloodline, it will definitely cause the Profound Martial Bloodline Talent to increase." Wang Shouzhe nodded clearly. He felt both happy for his family and for Luo Qiu, while also feeling some regret. Why didn't he experience a bloodline mutation to awaken a gene from some ancient ancestor?

Yes, what Old Ancestor Meng was talking about was bloodlines. But in Wang Shouzhe's understanding, it was genetic inheritance. Awakening a bloodline was activating a dormant recessive gene in his body.

A sour feeling seemed to stab him in the heart.

"Actually, not only that Luo Qiu girl in your family, but also that little Insect Master girl must have awakened an ancient type of bloodline. Otherwise, she couldn't have communicated with the insect tribe spiritually." Old Ancestor Meng added another sentence, "Therefore, that girl's future potential isn't to be underestimated."

Er...

Wang Shouzhe felt like he had been stabbed in the heart again.

Wait.

Besides Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing, it seems that Wang Licui isn't simple either. The old ancestor once said that she might have awakened a special type of spiritual talent.

Alright, Wang Shouzhe felt like he had been stabbed in the heart for the third time.

No!

Something seems a bit off.

All of a sudden, Wang Shouzhe's brows furrowed. Logically speaking, a Rank 9 minor Prominent Family, like the Wang's, should have a fairly thin bloodline. Occasionally having a special bloodline would already be extremely lucky.

But now, there have been three amongst the younger generation of the Wang family!

Could it be that the ancestor's genes were so robust, that they concentrated and manifested in this generation?

That probably isn't right either. Wang Licui, Wang Luoqiu, Wang Luo Jing, even though they are all sisters or nieces, they only share familial bloodline relationships. Not only do their parents differ, but their grandparents and great-grandparents are also different.

Moreover, there are many young males in the family. If it were indeed due to the ancestor's influence, then wouldn't the bloodline manifest in the boys as well as the girls?

Chapter 86: Showing Gratitude for the Wang Family's Gifts_2

There must be some kind of connection among the three of them, a connection unique to them alone.

A cheat sheet? Small dried fish? Those are probably not the case.

Wang Shouzhe fell into contemplation. Currently, there were too few clues to infer from. He'd have to grill these three girls after this and see if he could identify some common ground.

If he could find a connection, perhaps he, Wang Shouzhe, could bask in their reflected glory.

...

Meanwhile-

A large group of people, composed of elite clan members and robust family chiefs, are heading towards the Wang family's main residence in an impressive procession. Among them, the most eye-catching were two horse carriages.

The two carriages were luxurious, their carriages decorated with magnificent dragon and phoenix figures. Even the horses that pulled them were all top-tier black steeds of uniform color.

Steeds were expensive and costly to feed. Not only did they require good food, but they also required special care from servants.

Most importantly, steeds are more suited for riding rather than pulling carriages. Wang Shouzhe himself owned a black steed that he used specifically for rides.

Yes, these two carriages belonged to the Old Ancestors of the Liu and Zhao clans. Different from Old Ancestor Longyan who preferred a reserved lifestyle, the two Old Ancestors of Liu and Zhao would tour around every year, reflecting their influence on their family.

To the ordinary populace, the actions of the Liu and Zhao clans would seem impressive, full of pride and prestige.

However, in the eyes of the longer-established and culturally profound prominent families, it was undoubtedly a display of newly rich who compensated for their inferiority complex through flaunting their wealth. They wouldn't comment anything openly, but surely they would sneer at them behind their backs.

No wonder, the origins of these two old ancestors were not very noteworthy. One was said to be from a collateral branch of a large family in Longzuo County City. The other had spent a long time as an independent cultivator before fortuitously achieving Spirit Platform Realm, whether by luck or something else.

But even after exhausting effort to reach the Spirit Platform Realm, there was no room for survival in the core area of Longzuo County where prominent families dominated.

They were not content with the difficult promotion to the Spirit Platform and still needing to rely on prominent families or certain forces to survive.

At that time, they followed Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan south to open up a new territory for human survival, becoming the follower family. The idea was to secure a piece of land to establish a clan so that their descendants could escape their lowly origins.

There was nothing wrong with this. Many independent cultivators or those with lower origins who achieved the Spirit Platform had similar thoughts and plans.

The mistake was, they even committed the act of betrayal. Especially after Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan had given them the promised lands, they still chose to betray him!

In the distance, some curious commoners were following from afar. People have a curiosity and like to gather around, all wanting to see what was happening.

The Liu and Zhao clans did not expel the curious commoners who were following. Instead, they deployed some spies to subtly stir up the crowd. This made the audience grow larger and larger, including all kinds of people, such as peddlers, independent cultivators, scholars, and so on.

Obviously, they planned to let the "low-class people" of Ping'an town know who the real master of the town was. The popularity stirred up by the Wang family's work and disaster relief was utterly vulnerable before absolute power. They wanted to use other people's mouths to spread the "intimidation of suppressing the Wang family."

Liu Shengye, the head of the Liu family.

Zhao Jinxian, the head of the Zhao family.

Each of them rode a tall horse and arrived in high spirits at the front gate of the Wang family's main residence, accompanied by guards and clan members.

When Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan selected the location to build the main residence, he certainly chose the best spot. To the left was the beautiful Zhuwei Lake, and to the right was surrounded by the

branches of Liuping Mountain, with the residential land on high ground. Not only was the Feng Shui energetic, but it was also a location that was easy to defend and difficult to attack.

To enter the main residence, except for taking the waterway to the backyard, there was only one road. On this road, some defense facilities, such as arrow towers, were built along the way, and checkpoints could be set up at any time to build lines of defense.

But now, the Wang family did not block the people and horses of the Liu and Zhao families at all. They headed straight to the front door of the Wang family as if it were an unoccupied place.

Under the towering walls of the main residence, there was a spacious square paved with bluestone.

Liu Shengye stopped his horse, looking slightly up at the plaque above the gate of the Wang family, which read "Ping'an Wang Family," and couldn't help but ridicule with a sneer, "Jinxian brother, what virtue and ability does the Wang family have to occupy this prime Feng Shui spot?"

Zhao Jinxian paused beside him. He was tall and muscular, obviously more martially skilled than Liu Shengye. In response to the question, he replied calmly, "As the saying goes, Feng Shui turns in cycles. If the Wang family stayed in their corner, we might have spared them some face out of respect for the friendship between our ancestors.

Now they dare to oppose us, well, they are simply courting death. Shengye brother, I will follow whatever arrangements you make today."

"Arrangement, haha... Naturally we must follow the customs of visiting. We don't want people gossiping about how we, the two clans, were origin-former upstarts who do not understand etiquette." Liu Shengye narrowed his eyes and ordered with a wave of his hand, "Call someone over, knock on the door, and give the invitation."

Liu Yongzhou, the young generation of the Liu Clan, immediately dismounted his yellow steed and strode forward with the bearing of a dragon or tiger. He pulled out a bowing envelope and loudly declared.

"Liu Clan of Ping'an pays respect to Ancestor Zhide. Family Head Liu Shengye and Clan members have come to extend our thanks for the Wang family's kindness."

Zhao Dingtian, a young standout from the Zhao Clan, also stepped forward, unwilling to be outdone, and loudly stated:

"Zhao Clan of Ping'an pays respect to Ancestor Bojun. Family Head Zhao Jinxian and Clan members have come to extend our thanks for the Wang family's kindness."

These two young elites, with their profound mysterious energy and vigorous voice, caused echoes to reverberate continuously around the scene.

Although they said they were here to thank the Wang family for their kindness, their hostile attitude was all too apparent.

.....

Behind the Liu and Zhao Clans, more and more observers were gathering. Amongst them were middle-class civilians, farmers, merchants, independent cultivators, and so on.

With the arrogant shouts at the gate.

The spectators were in an uproar, their faces flushed with excitement, heartily cheering. Naturally, those who were psychologically aligned with the Liu and Zhao clans were the most boisterous.

However, many who had directly or indirectly benefited from the Wang family's kindness had worried expressions.

Especially since the Wang family recently launched a major dredging and earth filling project, which provided employment and relief to numerous civilian families. The Wang's goodwill was widely acclaimed among the civilians of Ping'an Town, and many tended towards supporting the Wang family. They were all worried for the Wang family.

The total population of Ping'an Town was no more than twenty thousand.

Any significant event could quickly spread throughout the entire Ping'an Town. The living and thriving civilians all knew that the Wang family was declining, and their old ancestors seemed to be on their last legs.

However, the majority of spectators were impartial audience members, purely incited to watch the excitement, and held no good feelings for any prominent family.

Stirred by the shouts of the Liu and Zhao clans, further provoked by a few with ulterior motives who hid in the crowd, the impartial audiences started shouting one after another.

"Wang family of Ping'an, stop hiding!"

"Wang family of Ping'an, are you afraid to face your actions?" "Wang Shouzhe, dare to come out."
"Wang Longyan, come out to greet Ancestors Zhide and Bojun!"

Many of the spectators siding with the Wang family glared at them.

But what good would that do?

Suddenly!

The doors of the Wang family opened.

Accompanied by two household heads, a tall and handsome, valiant young man strode out. His appearance was calm and undisturbed, with each step steady and firm as a rock. He had the imposing aura of a superior.

Upon entering the scene, he did not descend the steps, but instead gazed down at the surroundings from a high vantage point, his eyebrows slightly furrowing.

"Who dares to cause a ruckus in the Wang family's main residence?"

He did not shout.

What he said, in an everyday tone, spread out like invisible waves.

Even the spectators standing tens of feet away heard their ears buzzing and their hearts banging nervously.

Immediately!

All the chaotic noises abruptly ceased, the scene was so quiet that a pin drop could be heard.

Chapter 87: Welcome all, please enlighten me!

...

The two closest were the Liu Clan's elite, Liu Yongzhou, and the Zhao Clan's elite, Zhao Dingtian.

In a sudden panic, he unintentionally retreated two steps. However, after making this move, he immediately regretted it, his face flushing with embarrassment.

Following behind Wang Shouzhe were the siblings from the Liu family. They were afraid that Wang Shouzhe would be at a disadvantage and had wanted to offer their support, but they didn't expect to witness this scene.

"Brother Shouzhe is indeed extraordinary," whispered Liu Ruolei.

After a moment of stunned silence, Liu Yuanrui wore a bitter smile of helplessness on his face. "Shouzhe, brother Shouzhe, you keep surpassing my expectations."

The clan leaders of the Liu and Zhao families, once exuding brimming confidence and vitality, were now frozen in their tracks.

The high morale that the two clans had labored to build shattered to pieces with his words.

It took a few moments before Liu Shengye shook off his shock. He shot a look at the embarrassed Liu Yongzhou, then turned to Wang Shouzhe and said sarcastically, "Nephew Shouzhe, you've really grown into quite the impressive figure since we parted at Dingpu Ferry. It seems even when your old uncle comes to visit, you hardly pay any attention.

Does the Wang family of Ping'an not understand even basic etiquette anymore?"

Since his momentum had been broken, Liu Shengye, who was skilled in words, prepared to fight back.

Wang Shouzhe looked around, finally landing his puzzled gaze on Liu Shengye. "Oh, isn't this the head of the Liu family? My apologies, but as a real man, I've never been prepared to recognize a wolf as my relative."

"You..." Liu Shengye's face turned red with embarrassment. He had come to confront Wang Shouzhe, feeling superior and attempting to demonstrate the power and decorum of a traditional prominent family.

But Wang Shouzhe dared to tear open this façade.

"Well, well, well," Liu Shengye said with an angry smile. "I didn't think the mighty Wang family of Ping'an would lose the values of a prominent family and its manners before it even collapsed."

"Liu Shengye, are you kidding me?" Wang Shouzhe asked with a bewildered face, "Traditional values and etiquette are for people. Who in this world would be polite to an animal?"

To "support" the propaganda strategy of the Liu and Zhao families, Wang Shouzhe used some mysterious energy each time he spoke, ensuring that the onlookers could hear him clearly.

As he intended, the spectators broke into a riot of laughter. Among them were neutral observers who had come to simply enjoy the show.

Disturbed by the sight of hundreds of onlooking crowd, the Liu and Zhao families felt powerless.

"You..." Liu Shengye, his face bright red with rage, was near bursting with anger. "You little bastard... since you want to tear off all pretenses, don't blame me for showing no mercy today."

"Haha~~ It's as if when you and your forces stormed to the Wang Family's doorstep, it was to pay me a courtesy visit," Wang Shouzhe's expression gradually turned serious. "Listen to me, Liu Shengye" he called out,

"The Kingdom of Da Qian has been flourishing for three thousand years. My Wang family's Old Ancestor, Zhou Xuan, led the Expansion Order to the south, slaying beasts and occupying the

wilderness for the sake of humanity and for the sake of our ancestors, to establish a place of residence. He made great contributions to humankind."

At these words, many spectators grew somber. Most of them were locals, still holding respect for the Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan who had paved the way for Ping'an Town.

"In the year 3095 of Da Qian's flourishing era, during the invasion of the fifth-level beasts, our Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan went to the frontline, fighting to the death to protect the tens of thousands of residents in Ping'an Town. In that battle, the Wang family suffered heavy losses; our clan members and the head of the household were either killed or wounded.

My Wang family's Zhou Xuan and Qiongyuan Old Ancestors gave their lives in battle. Where were the Liu Clan's Old Ancestor Liu Zhde and the Zhao Clan's Old Ancestor Zhao Bojun then? They not only played dead but allowed two waves of beasts in, causing the Wang family's defense line to completely collapse."

The crowd gradually stirred with anger. Such uncovered secrets would naturally not be disclosed by the Liu and Zhao families, for it would mean they were utterly despicable.

"Slander, you're slandering us!" Liu Shengye retorted. "Wang Shouzhe, don't talk nonsense without proof." If these things were entirely circulated, it would cause too much damage to the reputation of the Liu and Zhao families.

Even the young generation of the Liu and Zhao families started to second guess. However, they mostly view this information as false because it was being stated by an enemy faction.

"We both know whether it's slander or not," Shouzhe sneered. "Since you have objections, let's talk about the present. Countless outrageous acts have been taken by your Liu and Zhao families during this plague of insects, in order to seize the land of civilians. Many families of civilians have been affected because of you.

If it wasn't for the Wang family stepping in and providing assistance, I don't know how many farmers would've lost their lands and ended up as slaves. Do you also want to say this is without proof?"

"Liu Shengye, before you demand respect from others, you should first become a human being rather than a beast."

As soon as Wang Shouzhe's voice fell, a group of farmers shouted, "It's true, everything Clan Leader Wang said is true."

More and more people began to shout, "It's true. The Liu and Zhao families are ruthless. Instead of aiding during the disaster, they took the opportunity to annex and plunder our land."

The vocal outrage of the farmers and civilians formed a deafening chorus of anger reverberating in the sky, finally expressing their inner rage.

Many newcomers to Ping'an Town, including peddlers and pedestrians, were astonished and bewildered. Could it be? Were the Liu and Zhao clans so shameless that they did not even try to veil their land grabbing schemes behind a scrap of decency?

Could they be so brazen as to create a scene at the doorstep of the Wang family for such an affair?

Suddenly, even the vigor of the Liu and Zhao families' head of households seemed to be suppressed.

Especially Clan Leaders Liu Shengye and Zhao Jinxian, who were so enraged that they were on the verge of vomiting blood.

In their initial plans and imagination, they had intended to suppress the Wang family with the combined forces of their two clans. Even if the Wang family did not beg for mercy on the spot, they would undoubtedly be trembling in fear, not daring to confront them head-on.

Their ultimate goal was to provoke Wang Longyan into appearing, and then their own ancestors would suppress her under the guise of a 'friendly match.' Killing her on the spot was impossible, as the Daqian Law was clear on that front. But causing her to suffer more injuries and urging her to depart to the heavenly plane sooner was the true intention.

Without Wang Longyan, the Wang family would be nothing more than a toothless tiger suffering from a disease. Crushing or manipulating them would be entirely up to them, wouldn't it?

However, who would have expected Wang Shouzhe to be so audacious? Did he not fear completely angering the Liu and Zhao clans, leaving them no chance to cling onto their dwindling life?

Just as Liu Shengye was preparing to retaliate verbally, he heard some instructions from the ancestors in his ear.

His face immediately darkened, and he stepped forward, saying venomously, "Wang Shouzhe, you, a mere youngster, dare to make such outrageous comments. Is Wang Longyan already dead? Have her appear before our ancestors to explain the matter of her commercial sabotage. Otherwise, don't blame our Liu and Zhao clans for not being courteous."

What use would there be for these mere commoners to yell so ferociously?

Could it be that they would dare to take up their sickles and attack the prominent families? Once the Wang family was completely suppressed, wouldn't these commoners have to obediently obey?

"Hehe, power indeed lends one confidence." Wang Shouzhe chuckled nonchalantly, "What qualifications does a villainous and rebellious clan like yours have to demand an audience with Ancestor Longyan? However, let's not say that our Wang family of Ping'an lacks grace. I will give you an opportunity. If anyone under forty in your two clans can defeat me, Wang Shouzhe, I will summon Ancestor Longyan."

"Clang!"

"I, Wang Shouzhe, eighteen years old, invite any challenger under forty." Wang Shouzhe drew his steel longsword, assumed a battle stance, and bellowed out loudly.

"Please kindly instruct!"

His face showed neither anger nor joy, and he stood on the stairs with his sword, looking down at their hordes of the Liu and Zhao clans as if they were nothing.

Unfortunately, none of the elites from Liu and Zhao clans dared to meet his gaze.

With just one man and one sword, he managed to suppress the momentum of the Liu and Zhao clans once again.

"Big brother Shouzhe..." Liu Ruolei's eyes shimmered, whispering non-stop, "He's a real hero, a real hero. Boohoo, my sister is so lucky."

Liu Yuanrui, who always held himself in high esteem, turned somewhat pale. He grumbled in his heart, Brother Shouzhe, Brother Shouzhe, aren't you setting the bar too high for our younger generation?

How are they supposed to face this?

This way, not only was Liu Yuanrui feeling a tremendous amount of pressure, but even his eldest brother, Liu Yuanhui, probably couldn't achieve this, could he?

At this moment,

A little girl with pigtails sprang out from behind Wang Shouzhe and jumped to his side, also looking down at the Liu and Zhao clans.

"Before challenging Big Brother, you must defeat me first."

"I, Wang Luoqiu, eleven years old!" The childish but proud voice of Wang Luoqiu echoed through the square, "Xuanwu practitioners under sixteen, challengers are welcome. Please kindly instruct!"

Before Wang Shouzhe could respond

Wang Luo Jing also slowly stepped forward. As she walked, she calmly said, "I, Wang Luo Jing, twelve years old."

"Xuanwu practitioners under sixteen, challengers are welcome. Please kindly instruct!"

A warmth flowed through Wang Shouzhe's heart. His sister's participation had not been in the plan. This feeling of standing shoulder to shoulder in battle with family, to have someone to protect you, to share the burden on behalf of the family, felt truly great!

The scene fell silent with everyone's eyes looking up and focused on the Wang family's three youngsters. Such a bold move, indeed a bold move.

Chapter 88: This, Is Family!_1

...

"I, Wang Shouyong, am willing to join Fourth Brother in bearing this responsibility."

"I, Wang Shoulian, am ready to be the backup for Fourth Brother."

One by one, the young members of the Wang family emerged from the main residence, their faces appearing pale and youthfully unseasoned. Yet, they radiated an unwavering courage, ignorant of danger and death.

Shouyong and Shoulian.

While they might not be as extraordinarily talented as Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing for now. But they were audacious enough to stand up at such a critical moment, standing shoulder to shoulder with Wang Shouzhe, ready to bear the family's life-and-death crisis together.

Such courage and sense of responsibility promised a future full of achievements.

But this was not the end.

The members of the family, one after another, bravely stepped forward, including Wang Shounuo and Wang Lutong, who were working by Zhuwei Lake not far away. They also rushed back, ranking beside Wang Shouzhe.

"Shouzhe, I will bear this with you." Wang Luoyi, Wang Shouzhe's sister, stood by his side, her eyes filled with unparalleled determination.

"Brother ~ Miaomiao will help you fight the bad guys." Wang Luomiao also stood up, wittily saying, "I am Wang Luomiao, eight years old. I will accept anyone under ten. Please advise!"

Although her claim to take on 'anyone under ten' lacked impact, it was quite practical. She was still in the stage of nurturing her vitality. It was absurd to ask her to fight genuine Profound Martial Practitioners.

"I am Wang Zongwei. Though I'm useless, I don't fear death." A 20-year-old young man with a crutch hobbled out, "Fourth Uncle, let me serve atonement through contribution."

Wang Shouzhe looked at Wang Zongwei and saw him in a new light.

"I am Wang Shouye, ten years old! You bunch of villains, there will come a day when you will remember my name." The son of Uncle Dinghai Six was young but imbued with great ambition.

"I'm Wang Zongchang, thirteen years old! I'm at the second level of the qi-refining realm, and I fear no one of my age. Please advise!" The second son of Shouxin, the elder brother. Only thirteen years old, his cultivation was on par with his elder brother Wang Zongwei.

"I am Wang Liwan, nine years old, just started cultivating. I fear no one of my age. Please advise!" The second daughter of Shouxin, the elder brother. This sweet little girl also bravely stood up.

"I'm Wang Zongsheng, seven years old. You all just wait!" He was Shouyi's son, who had just been assessed to have B-grade aptitude.

At last, a baby girl piped up in a milk-soft voice.

"I'm Wang Luolan, five years old! I won't let you bully my Fourth Brother." This was the youngest daughter of Uncle Dinghai Six, the youngest girl in the Luo generation, and she was ranked the eighth. Her aptitude had not even been tested.

Family members, even the toddlers, fearlessly stood up.

After that, the clan's elders and womenfolk all stood behind Wang Shouzhe one after another. Household servants and slaves appeared one by one; even though they were scared, they stood behind Wang Shouzhe unswervingly.

It was as if there were invisible threads connecting each of them, forming an invisible rope and integrating into a whole.

Ping'an Wang Family!

Our ancestor Zhou Xuan had moved southward with the Expansion Order, slayed demons, expanded territories, and established a foundation for our family.

The glory of our ancestors is remembered by each of us. This is faith.

Why are we able to unite so closely as a prominent family?

Because we have roots!

This is the true foundation of a family, and the depth of its heritage.

The establishment of family, the glory of ancestors, the merging of bloodlines, mutual protection, the inheritance of older generations, all contribute to the solidarity among the clan members.

While warming Wang Shouzhe's heart with kinship, it also brought a powerful impact and shock to the others present. Could the Wang clansmen be so united and high-spirited at this crucial moment?

What a formidable strength!

Especially the members of the Liu and Zhao clans, who were shocked. Compared to the unity within the Wang clan, their family lacked such cohesion, and was filled with internal strife instead, with members scheming against each other.

Why?

Just why?

A silent crowd of onlookers, which had grown to nearly a thousand, felt a strange emotion stirring within them.

"Ah! This is a real Profound Martial prominent family, a truly noble house." An independent cultivator muttered in a low voice, his eyes filled with infinite adoration.

"If I'm not mistaken, once the Wang Family survives this catastrophe, I fear it will rise swiftly." An old man with a white beard spoke.

"However, right now, the Liu and Zhao clans seem far more powerful." Someone said with worry, "After all, the rule of the world ultimately lies with those with the stronger fists."

Gradually, discussions began to stir.

But this time, nearly all the public opinions supported the Wang clan.

Even those with ulterior motives dared not provoke the crowd at this point for fear of being torn to pieces by the raging crowd.

...

"Liu Shengye, Zhao Jinxian." Holding his longsword, Wang Shouzhe declared loudly, "This is what distinguishes our Ping'an Wang Family from traitorous families like yours. You may resort to vile machinations and swagger for a little while, but you'll never last. If you want to meet Ancestor Longyan, you have to get past me first."

"No, Fourth Brother, let me deal with this." Wang Luoqiu stepped in front, blocking the way. "Since when do the commanders fight first?"

"Better leave it to me." Murderous intent flashed across Wang Luo Jing's eyes, "Those people bullied Fourth Brother in such an aggressive manner; I will let them pay the price."

Wang Shouzhe was delighted; the combined threat from the Liu and Zhao families had, instead, brought his clansmen closer together.

"Very well, very well. Seems like Wang Longyan is determined to hide and outlast us. Sending this bunch of kids to dither and defy us openly." Liu Shengye, an old fox, showed no trace of his previously gentle demeanor, his face full of ruthlessness. "Alright then, let's knock all of you youngsters down, and see how long Wang Longyan can hold on. Liu Yonghao!"

"Father, here I am." A 15-or 16-year-old youth in splendid clothes stood out. His appearance was impressive. However, there was something frivolously unsettling about his eyebrows, like that of a careless playboy.

"Those two little girls. Didn't they say that they won't refuse anyone below sixteen? Seems like some gifted young ladies from Ping'an Wang Family." Liu Shengye sneered, "You are not yet sixteen, are you? You ought to learn from them, exchange some knowledge."

Liu Yonghao glanced over Wang Luoqiu and Wang Luo Jing, and smirked: "As you wish, father."

Then, the young man swaggered over, scrutinizing the two girls up and down and then scoffed, "Young as you are, you've already reached the second level of Qi Refinement. You are indeed exceptional. However, as the young clan leader, I am at the mid-stage of the third level. It's not too late to back down now before you accuse me of bullying you."

Upon hearing this, the spectators surrounding them couldn't keep silent any longer.

"Does the Liu Clan have any shame? A teenage boy from the main branch, actually has the nerve to rise."

"Those two little girls are only eleven or twelve, right? Even if their Qi Refinement talent is good, their fighting power won't be strong."

Especially those peddlers and independent cultivators who wander all over, they stirred up the atmosphere and discussed endlessly. Normally, they would not dare to confront the Liu Clan. But now they were hiding among the crowd, as if there was a natural barrier around them.

"Fight, why not fight!" Wang Luoqiu, who saw someone really stepping up, trembled with excitement. "Wang Luo Jing, this guy is mine, don't snatch him from me."

Speaking of the lust for battle, no one in the Wang family, from top to bottom, could outmatch this little overlord Wang Luoqiu.

"No, I usually let you," Wang Luo Jing also insisted very much, speaking calmly. "But this time, I want to be the vanguard for my fourth brother."

"Okay." "No!"

"Let's do rock-paper-scissors." "Alright."

Rock, paper, scissors! Tie. Again.

...

The mocking smile on Liu Yonghao's face gradually solidified, replaced by exasperation. In his eyes, these two little girls were the kind that could be casually crushed, even if it was a one-to-two situation, he felt at ease.

However, he didn't expect that the two girls from the Wang family would start arguing about the right to fight with him, and even use rock-paper-scissors to decide who would participate.

The laughter that surrounded them made Liu Yonghao feel like a ridiculed clown, and his face gradually turned fierce.

Suddenly!

An excited childish voice rang out: "Wang Luo Jing, you lost, he's mine now." Then, she swaggered, step by step, towards the center of the square.

However, Wang Luo Jing was looking regretful, murmured that she should have not thrown the scissors.

But it was useless to regret it now.

Wang Luoqiu was already standing face-to-face with Liu Yonghao in the square at the doorway, her twinkling eyes unabashedly sizing him up from top to bottom: "Scion of Liu Clan?"

"Humph, exactly right," Liu Yonghao was filled with fury, "Little girl, if you kneel down and beg for mercy, I might spare you once. Otherwise, I'll stomp your feet."

"Idiot!"

Wang Luoqiu pursed her lips and looked disdainful, "You are also worthy to be the main branch? Stop the nonsense, Wang Luo Qiu here, please teach me a lesson."

In her view, someone of the main branch should be like Wang Shou, no, like her fourth brother.

That being said, she assumed a fighting posture. Her tiny body was in a very formal position.

"Alright, alright, then don't blame me for not being polite," Liu Yonghao laughed out of anger as he also assumed a fighting stance. "Liu Yonghao here, please enlighten me." He barely managed to save some face by not using a weapon.

Both sides began to scrutinize each other, looking for weaknesses. Wang Luoqiu was aggressive, but not stupid, instead she was very smart.

"Fourth Brother, that bad guy is almost sixteen," said Wang Luolan, who was only five years old and still had some baby fat, blinking her eyes. "Will Sixth Sister win?"

"Oh my, Little Eight, you little ancestor, how did you come out too?" Wang Shouzhe picked her up in his arms indulgently, pinched her round face with a smile, and said, "Don't worry, just watch your sixth sister beat up people."

As soon as Wang Shouzhe's words fell,

Wang Luoqiu moved. She stomped her foot, moving as fiercely as a small tyrannosaurus in the foreign wilderness hunting for food, her speed was so fast that it left behind a trail of smoke.

In a breath, she was in front of her opponent, throwing a straightforward punch.

She didn't move until it was shocking.

"How is this possible!" Liu Yonghao's face changed drastically, he just managed to defensively react.

"Bang!"

Liu Yonghao felt as if his arms were hit by a hammer, the strong impact forced him to retreat several steps.

Before he could recover, Wang Luoqiu had already closed in on him, fists and kicks, elbows and knees, all straightforwardly surged towards him like a storm.

The esteemed heir of the Liu Family was actually forced on the defensive, constantly retreating.

In the end, he left an open goal.

"Bang!"

Wang Luoqiu advanced, a simple Mountain-shaking Elbow went straight into his chest. Liu Yonghao flew backward as if he had been hit by a carriage, and fell to the ground, vomiting blood and unable to get up.

It was clear that he had a few broken ribs.

At this time, Wang Luoqiu put away the mountain-shaking elbow posture, and imitated Wang Shouzhe with her hands behind her back. Her eyes had a bit of dissatisfaction, and her pretty little face had a questioning look.

"Not a worthy opponent, just a bluff, really boring."

"Is this the talent that the Liu Clan can cultivate?"

"Ah, what a disappointment."

"Can someone come out who is a bit stronger? This young lady has not warmed up yet!"

Her "forthright remarks", like a knife, pierced mercilessly into the chests of the Liu Clan people.

Some Liu Clan members with thin skin wished they could find a hole to crawl into.

At the same time, they became dissatisfied with Liu Yonghao.

Everyone is from the main branch, why is there such a gap between him and Wang Shouzhe?

"Long live sister Six, sister Six is invincible!" Little Eight, Wang Luolan, screamed excitedly in Wang Shouzhe's arms.

Chapter 89: Ferocious Transformation! Wang Luo Jing

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With the shrill cry of the Wang family's youngest girl, Wang Luolan, the members of the Wang family could not help but cheer loudly.

It had been so many years.

The imposing attitudes of the Liu Clan and Zhao Clan forced the Wang family to tolerate and compromise over and over again, constantly encroaching their living space. Any resistance would lead to collective oppression from both clans.

But today they finally held their heads high and exhaled in relief.

Wang Luo Qiu, at the young age of eleven, faced the Liu Clan's young di successor directly and beat him down.

Especially for the elders of the Wang family, it felt like the clouds had parted and the blue sky appeared, a sudden refreshing delight. Years of repression seemed to have been released with Wang Luo Qiu's thoroughly exhilarating blow.

They won so decisively that even Wang Shouzhe, who was holding Wang Luolan in his arms, couldn't help but nod in approval. Luo Qiu, this girl, indeed had a talent for fighting. She had improved considerably compared to the days when she was an Independent Cultivator. Her movements were even more crisp and sharp, and the explosion of Mysterious Energy was just right.

However, Wang Shouzhe also understood very well that this was due to the mediocre preparatory skills of Liu Yonghao, who was inferior to the outlaws among the Independent Cultivators.

The increasing number of onlookers outside also started to cheer and make noise. Most of them were originally on the Wang family's side. They were delighted to see the Liu Clan try to suppress others but ended up being defeated

Compared to the cheers and excitement of the Wang family...

The faces of the Liu Clan's members had darkened like storm clouds. They had not only failed to oppress but had also been defeated, making them lose face.

Some tribesmen came forward and brought back the Young Clan Leader Liu Yonghao, whose movements were filled with dejection.

Zhao Jinxian, the clan leader of the Zhao Clan, glanced at Liu Shengye, slightly frowned and said, "Brother Liu, you should not only think about making money. You also need to put more effort into teaching the younger generation. Yonghao's preparatory skills are not solid enough."

Zhao Jinxian, a clan leader proficient in Profound Martial fighting technique, has always looked down on Liu Shengye, who was interested in gaining small advantages and haggling over every detail.

In his view, a Profound Martial Prominent Family ultimately needs to be strong on its own.

Being strong could suppress all opposing voices. Being strong naturally brought more resources.

Liu Shengye's face twitched. He sarcastically said: "Could it be that Brother Jinxian is planning to send his biological son to fight that girl? Your son is only fourteen years old and his cultivation base has barely reached the Level Three of the Qi Refinement realm. I'm afraid he may not necessarily be her opponent."

"No matter what, we have to turn this situation around." Zhao Jinxian stroked his beard, "That girl is retreating after winning a fight."

Upon closer inspection, it was indeed the case.

Wang Luo Qiu, imitating Wang Shouzhe's movements, was strolling back leisurely, dismissively suggesting that the young generation of the Liu and Zhao clans were insignificant and none were worth her fight.

Liu Shengye's eyes lit up, "Brother Zhao, are you suggesting... "

"My son, Zhao Dingteng, has been diligently practicing Profound Martial fighting techniques since childhood. However, he only barely surpasses Wang Luo Qiu and has no guarantee of defeating her." Zhao Jinxian calculated, "Among the younger generation, we can't afford to lose anymore. Dingteng!"

Behind him, a young man with a robust physique walked out: "Here I am."

"You go challenge the other arrogant little girl."

"But... I wanted to fight the girl from just now. She's strong and interesting."

"Listen to me. We can't afford to lose anymore."

"Alright then." The muscular young man known as Zhao Dingteng reluctantly walked into the square and called out to the Wang family, "That girl, come down here. Let's have a match."

Upon finishing, he pointed to Wang Luo Jing.

"Me?" Wang Luo Jing looked mildly surprised.

"Yes, I'm talking to you," Zhao Dingteng said in a humming voice, "Originally, I wanted to fight that little tigress. But my father said we couldn't afford to lose anymore, so I had to pick you instead."

An eerie silence followed.

A few moments later, the place burst into laughter. This boy, could he be any more blunt?

Even Wang Shouzhe's lips twitched slightly. He had heard rumors that Zhao Dingteng, the successor of the Zhao Clan's generation, was not good at socializing and was obsessed with cultivation. Unexpectedly, he was so straightforward.

However, this youngster had a solid posture, robust and sturdy body, and his movements were steady and firm, indicating that his basic skills must be good.

Upon seeing this opponent, Wang Luo Qiu felt invigorated: "No worries, let's fight. I'll go easy on you." She was so keen to fight that she didn't even take offense at being called a little tigress.

Before she could finish her words, she was dragged behind by Wang Luo Jing: "Shoo, you've already fought, now it's my turn."

Without waiting for Wang Luo Qiu to respond, Wang Luo Jing quickly descended the steps, entered the square and said to Zhao Dingteng: "Wang Luo Jing is ready to learn."

Watching the scene, Wang Luo Qiu pouted and regretted: "If I had known that there would still be someone who doesn't value his life to challenge me, I wouldn't have returned."

Wang Shouzhe laughed secretly. Who allowed this girl to strut around? She won and then boasted, imitating the way he walked, and even deliberately exaggerated the gesture.

"Sixth Sister is already very powerful," Wang Luolan said admiringly. "When I grow up, I want to be as powerful as Sixth Sister."

After hearing such praise, Wang Luo Qiu grinned, held her head high with her hands behind her back, in the matter of pointing out Jiangshan's words, "Well, it's not bad. Luolan, as the saying goes, 'there are mountains beyond mountains, and people beyond people.' The path of invincibility will inevitably have twists and turns. As long as you persevere..."

Chapter 89: Ferocious Transformation! Wang Luo Jing

"Alright, don't you dare lead Little Eight astray." Wang Shouzhe interrupted, not allowing her to argue, he quickly said, "This time you went to battle and the outcome was not bad, I will give you 50 merit points."

She actually got merit points? Wang Luoqiu squinted her eyes and her dimples showed when she laughed cheerfully, but she still haggled, "Only 50 points? That's a legitimate child, and it only worth this little?"

She emphasized on the words legitimate child, as if trying to stress the fact that, legitimate children are worth quite a lot! Wang Shouzhe, you are also a legitimate child!

"He's just a worthless individual, not even as good as the independent cultivator you defeated before. If I were to subsidize you, and you don't want it, then so be it."

"Yes, yes, yes, 50 is 50." Wang Luoqiu said helplessly, "Then, how much is the one that Wang Luo Jing defeated worth?"

"Zhao Dingteng is not a simple role, the foundation is profound", Wang Shouzhe stated with a slightly solemn expression, "It depends on his performance in actual combat, it's expected to be worth at least 100 merit points."

One hundred points?

Wang Luoqiu's vision darkened, she felt dizzy and deeply regretful. If she had known this before, wouldn't it be better to lose the coin toss?

Feeling very dull.

...

"Zhao Clan's Zhao Dingteng." Zhao Dingteng mentioned with a goofy smile, "What's your weapon of choice, miss?"

"?" Wang Luo Jing was inexplicably confused, "I am not proficient in weapons."

"In that case, without further ado," said Zhao Dingteng. He signaled and a head of household walked over holding his weapon, two Octagonal Hammers!

The bystanders burst into laughter, saying something like, the lady doesn't even use a weapon and here you are, a towering giant of a man, stooping down to the level of using two large hammers? Isn't this outright bullying?

Isn't he ashamed?

Even Liu Yonghao, who just fought, is better than him; at least he knew to fight barehanded against the one without a weapon.

Unfortunately, the mocking words had no effect on Zhao Dingteng. He continued to smile goofily, hefting his two weighty sledgehammers and said, "Please share your wisdom, miss."

Wang Luo Jing felt a cold sweat starting.

Is this guy really that thick-headed or is he pretending to be thick headed? It felt like there was a wily cunning hiding beneath that goofy exterior.

She must be careful.

If she capsized in the gutter, she will be the laughingstock of Wang Luoqiu.

"Please share your wisdom." Wang Luo Jing likewise posed a gesture, drawing out a fine steel short sword that she had exchanged with her merit points.

As soon as her words fell, Zhao Dingteng let out ferocious bellow, swinging his heavy Octagonal Hammer as he charged like a raging bull. The swing of his hammer seemed as if even the air would explode.

Once he said fight, he dove in straight away without hesitation.

Immediately everyone became tense, Zhao Dingteng seemed incredibly powerful, if that hammer grazed her, Luo Jing would be severely injured or even killed.

Fortunately, Wang Luo Jing was well prepared, she was accustomed to Wang Luoqiu's sudden attacks and her feet barely moved as she gracefully flitted to the back like a bird in flight.

"Boom!"

Zhao Dingteng's hammer pierced through the air, the brick under his feet was smashed into a big pit, and fragments of rocks flew around.

Wang Shouzhe's eyes narrowed, as expected, the boy was not simple, even if it is not a bloodline mutation, at least he has innate talent.

This power, perhaps even Wang Luoqiu who is just entering puberty, cannot compare with his.

"This..." Wang Luoqiu too was somewhat taken aback, "this guy's so powerful, is he a monster?" She put herself in the shoes of the opponent, and she feels it's not an easy fight, the odds of losing seemed a bit higher. Although the outcome wasn't necessarily predictable, as a battle is not all about strength after all.

Wang Shouzhe shot her a glance, that fellow compared to you, aren't you more of a monster? You are only eleven years old and you haven't even started developing.

However, Wang Shouzhe felt slightly relieved, with Luo Jing's ability to deal with the Zhao's boy, the advantage was even more obvious. Because while the boy might have immense strength, his speed was about half a step slower than Wang Luoqiu.

The immense body weight, and also the fact that he was wielding two large hammers, couldn't be overlooked.

Such was the judgement of Wang Shouzhe, but it did not necessarily mean everyone saw it that way.

On the battlefield, Zhao Dingteng seemed to have the advantage, commanding the battle, he rushed headlong into the fray, showing invincible strength. While Wang Luo Jing could only dodge and flee, narrowly missing getting hit each time, it looked rather embarrassing.

It seemed as if Zhao Dingteng just needed to put in a bit more effort to defeat Wang Luo Jing.

But what he did not know is that Wang Luo Jing was actually hiding her true abilities. Her speed and agility were slightly superior to Wang Luoqiu's. Such a disposition is but leading the opponent by the nose, greatly consuming the opponent's physical strength and mysterious energy.

The tactic was extremely correct, even Wang Shouzhe secretly nodded in approval, Luo Jing's power is not just her talent, it's also her willingness to use her brain during fights, laying out the entire fight from the beginning.

Suddenly the situation changed abruptly. Just as Wang Luo Jing sidestepped, "embarrassingly" evading Zhao Dingteng's attack for another time, Zhao Dingteng chuckled ominously and roared which increased his "extreme" speed by another one or two percent, creating an afterimage as he lunged forward with his hammer towards Wang Luo Jing.

Hiding her true abilities!

Many people did not expect the simple looking Zhao Dingteng to be so cunning, he controlled his speed from the very beginning and only burst forth at the most critical moment to determine the outcome.

Not good!

The Wang family's faces changed dramatically.

And both Liu and Zhao family were happy in an instant.

We won!

That girl, with a single hit of this hammer, even if she doesn't die, she would be severely injured. Let's see if Wang family dares to be arrogant again?

In this critical moment,

There was no change in Wang Luo Jing's expression, her little hand flicked, and the fine steel short sword was thrown towards Zhao Dingteng's face.

Zhao Dingteng had to call off his attack and dodge. It seemed that Wang Luo Jing had dodged a bullet. But without a weapon, what could Wang Luo Jing counter with against Zhao Dingteng? Sooner or later she would lose, immediately, he burst forth at full speed and killed again.

Chapter 89: Ferocious Transformation! Wang Luo Jing

"Hehe!"

With a soft chuckle, Wang Luo Jing's movement technique quickened slightly as she continued to toy with Zhao Dingteng. Unlike her previous disarray, she now moved with the grace of a butterfly and the lightness of a sparrow. Inexplicably, she seemed to have finally grasped the essence of the Willow Catkin Body Method.

This girl! Has she been holding back!? Is her movement technique really that exceptional? The elated expressions of the Liu and Zhao clans immediately hardened. If the fight continued in this way, it was likely to be a stalemate.

Little did they know, Wang Luo Jing's movement technique had to be exceptional, otherwise, she would have been killed by Luo Qiu. The two girls were constantly competing, neither willing to bow down to the other.

"Since you've revealed your trump card, don't blame me for being rude." Wang Luo Jing's tiny hand turned, revealing a strange-looking flute in her hand, which she started to play while swiftly retreating.

The high-pitched sound was extremely piercing.

However, in the sensory system of the Purple Crystal Spirit Bees, it was a clear and distinct command.

"Buzzing."

A swarm of Purple Crystal Spirit Bees flew onto the battlefield, swarming around Zhao Dingteng, seeking opportunities to attack.

Zhao Dingteng was suddenly thrown into panic, swinging his Octagonal Hammer frantically, but to no avail against the Purple Crystal Spirit Bees.

"Insect Master!"

Zhao Jinxian and others exclaimed in shock. Everyone had heard that the Wang family had an Insect Master. However, due to the secrecy maintained by the Wang family and their allies, people only knew that the Wang family had hidden an Insect Master.

What they hadn't expected was that the Insect Master was a little girl, and coincidentally, it was the same little girl who was fighting Zhao Dingteng!

"This is bad. Dingteng is at a disadvantage against the Spirit Bees." Zhao Jinxian's face was extremely grim.

No surprise there.

Zhao Dingteng's combat style was to attack openly with brute force. He was already at a disadvantage against a faster opponent. Now, he was facing a fast Insect Master. How could he fight if he couldn't get close?

Use the Octagonal Hammer to hit Spirit Bees?

He was completely countered.

"Dingteng, admit defeat," sighed Zhao Jinxian.

Naturally, Zhao Dingteng was extremely frustrated. He couldn't even touch the Spirit Bees with his hammer, so he really didn't stand a chance. Just as he was about to surrender...

All of a sudden.

More than a dozen Purple Crystal Spirit Bees bravely charged up. Zhao Dingteng hurriedly swung his hammer, managing to kill a few. The remaining Spirit Bees headed directly towards his face, or rather, his mouth.

"Ah!"

Zhao Dingteng screamed, but the scream ceased after a few breaths. His mouth and cheeks were numb and swollen, resembling a pig's head. He couldn't utter a single sound.

"Give up when you can't win?" Wang Luo Jing sneered, "Did you ask for my opinion?"

She flicked her sleeve, and several centipedes, scorpions, and other poisonous insects scurried at high speed towards Zhao Dingteng. Meanwhile, the frequency of her flute playing quickened, urging the attack rhythm of the Spirit Bees and poisonous insects.

The people of the Liu and Zhao clans gasped. This girl was cruel, she was using such vicious means to prevent Zhao Dingteng from surrendering. Was she trying to completely kill him off?

"Girl, you're bold!" The Zhao clan members shouted angrily.

"Fair competition, you dare to interfere." The members of the Wang family also roared in rage, rushing forward. If the Zhao clan made a rash move, they would not let it go.

Even Wang Shouzhe was leading the rush. His longsword was cold; in case of conflict, it would be a lethal weapon for decapitating heads.

Today, Wang Shouzhe didn't mind igniting a real war between the two sides, especially when they had lost the moral high ground.

Profound Martial world has its own laws, even unspoken rules.

In a fair battle, the losing side can surrender, which is one of the unspoken rules.

But, intervening in a fair competition and interfering in fights is against these unspoken rules. The consequence of breaking these rules is a loss of reputation and humiliation.

Those who interfere can even be killed, and the Daqian Law would turn a blind eye.

Faced with the Wang family's blockade, the Zhao clan hesitated.

Meanwhile, Zhao Jinxian, both sad and helpless, cried out, "Old Ancestor!"

Zhao Dingteng was already rolling on the ground. No matter how robust his physique, he was only at Level Three of the Qi Refinement Realm. How could he withstand multiple poisons?

The most terrifying thing was that Zhao Dingteng couldn't even scream to surrender.

Everyone felt a chill run down their spines, even the spectators were silent.

The seemingly fragile and beautiful little girl was utterly terrifying and cruel.

Especially Liu Yonghao, who had his ribs broken earlier, felt extremely fortunate upon seeing this scene. He was so glad he had lost at rock-paper-scissors. Otherwise, wouldn't he be the one rolling on the ground, being tormented by poisonous insects?

In the midst of this.

Inside the carriage of the Liu and Zhao clans, which had been quiet so far, an intimidating and formidable force suddenly erupted.

With Zhao Jinxian's cry, Old Ancestor Bojun couldn't sit still any longer, giving the Zhao clan a sigh of relief.

"Wang youngster, how dare you!"

With a roar, an elder dressed in grand robes flew up and headed straight for the battlefield, his hawk-like eyes filled with ruthlessness. He dived down and reached out to grab Wang Luo Jing.

"You're such a tender age, yet you have a vicious heart. I must handle you!"

Old Ancestor Bojun's thinking was straightforward. Regardless of the situation with suppressing Wang Longyan today, disabling a little girl who was an Insect Master would undoubtedly bring greater benefits. Even if his actions were seen as unbecoming of an Old Ancestor, leading to criticisms and potential legal risks under the Daqian Law.

However, as an Old Ancestor, if he lost his face and disabled a little girl at Level Two of the Qi Refinement Realm without killing her outright...

Would the local government dare to behead him?

If an Old Ancestor shamelessly broke the rules, he could sometimes be tricky to deal with.

But today, Old Ancestor Bojun was bound for disappointment.

Almost simultaneously with Old Ancestor Bojun's action, a domineering aura of a powerhouse burst forth from behind Wang Shouzhe. A towering figure charged toward Old Ancestor Bojun.

He threw a punch at Old Ancestor Bojun. This punch contained an incredibly terrifying explosive force. The golden Qi condensed and never dissipated, as if he wanted to hammer the invisible space to explode.

At the same time, a sarcastic shout rang out.

"Zhao Bojun, you, a venerable Old Ancestor, are so shameless. Did you ask for my permission?"

Chapter 90 Stripping Reputation! Desperately Stripping

...

That single punch.

It collided directly with the claw of Elder Bojun.

"Boom!"

The two forces clashed, causing a shockwave to spread in all directions.

Elder Bojun, floating in the air, tumbled backward for more than ten feet before he managed to stabilize himself. A flush of embarrassment crossed his face momentarily, a clear indication that he was at a disadvantage. Slowly, he descended to the ground, his face filled with extreme anger, "It's you, Gongsun Meng!"

Zhao Clan's main base was just across from the Gongsun Clan in Shanyang. He had come across Gongsun Meng twice before, and they were not strangers to each other.

After scoring a hit, Elder Meng plummeted to the ground like a sledgehammer, his feet creating a crater on the bluestone pavement.

He lifted the hood from his gray robe and sneered, "Zhao Bojun, you disregarded the rules of sparring and attacked a twelve-year-old child. Once the news gets out, your reputation will be in ruins."

"You..." Elder Bojun was so angry that he almost spat out the blood he was holding back, "Gongsun Meng, don't you dare slander me. I just prevented that girl from killing my great-grandson out of sheer concern."

Gongsun Meng was just provoking him, and knowing that he couldn't confront a respected elder if the incident didn't escalate, he seized the opportunity to discredit the Zhao Clan's reputation. He then loudly declared, "Righteousness will inevitably prevail. Everyone here today witnessed what your clan has done, and it will be widely publicized."

Elder Bojun took a deep breath and said in a low voice, "Regardless of who's right or wrong in our dispute with the Wang family, it isn't your place as Shanyang people to interfere. Are you trying to start a family war?"

Gongsun Meng burst into laughter, "Zhao Bojun, don't pin such a big hat on me. I merely came to visit my great-grandson Wang Shouzhe during my leisure time. You and the Liu Clan happened to crash in, and I coincidentally disapproved of your bullying of a twelve-year-old girl. If you want to spar, I'm ready anytime."

Elder Bojun was somewhat suspicious doubting.

Normally, they had come to the Wang Family on a last-minute joint mission to pressure and provoke, and Gongsun Meng wouldn't have had time to arrive even if he had heard the news.

Could it be...

Did Gongsun Meng really just happen to be visiting?

However, he knew that this was not the time to argue with Gongsun Meng. Seeing his great-grandson still writhing on the ground, he immediately shouted in anger, "You audacious Wang child, since Zhao Dingteng has already been defeated, why are you still torturing him with poisonous insects?"

Just as Wang Luo Jing was about to speak, Wang Shouzhe stepped in front of her, and said calmly and politely, "In a friendly spar, mutual harm is inevitable. Besides, that Zhao Dingteng is as robust as a bull, formidable and resolute, and has never admitted defeat throughout the fight.

Naturally, he's considered to be still in combat with my sister, and it's possible he might counterattack at any moment. It's perfectly reasonable and a matter of course for my sister to continue attacking in order to win the spar."

"Very well, you junior, dare to be so presumptuous and talk so wildly in front of an elder. Is this the poor upbringing of your Wang family?" Elder Bojun was livid.

"I'm sorry. I, Wang Shouzhe, am just an ordinary man but also the Clan Leader of the Wang family. I'm not a junior of your family who can be scolded at your will," Wang Shouzhe said calmly, "As for being presumptuous, the clan leaders of the Liu and Zhao Clans, Liu Shengye, and Zhao Jinxian, have been audaciously calling out Wang Longyan.

Me not calling you Elder Zhao out of respect, shows my restraint."

Old Ancestor Bojun was so angry that his whole body was shaking: "Wang Shouzhe, do you intend not to let go of my great grandson?"

"The battle is still underway, so it's not up to me to make the decision." Wang Shouzhe turned his head and said, "Luo Jing, you and Zhao Dingteng continue to fight with all due efforts, don't let the reputation of our Wang family down. By the way, I found Zhao Dingteng has extraordinary talent and strong willpower, and he may possess some kind of Bloodline War Body.

You need to be extra careful and don't let an upset necessarily happen."

"Yes, fourth brother." Wang Luo Jing obediently responded, followed by her serious and solemn expression. She continued playing the Worm flute, leading a variety of poisonous worms and spiritual bees to attack Zhao Dingteng.

Seeing the siblings speak such blatant lies in such a serious manner, Old Ancestor Meng couldn't help but shudder. Earlier, based on Shouzhe's various words, he always felt that Grand Aunt Longyan and Gongsun Hui might have exaggerated their claims.

Now it seems that they perhaps understated Wang Shouzhe. Suddenly, he reminded them: "Remember, this is just a competition. Be careful not to cause any fatalities." As soon as he said this, he himself felt his level of rhetorical bluntness had hit a new record.

"Yes, Old Ancestor Meng." Wang Luo Jing respectfully replied when she had a moment.

Not far away, the siblings Liu Yuanrui and Liu Ruolei swallowed hard. Their brother Shouzhe, who usually appeared gentlemanly and elegant, was truly terrifying when he became serious. That Zhao Dingteng was in real trouble.

"Youngsters, you're truly bold." Old Ancestor Bojun burst into bitter laughter. "Gongsun Meng, if you're going to protect these youngsters today, don't blame us for including you in the fight. Old Brother Zhide, at this point, aren't you ready to take action?"

His words barely subsided when-

The curtain of another carriage was opened, and a simply-dressed, white-bearded old man slowly walked out. He didn't display his Spirit Platform Realm ability to fly, but chose to walk instead.

However, with each step he took, it seemed he moved many yards, as if he was shrinking the ground beneath him.

His face was ruddy, his white hair floating in the wind. His clothes swayed with a breeze, giving the impression of a venerable, land-bound immortal. In a few breaths, he arrived in front of everyone.

The Liu Clan's Old Ancestor, Liu Zhide.

"Liu Zhide, greetings to Old Ancestor Meng." Old Man Zhide slightly nodded his head.

"Gongsun Meng, greetings to Old Ancestor Zhide." Since the other party was polite, Gongsun Meng, naturally, would not let the manners of the Prominent Family falter and returned the salutation in kind.

Old Man Zhide nodded, calmly saying, "Since Old Ancestor Meng is here, I understand your protectiveness over your offspring. But I believe you are misunderstanding our Liu and Zhao Clans."

"Our Liu and Zhao Clans have had a misunderstanding with the Wang Clan, but in the end, we all are supported by the protection of Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan, and hence share the same roots. We should be watching over each other, helping each other.

It's regrettable that it has come to this stage." Old Man Zhide calmly said, "so how about this, as long as Wang Clan's Leader Wang Shouzhe promises not to interfere in our territories, and dismisses the peasants he recruited, we can put this past us."

Old Ancestor Meng looked towards Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Shouzhe stepped forward, with a serious expression, he declared loudly: "Our Ping'an Wang Family, and the Liu and Zhao Clans have different ancestral roots, so we can't be said to share the same roots. Moreover, The Peaceful Corner is the human habitat that Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan and the ancestors of the Wang family sacrificed their lives to defend."

"If we, as descendants, turned a blind eye to other people spoiling the foundation of our ancestors, wouldn't we be disgraceful descendants unworthy of our ancestors?"

This speech made a persuasive case, resonating with the Wang family, as well as the majority of the onlookers.

Wang Shouzhe spoke solemnly, "I have a suggestion. Perhaps our Wang family, the Liu Clan, and the Zhao Clan should join hands. Jointly provide disaster relief and help the innocent people of Ping'an Town get through this arduous ordeal. On behalf of the twenty thousand citizens of Ping'an Town, I, Wang Shouzhe, hereby thank Old Ancestors Zhide and Bojun."

Having said that, Wang Shouzhe stood up, clasped his hands in a bow, and deeply bent over in respect.

"Well said, the Wang family truly carries the virtues of benevolence and righteousness." "They are indeed the worthy descendants of Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan."

"For the sake of twenty thousand citizens, the Clan Leader of the Wang family is ready to set aside past grudges and salute their adversaries with such great courtesy. This truly is magnanimity and benevolence." "If they can guide the Liu and Zhao Clans back onto the right path, it would indeed be a great merit."

Touched by Wang Shouzhe's words, the onlookers started envisioning a "better future."

The members of the Wang family looked at each other in surprise. Is the family head truly considering collaborating with the Liu and Zhao Clans for disaster relief? This doesn't seem like him at all, does it?

Only Zhao Bojun and Liu Zhde could truly comprehend how Wang Shouzhe's words and actions made them feel; how disgusted and sickened they felt.

This lad has real malice in his heart.

What gives a youngster like you the right to speak for the twenty thousand residents of Ping'an Town? Who do you think you are really?

If they refuse to participate in the disaster relief with everyone watching, their reputation will surely plummet. But if they agree, won't they simply be swords in the hands of that lad? They would be doing all the challenging and tedious tasks under the leadership of the Wang family. Are they supposed to serve as vassal families?

Either way, they are in a jam.

Looking at Zhao Bojun and Liu Zhde, feeling sick to their stomachs, is exactly what they wanted.

The sicker they became, the more comfortable Wang Shouzhe felt inside.

Boosting reputation!

I've indeed claimed the moral high ground. I'm indeed using the name of twenty thousand citizens to pressure you. Regardless of whether they submit or not, Wang Shouzhe's goal has been achieved.

They dare to stir trouble in the main residence of the Wang family today, they should be prepared to play the role of some "reputation monsters."

From start to end, Wang Shouzhe intended to exploit their reputation, wave after wave of it.

Once he got hold of them, there's no way he would let go easily. From inside out, he would creatively exploit their reputation to the fullest.

Seeing such a sight, Wang Shouzhe wanted to pull out his tiny system notebook for personal and family reputation value data and greatly adjust it upwards—if he wasn't considering the occasion.

At the least, the "Town Reputation" column was about to max out, reaching a full 100 points.

Old Ancestors Bojun and Zhide exchanged a glance, both seeing regret in each other's eyes.

If they had known that the land merge would give the Wang family and Wang Shouzhe such a chance to spin it, becoming a never-ending narrative, they would never have taken that step.

But now that things have gotten to this point, there was no use regretting.

They had to proceed and let their fists do the talking. As long as they completely suppress the Wang family this time, who in Ping'an Town would dare to criticize the Liu and Zhao Clans?

The eyes of Old Ancestors Bojun and Zhide gradually hardened, they blocked Old Ancestor Meng on the left and the right. While they did not want to fight with Old Ancestor Meng, since he was obstructing the Liu and Zhao Clans' retreat, they had no choice but to suppress him first.

"Zhao Bojun from the Zhao Clan requests guidance from Old Ancestor Meng."

"Liu Zhde from the Liu Clan requests guidance from Old Ancestor Meng."

Everyone was dumbstruck, the crowd too was dumbfounded. The duo, great Old Ancestors, going as far as ganging up on one Old Ancestor in front of everyone—they've truly lost all shame.

Sure enough, one becomes invincible when they've lost all shame.

"Hehe~ Gongsun Meng of the Gongsun Clan, please enlighten me." With a serious expression, Old Ancestor Meng prepared for battle, there's no room for him to back down now.

Suddenly!

"Hum!"

A melodious sword chime rang, echoing as if there was a resonance in everyone's ears.

Simultaneously, an illusory light shadow rapidly approached from a distance, like a roaming dragon, chopping towards Old Ancestor Zhide.

Old Ancestor Zhide was shocked and rapidly retreated, narrowly escaping the sudden sword strike.

"Whoosh!"

The illusory sword light flickered, a white whisker fluttered against the wind and then spun back as if it were a spiritual object floating before Old Ancestor Meng.

The sword, light as smoke, emitted an ethereal and illusive beauty.

"The Dragon Smoke Sword!"

The faces of Old Ancestor Zhide and Old Ancestor Bojun changed drastically out of fear. They were reminded of what occurred many years ago!

At the same time, a gentle, cool, and ethereal female voice echoed.

"Liu Zhide, Zhao Bojun. Where did you get the audacity to suppress me, Wang Longyan?"