

Protect OCL VL2 21

Chapter 21 Shocking! There are direct line successors everywhere

...

"My apologies, everyone." Wang Shouye continued to greet the peddlers and independent cultivators around him. With a warm smile on his face, he apologized sincerely, "I'm at fault for delaying everyone's journey. Please forgive me."

"Seventh Young Master, you are too polite."

"Yes, yes, these are trivial matters."

"We are not in a hurry, there's nothing serious being delayed. It's your journey, Seventh Young Master, that truly matters."

Everyone was flattering the Seventh Young Master with cheerful words. Clearly, he held a prestigious position in their minds.

Regardless, Wang Shouye continued to greet everyone he could.

Eventually, he turned to the elder and Wang Shouyue, having noticed their extraordinary presence. He briefly studied them but didn't say much. Smiling, he gave them a slight bow. "I have caused you both a delay."

His demeanor was remarkable, his gentlemanly performance was as pleasant as a spring breeze, greatly increasing likability.

Over time, more people have begun to visit the prosperous Wang Family, Wang Shouye thought.

"No problem, no problem." The elder smiled, "Seventh Young Master, your movement technique is impressive, quite refined and mature."

"Too kind, too kind. My technique is average at best, far inferior compared to my elder brothers and sisters in the family." Wang Shouye replied honestly.

Even though it was true.

No visible change appeared on the elder or Wang Shouye's faces, but internally they found it hard to believe.

How could a youngster possess such advanced technique and a high level of cultivation, without being a Spiritual Platform seed in his family?

Could the declining Ping'an Wang Family possibly find the resources to foster two successors for the Spiritual Platform stage?

Hence, they assumed he was merely being modest.

At the same time,

Peddlers, visitors, and independent cultivators who are familiar with the Wang Family, started to share tales about the Seventh Young Master, Wang Shouye.

Seventh Young Master Wang Shouye, from a young age, studied the art of alchemy in the Danfang of the Xu Family in Changning.

Despite his young age, he had already become a Level One Alchemist.

Furthermore, because the Seventh Young Master is good-looking, modest, and has a graceful demeanor, he is widely admired and favored by the younger generation in Changning.

Many young ladies from prominent families have set their sights on him, frequently visiting the Xu Family Danfang under the pretense of buying medicines or seeking medical consultation. Some even brought alchemy materials, insisting that the Seventh Young Master help with their alchemy, explicitly stating that he would not be held accountable if the process failed.

This situation left the person in charge of Danfang quite perplexed. While their business improved overall, other resident alchemists began to voice complaints.

Why did everyone ask Wang Shouye for alchemy?

Could the prowess of this young lad, Wang Shouye, really surpass their vast experience?

Was, being good-looking and hailing from a good family, proof that the elixirs he refined were also better?

That Wang Shouye was able to become a Level One Alchemist at such a young age was simply because his family was too wealthy. They allowed him to squander medicinal herbs without worrying about the cost.

His skill was completely a result of endless resources.

However, as soon as these "rumors" were spread, those few alchemists were ambushed in an alley by a group of young ladies from prominent families, thrown into sacks, and ruthlessly beaten.

There are countless similar bizarre stories.

Clearly, Wang Shouye, the Seventh Young Master, had quite a reputation in Changning.

Upon hearing these stories,

The elder and Wang Shouye shared a glance, both somewhat puzzled.

Has the Ping'an Wang Family really declined to the point where they have to send the inheritor of their direct lineage to learn alchemy at someone else's Danfang?

Typically,

Successors from prominent families rarely dedicate themselves to mastering a certain craft. They have too many other things to learn.

In addition, they are required to diligently cultivate in order to impact the Spirit Platform Stage as soon as possible. Dedicating time to a side pursuit would delay their cultivation.

But let it be, there is no need to overthink. The Ping'an Wang Family must have their own plans.

Neither of them was in a hurry to approach Wang Shouye and introduce themselves as relatives.

While they were somewhat shocked by his impressive skills, they felt it was only normal.

After all, even though the Wang Family was in decline, it was still possible for them to cultivate a successor of this level if they gritted their teeth and bore the cost.

Especially Wang Shouyue, he was only two to three years older than Wang Shouye. Being at the peak of the Qi Refinement Realm level seven, he felt that he might have a chance to impact the Spiritual Platform Stage before he turned thirty.

With a slightly proud mindset, when compared to Wang Shouye, the successor of the direct lineage from the Ping'an Wang Family, Wang Shouyue seemed somewhat "ordinary".

Just at this moment,

A cargo ship fully loaded with goods like smoked fish and dried salted fish was slowly approaching the shore. The boatload of fish was obviously highly valuable.

The leader on the ship was a lean young man around twenty-five or twenty-six. Upon seeing Wang Shouye, he exclaimed excitedly, "Young Master, you're back to Ping'an? You didn't even come back during the New Year. Sea Lord will be thrilled to hear that you're back."

"Oh, it's Brother Goudan." Wang Shouye shouted from afar, "How has my father been recently? I haven't seen him for a long time." Wang Goudan, from a cadet branch of the Wang Family, had been following his father around since he was young.

"Sea Lord is very energetic!" Wang Goudan replied cheerfully, "Over the past two months, he has been focusing on a Level Three aquatic fierce beast that invaded our waters. He says he wants to catch it to nourish your body."

Wang Shouye couldn't help laughing: "My father loves fishing most. It seems he'll never get over this hobby." Nowadays, his father, Wang Dinghai, was in charge of all the fishing fleets and no longer needed to be personally involved.

As they conversed, the ferry gradually left the pier and slowly sailed towards the center of the river.

Chapter 21 Shocking! There are direct line successors everywhere

This conversation made Wang Shouyue frown involuntarily.

His father fishing? Could the Ping'an Wang Family have actually fallen into such dire straits?

Could it be that the Family Head of the direct lineage has to go fishing himself?

And he's even targeting a Level Three aquatic fierce beast! This is too much of an exaggeration.

A Level Three aquatic fierce beast is extremely powerful, more tricky to deal with than a land beast of the same level. One wrong move, and it could spell disaster.

Everyone knows this, even two or three Elders of the Spiritual Platform wouldn't dare to attack a Level Three aquatic fierce beast lightly.

Wang Shouyue pondered deeply, somewhat looking down on the Ping'an Wang Family.

After that, there was silence.

The ferry gradually crossed the river, finally reaching Dingpu Ferry in Ping'an Town.

"Huh?"

The ferry of the Ping'an Wang Family was clearly much different from the Changning Ferry. No, to be precise, they were worlds apart.

The Changning Ferry was dilapidated and old, fitting Wang Shouyue's imagination of a rural ferry. But this Dingpu Ferry exceeded his expectations.

There were huge wooden buildings everywhere, neat, clean, and somewhat majestic.

Both the ferry attendants and disembarking passengers maintained order and clarity, unlike the chaotic huddling at Changning Ferry.

Such orderliness was quite rare in Longzuo County, it didn't carry a trace of rural atmosphere.

The elder and Wang Shouyue looked at each other, somewhat baffled.

"Grandfather, you've been here before, right?" Wang Shouyue murmured.

"Over twenty years ago." The old man replied, equally puzzled.

Twenty years ago, Dingpu Ferry was desolate, how did it become so prosperous in the blink of an eye?

It looked like a thriving small town.

As they were struggling to understand, people started to disembark and they figured out that they had to register to enter Ping'an Town.

Hearing the chatter, it felt as strict as if they were entering the Prefecture Mansion, not Ping'an Town.

At this time, Wang Shouye, who had an identity token of the Wang Family's offspring, was the first to pass through the security checkpoint.

A younger, robust lad had been waiting at the checkpoint. As soon as he saw Wang Shouye, he came forward excitedly and greeted, "Uncle Qi, I received your letter and had been waiting for you. Why are you so late, were you entangled by those admiring ladies again?"

The young man was about sixteen or seventeen years old, tall and robust, looking sturdy like a young calf.

"Zongsheng, you're growing bigger and bolder, even daring to joke with your Uncle Qi." Wang Shouye hit him lightly with a laugh, "The cultivation pills your second uncle entrusted me to give you, I'm confiscating all of them."

The young man was called Wang Zongsheng, the eldest son of Wang Shouyi, who was in charge of the fish stall and the entire fishing industry of Ping'an. His maternal family and Wang Shouye's were both from the Xu Clan of Jinsha. They were of similar age and had been on good terms since childhood.

"Uncle Qi, I was wrong." Wang Zongsheng quickly apologized earnestly, "I was relying on my father's subsidies to strive for the Qi Refinement Realm Level Seven as soon as possible to catch up with Uncle Qi. Please don't confiscate them."

The two chatted playfully for a bit.

However, the elder and Wang Shouyue, who were not far away, were both taken aback and found it hard to believe.

That kid named Zongsheng, he should be from the Zong generation of the Ping'an Wang Family, right?

He looked young, but was already planning to reach the Qi Refinement Realm Level Seven?

How was that possible?

Upon closer inspection, it turned out that the young man was not lying, he had already reached the mid Level Six of the Qi Refinement Realm.

This was simply unbelievable!

Could it be that this kid was the real successor of the direct lineage?

Especially Wang Shouyue, he was extremely shocked. The kid seemed to be no worse than him back then.

This was simply baffling.

Subsequently, the elder and Wang Shouyue started to register like the people ahead, eager to find out which of the two young men was the successor of the direct lineage.

Unexpectedly, the registration staff questioned, "Your name is Wang Shouyue? Are you a descendent of the Ping'an Wang Family?"

"My name is Wang Shouyue, but I'm a descendent of the direct line of Longzuo Wang Family," Wang Shouyue explained seriously.

Then, the staff member turned to the elder with caution, "Your name is Wang Xiaozheng, of the Wang Family Xiaozheng lineage?"

"Correct," Wang Xiaozheng replied.

The staff member then yelled, "Lead, leader, come here quick. Someone's impersonating the descendants of our Master Wang's family."

Impersonate?

Wang Xiaozheng and Wang Shouyue were taken aback, when had they ever pretended to be descendants of the Wang Family?

But before they could speak, a group of soldiers rushed over, with several Profound Martial Generals commanding from behind with grave expressions.

Impersonating members of the Wang Family was a major taboo. Such a heinous act hadn't occurred in Ping'an Town for a long time.

Wang Shouye and Wang Zongsheng ran over, ready to take action immediately.

The elder, Wang Xiaozheng, quickly shouted, "Don't misunderstand, we didn't impersonate. We are from the Longzuo Wang Family, not the Ping'an Wang family."

"What Longzuo Wang Family? Are you from the Longyou Wang Family?" The leading Profound Martial General shouted angrily, "Surrender first, we'll discuss the matter inside."

Several soldiers then pressed on, pointing their spears and halberds at them.

Chapter 21 Shocking! There are direct line successors everywhere

"What a bold move." Wang Shouyue's angry voice echoed. "We are the Longzuo Wang Family, the main branch of your Ping'an Wang Family."

As a direct descendant of a celestial being's prominent family and the future successor of the family, when has he ever been treated with such insolence?

Just when both parties are about to clash.

Wang Shouye steps forward to intervene: "Wait." He then looks at the elder and Wang Shouyue with questioning eyes. "Are you guests of the Longzuo Wang family?"

The younger generation may not be familiar with the Longzuo Wang family, but they at least know such a family exists.

Just as Wang Shouyue is about to speak, Wang Xiaozheng interrupts him. He personally says to Wang Shouye: "Seventh Prince, you must be aware of our Longzuo Wang family. I kindly request that these soldiers step back to avoid any misunderstandings."

As he says this, Wang Xiaozheng takes out a family token and hands it to Wang Shouye.

Wang Shouye, however, doesn't understand.

But he's smart, so he considers in secret that regardless of whether these two are from Longzuo Wang family, he can bring them back to the main residence.

If they indeed belong, there won't be any breach of etiquette.

If they don't, they're the unfortunate ones; there are powerful people in his family who can deal with them.

And so, Wang Shouye dismisses the soldiers, welcomes them according to etiquette, invites them into the Wang family's carriage, and heads towards the Wang family's main residence.

Their own accompanying carriage is driven by the carriage driver to follow suit.

Almost at the same time.

A few hawk-like gray birds fly out flutteringly. Clearly, in no time, the Wang family's main residence would receive this news and make a judgment accordingly.

The carriage ride remains silent.

After more than an hour, the elegant elder Wang Xiaozheng, barely suppressing his curiosity, asks: "Which one of you two young princes is the direct-line heir of the Wang family?"

Both Wang Shouye and Wang Zongsheng are stunned at the same time.

Uh...

Dear elder, from where did you perceive our nephew and uncle pair to have the qualities of a direct-line?

They shake their heads in tandem: "Neither of us."

How is that possible?

Both Wang Xiaozheng and Wang Shouyue show confusion on their faces, shocked.

Is this a joke? Such excellent young men are not the direct-line successors of the family?

A short pause later, Wang Shouyue chuckles and says: "Seventh prince, you are likely the direct-line heir, right? One can tell from your demeanor and bearing."

Wang Shouye who admires his fourth brother the most, quickly shakes his head and says: "How can I, Shouye, be worthy enough to be compared with Fourth Brother?"

Wang Zongsheng also quickly shakes his head, they can't be compared, can't be compared.

"Fourth Brother?" Wang Shouyue looks puzzled.

"That's right. In our Ping'an Wang family, my Fourth Brother is the direct-line heir, the Clan Leader of this generation," Wang Shouye says honestly. "When you meet my Fourth Brother later, you'll understand."

At the same time, his eyes reveal the admiration he holds for his fourth brother, an imposing figure he will look up to for his entire life.

Both Wang Xiaozheng and Wang Shouyue exchange astonished looks. Could it be that the Fourth Brother mentioned is even more outstanding than these two young princes?

Is that even possible?

Especially Wang Shouyue, who can't help but secretly ponder whether this so-called Fourth Brother is simply someone who carries the direct-line's bloodline and may not be particularly exceptional.

He has no choice but to think this way.

The two young men in front of him are already remarkable.

If there indeed exists an even stronger Fourth Brother, won't that mean he, Wang Shouyue, is inferior?

Just as he is engrossed in his thoughts, a flurry of hoofbeats sounds from a fork in the road ahead.

Everyone lifts the curtain of the carriage to see a group of knights galloping from another branch of the fork, behind them pulling a small cart carrying an enormous beast's corpse. The beast, presumably weighing several hundred pounds, seems to be a Level Two Fierce Beast.

And the beast, its head pierced by a sharp arrow, is obviously killed in one blow.

The leading knight, riding a black steed, is remarkably an elegant-looking young woman.

As the hooves tear through the wind, the lady's red Profound Martial suit ripples magnificently in the wind. She is truly an impressive figure, almost like a heroine.

The moment the female knight spots the carriage, along with Wang Shouye and Wang Zongsheng peeking out, she immediately rides forward to greet them.

She cracks her whip in the air.

"Pop!"

She jokes in a hearty tone: "Seventh Brother, you didn't even come home for the New Year. Did the pretty young ladies of Changning's guards dazzle you so much that you've forgotten about your Fourth Sister?"

"Fourth Sister..." Wang Shouye's face drops, he quickly gets off the carriage, bows respectfully with a bitter smile, "Even you've started to tease me?"

Seeing this vibrant woman, Wang Shouyue becomes excited and stunned.

This beautiful and heroic woman seems only about twenty-four or twenty-five, with deep and unfathomable cultivation base, he even can't see through her.

Moreover, looking at the strong bow and sharp arrows hanging on the side of her steed, it could be inferred that she personally shot that Level Two Fierce Beast.

For a moment, Wang Shouyue's heart is turmoil; he's unable to stay calm.

What on earth is going on with this Ping'an Wang family?

Chapter 22 Lament! How Unfair is the Heaven_1

...

Wasn't it said that the Ping'an Wang Family is just a downtrodden minor clan?

How come these young folks are all so impressive?

Even the female members are awe-inspiring, having the demeanor of Spiritual Platform pursuits.

This demeanor... even his Longzuo Wang family can't achieve, can they?

Is he dreaming? Or suffering some kind of illusion...

Wang Shouyue can't wrap his head around it.

The invigourating woman looked Wang Shou Ye up and down and couldn't help but laugh: "Who can blame our Seventh Elder, with his striking good looks? His 'scandalous reputation' has already spread all over Changning. I've heard that several prominent families have already secretly sent people to propose a marriage alliance with our family."

The Profound Martial families have a custom of proposing marriage, but it's usually the man's family that proposes to the woman's. Only if the girl has taken a shine to a certain young man and insistently requests, will the girl's family shamelessly do the asking.

Upon hearing this, Wang Shou Ye was at a loss for words, looking deeply troubled. He had no desire for a wife - too much trouble.

At this moment, Wang Zongsheng also quickly jumped off the coach, and respectfully greeted the invigourating woman: "Fourth Aunt, Zongsheng greets you."

The woman looked Wang Zongsheng up and down and she couldn't help but criticize: "It's just been a few days since I last saw you and your muscles have grown considerably. Let me tell you this, as a young man, you should aspire to be like your Seventh Uncle, elegant, scholarly, and dashing, in

order to attract the ladies. If you keep bulking up this way, you probably won't be able to find a wife."

Wang Zongsheng grinned bitterly. What use was a wife to him?

Quickly changing the subject, he said, "Fourth Aunt, did you just go hunting Fierce Beasts? Your archery skills are truly impressive, killing with one arrow."

Speaking of this matter...

The woman had somewhat of a proud look in her eyes, but she nonchalantly said: "It was just a Level Two Fierce Bird that it turned out to be quite stupid and not cautious enough. It actually dared to cross the mountains to hunt in Wang's territory and disturbed the common folk. How could it have possibly escaped?"

"Regardless of the fact that it was only a Level Two Fierce Bird, the admirable fact that you ended its life with one arrow couldn't be overlooked." Wang Shouyue joined in the conversation with the woman once he alighted from the coach. Wang Xiaozheng followed closely behind.

As soon as the woman noticed the presence of strangers, she composed herself in an instant and returned the courtesy, asking: "And this young master is?"

"My name is Wang Shouyue, of the direct line of the Longzuo Wang family." Wang Shouyue replied, sporting an elegant and gentlemanly demeanor, "Might I inquire as to the lady's name?"

Longzuo Wang family? From the 'Shou' generation?

The woman looked somewhat surprised, but she responded with solemnity without straying from manners, "So you are Master Wang Shouyue. My name is Wang Luotong. Nice meeting you, Master Wang."

"Miss Ruotong, with such extraordinary talents, must be a noble lady of the direct lineage from the Wang family, correct?" Wang Shouyue questioned again, "May I ask if Miss Ruotong is a direct disciple of the Purple Abode Academic Palace? If so, who is your master?"

His guess wasn't without reason.

This lady named Wang Luotong, regardless of her demeanor or her cultivation base, was indeed extraordinary.

If she was a disciple of the Academic Palace, she should be able to contend for core disciple status.

Even when compared to their Celestial family's carefully impassioned successors, she wasn't lacking in any aspect.

It was presumable that she was at least an excellent disciple within the Academic Palace, right?

"The Purple Abode Academic Palace?" Wang Luotong chuckled self-mockingly, "With my level, it's better not to disgrace myself in the palace. It's wiser for me to barely scrape by back in the family. And, I'm not of the direct lineage."

"What?"

How was that possible? Wang Shouyue looked visibly surprised.

Such a gifted woman, not nurtured by the Academic Palace?

And the most shocking was that she wasn't from the direct lineage.

Not to say that talented women couldn't come from the collateral branches.

Just that resources within a family were limited. Under similar conditions, the direct line was prioritized first for training to ensure better continuity for the family.

Only when the resources were abundant or the direct line was unfit for training, would the family focus on cultivating disciples from the collateral branches in order to accomplish the Spiritual Platform alternation, or Celestial alternation.

Could the Wang family actually be this resourceful to be willing to nurture a woman from the collateral branches!

Perhaps it was due to this lady's extraordinary talent that the Wang family squeezed out some resources for her training and, along with her natural talent and hard work, led to her achievements.

What a pity, what a pity!

If this lady were to enter the Purple Abode Academic Palace, her achievements wouldn't stop here.

Such a gifted woman born in the Pingan Wang family, her talent was truly wasted.

If she had been with the Longzuo Wang family...

The Old Ancestor would have found a way to send her to the Academic Palace.

And to eagerly provide resources for her, so she could compete for the status of core disciple. Once a core disciple, she would become a pillar of support and be of great benefit to the family's development.

The Longzuo Wang family did have an elder brother in the family who had already joined the Academic Palace and become a core disciple.

Wang Luotong, on one side, was slightly amazed. This guest of the Longzuo Wang family was quite peculiar.

After making a bit of small talk, the guest sank into deep thought.

From time to time, his expressions of frowning, shaking his head, and sighing seemed to signify some kind of regret. His expressions were dynamic and strange.

However, she didn't mind. As long as she maintained politeness towards the longzuo Wang family, it would be enough.

If he loved deep contemplation, then let him be. She resumed her conversation with her brother and nephew.

Perhaps it was because they hadn't seen each other in a long time, both Wang Luotong and Wang Shouye were deep into their conversation.

They discussed some strange and unusual stories.

Especially Wang Shouye, as he casually shared funny incidents that happened in Changning with his fourth sister.

Chapter 22 Lament! How Unfair is the Heaven_2

Hearing this, Wang Luotong burst into a delightful laughter, remarking it to be all rather amusing.

Wang Zongsheng, the younger generation, also chimed in agreement, finding it quite interesting. He shared his plans of moving to the Changning Garrison in a couple of years, to lend a hand at his father, Wang Shouyi's, Ping'an Wang Family's fish stall. This, he said, would help him broaden his horizon.

On one side, Wang Shouyue finally regained his senses.

Listening to these supposedly interesting tales, he found them rather ordinary. Once his innate sense of superiority kicked in, he joined the conversation, speaking mostly of the strange happenings at the Longzuo County Town.

Wang Luotong and others listened with interest, finding it all quite novel and amusing. After all, the communication between Changning Garrison and Longzuo County Town was limited due to the distance.

Turns out, the town of Longzuo County had plenty of interesting happenings.

Observing their intrigued faces,

Wang Shouyue became more engrossed in conversation and pleasantly said, "What you may not know is that around the Longzuo County, a variety of wheat called 'Wang No.7' is being cultivated. This wheat can increase the annual yield by up to forty to fifty percent. The extra profit has exceeded thirty percent from previous years."

"The only regret is that the Wang No.7 wheat variety is hard to find and cannot be re-cultivated. We, the Wang family of Longzuo only managed to secure a few thousand acres of the wheat through some connections."

"Don't know which Wang family has developed such wheat, it surely brings pride to our ancestors. With these wheat and rice varieties, the Wang family must be making huge profits."

There are various Wang families across the Dry country, just in Longzuo County alone there are at least ten to twenty. And looking at the entire country, there are countless families with the surname Wang.

Thus, for a moment, Wang Shouyue did not realize the true owner of these wheat and rice seeds was the Ping'an Wang family.

Wang No. 7 wheat...

Wang Shouye and the others exchanged intrigued glances, revealing strange expressions.

At the same time,

Wang Shouyue continued enthusiastically, "However, we should soon be able to get more of Wang's No. 7 wheat and Wang's No. 9 rice seed. After discussing with my ancestors, we can allocate some to you, the Ping'an Wang family, to improve the yield of your farms."

It shows that despite his candidness and strong sense of superiority, he has a kind heart.

Immediately, Wang Shouye felt quite embarrassed and, not wanting him to continue, hastily changed the subject, "Brother Shouyue, look around these fields."

Wang Shouyue swept his gaze across the neatly planned and tilled fields. The crop of the season was clearly wheat. With the arrival of spring, the wheat sprouts peeped out of the soil. The entire scene was filled with tender green color and was very soothing to eyes.

"The planning and management of Ping'an Town is excellent, very neat and pleasing to the eyes." Wang Shouyue commented, "But I see that there are villages around, these ought to be producer owned farms, what's so special about them?"

"Ahem." After coughing twice, Wang Shouye patiently explained, "Brother Shouyue, these are all Wang's No. 7 wheat."

"What?" Wang Shouyue looked as hit by lightning. His wide-eyed gaze swept over the surroundings. "All these fertile lands are grown with Wang No.7 wheat variety?"

"All of them." Wang Shouye spoke in a low voice, "All civilians in Ping'an Town are cultivating Wang's No. 7 wheat, approximately eighty to ninety thousand acres."

"How would it be possible?" Wang Shouyue took two steps back, seemingly in disbelief. His face turned red as he repeatedly defended himself, "Aren't these all civilian farmlands? How can they be cultivating Wang No. 7 wheat variety?"

"Even if you, the Ping'an Wang family, can access quality seeds, you would only use them in your own fields, right? You wouldn't let the civilians profit!"

They were all relatives and belonged to the same 'Shou' generation.

Wang Shouye couldn't bear to let him continue in embarrassment and softly reminded him, "Brother Shouyue, pay attention to- Wang's No. 7."

"Wang's, Wang's!" The revelation made Wang Shouyue tremble. His face was filled with shock. "This, this! You mean the Wang No.7 wheat was cultivated by our Ping'an Wang family?"

He was speechless.

He just wanted to boast about the progress of Longzuo County and satisfy his sense of superiority; was he asking for too much?

What's wrong with this world? Was he wrong?

Oh Lord, why would you embarrass Wang Shouyue like this!

In an instant, Wang Shouyue's face turned hot red with embarrassment, that he almost wished to burrow into the ground.

In the same amazement, Wang Xiaozheng came to the rescue, saying, "Never could have imagined our Ping'an Wang Family to be so fortunate as to cultivate such superior quality wheat and rice. It really demonstrates the rise of our family."

Members of the Wang Family once again modestly responded saying it's nothing much to boast about.

They all were in the core of the family and knew clearly that Wang's No. 7 wheat and Wang's No. 9 rice were just a variety eliminated by their family.

In the heavily-guarded core farmlands,

the mysterious varieties of wheat and rice being cultivated were the true backbone of their business.

Their high yield and quality were so that the family didn't dare to label them as 'Wang's'; they only managed to sell them to other counties through discreet channels.

Of course, this secret was never revealed. It was the core secret of the Wang family, and even their relatives and allies were not aware of it.

"Dear guests, let's get back in the carriage. Once we reach the main residence, Bro Four will treat you well." Even though they were cousins, Wang Shouye, being a distinguished member of the family, didn't want his guests to feel uncomfortable or embarrassed, so he changed the subject.

Chapter 22 Lament! How Unfair is the Heaven_3

"Fine, fine," Wang Xiaozheng hurriedly said, eager to escort Wang Shouyue back to the carriage.

Yet, Wang Shouyue, after regaining his senses, felt unusually agitated alongside the shock.

A much anticipated show-off of superiority, had ended in such a tragic spectacle.

He seemed to want to salvage some pride.

His brain whirled quickly, "You know about cement and foreign glass, right? These are all new products brought in from overseas. Cement, in particular, is much more functional than oyster cement. In our Longzuo County, many prominent families have already begun using cement for their construction. Even our family, has built a martial training arena with cement.

The ground is as smooth as mirror and much better than bluestone."

Indeed, even though cement is much cheaper than oyster cement, it is still a luxury to use it for ground construction. No wonder Wang Shouyue was somewhat boasting about it.

"This..." Wang Shouye looked helpless and quietly reminded, "Brother Shouyue, look at the road."

The road?

Upon looking, Wang Shouyue's face changed from shock to disbelief. His handsome face contorted, and his lips quivered non-stop.

How could this be possible?

Was the whole road made of cement?

Beads of sweat rolled relentlessly from his forehead.

Now he understood why the journey in the carriage felt so smooth and silky, much more than on a cobblestone road.

He hadn't given it much thought before.

It was extravagant enough to use cement to build a training ground, but to use it for a road...

How wealthy must the Wang family be?

Internally, Wang Shouyue was grimacing.

The key part was his boast had turned into a laughingstock, his face burning in embarrassment.

Wang Xiaozheng silently watched the entire episode unfold.

Although the wheat seeds, rice seeds and cement roads unveiled by the Wang family also shocked him equally.

However, he had warned Wang Shouyue that every competitor was formidable and to proceed with caution while on a journey.

But the boy never took his words seriously.

Well, it's a good lesson to learn. This will spur his growth.

Afterward, Wang Shouyue spoke more carefully. Whenever he encountered something unfamiliar, he would observe it closely first before asking about it.

As they continued on their way.

Wang Xiaozheng and Wang Shouyue's belief were continuously challenged.

Zhuwei Manor, commercial plaza, and a Level Three aquatic spirit beast playing energetically with a bunch of kids by the lake.

All these things seemed inconceivable to them.

After a long journey, they finally arrived at the main residence.

For the two visitors from the Longzuo Wang family, especially Wang Shouyue, they entered a state of complete shock. He felt as if he were the poor relation from a county town visiting his rich relatives in Ping'an Town.

As for Wang Xiaozheng, he was equally uneasy.

He had brought gifts worth two thousand Qian Gold, believing it to be sufficient. But now, he feared it might not be up to the mark. What was he to do?

In the meantime.

Wang Shouzhe, who had received the information early, had already returned from the research center. Following discussion with Longyan and Xiaohan Ancestors, it was decided that Wang Shouzhe and Ancestor Xiaohan would receive the guests from Longzuo.

Wang Shouzhe, in keeping with decorum, waited outside the main gate.

Upon seeing the two guests depart from the carriage, he approached them with a cheerful smile, "Ancestor Xiaozheng and Brother Shouyue, it is an honor to have you here. Please forgive my tardiness in welcoming you."

Wang Luotong had arrived earlier and had informed Wang Shouzhe.

The two men from the Longzuo Wang family immediately pulled themselves together and turned their gaze to Wang Shouzhe. The transformations in Ping'an Town, as they heard from many sources, all seemed to be attributed to his efforts.

This definitely piqued the curiosity of the two men from the Longzuo Wang family towards Wang Shouzhe.

While Wang Shouzhe was looking at Wang Shouyue, he too was being observed by Wang Shouyue.

Their eyes met.

"Oh?" Wang Shouzhe internally nodded, worthy of the Longzuo Wang family, this young lad is rather promising.

He can't be more than twenty-one or twenty-two, right?

Having already reached the Peak Level Seven of Vital Energy Refining Realm, such a person will most likely become a core disciple in the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

Indeed, this boy is commendable, with great potential for advancement.

On the other hand, Wang Shouyue was unable to discern Wang Shouzhe's cultivation strength. But this wasn't surprising considering Shouzhe's age and superior skills.

However, he speculated, Wang Shouzhe should be around the age of twenty-six or twenty-seven, about four-five years older than him, which would put his reasonable guess of Shouzhe's cultivation at a High Level Eight to Peak Level Eight of Vital Energy Refining Realm.

Since Wang Shouzhe had an outstanding reputation, he revised his estimation upward.

He guessed that Shouzhe might be at the Early Section of Level Nine. Yes, it should be about right and it couldn't possibly be any higher.

He secretly pondered, with enough effort, he might have a chance to catch up.

Filled with these thoughts, Wang Shouyue regained his confidence somewhat.

"Hmm? Grandfather, what's wrong with your face?" Suddenly, Wang Shouyue noticed Wang Xiaozheng's astonished face and immediately asked anxiously, "Grandfather, don't tell me, he has already reached Mid Level Nine?"

Wang Xiaozheng's expression gradually changed from shock to a bitter smile as he uttered three words.

"Can't! See! Through!"

Can't see through?

Instantly, Wang Shouyue's face paled. His steps faltered. He was in a daze as he was ushered in and seated for the welcoming banquet.

His mind was filled with those three words, 'can't see through.'

Which signified a conclusion.

It indicated that his cultivation was at least on par with his grandfather who had already reached the Spirit Platform Realm.

Oh, God, are you set on trifling with me, Wang Shouyue?

"Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle!" At the smell of the welcoming banquet, Wang Licui miraculously appeared in the reception hall, sniffing and perfectly at ease, "I heard you're entertaining an important guest, why didn't you allow me to accompany you?"

Wang Shouzhe wiped a cold sweat. Didn't he find a way to keep her away earlier? How did she show up here? He immediately replied, "Licui, there's nothing necessary for you here, I'll invite you for a meal later."

Wang Licui immediately displayed a pitiful face, just like an abandoned puppy.

Eh? This girl seems easy-going and chubby, and doesn't seem to be particularly formidable. Wang Shouyue, whose confidence was trampled on, perked up and suggested, "Brother Shouzhe, we're all family. Let's eat together."

At least having someone who doesn't seem formidable around would ease his battered spirit.

It might even have a healing effect.

Chapter 23 - Careful With Your Words! Who Doesn't Have A Few Poor Relatives?

...

Since the guest insisted.

Wang Shouzhe also couldn't reject him directly, so he had to show a friendly face and say, "Licui, please thank your Uncle Shouyue."

"Thank you, Uncle Shouyue, you're such a good person." Wang Licui gave a naive smile, then excitedly sat down, her mouth watering as she waited for the food to be served.

Wang Shouyue's heart was filled with comfort, because of the sweet sounding "Uncle".

This innocent and naive girl seemed to bring him abundant positive energy, which made his traumatized heart feel as if it was being nurtured by a warm current.

Reassuring!

Indeed, dealing with the weak is stress-free and pleasing.

Wang Xiaozheng, sitting on the side, didn't pay much attention to Wang Licui's cultivation base, as the girl still wore the high-level Restrain Breath Jade.

As for the reason Wang Xiaozheng couldn't discern Wang Shouzhe's cultivation, he too was wearing the Restrain Breath Jade, and this unintentionally intimidated them for a bit.

However, Wang Xiaozheng seemed to be just at the early stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm, having obviously given up on the path to becoming a Celestial Being.

Presumably, he's not a match for Wang Shouzhe.

As for Wang Xiaozheng, he began to reconsider even before they entered. Originally, the gift given on behalf of the Old Ancestor Zhou, was merely worth two thousand Qian Gold.

The remaining seven or eight thousand Qian Gold worth of gifts, were intended to be given to the local prominent individuals, Young Master Chen Shi and Young Master Dantai.

However, now it seems.

This now two thousand Qian Gold gift seems like it has come to slap him in the face.

Grinding his teeth,

Wang Xiaozheng took advantage of his excuse to go to the restroom to alter the gift list. Now he, with a broad smile, presented the updated list: "Master Shouzhe, this is what the Old Ancestor Zhou has asked me to bring for you. There's not much, please don't laugh, and don't laugh."

Showing perfect etiquette, Wang Shouzhe received the gifts with both hands. After taking a glimpse of the list his face broke into a smile: "Wang Family of Longzuo really lives up to the status of a Celestial family. Giving out gifts so generously. This gift... Isn't it worth around five thousand Qian Gold?"

Five thousand Qian Gold?

Accompanying young people, Wang Shouye, Wang Zongwei, and Wang Luotong, were all surprised. They hadn't expected the Wangs of Longzuo to be so generous and bring a gift as valuable as five thousand Qian Gold.

This was far beyond what they had anticipated.

Wang Shouyue also hesitated, originally it was supposed to be two thousand, right? Oh right, it must have been Third Grandfather who saw the situation and immediately added another three thousand.

This additional three thousand Qian Gold were well added, splendidly added. This showcases the power of my Wang's of Longzuo.

His heavily injured ego had suddenly come back to life, seemingly allowing him to express himself while looking elated. Even his expression became radiant.

Just look at the expression of these young boys and girls, they all seemed astonished.

Immediately,

Wang Shouyue, with a smile, paid his respects to Wang Shouzhe: "Fourth Brother Shouzhe, our two families are branches of the same tree and should watch out for each other. This rushed gift of a mere five thousand Qian Gold worth of resources is nothing."

"Uh... it seems it's indeed not that much." Off to the side, Wang Licui honestly mumbled to herself.

In her perspective, if she could convert this five thousand Qian Gold into third-level spirit meat and eat it entirely on her own, she probably wouldn't be able to finish it in several days.

To come all this way just to give five thousand Qian Gold worth of resources...

With that time, they could have formed a team to go hunt a third-level Fierce Beast in the Outlands.

Wang Shouyue's smile immediately froze on his face...

As soon as Wang Licui's words came out, she got fiercely glared at by Wang Shouzhe: "If you dare to talk nonsense again, I'll forbid you from eating spirit food for six months."

"Yes." Wang Shouye, the "senior", also seriously advised Wang Licui, "Little girl, you're still too young to know what it means to 'give a gift that light in weight but heavy with affection.'"

What the heck, a gift that's light in weight but heavy with affection!

Wang Shouyue's frozen smile twitched a few times. What kind of admonishment was that?

"Enough." The only "ancestor" present, Old Ancestor Xiaohan, serious face spoke up, "What do you few youngsters know? Even for a Celestial household, there isn't much left after one year's expenses. Don't ever say: a sated man does not know how a starving man feels."

Uh..

What is this sated man... and a starving man?

At these words,

Not to mention Wang Shouyue, even Wang Xiaozheng's face turned red in embarrassment.

"Alright, alright." Wang Luotong couldn't help but smile and think what a group of tribesfolk they were, with such low emotional intelligence. To mediate, she said, "Everyone pay attention to your words, okay? Which family doesn't have a few poor relatives?"

The two guests from Longzuo wanted to hide under the table.

"..." Wang Shouzhe felt cold sweat. These people should not have been allowed to accompany this meal. If they kept talking, the guests probably would lose all appetite.

As the Clan Leader, he had no choice but to say, "That's enough with the jokes, serve the food."

Following Wang Shouzhe's order,

Xiao Si and the maids placed the prepared spirit food and spiritual wine on the table one by one. The food mainly was some good quality spirit meat and spirit fish from Peace River and the Outer Realms. Treated with the flash-freeze method, the food was considered very fresh.

The bowls and plates used were all of top-quality porcelain. But the glasses for drinking and some special bowls were the traditionally used high-grade glass products, the maids' customary preference.

"This..." Wang Shouyue's eyes glinted, he lifted a crystal-clear glass and said, "Is this an upper-rank foreign glass cup? Even the top-rank isn't this clear, is this perhaps the legendary top quality foreign glass? Fourth Brother Shouzhe is truly bold."

"If Shouyue likes them, take a set with you when you leave, Old Ancestor Xiaozheng can also take a set." Wang Shouzhe said smiling, making people feel like they're bathed in a spring breeze.

"Fourth Brother Shouzhe is really generous, this set in County Town could be sold for two or three hundred Qian Gold." At this point, Wang Shouyue also no longer wanted to compete for superiority.

Chapter 23 - Be Careful With Your Words! Who Doesn't Have A Few Poor Relatives?

Either way, he had figured it out, the Ping'an Wang Family was really too wealthy to consider people's feelings, treating him merely as a poor relative. But once he had the nerve to ignore his pride, he found that the world suddenly became more clear to him.

After that, he and Wang Xiaozheng began to eat in abundance. The ingredients were fresh and delicious, and both the spirit fish and spirit meat tasted extremely fresh, all of them were at least at Level Two, with even some Level Three spirit meats among them.

This made them sigh in astonishment, just this meal alone, wouldn't it cost two to three hundred Qian Gold?

The Ping'an Wang Family of today was indeed not what it used to be, it had become truly extravagant.

But before they had eaten much, they suddenly found that the dishes on the table were almost finished already.

The Wang family seemed to have grown accustomed to this.

Since Wang Licui was present, this meal would not go smoothly.

Wang Shouzhe, who was already prepared, remained calm and commanded once again, "Serve the dishes."

The young servants and maids brought up the second wave of dishes that were already prepared.

Moreover, this wave of dishes was larger, not to mention more substantial!

This shocked the grandfather and grandson of the Wang family of Longzuo once again. So, it turned out that the previous course was just an appetizer?

Their hospitality was indeed extravagant.

Then, in less than half an incense stick's time, Wang Shouzhe once again commanded indifferently, "Serve the dishes."

Then the maids and young servants began to serve the third wave of dishes.

This wave was even larger.

The grandfather and grandson of the Longzuo Wang family were left speechless by the astonishment. They initially thought that the first wave of dishes was extravagant enough, but they hadn't expected a second and third wave.

Finally, they served five courses altogether.

Both of them had eaten until they were full, and they had never indulged so extravagantly in their lives. It was truly an eye-opening experience.

No wonder.

Earlier, Wang Licui was muttering about how five thousand Qian Gold wasn't much. Given the Wang family's eating style, five thousand Qian Gold truly wasn't a lot.

According to the value of the gifts they had brought, it probably wouldn't be enough for two meals.

Especially the girl named Wang Licui, who single-handedly ate half of the food, and still seemed unsatisfied.

This terrified Wang Shouyue. He originally thought that the girl among his younger nieces was quite cute, seemingly harmless. He even thought about politely inviting her to join him on a trip to the county town some day.

Fortunately, he hadn't gotten round to speaking up. Even if he had given all his yearly allowances, it wouldn't have been enough for one meal for this girl.

This made him break out in a cold sweat, and he felt a great sense of relief.

After they had eaten their fill and had enough to drink.

As the host, Wang Shouzhe naturally invited them to have some tea and chat.

After such events, several days passed.

...

Peace River.

A medium-sized cargo ship was heading to the Eastern Sea from afar.

Wang Shouyue of the Longzuo Wang family, and Elder Wang Xiaozheng from the Spirit Platform Realm were standing at the stern of the ship.

Looking at the Dingpu Ferry which was getting further and further away, the two exchanged a look, feeling a multitude of emotions.

The journey of the Ping'an Wang family had been from being confident, high and mighty, to then being battered to the point of being unrecognizable, and finally accepting gifts from the Wang family...

This process had truly been full of ups and downs, leaving them overwhelmed.

Even the young masters Chen and Dantai, whom they had taken pride in wanting to network with, did not have much connection with the Wang family.

Especially Young Master Chen, who turned out to be related to the Wang family through marriage, and he had even married Wang Shouzhe's own sister, Wang Luoyi.

After hearing that they were going to visit Young Master Chen, Wang Shouzhe even personally wrote them an introduction letter, asking the Chen Clan of Donggang to take care of them.

Indeed, good things came when least expected.

The kindness that the old ancestor Zhou had shown to the Wang family years ago still remained in their hearts. They truly believed in repaying kindness with kindness.

"Shouyue," Wang Xiaozheng said with emotion, "You need to learn your lessons from your fourth brother, Shouzhe."

"Master, rest assured." Wang Shouyue had naturally let go of all his pride, and replied sincerely, "I will definitely follow in the footsteps of my fourth brother Shouzhe closely."

"A promising lad."

...

After seeing the guests from the Longzuo Wang family off.

Wang Shouzhe began the long-prepared journey to the Academic Palace.

This trip involved more than a dozen horse-drawn carriages, which set off impressively towards Longzuo County Town.

The carriages, neither too fast nor too slow, galloped on the smooth official road and made good speed.

The way there required passing through Anyuan Guard, Langyowei Guard, East Mountain Passage, Dingbian Pass, Langright Guard, New City Guard, and other major checkpoints, passing many landscapes, with a total distance of over three thousand miles.

Even Wang Shouzhe's carriage, which was pulled by highly durable northern heavy-duty horses, could cover no more than one hundred and fifty miles a day.

Moreover, every time he passed some guard cities, he would make a brief stop to experience local customs and delicacies, purely for enjoyment.

Therefore, this trip took a month.

The slow pace aggravates the Elder Xuannu, one of his companions, who grumbled several times.

Every time she travels to and from the Academic Palace, she only rides lightly and completes each journey in less than ten days.

Instead, it took him a full month to get to Longzuo County. On top of that, he spent extravagantly along the way.

But the entire trip was arranged by Wang Shouzhe, so her objection mattered little.

Instead, she was quite often dragged by Wang Shouzhe into conversations about those top core disciples, direct disciples, masters, etc., in the Academic Palace.

Wang Shouzhe also complained that she'd been at the Academic Palace for more than a hundred years, yet she didn't know the preferences of each of her masters, let alone the leaders in the higher echelons of the Academic Palace.

Anyway, this caravan traveled safely and peacefully, slowly arriving in front of Longzuo County Town.

Longzuo County Town.

This is a name of a city that Wang Shouzhe had heard countless times since coming to this world.

Although he had a clear imagination of the large cities in this mysterious and magical world, upon seeing the size and grandeur of this city, he was still deeply impressed.

It sprawled across the earth, quite like an incredibly huge beast.

The city wall was probably between forty to fifty feet thick, between twenty to thirty feet high. Even the famous Level Five Fierce Beast would probably look like a little thing under the wall.

Building such a city must have a purpose. It appears that its defense is not limited to Level Five Fierce Beasts, it even needs to protect against Level Six and Level Seven Fierce Beasts!

No wonder to the people in the county town, Changning Guard is just a rural place.

Those queuing at the entrance of the County Town included horse-drawn carriages and various Spirit Beast-driven carriages. The northern heavy-duty horse was only slightly better among the common breeds.

But it was far inferior to the Spirit Beasts.

For instance, Wang Shouzhe's Fire-treading White Cloud is a renowned Spirit kind horse. But Fire-treading White Cloud is more suitable for riding, not for pulling carriages.

What's more suitable for pulling carriages is a kind of spirit horse named Blue Scales Heavy Horse, or a spirit kind cow named White Elephant Spirit Cow.

The former pulls the carriage relatively fast and carries a decent load, while the latter is specifically used for pulling heavy loads.

Each has its own uses.

Of course, these are two commonly seen spirit livestock. Even ordinary prominent families could afford them.

But some strange beasts, even Level Three and Level Four Spirit Beasts, are not something ordinary families can afford.

Most people had to queue to enter and exit the County Town.

However, Wang Shouzhe and the others didn't need to queue.

Firstly, they were received by the celestial prominent family.

Secondly, even on the credentials of Elder Xuannu being the core disciple of the Academic Palace, they could enter via the VIP lane.

The group only waited momentarily.

Not far away.

A group of people was rushing towards Wang Shouzhe and others.

Leading the group was a middle-aged man. He was dressed in a Fire Silkworm Silk Robe, wore a purple-gold ceremonial hat, had a white face with a beard, and an extraordinary demeanour.

He hastened his pace, striding forth like a dragon, smilingly said, "Are you the Ping'an Wang family? I am Wang Xiaorui, the current Family Head of Longzuo Wang family, here to welcome our children home."

His attitude was indeed very good.

Upon seeing this, Wang Shouzhe smiled knowingly. He knew that it was impossible for his letter alone to make the Longzuo Wang family come out of the city to meet them.

At best, it would send an elder in the Spiritual Platform Realm.

The only explanation now is that...

Longzuo Wang family must have received a report letter from Wang Xiaozheng and Wang Shouyue and knew the development of the Ping'an Wang family was very good.

In fact, this is the effect that Wang Shouzhe wants to achieve.

To avoid unnecessary unpleasantness caused by underestimating each other.

After all, both sides are blood relatives of the same lineage. If they have a chance to support each other, naturally it's not a bad thing.

This is not like the world he read about in Xuanhuan novels in his previous life. Where relatives are always fighting, where you die and I live is common, and there are often rifts between them.

Such situations are rare in Great Qian Land.

Most of the time, relatives will offer mutual support, and it is more common for them to face outward together.

Chapter 23: Foundation! The Thousand-Year Prominent Wang Family_1

...

Immediately, Wang Shouzhe stepped forward with courtesy, "I am Wang Shouzhe, the clan leader of the Ping'an Wang family, greetings Clan Leader Xiao Rui."

Strictly speaking, Wang Xiaorui was the elder of the Xiao generation.

But at this time, they were meeting as clan leaders, and naturally, they should adhere to the conventions believed between prominent families. Moreover, the blood relation between clan leader Xiao Rui and him was quite distant.

Unlike those close uncles, paternal grandparents, etc.

Both parties naturally exchanged courtesies.

Subsequently, Elder Longyan, Elder Xuanfu, and several Spirit Platform Realm elders from the other side also greeted each other.

Particularly Elder Longyan, who belonged to the female Long generation and had a higher status. Among the Spirit Platform Realm elders present, only Elder Yu, who was from the Yu generation, was on par with Elder Longyan.

That elder was Wang Yuchen. Within the Longzuo Wang family, they commonly referred to him as Elder Yuchen. Now he was over one hundred and fifty years old, much older than Elder Longyan.

His appearance was very old, and he probably had only ten to twenty years of life left.

Practitioners of the Spirit Platform Realm can live for two hundred years, but not everyone at this stage can live to be two hundred years old.

This depends on the age of promotion, whether they have not recovered from any hidden injuries, and even factors such as bloodline and long-term health preservation, etc.

Most of the Spirit Platform Realm cultivators would typically die at the age of one hundred seventy-eighty. Those who live up to two hundred, or a little over two hundred, are considered to have extremely long lives.

Upon seeing Elder Longyan, he trembled all over, his eyes filled with excitement and guilt: "Sister Longyan, it's been sixty years since our last meeting in the blink of an eye. I'm sorry that I couldn't help you much back then."

He sighed deeply, showing deep regret for what happened over the past sixty years.

"Brother Yuchen," Elder Longyan replied indifferently, "all that happened was destined. I am already grateful for the considerable aid the Longzuo Wang family provided us. Back then, even Brother Yuchen you, following Elder Zhoub, made efforts for our cause."

When Elder Longyan was studying in the Academic Palace, she would often stay with the Longzuo Wang family for a while, so she was quite close to Elder Yuchen.

On the other hand, Elder Xuanfu, despite being Elder Zhou Xuan's biological granddaughter, was by nature detached from the Longzuo Wang family due to her surname Liu.

However, she is now a Core Disciple of the Academic Palace. Naturally, the Longzuo Wang family treated her with respect, their words filled with familiarity and warmth.

After the initial round of introduction and exchange of courtesies amongst the elders, the younger generation stepped forward to greet each other.

This was the norm between prominent families.

Mere greetings and exchanges took up nearly an hour.

At this point, Wang Xiaorui said, "Elder Longyan, Clan Leader Wang Shouzhe, this isn't an ideal place for our conversation. Please follow me into the city."

"Thank you, Clan Leader Xiao Rui," replied Wang Shouzhe, offering his thanks.

Subsequently, the Wang family, guided by Wang Xiaorui, entered the Longzuo County Town as honored guests. Over a dozen carriages passed through the guest passage in succession without any inspection at all.

The Profound Martial soldiers guarding the city maintained a respectful and polite demeanor throughout this process.

"Thank you for your hard work, gentlemen," Wang Xiaorui gave a slight bow of the head. Then an elder stepped forward and discreetly handed them some tokens of appreciation.

Once the convoy departed,

A young soldier, newly assigned to duty, asked, "Sir, which prominent family was that just now? They made quite the impression, having a group of Spirit Platform Realm elder cultivators."

An elderly Spirit Platform Realm general explained, "That is the Longzuo Wang family, a venerable Celestial family. It has been said that they have been around in our Left County for over a thousand years."

"A thousand years?" The young soldier exclaimed, "Wow, that's almost as long as half the history of our Left County."

"Indeed. Back then, the Longzuo Wang family was a famed Purple Abode family with intimidating prestige," said the Spirit Platform Realm general. "Unfortunately, after their founding ancestor exhausted his life force at the age of eight hundred, they gradually fell off the radar over the next few centuries as they couldn't maintain their status of the Purple Abode."

"A few decades ago, the Longzuo Wang family nearly failed to maintain their Celestial status. But Elder Zhou Bo succeeded in breaking through to the Celestial realm thirty-five years ago, preserving the Celestial lineage of the family."

"The current Elder Zhou Bo is just over two hundred years old and can at least secure the safety of the Longzuo Wang family for over a hundred years. As long as they can once again successfully

transition to the Celestial rank, barring any unforeseen circumstances, the family will continue to prosper. So, be courteous to them next time."

"I see, sir. I truly admire these Celestial families," said the young soldier, who was obviously born into a commonplace Spirit Platform family and looked up in awe to the Celestial families.

As the city defense soldiers conversed in hush tones,

Wang Shouzhe and his people finally entered the Longzuo County Town.

From the outside, Longzuo County was already a formidable sight. Only when one stood within it did one realize that this was an unimaginably colossal city. The gate of the wide stone road behind the city gate was more than ten meters wide and allowed twenty to thirty carriages to run in parallel.

Moreover, the rules in Longzuo County were very strict. Only Celestial and Purple Abode families were allowed to travel on the central part of the avenue, and if someone strayed without the proper token and was caught by the city defense army, they would be severely punished.

On both sides of the road, there were markets, pubs, various shops, and stalls, followed by residential blocks.

Even the civilians who lived in Longzuo County Town at least had decent skills. Otherwise, it would be difficult for them to establish a firm foothold in Longzuo County, where the price level was high.

Their further journey led them past the primary residences or secondary homes of Eight or Nine Grade Profound Martial families. This region also had countless stores conducting all sorts of trades and businesses.

Chapter 23: Foundation! The Wang family, a Prominent Family for a Thousand Years_2

Wang Shouzhe and his group were all engrossed in their surroundings, as though they had entered a unique world.

Wang Licui, however, seemed uninterested in anything else. Instead, she was scanning the bustling streets for delectable food.

The sight of roadside stalls offering local delicacies or tavern grills made her unconsciously swallow her saliva in anticipation.

Were it not for Wang Shouzhe's repeated reminders before they entered the city, she would have been ready to dive into the culinary delights instantly.

"Listen to Fourth Uncle, patience is key to a grand scheme," Wang Licui kept reminding herself. Fourth Uncle had promised that after their visit to the Wang family of Longzuo, they would stay in Longzuo County for a few days. He had assured her that she could eat whatever delicious food she wanted.

To most of the Wang family members, everything in Longzuo County Town was fascinating.

As for Wang Shouzhe, he rode his Fire-treading White Cloud horse alongside Wang Xiaorui, finding the local customs Wang Xiaorui explained to him quite engaging.

However, his attention was mainly caught by potential business opportunities like textile manufacturers, Spirit Seed shops, etc. Virtually anything available within the whole of Longzuo County could be found within this county town.

This was a massive economic hub, a commercial center, and a political core. While Realm Cultivators from the Spiritual Platform were a rare sight in remote locations, they could occasionally be noticed in Longzuo County Town.

The place was filled with shops.

Just on their way, they had already spotted four or five textile manufacturers. Wang Shouzhe even speculated that the silk being sold in those shops might have been produced from raw materials supplied by the Wang Family's Silkworm Manor and processed by the Xu family in Changning.

The horse-drawn carriages moved at a steady pace through the town's main street.

It took them about two hours to reach the main residence of the Wang family of Longzuo.

The residence was grandiose, expansive, and boasted several towers that reached dozens of feet high, surrounded by other magnificent structures.

They either served as the headquarters of certain companies or belonged to the Prominent Families of the Purple Abode.

The provincial capital of Longzuo was also located not far from the area.

Therefore, this place was the heart of the county town of Longzuo, inaccessible to common people without a special pass.

"Clan Leader Wang, what do you think about our Wang family's main residence?" Clan leader Wang Xiaorui asked with a slight sense of pride in his voice.

"The prominent family main residence is indeed impressive," Wang Shouzhe remarked, "Isn't that the famous Lingyun Building I've heard so much about? I've been told that our Old Ancestor, Wang Hong, spent his last two hundred years living there."

Wang Hong, the Old Ancestor, was a forefather to both the Wang family of Longzuo and the Wang family of Ping'an.

And Wang Shouzhe's recurrent use of "ours" made Wang Xiaorui feel a sense of closeness. He sighed, "The Old Ancestor built the Lingyun Building with the aspiration of treading upon the clouds. Unfortunately, he did not take that step in the end. The building serves as a reminder for future generations to maintain vigor and make diligent progress. It is us, the later generations, who have failed him.

The clan's fortunes have worsened over time, and we almost failed to ensure a smooth succession in the Celestial realm."

He then smiled, "Clan Leader Wang, please do not take these grievances to heart. Let's go home."

With that,

Under the guidance of Wang Xiaorui, everyone stepped into the Wang family's main residence.

True to its reputation as a prominent family of a thousand years, every plant, every brick, and every pavilion conveyed a thick historical significance, ancient and profound. The residence occupied a vast area; according to Wang Xiaorui, it housed hundreds of courtyards and thousands of servant quarters and secondary rooms.

While the design of the main residence of Wang family of Ping'an sought to be grand, it was about a third the size of the main residence in Longzuo.

"Clan Leader Wang, I have prepared several courtyards for everyone. We are all descendants of the Wang family, there's no need for formalities. You must be exhausted from traveling, please rest for a while. This evening, I will arrange a welcoming banquet at the Yonglong Pavilion," Wang Xiaorui explained calmly. "Tomorrow morning, I will take you to meet our Old Ancestor Zhou Bo.

Do you have any objections with these arrangements?"

"Clan leader Xiao Rui, your arrangements are very thorough. Many thanks for your efforts," Responded Wang Shouzhe. As a guest, it was natural for him to follow the host's arrangement.

Then, the group checked in, freshened up, took a rest and dusted off the arduous journey.

By the evening, members of the Wang family arrived to escort Wang Shouzhe and his group to the Yonglong Pavilion.

Yonglong Pavilion.

This is where the Wang family of Longzuo entertains their honorable guests.

This time, they went out of their way to impress, with countless exquisite and delicious dishes. Many of them were new even to Wang Shouzhe and he had never heard of some of their dishes before.

They offered an open supply of spiritual wine and spiritual tea.

Clearly, the reputation of a certain glutton had spread to the ears of the Wang family of Longzuo.

They even brought in a whole Spirit Horned Yak for a grand feast, half of which was given to Wang Licui.

She was very satisfied with this meal, calling it very addictive.

Even with mental preparation, watching Licui eat half a Spirit Horned Yak and another whole bucket of Ziyu Jing rice was still very shocking.

This girl has an incredible appetite.

The Ping'an Wang family must have had a hard time raising her.

However, the Wang family also presented a list of gifts, including some high-quality Spirit Rice and Spirit Meat, among which were some valuable level three spirit meats. These gifts, added up, already exceeded ten thousand Qian Gold.

This made Wang Xiaorui keep on declining until he finally reluctantly accepted.

Afterwards, several core Elders, Family Head Wang Xiaorui, and other core figures such as Wang Shouzhe, began to chat over tea and discuss casual matters.

As the Clan Leader of a celestial being's prominent family, Wang Xiaorui is a well-rounded individual with a wide range of experience. He casually mentioned some of the strange stories and unique events of Longzuo county, which all found very interesting and immersive.

After three rounds of tea.

Wang Xiaorui's expression became slightly serious, and he lightly said to Wang Shouzhe, "Chief Shouzhe, my grandson Shouyue has written to me about your care for him. He has connected with the Chen Clan of Donggang and Young Master Dantai, and has received their warm welcome. He has secured a huge share of imported goods for our family.

I, on behalf of the Wang family of Longzuo, want to express my deepest gratitude to Chief Shouzhe."

"Chief Xiao Rui is too polite," Wang Shouzhe smiled and returned the salute, "Just now, Chief mentioned that we are one family, all connected. Such small matters are not worth mentioning."

Those so-called "imported goods" were produced by Wang Shouzhe in collaboration with a few other families. Which doesn't matter who they sell to?

If the Wang family of Longzuo has this demand, they naturally get priority supply. But he will not disclose the secret that he is the real mastermind behind the scenes.

"What Chief Shouzhe considers small is greatly beneficial to the Wang family of Longzuo," Wang Xiaorui said with emotion, "Chief Shouzhe may not know that competition in Longzuo County Town is fierce, and no business is easy."

"We are all family. Without hiding anything, we are barely maintaining our present circumstances with only a few storefronts and remaining farms left by our ancestors. Now with the import trade, our financial difficulties can be greatly relieved. Chief Shouzhe, there is one more thing..." Wang Xiaorui hesitated slightly while speaking.

"Are you talking about the Wang No.9 Rice Seed?" Wang Shouzhe said with a smile, "I've already prepared for this. The Qian Family's trading company will deliver it later, you just need to receive it. This batch of rice seeds amounts to about ten thousand dan, enough for fifty thousand mu of good land, I don't know if that's enough."

Wang Xiaorui immediately responded with a surge of energy, "Enough, enough. We have only thirty thousand mu of good land. Chief Shouzhe, I've heard that each dan of the Wang No.9 rice seeds is priced at around eighteen copper coins. Including transportation costs, the total comes to two thousand Qian Gold. Please accept this amount and don't refuse."

After some mild refusal, Wang Shouzhe accepted the offer.

Gifts are gifts, business is business.

Given that this Wang Xiao Rui is also a discerning person, making the distinction very clear, Wang Shouzhe has no fear in continuing their cooperation.

He looked around seriously and said, "Chief Xiao Rui, since we are all one family, please excuse my frankness. The Wang family of Longzuo obviously has a golden goose, why wouldn't they make good use of it?"

Wang Xiaorui's eyes immediately lit up and said, "Chief Shouzhe, in such a short period, you managed to bring the Ping'an Wang family to prominence. Your vision must be extraordinary. Please teach me!"

Chapter 25: Thigh! Targeting Master Binglan

...

On Wang Xiaorui's query.

Wang Shouzhe was quite earnest in his response, "Our main residence of the Longzuo Wang family consists of hundreds of courtyards and thousands of rooms. The yearly maintenance cost must be high."

Upon mentioning this, Wang Xiaorui showed a bitter expression, "Shouzhe, you're the clan leader too and you surely understand the struggle. Even when we try to save on its maintenance, the main residence costs us at least a thousand or two Qian Gold every year."

"What if it requires large-scale renovations every ten or twenty years? Wouldn't it necessitate tens of thousands of Qian Gold?"

The maintenance cost is indeed significantly higher than that of the Ping'an Wang family. But it's understandable since it's a county town and naturally, everything would be pricier.

"Instead of letting the residence lie vacant and still requiring upkeep, why not convert most of it into a restaurant for public business?" Wang Shouzhe suggested.

"A restaurant?" Wang Xiaorui's expression changed as he immediately shook his head, "Absolutely not, absolutely not. This is the main residence passed down from our ancestors. Operating it publicly would disgrace them."

"I merely gave a suggestion," Wang Shouzhe replied calmly, "Consider my analysis, Clan Leader Xiaorui, and then make your decision."

"The main residence of the Longzuo Wang family is situated at the prime commercial and political center, surrounded by top prominent families. It's indeed the most valuable property in the entire Longzuo County Town."

"This County Town has very high land prices. Even an ordinary room in a regular inn costs probably ten to twelve Copper Coins per day, doesn't it?"

"An ordinary suite with a courtyard is hard to get without a Qian Gold. As for those luxurious, top-tier courtyards, two to three Qian Gold for a night's stay isn't unheard of, right?"

"The Longzuo Wang family presently occupies less than a hundred courtyards at most. We could erect a barrier around the remaining, install a side entrance, and cater exclusively to high-end clients, such as Cultivators from the Spiritual Platform Realm who come to the county on business. They would not only feel prestigious but also have a luxurious place to host their dealings."

"If we can ensure an occupancy rate of fifty to sixty percent for these two hundred high-quality, vintage courtyards, we could yield about three hundred to four hundred Qian Gold per day! That's a hundred thousand Qian Gold in a year."

"Moreover, we can transform some elaborate courtyards and halls into high-end restaurants catering to Cultivators of the Spiritual Platform and Heavenly Human Realms. Reservations should be made in advance; no reservation, no service. We could easily earn several tens of thousands of Qian Gold from food and drink in a year, right?"

These words made Wang Xiaorui's eyes widen in shock.

Doesn't that mean we could accumulate tens of thousands in revenue? Although there will be considerable expenses, he could still earn a net profit of eighty to hundred thousand, right?

As a Celestial Being's family.

The total annual income from all assets held by the Longzuo Wang family doesn't necessarily amount to that figure.

Moreover, the expenses of a Celestial Being's family are enormous with the upkeep of the Celestial Ancestor and several Spiritual Platform Realm elders, along with the nurturing of the younger

generations. Presently, the Longzuo Wang family does well to save around seven to eight thousand Qian Gold each year.

This money cannot be spent casually and has to be accumulated—for the eventual changing of the Celestial Being.

Wang Xiaorui was already tempted, but he still expressed his reservations, "Shouzhe, the Longzuo Wang family is, after all, a prominent family that has lasted for a millennium. If it's rumored that we're operating the main residence this way, I'm afraid we'll become a laughingstock."

Wang Shouzhe knew the obstacle was the ancestral glory Wang Xiaorui treasured and didn't want to tarnish. He promptly continued, "The remaining thousands of rooms also hold potential. If we rent them out to merchants or wealthy Independent Cultivators who wish to seek favors and maintain their dignity at the same time, we could probably earn an income of fifteen Copper Coins per day per room."

"If we can maintain a fifty percent occupancy rate, we may earn tens of thousands of Qian Gold additionally."

"But most importantly, we must capitalize on the name of our prestigious family with a millennium-long history and the fame of our ancestors who've reached the Purple Abode Realm. These factors would ensure the property's high value."

The annual profit of tens of thousands.

It's enough to make most Celestial Being families green with envy. Most families lack the necessary conditions to accomplish this; those with the capability would probably engage in such activities.

"Furthermore, we could open Lingyun Building to the public. That place is where our Purple Abode Realm ancestor, in his later years, gained insights into the Heavenly Dao. A stay there could lead to a sudden comprehension of the insights our old ancestor has left behind, right?"

"Spending a night there must cost at least two hundred Qian Gold. Anything less is unacceptable and insulting to our Purple Abode Ancestor."

With this series of suggestions, Wang Xiaorui was extremely moved but the only thing holding him back was preserving the millennium-long reputation of the family.

"In my opinion, it's more shameful if a family with a history of a thousand years continues to decline. If we can accumulate enough money to ensure a smooth transition of the Celestial Being, or even return to the peak of our ancestors, that's truly preserving face. Our ancestors, if looking down from heaven, would surely be relieved."

Not only Wang Xiaorui, but the elite elders seated nearby also displayed breathless anticipation in their eyes reacting towards the scheme.

Wang Shouzhe was well acquainted with this eye expression, which could be summed up in three words: "Fear of Poverty!"

The elders of the Ping'an Wang family had looked at him with the same gaze in the past.

With this, Wang Shouzhe concluded his proposal, leaving them to ponder over it.

Now, as the two families were gradually strengthening their ties, if the Longzuo Wang family could become more potent, it would certainly be advantageous.

If they truly manage it carefully, though two to three hundred thousand is questionable, eighty to hundred thousand could definitely be earned. As such, the economic conditions of the Longzuo Wang family would undoubtedly improve tremendously.

At this point, Wang Xiaorui was completely taken in by the idea.

Chapter 25: Thigh! Targeting Master Binglan

Besides, even if he refused, the elders of the Spirit Platform Realm would probably not let him off.

After all, over the years, the majority of the family's resources have been devoted to the direct line. Only when the direct line achieves the heavenly-human succession will many resources gradually tilt towards the direct vessel.

The direct line has had its fill, but there are still many excellent children in our direct vessel, toiling persistently.

How could we pass up such a lucrative opportunity?

"Wang Shouzhe is indeed a godsend, a mere hint and he points us to a path of great fortune." Wang Xiaorui finally made up his mind.

Then, Wang Xiaorui began to seriously seek advice from Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Shouzhe casually shared some high-end hotel management concepts that he had learned in his previous life with Wang Xiaorui.

Wang Xiaorui listened, nodding continuously and having sudden enlightenment, as if he had discovered a whole new world. His eyes were radiant as he said, "Since we are doing this, we should come up with an impressive name. How about... Purple Abode Palace?"

Well... it only differs by a word from the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

Clan Leader Xiaorui, you opened your shameless new world quite quickly, didn't you?

Indeed, once a person disregards his face, the world becomes suddenly clear.

But this is quite good too - it is taking a bit of the fame of the Purple Abode Academic Palace. This world is very sensitive and reveres anything related to the Purple Abode.

And so it goes.

Wang Shouzhe was dragged by Wang Xiaorui to talk until late into the night before he was finally let to go to sleep.

The next day.

After breakfast.

Wang Shouzhe and his entourage went to visit Old Ancestor Zhou Bo.

Old Ancestor Zhou Bo resides in the Pavilion of Looking up at the Sky, beneath the Lingyun Building. The philosophical implication behind this is that he looks up to his ancestors and constantly motivates himself.

He is tall and strong, yet his clothes are simple and unadorned.

Having advanced to the Heavenly Human Realm at a later age, he now appears as a dignified old man.

Even though Wang Shouzhe has already reached the Spirit Platform Realm.

Looking at Old Ancestor Zhou Bo, he still found the elderly man unfathomable and as vast as a deep sea, and as towering as a mountain.

Heavenly Human Realm cultivators enjoy a lifespan of four hundred years.

Having long left their mortal bodies behind, they are vastly different from ordinary human beings. Even their every move seems to contain immeasurable force.

Old Ancestor Zhou Bo first set his eyes on Old Ancestor Longyan.

In his deep gaze, a trace of heartache was revealed, but it was mostly filled with relief.

"Wang Longyan pays respect to Old Ancestor Zhou Bo." Old Ancestor Longyan took the lead in paying respects.

Subsequently, Wang Shouzhe and the others also paid their respects .

After the formalities and pleasantries.

Old Ancestor Zhou Bo spoke one by one to the younger generation. There was no lofty attitude, but a very approachable demeanor.

When asked about cultivation, he patiently answered every question.

Four hours later.

After Old Ancestor Zhou Bo had given all of the younger ones some small gifts.

Only Wang Shouzhe, Old Ancestor Xuanfu, Old Ancestor Longyan, and the Head of the Longzuo Clan, Wang Xiaorui were left in the room.

With these decision-makers gathered, the atmosphere suddenly became heavy.

Obviously, it was time to discuss the serious matters.

Old Ancestor Longyan gave Wang Shouzhe a look.

Understanding the message, Wang Shouzhe stepped forward and said, "Old Ancestor Zhou Bo, there is something I would like to ask about."

"When you were supporting the Ping'an Wang family, did you find out who was dealing us blows behind our back?"

Old Ancestor Zhou Bo's expression also became very grave: "From what I have surmised, most likely there is a prominent family in the Heavenly Human realm behind that incident. But it's hard to say who exactly it was, as we have no evidence."

Old Ancestor Xuanfu frowned and said, "Shouzhe, when you exterminated the Liu and Zhao families, why didn't you think of capturing a live mouth and interrogating?"

"Old Ancestor Xuanfu, at that time the Liu and Zhao families bore deep grudges against me. Any confessions might be false and confuse my judgement." Wang Shouzhe explained, "It doesn't matter if the ancestors don't know. I have been planning for this for many years. It won't be long before they will show their tails. By then, it will be clear who the venomous snake is."

Old Ancestor Zhou Bo expressed with a serious expression: "The reason both sides can live in peace now is entirely due to their successful concealment. Once they realize they've been exposed,

will they risk everything and launch an extensive attack? Shouzhe, I need to remind you. The Celestial prominent families are not easy to deal with."

"Especially, Changning Guard City is a pioneer city established in the recent centuries, the Huangfu Clan and Lei Family each have their own backing. Our Longzuo Wang family alone may be unable to contend."

"This, I have already taken into consideration." Wang Shouzhe said earnestly, "Old Ancestor Zhou Bo, rest assured. Without a foolproof plan, I will not take action hastily."

In fact, more than not acting rashly, given the chance to delay indefinitely, he would rather continue growing covertly, only taking action when he could swiftly and effortlessly overturn the Celestial Prominent Families.

However, when in this world is anything that simple?

Even though Wang Shouzhe had made all kinds of precautionary measures, layouts, constantly keeping his cards hidden, and staying behind the scenes. However, as long as the Wang family is developing, there inevitably will be a day when the hidden puppeteer will gradually lose their patience.

Instead of passively waiting for the opponent to deliver a secret blow at an unknown time, it would be better to throw out a bait, forcing the opponent to expose themselves willingly. Only then can the initiative be held in one's hands.

The current status of the Wang Family Alliance is not to be underestimated. What he fears the most is actually the backing of the so-called Celestial Prominent Families.

The backers of the Huangfu and Lei Clans, Wang Shouzhe had naturally already investigated thoroughly.

That is also the primary reason why he had to make this trip to the Academic Palace this time. That is, Wang Shouzhe also wants to attach himself to a strong patron.

If a local power truly wants to develop, without a solid backing, It would be like duckweed in the water, floating aimlessly and lacking a foundation.

"Old Ancestor Zhou Bo, I have another question," Wang Shouzhe said earnestly, "excuse my directness. In the past, when our Longzuo Wang family was at the crossroads between Celestial beings and humans, the reputation of our Longzuo Wang family alone would not be enough to deter them, am I right?"

Old Ancestor Zhou Bo nodded, "You're right, at that time I was but in the advanced stage of the Spiritual Platform realm, I was not qualified to mediate the affair of Changning Guard City. Therefore, I first went to the Academic Palace, through connections, I begged hard to meet with Master Binglan. Even though I ended up not being able to meet with Master Binglan, I did obtain a letter from her!"

"It was with this letter, that I, along with Yu Chen, traveled to Changning Guard City and resolved the affair. But if we wish to intervene in matters of Ping'an Town again, it is absolutely impossible. The capital of Changning Guard City will also not allow us to intervene freely in local affairs."

As he expected!

Wang Shouzhe breathed a sigh of relief in secret, just as he had guessed, Master Binglan did not disregard the affairs of Old Ancestor Longyan.

In this way, the plan to cling to a powerful patron became even more viable.

"This..." Old Ancestor Longyan trembling with excitement, "Master, Master actually intervened on my behalf. She, she... Old Ancestor Zhou Bo, why didn't you tell me back then?"

"This..." Old Ancestor Zhou Bo sighed in resignation, "that was Master Binglan's intention, I dared not disobey."

Wang Shouzhe, understanding the situation, comforted her: "Old Ancestor, Binglan was considering your feelings. She was afraid that knowing about this situation would have put you in a difficult position and increased your worry and guilt."

As soon as this was said.

Old Ancestor Longyan sighed deeply once more.

The group then discussed some things about strengthening the connection between the two families and the developments in the future.

This was the rightful course of action, as the two families were created by the same Old Ancestor. Now that each has shake off some difficulties, they naturally had to cooperate and plan for the future together.

Nowadays, although Longzuo Wang family may not be a top-tier Celestial Prominent Family, it remains a time-honored family with a deep heritage. Its alliance with the Ping'an Wang Family naturally brings numerous benefits.

They were engrossed in discussions until the second day.

Only then did Wang Shouzhe find some respite.

Shortly after, Wang Licui caught hold of Wang Shouzhe, to fulfill the promise he made earlier.

In Longzuo County Town, Wang Licui could eat whatever she wanted to.

Watching Wang Licui's excited gaze.

After some deliberation.

Wang Shouzhe decided to first take Wang Licui to the Gambling Stone Market in the county town to earn a pile of money, then they would have the means to eat to their heart's content.

All along their journey, every Guard City's Gambling Stone Market became Wang Shouzhe's reserved project. Once he was done with a location, that market would probably take years to recover its vitality.

Several big Gambling Stone Market owners will probably be beaten into bankruptcy in the future.

Truth be told, without those spirit stones.

With the level of extravagance of Wang Shouzhe, he would certainly be a little disconcerted.

Luckily, this naughty kid was about to go to the Academic Palace to study, and the Academic Palace provides boarding and lodging to the core and directly apprenticed students.

Thinking of this.

Wang Shouzhe seemed to have a feeling of lightness, as if he was about to lay down the heavy boulder on his shoulder.

Chapter 26 Wang Shouzhe! No Place to Find Despite Tireless Searching_1

...

Just as Wang Shouzhe and his party were about to go out shopping.

A man in his thirties came to visit. He had also appeared at the banquet two nights ago; his name was Wang Shouxin.

Yes.

His name was the same as the Spirit Shield possessed by Wang Shouzhe.

When they first met, the young members of the Wang family were quite surprised. This was because Wang Shouzhe's top-grade Spirit Shield was also called the "Guardian Heart Spirit Shield."

The name was not problematic, it was just a repetition.

However, the shield also had a nickname, known as the "Pot Lid." Wang Shouzhe unintentionally spoke this name, and his siblings picked up on it and started calling the shield by its nickname.

As a result, when they looked at Wang Shouxin, their expressions were slightly peculiar.

Wang Shouxin felt somewhat uncomfortable at the strange glances he received from his younger siblings. He checked his appearance; was there anything wrong with the way he dressed today?

Moreover, these same siblings had been giving him strange looks since the banquet.

Could it be possible that they admired and respected him?

Suppressing the joyful thoughts in his heart, he gracefully said to Wang Shouzhe, "Younger brother, I have been ordered by the Clan Leader to act as your guide, to take your siblings around the town of Longzuo County, and then to the Academic Palace in a few days."

Wang Shouxin was not an ordinary clan member, but one of the promising young talents of the Longzuo Wang Family.

He entered the Academic Palace at the age of eighteen.

Around the age of thirty, he attained the Spirit Platform Realm with the support of his family and the palace.

Now, at the age of thirty-five, he was highly regarded by the palace and had the potential to become a Core Disciple. He was the elder cousin previously mentioned by Wang Shouyue.

Once he matures, he can provide mutual support to the Longzuo Wang family, thus enhancing the family's development.

Naturally, such an excellent individual was recently summoned back by the Longzuo Wang family.

The purpose was to show off the depth of the Longzuo Wang family to Wang Shouzhe and his team, so as not to be underestimated by the Ping'an Wang family.

"Thank you for your kind companionship, brother Shouxin," Wang Shouzhe respectfully responded.

Longzuo County Town was quite large. Having the local guide, Wang Shouxin, made their travels easier and eliminated unnecessary detours.

Under the guidance of Wang Shouxin, everyone happily toured around Longzuo County Town.

Moreover, Wang Shouxin was mature, steady, cheerful and talkative. He narrated the historical anecdotes and interesting incidents during the tour, which greatly broadened everyone's knowledge.

The eldest lady, Wang Licui, had her eyes on the food stalls. No matter where she went, she always tasted the local flavor.

"Young brother Shouzhe, I just heard your siblings mention that they want to buy suitable clothing," While everyone was wandering around, Wang Shouxin pointed to a large ready-to-wear shop and said, "This shop is the best ready-to-wear shop in Longzuo County. It is owned by the Zhou family, a prominent celestial family.

The Zhou family is best at tailoring clothes, and they have several master tailors."

Wang Shouzhe was familiar with this Zhou family.

His wedding dress was custom-made by the Qian family at this Zhou's Clothing Shop.

Although the price was high, the quality of the clothing was indeed excellent.

Wang Shouzhe understood his wife Liu Ruolan's intentions. She pitied her sisters and niece and wanted to provide them with some excellent clothing before they entered the Academic Palace.

"My dear, why don't you accompany our two sisters for a shopping trip and take care of Licui's clothing," Wang Shouzhe suggested. "We just passed by the Gambling Stone Pavilion. I heard it's the largest in the Longzuo County. I'm planning to take Licui there to have some fun."

Liu Ruolan understood her husband's intentions and graciously responded, "You can go and have fun. I will take care of things here."

Wang Shouxin furrowed his brows and reminded in a low voice, "Young brother Shouzhe, it's generally said that nine out of ten times, one loses when betting on stones. Most of those who gamble on stones end up losing. Only the Independent Cultivators or habitual gamblers would try their luck there."

Wang Shouzhe inwardly commended.

The Longzuo Wang family was indeed a thousand-year-old prominent family. Even though they had declined, their family education was still commendable.

"Thank you for the reminder, brother Shouxin, could you please accompany Liu Ruolan and the others," Wang Shouzhe replied with a smile, "I am merely planning to buy a couple of stones for Licui to play with."

And so, Wang Shouxin agreed.

Subsequently, Wang Shouzhe took Wang Licui to the largest gambling stone shop. After half an hour, he and Wang Licui left there.

By this point, the two had become quite accustomed to this routine.

It was indeed worthwhile to visit the town of Longzuo County, the resources here were abundant.

Wang Shouzhe had a satisfied smile on his face. He gave a contented pat on his storage ring. Although these gambling stones had yet to be opened, Wang Licui had not missed a single stone yet.

She could be considered as having the golden eye of the gambling stone realm.

Back at the clothing shop.

It took more than an hour before Liu Ruolan finally completed the clothing shopping task.

Aside from preparing two sets of excellent spirit silkworm silk clothes for those who would go to the Academic Palace and for her husband, she also specially picked out two sets for Old Ancestor Longyan.

After buying more than ten sets of expensive spirit silkworm silk clothes without batting an eye, she immediately became a VIP at Zhou's Clothing Shop.

Observing such a generous act, Wang Shouxin felt a chill in his heart.

It was said that the Ping'an Wang family was wealthy, but this was too extravagant, wasn't it?

By that time, Wang Licui could no longer wait, "Fourth Uncle, Fourth Uncle, I'm starving. Didn't you promise to take me to the best restaurant?"

"Brother Shouxin, which is the best restaurant in Longzuo County Town?" Wang Shouzhe, who always kept his promises, asked.

Wang Shouxin hesitated slightly before uttering, "The best restaurant in Longzuo County Town is undoubtedly the headquarters of the Hundred Flavors Pavilion."

Chapter 26 Wang Shouzhe! No Place to Find Despite Tireless Searching_2

However, the Hundred Flavors Pavilion was already considered a highly expensive restaurant in various cities, with the headquarters' prices being even more astonishing. This made Wang Shouxin somewhat hesitant when speaking.

Before leaving, the family head had stuffed him with thousands of Qian Golds, instructing him to treat the Ping'an Wang family well. With this amount of Qian Golds, they should be able to afford several meals at the Hundred Flavors Pavilion.

But the problem was, among the younger generation of the Wang family, there was a girl who was especially good at eating, which made him question if these thousands of Qian Golds would be enough even for one meal.

This made him slightly uneasy.

As soon as the Hundred Flavors Pavilion was mentioned, Wang Licui's eyes lit up, her chubby face filled with excitement: "I've eaten at the Hundred Flavors Pavilion before, the food is really good, let's eat there, let's eat there."

Wang Shouzhe had previously made a promise, and immediately said, "Alright, we'll choose this one."

At the same time, he remembered the scene nine years ago at the Hundred Flavors Pavilion in Changning. Young Miss Licui, who was only then in the Vital Energy Refining Realm, had almost devoured the annual income of Shopkeeper Qian with her appetite.

God knows how much it would cost this time if she were to eat heartily?

Fortunately, while this girl was good at eating, she was also very good at earning. The stones she won from the betting shop earlier could cover a few meals, and even provide some surplus.

Hearing what Wang Shouzhe had said,

Wang Shouxin also grits his teeth: "Alright, the Hundred Flavors Pavilion it is."

As the host, the Longzuo Wang family naturally didn't want to lose face, and could always seek reimbursement from the family head later if necessary.

With this thought in mind, he gained some confidence.

What he didn't realize was that Wang Shouzhe had no intention of having him foot the bill.

Under the lead of Wang Shouxin, the group walked into the headquarters of the Hundred Flavors Pavilion.

The Hundred Flavors Pavilion, naturally located in a prime location, was grandiose and extravagantly decorated.

Ordinary independent cultivators and peddlers only dared to look from afar, not even having the courage to go in and eat the cheapest dish.

The most prominent feature here was one word- [Expensive].

Wang Shouxin, who had newfound confidence, lowered his voice and introduced, "This Hundred Flavors Pavilion has a history of several hundred years, it was the main pillar of the former Purple Abode Prominent Family, the Yuwen family, and has spread throughout Longzuo County. Its annual revenue is quite astonishing."

"However, the Yuwen Prominent Family failed in the Purple Abode transition a hundred years ago, and their Purple Abode seed was stuck at the Peak of the Heavenly Human Realm, making no progress. Unable to strive for a breakthrough in a short time, this fat piece of meat aroused the covetousness of a few Purple Abode Prominent Families."

"But the Yuwen family was also ruthless. After paying quite a bit of price, they married off a legitimate daughter from the Purple Abode Prominent Family in the national capital, the Shangguan family. It was because of this legitimate daughter that the Hundred Flavors Pavilion was able to regain its foothold.

And that lady was very good at socializing, expanding the business of the Hundred Flavors Pavilion several times in less than a decade."

"However, that lady was said to be tough on her husband, and killed his husband within two years after getting married."

This was all gossip, bizarre stories.

However, since this was inside the Hundred Flavors Pavilion, Wang Shouxin spoke very carefully and cautiously.

Wang Shouzhe also felt a little emotional. Initially, he thought the Hundred Flavors Pavilion was just a luxurious restaurant. But now he realized, without strong power, even the best business is hard to keep.

On second thought, it was indeed the case.

Without the backing of a powerful Purple Abode family, how could such a large business have expanded to every corner of Longzuo County?

With the guidance of Wang Shouxin, an outstanding disciple of the Purple Abode Academy and a member of the old Tianren family, they naturally got one of the best private rooms in the Hundred Flavors Pavilion's headquarters.

This private room was situated on the second floor, connected by a corridor. Through the newly installed foreign glass windows of the private room, one could see the grand stage in the middle of the corridor inside the Hundred Flavors Pavilion.

The Hundred Flavors Pavilion was not limited to dining. It also had occasional song and dance performances, featuring renowned artists from various provinces.

It was said that this was an innovative approach initiated by the lady, also a means to attract popularity.

However, obviously, Wang Licui had no interest in song and dance performances.

As soon as she entered the private room, she began to order large portions of food from the menu, since she had worked hard to earn this meal, she had to eat enough to make up for it.

The others naturally let her order, Wang Licui might not be as skilled in other areas, but when it came to eating, no one was more professional than her.

Wang Shouxin watched with palpitations, calculating whether the thousands of Qian Golds in his pocket would be enough to pay the bill.

Just at this moment.

A host of honored guests arrived outside the Hundred Flavors Pavilion.

The shopkeeper personally led the reception, and from the luxurious Qinglin Heavy Horse Carriage, an enchanting and exotic woman disembarked.

Accompanying her were two young men.

One was quite young, appearing to be in his early twenties, his clean face still wore a touch of youthful innocence.

The other was an extraordinary purple-robed youth. He wore a jade crown and carried a sword on his belt. Although he only looked to be in his mid-twenties, his eyes were as deep as a cold abyss,

his aura concealed with no leaks, unmistakably a young and powerful cultivator of the Spirit Platform Realm.

Under the reception of the shopkeeper, the party of three entered the Hundred Flavors Pavilion and proceeded to the private rooms on the second floor.

The exotic woman softly said to the purple-robed youth, "Master Chi, when my younger brother joins the Purple Abode Academic Palace, I hope you will take care of him."

This purple-robed youth was named Chi Junjie. Although he was from a Grade Eight prominent family of the Langyowei Guards,

his talent was outstanding, and he had entered the Purple Abode Academic Palace at an early age. Due to his exceptional performance, he is currently highly valued by the Academic Palace and is being considered for admission as a Core Disciple.

Once listed as a Core Disciple, the allocation and supply of resources would be different, giving him the opportunity to enter the Tianren Realm in the future.

Such a figure, although still young, is remarkable and extraordinary.

However, Chi Junjie's expression became somber as he cupped his hands and said to the exotic woman, "Lady Bilian, you overpraise me. It is my duty to do so. Moreover, Brother Yuwen has the Middle Grade Class C Mysterious Ice bloodline. With such a talent, he will soon make a name for himself in the Academic Palace. Perhaps in the future, I will need Brother Yuwen's help."

This woman was Lady Bilian, who had squabbled with Wang Shouzhe over the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill at the BaiBao Pavilion in the Northeastern Sea Guard.

Mentioning Yuwen Jianye, Lady Bilian's alluring face revealed a doting expression: "Although Jianye is my younger brother, his own brother died early and so he has become close to me since he was a child. This child has a remarkable talent and bloodline, but he is still young and too shy. Knowing that Junjie will look after him in the Academic Palace, I am at ease."

However, as soon as she finished speaking, her face grew cold and she said discontentedly, "What a pity. If he had taken the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, Jianye's bloodline would have had a high

chance of breaking through to the Mid-Rank 'A' Level, making him a candidate for the title of 'Little Sky Pride', and he could even have a chance to compete for the direct disciples.

That detestable Wang Teng... "

After the incident, she naturally investigated it thoroughly. She learned that Wang Teng had reserved that room, apparently belonging to a powerful prominent family from the Northern Ridge Province.

Her simmering anger didn't wholly stem from the loss of the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill. After all, it was a fair auction, and naturally, the highest bidder won.

Her anger and hatred came from the fact that her 'warm invitation' to establish a connection was not well received.

Wang Teng had casually mentioned,

"I have no destiny with you!"

This was too dismissive of her.

She was unable to reach the remote and distant Northern Ridge Province, even if she held a grudge.

Therefore, she had kept this resentment to herself until now.

Suddenly, at that moment,

A gentle and pleasant male voice came from a top-tier private room in the corridor, "Wang Licui, have you ordered enough yet? Let your Fourth Aunt order some of her favorite dishes."

"No need, what Licui ordered is enough," a lovely female voice replied. "She has already ordered many of my favorites. This girl really knows my tastes. Fourth Aunt loves you."

"Thank you, Fourth Aunt. You're the best."

This was an ordinary conversation.

But when it fell into Lady Bilian's ear, her delicate body trembled, her eyes bursting with light.

A mixture of anger and inexplicable excitement rose in her mind.

"Wang Teng!!!"

She had dreamed of this voice, a voice she had often heard in her dreams. It was so familiar and "close".

This was like stumbling upon something by sheer luck after extensive searching!

She wanted to laugh heartily, ha ha ha, Wang Teng, oh Wang Teng.

How could you fall into my hands? Wait and see how I deal with you!

Chapter 27 Shocking! Someone Pays the Bill_1

...

"Shopkeeper, who's in that private room?" Lady Bilian suppressed her fury, her tone turning surprisingly calm.

This was her strength.

She would never offend anyone without knowing their background, especially those she couldn't afford to deal with. Moreover, she was particularly adept at building relationships with various young elites.

The shopkeeper immediately summoned the boy responsible for the said room. Once he had informed him, he turned to Lady Bilian and said, "My Lady, this room was reserved by Wang Shouxin of the Wang family from Longzuo—a well-established reputable family with Celestial Beings. Wang Shouxin is also among the younger generation of outstanding disciples in the Purple Abode Academy.

It is rumored that he has the potential to become a core disciple."

"Wang Shouxin must be hosting an honorable guest since he has apparently ordered very expensive dishes."

A prominent family of Celestial Beings? Potential for being a core disciple? Hosting an honorable guest?

Lady Bilian's eyes glowed faintly. She glanced at Chi Junjie beside her and asked, "Young Master Chi, do you know Wang Shouxin?"

As soon as he heard the name Wang Shouxin, Chi Junjie's face hardened slightly, and he responded with subtle hostility, "Wang Shouxin and I are under the tutelage of Master Xuanyao. We are of similar age and talents. However, I heard he hails from a prominent family of Celestial Beings and gets more resources from his family, which gives him a slight edge over me in strength."

Despite his apparent discontent with Wang Shouxin, his answer was factually correct.

"In that case, he must surely be a young elite." The gleam in Lady Bilian's eyes sparked momentarily, but it was soon replaced by a harsh glare. It was evident she recalled something that had upset her.

After weighing the situation and deeming her opponent tolerable, she immediately pushed the door open, her penetrating gaze swept over everyone in the room.

Inside, there were four women and three men.

Her gaze first scanned over the four women.

Huh?

Suddenly, Lady Bilian paused slightly, puzzled.

Among the four women, three were dressed like unwed ladies, while the fourth was a strikingly beautiful married woman—all still very young.

Each one of them was extraordinarily elegant, their appearances exquisite, radiating a distinctive aura as if enlightened by celestial beings.

No wonder Lady Bilian did not know any of them.

Each of them, in fact, had Top-Grade Bloodline Talents.

A stronger bloodline would naturally enhance one's physical features.

Of course, it does not mean that all good-looking people have strong bloodlines. In fact, many people who look good are only superficially attractive, merely gold-plated.

But a purity and strength in their bloodline lead to an evolutionary enhancement of their appearance and disposition.

However, one cannot judge a person's bloodline strength simply by their appearance.

Upon seeing these four women, who were like hidden treasures, Lady Bilian's already sour mood turned even more foul.

Then she turned to the three men.

Two of them were young men, dressed meticulously, exuding the air of dashing nobility, like dragons among men.

Especially the younger one.

He was handsome and august, his movements were calm and unhurried, disseminating a profound and majestic aura.

From his demeanor and seating position, it was evident that he was used to being in a high position.

As for the sixteen or seventeen-year-old boy, his body was bulging with muscles, sitting there robustly like a calf, his face full of innocence. This young man can be ignored, he certainly was not that Prince Teng.

Just as Lady Bilian was nonchalantly observing everyone, everybody's eyes simultaneously fell on her and her company.

Wang Shouzhe furrowed his brow slightly, asking in a steady tone, "Have you walked into the wrong room?"

At this remark,

Lady Bilian felt a sting. Her gaze narrowed on Wang Shouzhe and she said with a cold grin, "So it's you, Prince Teng."

Prince Teng?

The people of the Wang family were all puzzled, they probably got the wrong person.

Even Wang Shouzhe was confused, Prince Teng? Wasn't that the fake name he had used at Donghaei to conceal his identity while shopping?

Right away,

He looked at Lady Bilian, puzzled, "Do we know each other, big...sister?" He swallowed the labels 'aunt' and 'granny' in a split second, choosing what he thought was a slightly appropriate term.

Big sister?

The flames of Lady Bilian's anger soared uncontrollably again. She was not one known for her tolerance. At her parental home, her husband's house, and even in the business world, everyone made a point to get along with her.

She had never been addressed as 'big sister.'

Besides, Prince Teng didn't have any impressions of her. How could she, who considered herself irresistibly charming, tolerate that?

"Mr. Wang, remembering the disgraceful things you did to me at Donghaei?" Lady Bilian laughed out of anger, "I thought you'd have run back to Northern Ridge Province by now. Unexpectedly, I'd run into you again."

Disgraceful deeds?

The people of the Wang family then shifted their complex gaze towards Wang Shouzhe.

However, Liu Ruolan was unmoved. She knew her husband's nature, while she couldn't guarantee outright that he would not cheat on her, but she was confident that he was certainly not attracted to Lady Bilian's type.

"Oh~" Wang Shouzhe finally remembered, "You're the one, the one from Hundred Treasures Pavilion. Yes, yes, what was it again, Bilian...yes, Lady Bìluò. No wonder you looked familiar—what a surprise."

"It's Lady Bilian." Lady Bilian corrected him through gritted teeth.

"Right, right, I remember now." Wang Shouzhe nodded solemnly, "It is indeed Lady Bilian, what a surprise."

He then looked at her with puzzlement, "Do you...need anything from me?"

Chapter 27 Shocking! Someone Pays the Bill_2

"You want something with me?" Lady Bilian was brooding with fire in her heart, her smile becoming even more enchanting. "Last time, I invited Young Master Wang for a chat, but it was fruitless. Since you've come to my shop today, as the hostess, it's only natural that I entertain you."

The hostess?

Wang Shouzhe was slightly surprised, "You are that one from the Yuwen Family..." If Wang Shouxin hadn't introduced her earlier, he wouldn't have known that Lady Bilian was the owner of the Hundred Flavors Pavilion.

"Indeed, I am." Lady Bilian sneered twice, "Now, am I eligible to invite Young Master Wang for a meal?"

"Thank you for your kindness, Madam. However, we're strangers, forget it. I can afford this meal myself." Wang Shouzhe roughly knew that this woman had a bad reputation and didn't want to get entangled in some unclear issues with her.

Then, Liu Ruolan secretly gave her husband an approving look, as if secretly praising him for being obedient.

Even though Lady Bilian was burning with rage, she was a businesswoman. Seeing everyone in all kinds of Spiritual Silkworm clothes, especially the couple, they each had storage rings on their hands. All the signs indicated that this Prince Wang might be a big shot.

But her temper has always been big.

Even if she didn't want to become mortal enemies with them, she still had to vent her anger. Her eyes rolled, "Prince Wang, even if you don't want to invite me for a meal, you should tell me who used the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill you took from me. I want to see what kind of young elite is worthy of using it. This way, my brother-in-law, Yuwen JianYe, can give up ever possessing it."

Then her eyes darted at the young faces in the crowd.

Who used the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill? Of course, it was for myself.

However, Wang Shouzhe naturally wouldn't tell her that. Then, he looked at the two young men behind Lady Bilian.

One of them was about twenty years old, with an impressive aura. This youngster must be the Yuwen JianYe she mentioned.

Wang Shouzhe praised, "This lad looks good, quite spirited, madam, you've given birth to a good son."

God damn son!

Lady Bilian's face darkened, angrily she said, "Prince Wang, don't talk nonsense, this is my younger uncle."

"Oh, he's your younger uncle." Wang Shouzhe carelessly said, "He's a good kid. But about the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, it belongs to the one who pays the highest price."

He thought to himself, this kid seems shy but seems fine. According to his breath reading skill, this young man had already reached the Vital Energy Refining Realm Level Eight.

Obviously, his bloodline and resources were impressive; no wonder she was so eager to buy the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill for him.

It was not easy to perceive the abilities of the Wang Family. Three people in the Spirit Platform Realm were all wearing high-grade Restrain Breath Jade. Wang LuoQiu, Wang Luo Jing, and Wang Zongsheng wore ordinary Restrain Breath Jade.

Unless their cultivation base was much superior or they burst with energy, it wouldn't be easy to judge their strength.

"Hmph, what you said makes sense, but I simply can't accept it." Lady Bilian's eyes shifted, "How about this? I see some young people in your family, are they planning to join the Academic Palace?"

"Why not let him have a trial with my younger uncle? As long as the age is close, if one person can defeat him, all your bills today are waived, and we'll also give you gift vouchers worth 3000 Qian Gold. This won't be considered my treat, it's you who will be winning."

"The bill is waived?" Wang Shouzhe said with a puzzled face, reminding, "Madam, do you know how much our bill is? We haven't ordered enough dishes yet, we're adding more later."

"I don't care how much your bill is or if you add more!! As long as you order at the spot and eat on the spot without taking away, no matter how much, it will be on me." Lady Bilian boasted with a

heroic spirit. It seemed that she did not care even if it cost her thousands or tens of thousands Qian Gold just to vent her anger.

"Well..." Wang Shouzhe was somewhat tempted.

Honestly, this meal was quite a large amount.

Before he decided,

Wang LuoQiu jumped out and said, "Big Brother, why are you hesitating? Just a fight can waive the bill, where else could we find such a good deal? Let's settle this quickly and not delay our meal."

She rolled up her sleeves, ready to fight.

Just joking, she planned to overthrow the current generation and beat up the Sky Pride when she entered the Academic Palace. What was there to fear from a young chicken that hasn't even entered the Academic Palace yet?

"Sixth Aunt, he said he would accept anyone of similar age." Wang Zongsheng stood up and said, "Why don't I try his strength first, to give me a chance to practice."

Despite his muscular appearance, he was indeed the son of the business-minded Wang ShouYi. He was shrewd ever since he was a child.

Unlike his simple look, anyone underestimating him would suffer. Starting with simple calculations, his skills had improved by several levels.

At this time, Wang Shouxin hastily said, "Handsome... little brother, if you don't want to fight, we can refuse. I don't believe that anyone in our Longzuo County Town would dare to forcibly provoke a fight?"

His dual identities were not to be trifled with, and once he was serious, he was quite influential.

"What do you think, Ruolan?" Wang Shouzhe finally turned to Liu Ruolan.

"Husband, let Zongsheng and Luoqiu have their fun if they wish to," Liu Ruolan did not have a favorable opinion of Lady Bilian. It was Lady Bilian who had willingly placed her head under the blade after all.

As the principal lady managing the Wang family's wealth, Liu Ruolan did not mind saving a bit of money.

Despite the Wang family being wealthy nowadays, the larger the family, the larger the expenses. Every penny saved mattered.

"Alright, be careful, don't take it too far," Wang Shouzhe agreed after a moment of contemplation. After all, these young ones were going to be studying in the Academic Palace, and he, as their older brother and uncle, couldn't possibly look after them forever.

They needed their own experiences to truly grow up.

"Fourth Aunt, please bring me my weapon," said Wang Zongsheng respectfully.

Since they were out for a meal, Liu Ruolan had taken care of his weapon.

Immediately, in a graceful motion of her hand, two hefty Octagonal Hammers appeared from her storage ring. She handed them to Wang Zongsheng, complaining, "You are such a good boy, but your weapon is too heavy."

Wang Zongsheng, armed with the two Octagonal Hammers, dared not respond to Liu Ruolan's comment.

He thought to himself, if Aunt were to lose her temper, she would only complain about it being too light, not too heavy. If there was anyone in the family who held the highest position, it was undeniably Aunt. Her reputation was hard-earned.

The group then arrived at the center stage of the Hundred Flavors Pavilion, a sturdy platform that often hosted various martial contests.

Wang Zongsheng was the first one on the stage. The two large hammers in his hands felt as light as feathers. With a wave of his hand, an incomparable force erupted, causing even the air itself to explode with a thunderous bang.

"Good!"

This commotion attracted many guests who were thrilled by the spectacle. Seeing Wang Zongsheng's display, they all couldn't help but cheer him on.

All patrons in the Hundred Flavors Pavilion were either rich or noble, and had discerning eyes.

The boy appeared to be only sixteen or seventeen, yet the aura that he exuded was quite formidable, and his strength was amazing.

They soon learned that this was a bet.

Private fights are forbidden in the Great Qian Land, but it was completely allowable, even encouraged, for two parties to have a match, often ending when one party admitted defeat. The fights often served as entertaining diversions, with additional prizes adding to the excitement.

"Whose child is that?" a Spirit Platform cultivator exclaimed in surprise. "He must be at Level Seven of the Qi Refinement Realm! His strength suggests he has awakened a Battle Body bloodline. He's much stronger than I was at his age."

"I heard he's a relative of the Wang Family in Longzuo," someone else replied. "It's enrollment season at the Academic Palace. He is probably going there."

"As long as he maintains his momentum, he'll be a Core Disciple of the Academic Palace."

Everyone was talking all at once. The patrons were no ordinary people, many of them had high standards and sharp eyes.

Given the circumstances,

Lady Bilian and her group were growing serious.

They hadn't expected this simple-looking boy to be wearing a Restrain Breath Jade. They had completely misjudged him.

"Jianye," Lady Bilian said in a serious tone, "That boy seems to be a tough one. If you can't beat him, we should back off."

"Aunt, I can give it a try." Yuwen Jianye responded rather shyly, before gradually stepping onto the stage.

Suddenly!

The last few steps he took changed his aura dramatically.

With each step he took, the air around him seemed to crystallize, frost forming into snowflakes dancing around his body.

"Mysterious Ice bloodline!"

Some of the patrons gasped in low voices.

A proud expression appeared on Lady Bilian's face. This younger brother of hers, whom she had raised herself, was finally showing his worth.

Chapter 28: Dominating! The Tone of the Young Empress_1

...

The Mysterious Ice Bloodline is one of the three major special abilities, known for its formidable combat power.

At the same level, the lethal power is always slightly stronger than others.

"In the Vital Energy Refining Realm Level Eight and with the Mysterious Ice Bloodline." Some diners discussed, "I heard this young man's name is Yuwen JianYe, from the direct line of the Yuwen Clan. He is quite impressive, he does not disappoint his ancestors."

Even Wang Shouzhe was slightly surprised, "I didn't expect this shy young man to have the Mysterious Ice Bloodline. I'm afraid our family's Zongsheng might have some trouble."

"Our family's Zongsheng also has a War Body-type Bloodline," Liu Ruolan said, "Although he's still young, his potential for growth is immense."

Wang Zongsheng is one of the most outstanding among the young males of the Wang family. His inherent talent is not bad, and with the rapid development of the Wang family over the years, they've obtained more resources.

Therefore, his second brother, Wang Shouyi, expanded the fish stall business and earned quite a lot of money for the family. At the same time, he also gained a huge amount of Contribution Points. They exchanged many Heaven and Earth Treasures to improve Wang Zongsheng's Bloodline Talent.

Wang Shouzhe and his wife also secretly assisted their nephew. After all, the girls in the family are too exceptional, which may cause an imbalance between yin and yang. They still need some outstanding boys to balance things out.

Now, his Bloodline has entered Middle Grade, Fourth Rank. Compared with the Old Ancestor Longyan when she first entered the Academic Palace, his progress is not far behind.

In addition, he is very ambitious and diligent.

Meanwhile

On the fighting stage, Wang Zongsheng was thrilled. Holding two Octagonal Hammers, he took a fighting stance, "Wang Zongsheng of the Ping'an Wang Family, please instruct."

In recent years, the family has collected many Cultivation Methods and Profound Martial Fighting Techniques, greatly enriching their library. Relying solely on what came from the Old Ancestor is not enough.

Therefore, there are quite a few children in the family who like to practice unusual Profound Martial Fighting Techniques.

Wang Zongsheng is a typical example. While he practices Wang Family's Xuan Yuan Technique, he also cultivates the Quenching Body Horizontal Refining Technique. This allows him to utilize his power-type War Body Bloodline to its fullest extent.

"Yuwen JianYe from the Longzuo Yuwen Clan requests instructions." He said, pulling out a delicate longsword, the blade as white as ice. Clearly, even if this sword is not a Spiritual Artifact, it is a high-quality weapon.

"Roar!"

Wang Zongsheng roared and charged forward. Every step he took resounded like a raging bull charging forward.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

The sounds resembled pounding drums, echoing like a beat against one's heart. Suddenly, it gave people the feeling that a fearsome heavy beast was charging straight at them.

Almost in the blink of an eye, he charged in front of Yuwen JianYe. By extending his hands and holding them tightly, the two heavy hammers swung from both sides to collide in the middle, causing a thunderous noise.

This collision!

If Yuwen JianYe gets hit by it, even if he doesn't die, he will be severely injured.

Then again, he is not an easy target, with nimble movements, he quickly retreated.

"Clang!"

A metallic collision sounded, heavy and deafening, resonating outwards into a shock wave mixed with Mysterious Energy. It was so loud that it caused a throbbing pain in the eardrums.

Wild!

While Wang Zongsheng usually appears naive and guileless, once he starts fighting, he becomes as savage as a peerless general on a battlefield. Every action he takes is domineering and efficient, yet also contains terrifying lethality.

"Excellent!"

The knowledgeable diners all applauded. This unknown kid from the Ping'an Wang Family fights so dominantly and fiercely, it makes people's blood boil. He is truly a promising talent.

However, Yuwen JianYe seemed exceptional too. Instead of confronting Wang Zongsheng head-on, he relied on his agile and swift movement technique, constantly shifting. With the swing of his longsword, his Bloodline's Mysterious Ice ability was stimulated, making the surrounding air colder.

Especially on the ground of the fighting stage, where frost began to form unknowingly. Although he couldn't freeze a river several meters in radius with one sword like the Old Ancestor Longyan, under the protection of his sword aura, the entire fighting stage gradually turned frosty like a snowy landscape.

Gradually, Wang Zongsheng's body became more and more stiff, and his movements slower. His clothes, face, and even his hair were covered with a thin layer of frost. The bone-chilling coldness seemed on the verge of freezing his blood.

"Roar!"

Wang Zongsheng roared again. Under the stimulant of the War Body, his bloodline boiled, and in a split second, the frost all evaporated into a mist. His movements became more rapid and forceful.

Clang... clang... The hammers smashed against the ground.

The once intact fight stage was now filled with holes and flying debris, which forced Yuwen JianYe to keep dodging awkwardly.

This annoyed Lady Biliand, who scolded him, "You bullish kid, are you here to exchange skills or to destroy the fighting stage? Does repairing a fighting stage not cost money?"

"If my lady is worried about the cost of the fighting stage, I'll cover it." Wang Shouzhe casually tossed out two thousand-gold banknotes, which floated in the air towards Lady Bilian, and said loudly, "Zongsheng, fight hard, even if you tear down the Hundred Flavors Pavilion, your Fourth Uncle can afford to pay for it."

Wang Shouzhe is also a protective person. How could he allow his children to be looked down upon outside?

And once this generous statement was uttered, an overwhelming aura immediately suppressed Lady Bilian.

"You..." Lady Bilian was infuriated and triumphant, taking the two gold tickets, then throwing them back, scolding angrily, "Wang, are you showing off just because you have money? We can repair our own stage."

In comparison, her morale seemed somewhat insufficient.

It was very obvious that she knew Wang could afford the compensation. Living for so long, this was the first time she had been splurged like this by someone. Normally, she was the one throwing money at others.

Many wealthy and powerful customers were astonished, looking at Wang Shouzhe. Good heavens, which family did he come from? Such extravagance! Even Lady Bilian didn't dare to take his offer.

"Yes, Fourth Uncle." Wang Zongsheng, seeing his fourth uncle support him, was instantly invigorated, his blood boiling.

With a roar, he fiercely attacked Yuwen Jianye again! The stage under him was broken even more.

The customers praised him, this young man was only at Level 7 of Qi Refinement, but so fierce. If one day he reached the Spirit Platform realm, then it would be intolerable. Wouldn't he smash the entire stage with a few hits?

The fight lasted for almost half an hour.

Despite his valiant effort, Wang Zongsheng ultimately collapsed due to his age and lack of cultivation. Gradually, he ran out of Mysterious Energy. In contrast, Yuwen Jianye seemed shy but was actually quite clever, avoiding his blows continuously. Only when his opponent showed signs of weakness, did he strike back intensively.

Sword light enveloped Wang Zongsheng, and he was only able to defend himself.

A moment later, Wang Zongsheng finally gave in and was defeated.

"Good." Lady Bilian also cheered, her face filled with joy. Although the fight was a little difficult, they finally won, which made her feel avenged. Then she got on the stage, gave her brother-in-law a cultivation pill, and helped him wipe his sweat.

No one knew if she was raising this brother-in-law as her son?

Customers with discerning eyes were also full of praise. Both Yuwen Jianye and Wang Zongsheng were very good, especially Wang Zongsheng, who at such a young age had already reached level 7 of Qi Refinement.

Being able to fight against Yuwen Jianye of Level 8 of Qi Refinement for so long was definitely outstanding.

"Fourth Uncle, I lost." After climbing down from the stage, Wang Zongsheng was a little discouraged. He had previously fought against various independent cultivators at Level 8 of Qi Refinement and even won against them easily multiple times. He had even won against those at Level 9 of Qi Refinement. But now, he had not thought that Yuwen Jianye would be so tough, leaving him utterly deflated.

"You did well enough," Wang Shouzhe patted him on the shoulder, "Yuwen Jianye has an extraordinary bloodline and solid fundamentals. He is both older and has a higher cultivation base than you. If you two were the same age, he might not have been able to beat you."

Wang Shouzhe's words were not purely to comfort him. In his opinion, Yuwen Jianye's strength was on par with the first challenge in the trial arena, which was indeed not weak.

If Wang Zongsheng were to challenge the first round, he still needs more polish.

"Zongsheng, you did quite well overall, but your movement technique is just intimidating, not fast enough." Wang Luoqiu stepped forward and said, "You don't need to always be fast, but you need to cultivate a technique that allows for sudden bursts of extreme speed. When you go back to the Academic Palace, search for it, and I will help you with special training."

Your Sixth Aunt is very experienced in dealing with slippery people like this."

As she spoke, she seemingly glanced at Wang Luo Jing unintentionally. Clearly, she considered Wang Luo Jing to be a master slippery person, and that Yuwen Jianye was too green in comparison.

"Humph! Zongsheng, don't listen to her nonsense; Fifth Aunt will help you with special training when we get back," Wang Luo Jing sneered, "Fourth brother said that this is called the kite style."

"Whether it's the eel style or kite style. Zongsheng, your sixth aunt tells you, when you encounter these kinds of people, just one word, smack them to death with one slap."

"Thanks for your guidance, Fifth Aunt and Sixth Aunt." Wang Zongsheng said respectfully, but he was sweating. If these two aunts were going to abuse him together in the future, how would he survive his days at the Academic Palace?

Moreover, these two aunts, both were not easy to deal with. The most important thing was their methods, they were too brutal.

"Zongsheng is quite lucky," Liu Ruolan chuckled softly from the side, "He has two aunts and a sister accompanying him to school. No one dares to bully you."

"Hehe." Wang Zongsheng laughed innocently, he seemed quite fortunate on the surface, "My aunts, sister, and aunt-in-law are all lovely people."

"Alright, alright, stop trying to flatter us."

Wang Luoqiu said impatiently, "If we weren't letting you practice, we would have already had dinner."

As she spoke, she stepped onto the stage with her hands behind her back.

Then, she looked at Lady Bilian and said casually, "Aunt, you can step down from the stage now, right? Don't delay our match."

"You little girl, who are you calling 'aunt'?" Lady Bilian was irritated, "My Jianye just had a tough fight, you should at least allow him to recover his Mysterious Energy. Otherwise, it would not be an honourable victory for you."

"No need, he has enough Mysterious Energy." Wang Luoqiu showed three fingers and said calmly, "Three moves!"

"What do you mean?" Lady Bilian was confused.

Wang Luoqiu looked placid, speaking as if stating a fact, "If I can't beat him in three moves, I will concede defeat."

What?

The customers were all stunned. This young girl was too bold!

Wang Shouzhe also slapped his forehead, feeling somewhat helpless. This girl, always has to show off before a fight. Can't she change that?

However, her momentum was indeed impressive. She quite resembled a young empress.

Chapter 29: Planning! Dominating the Purple Abode Academic Palace_1

...

But Wang Shouzhe had to admit that his sister Luoqiu was not only extremely talented, but her will was also very strong.

In the whole family, she was the hardest worker when it came to cultivation. The lofty ambitions she claimed when she was young, she is still firmly moving towards achieving them.

Just for this, Wang Shouzhe secretly admired her.

Three moves?

Lady Bilian's eyes sparkled. This little girl knows how to talk big. However, instead of getting angry, she agreed happily, "Okay, three moves it is. I want to see just how strong you really are!"

If her son Jianye wins two consecutive victories, what can Prince Teng say then?

"Wait!"

Just then,

A strong voice rang out as two figures, an old man and a young one, appeared beside the ring.

The older man had an extraordinary aura, striding forward with hands folded at his back. He looked like a person who had been in power for a long time.

The younger man was just over twenty.

He was quite handsome, but his eyes were somewhat shifty, suggesting a lack of confidence.

As soon as these two appeared.

Lady Bilian was taken aback for a moment, then burst into a delicate laugh, "Well, if it isn't Liu Kangping of the Liu Clan of Chu Yun. What, do you also plan to send your son to the Academic Palace? It's just that your son is only a Grade D talent, and if he manages to get into the Academic Palace it would just be to get through the day, he has no future."

In any prominent family, even those of the Tianren families, there are descendants with poor talents.

They get by on connections and can be accepted as disciples in the academic palace because of their positions.

There are many such people in the Academic Palace, with the most typical example being Zhong Xingwang, who Wang Shouzhe knew - he was at the bottom of the ordinary disciples in the palace.

But if the talent is only a Grade D talent, that's far too low. Most families would give up on such a child; in Lady Bilian's words, it would be better to have another child.

But for some reason, Liu Kangping had been investing a lot of resources in this son, boosting his talent bit by bit, and sparing no effort in enhancing his cultivation base. Some in the clan resented him for it.

As a result, his son's reputation as a waste spread far and wide.

"Grade D?" Liu Kangping looked amused. "My son, Yunlong, show Aunt Bilian your bloodline talent. Spare some people the trouble of looking down on you all the time."

The somewhat insecure young man, Liu Yunlong, took a deep breath and composed himself. Next, he circulated his mysterious energy, and a faint greenwood-colored energy wrapped around his palm. The mysterious energy was very vigorous, like the lush green of early spring, which made people feel affable.

Yi wood bloodline?

Lady Bilian was stunned: "How... how is this possible?"

Some of the onlookers were also impressed. They felt like they'd learned something new today in seeing so many talented young people in this small area.

Although Liu Yunlong had achieved this through the use of the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, the fact that he was able to obtain such a pill demonstrated his impressive abilities.

Most Tianren families find it difficult to afford the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill without harming their vital energy.

Plus, everyone knows,

If you awaken a bloodline before reaching the Spiritual Platform Realm, you can further enhance your bloodline after the evolution of your physique and life-form during the advancement to Spiritual Platform Realm.

In this case, you have a chance to compete for the position of Core Disciple. You become somewhat qualified to tread the path of the Tianren.

"Haha, how could it not be possible." Liu Kangping laughed proudly, "After the last separation from Donghaei, I expended all my connections. I found a way to ask Master Danding for the last Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill in his possession."

Lady Bilian was even more shocked: "What? You actually managed to connect with Master Danding?"

Liu Kangping said proudly: "Do only your Yuwen Family have connections? As an old prominent family, my Liu Clan of Chu Yun naturally has our foundation." The talent of his younger son had always been a thorn in his side.

What he didn't mention,

Was that for last Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill from Master Danding's hands,

He had spent a total of two hundred and seventy thousand Qian Gold. This made him feel a bit pained. Had he known, he would have fought to the end with Prince Teng.

Unfortunately, he had no way of knowing that Wang Shouzhe was just as determined to get the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill. Regardless of the price reaching three hundred and seventy thousand, he would not back down either.

Who knows when the next pill would be available if he missed this one.

Not to mention that Wang Shouzhe didn't lose out. With the aid of this Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill and the Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid, he swiftly advanced from the Qi Refinement Realm to the Level Two bloodline.

He successfully obtained all the rewards in the trial arena.

After advancing to the Spiritual Platform Realm, he broke through to the Threefold bloodline. Moreover, he obtained a Top Grade Spiritual Artifact and the Bloodthirsty Vine Spirit Seed, greatly boosting his combat abilities.

With all these benefits, he'd clearly made a profit from that Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill.

"Yi wood bloodline is indeed good." Lady Bilian sneered, "But, Liu Kangping, why did you suddenly jump out?"

"I see these students having a lively challenge." Liu Kangping said, "My son Yunlong also wants to get to know his future classmates in advance. In case he accidentally wins two moves against your nephew, why not also give us a meal."

As the elder of an old prominent celestial family, he doesn't care about the cost of a meal. He just wants to suppress Lady Bilian's arrogance.

"Alright, after my Jianye deals with this little girl, he can cross hands with your son. I hope that with his Yi wood bloodline resisting properties, he can hold on for a while." Lady Bilian said confidently.

"Auntie, Uncle," Wang Luoqiu sighed helplessly, "You guys can find somewhere else to chat. I'm starving. To save time, please hurry up and start eating. How about this, both this mommy's boy and that daddy's darling—you two can come at me together."

While she wasn't as much of a foodie as Wang Licui, Luoqiu still placed a high importance on eating. Only with abundant energy and blood would she have the energy to cultivate and fight.

Together?

Lady Bilian and Liu Kangping both turned to her in unison—the audacity of this little girl...

"Okay." Lady Bilian said nonchalantly, "Liu Kangping, let Yunlong and Jianye join forces and deal with that girl first. Enhancing their relationship can be beneficial when they go to the Academic Palace in the future."

In the end, Lady Bilian was a businesswoman. As soon as she saw Liu Yunlong awaken the Greenwood Bloodline, she wanted Jianye to start being friendly with him.

Seeing this, Liu Kangping agreed.

They didn't have any major vendettas against each other. Building some relationships when given the opportunity is not a bad thing.

Then,

Wang Luoqiu, Liu Yunlong, and Yuwen Jianye stood opposite each other, forming the shape of a "品".

As soon as they saw their positions,

Wang Luoqiu shook her head and sighed, "Ah!".

"Why did you sigh?" Yuwen Jianye asked.

"I'm sighing because if you two were to team up properly, you would probably be able to hold on for twenty moves, but now..." Wang Luoqiu shook her head, "Five moves!"

"What?"

The faces of Yuwen Jianye and Liu Yunlong changed at the same time, their expressions shocked.

Without waiting for them to refute, Wang Luoqiu made her move.

She too had a War Body bloodline, but her movements were nothing like Wang Zongsheng's reckless charges. With a casual step forward, it seemed as if she had already arrived in front of Liu Yunlong. Then, she threw a simple punch, which was understated and modest.

It was like a child's play fight.

Liu Yunlong hastily defended with both hands. A faint greenish mysterious energy condensed and blocked the punch.

Time seemed to halt at that moment.

The next moment.

"Boom!"

Liu Yunlong was thrown backward like he had been hit by a cannonball. The air exploded, his defenses shattered, and his body flew out of control.

Without waiting for him to land,

Wang Luoqiu had already lightly jumped up, and drove her elbow into his chest.

"Bang!"

Liu Yunlong was thrown about six or seven feet away like a ball, crashing hard onto the ground, spitting out blood. His eyes were filled with shock and disbelief. Who am I? Where am I?

Fortunately, Wang Luoqiu had shown mercy. Otherwise, that elbow would have crushed a few of his ribs!

This was her fighting style, clean and decisive, targeting the opponent's weak points.

At the same time.

Yuwen Jianye's face drastically changed, and he prepared to go forward to assist. However, as soon as he rushed to the battlefield using his nimble movement technique, he found that his teammate had already been thrown out of it.

He then stood there dumbfounded. What the hell was going on? Was he seeing things?

"Getting distracted during a fight is not a good habit." Wang Luoqiu's voice floated softly in his ears.

In just an instant, she had closed in on him.

"Not good." Yuwen Jianye panicked, but it was too late to retreat. His chest had been grabbed, and he was thrown out hard.

Then, Yuwen Jianye took flight like a bird.

Only one thought occupied his mind.

Who am I? Where am I? What on earth was happening?

"Bang!"

A few moments later, he landed hard at the foot of the stage. He was not injured, but his face turned red.

The scene was deathly silent.

Even the Spirit Platform Realm spectators were stunned. This girl was too powerful, wasn't she?

Although her victory at the ninth level of the Qi Refinement Realm over the eighth level was not strange, it was surprising that she could achieve such a clean victory in two versus one, as if the fight was over before it started.

It was truly beyond everyone's expectations.

But Wang Luoqiu acted as if she had just done something very ordinary. She slowly walked off the stage and said to Lady Bilian, "Auntie, can we start eating now?"

"You, you, you." Lady Bilian turned pale.

This girl had only used three moves.

Could she be a Sky Pride? No, no. Lady Bilian was born in the National Capital and had seen Sky Prides in action. She feared that most Sky Prides weren't as fierce as her.

"Let's eat." Wang Shouzhe said. Our children are starving, and with that, he took the lead to walk away.

Everyone followed him back to the box.

Wang Luoqiu gave a glance at Yuwen Jianye and Liu Yunlong, who were blushing yet gazing at her with admiration, and consoled, "You two have good talents, but your combat consciousness is too weak. If you enter the Academic Palace later, you can come to spar with me."

What? Wang Shouzhe was slightly stunned. Luoqiu, was she preparing to recruit followers and stir up a storm in the Academic Palace?

Chapter 30 Master Canglan! Convince with Power

...

"Thank you, thank you Miss Luo Qiu." Their eyes met and they were both excited.

Without a doubt, Wang Luo Qiu had just won their admiration. If they could follow her in the future, life in the Academic Palace would certainly draw much less concern.

Then, Yuwen Jianye delicately asked, "Miss Luo Qiu, may we dine with you?"

Wang Luo Qiu glanced at them and saw the anticipation in their eyes, she nodded and said, "Well, your mother is paying the bill anyway, let's go together."

"It is sister-in-law!" Lady Bilian gritted her teeth and corrected again.

But the two young men did not bother with her response.

Instead, they eagerly followed Wang Luo Qiu, as if dining with her was the greatest honor.

The three casually engaged in conversation.

"Huh? Miss Luo Qiu, are you even younger than me by a year?"

After a brief interaction, the three of them were somewhat familiar with each other. Yuwen Jianye was stunned and asked, "My God, how did you cultivate? Too fierce."

"Even if I am younger, remember to call me senior sister in the future. There's no special way to cultivate. Just often venture into foreign territories and fight with fierce beasts." Wang Luo Qiu always heard Zhong Xingwang calling Longyan 'senior sister', and she felt this title was prestigious.

"Go to foreign territories and fight with fierce beasts?" Yuwen Jianye and Liu Yunlang were both shocked, we are just children, aren't we? Going to foreign territories and fighting with fierce beasts!!!

This is almost impossible in a celestial being's prominent family.

"What's the big deal?" Wang Luoqiu said calmly, "When I was eleven years old, I began to fight life or death duels with Independent Cultivators a level higher than me, ventured into foreign territories to wrestle with ferocious beasts, and hunted them. In these years, I have killed countless felons and beasts."

She had no choice. The Ping'an Wang family, situated on the edge of the borderland, has not been a peaceful place. Therefore, at a young age, Wang Luoqiu already needed to shoulder heavy family responsibilities.

The child of a needy family learns to take care of themselves early. Her fighting instinct was honed through countless battles.

Also, she likes fighting with Wang Shouzhe. Though she loses every time, she always manages to learn many strange tactics from her fourth brother.

"You are... too cruel. Sure, I will call you senior sister from now on, you are powerful after all." Both Yuwen Jianye and Liu Yunlang had no objections and started calling her 'senior sister'.

"Well, good. I'll look after you two in the Academic Palace. However, you two mommy's boys and daddy's treasures need to change your temperament, I can't stand it," Wang Luoqiu said.

"It is sister-in-law..." Lady Bilian corrected again from behind foggily.

"Huh? Auntie...Why did you follow us? We're all youngsters having a meetup." Wang Luoqiu looked at her inquisitively.

Then, Lady Bilian and Liu Kangping were left out, staring at each other.

They felt like the younger generation they had painstakingly nurtured seemed to be abducted?

To be precise, they had been abducted.

Looking at this scene, Wang Shouzhe was also quite speechless. His sixth sister is indeed not a simpleton.

She absolutely has her plans to gather a group of junior brothers. Her entrance to the Academic Palace will surely cause disturbances.

The meal, of course, was delightful.

Especially Wang Licui, who was totally worry-free now as that Lady Biliand lady was going to foot the bill after all.

...

A few hours later.

When Lady Biliand, who was leisurely lying on the Queen's couch, drinking the beauty nourishing Spiritual Bee Emperor Honey Tea, received the bill, from the shopkeeper, she didn't even bother to look and said, "Didn't I say it was all on my account?"

The shopkeeper forced a bitter smile and said, "My Lady, it is best to take a look first."

Lady Bilian looked nonchalant and glanced at it, "Having a bit more to eat is fine but...!" She spurted out the honey tea she was drinking, her eyes bulged, "Are you kidding me? They took the leftovers!?"

The shopkeeper firmly shook his head, said: "We had a lad watching over, no leftovers, they finished everything on the spot."

Then Lady Bilian's eyes rolled back, her mind full of *&% ¥#, she fell into chaos, her mind went blank.

What did she bother Wang Teng for?

This meal caused her heartaches. How terrifying was it?

It seemed she had to keep a distance from the Wang Family in the future.

No, she cannot.

It seemed her son Jianye had already proclaimed their young lady his gang leader...

Lady Bilian was almost to tears, she had lost her wealth and the people.

...

Joyful times always pass quickly.

A few days later.

The days of indulgence in eating and drinking in Longzuo County have ended.

After the Old Ancestor Xuan Hufu, who had gone to conduct reconnaissance, returned, she began to lead everyone out of Longzuo County Town and headed to the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

The caravan slowly left Longzuo County Town, heading northward. In just two or three days' time, they entered the area of the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

The Purple Abode Academic Palace is backed by the Purple Abode Sacred Mountain, which is over two thousand meters high.

The buildings are situated in the middle of several spirit peaks, on top of a complex, enormous and top-notch spirit vein.

Many of the buildings are constructed on the tops of mountains that have been halfway cut off.

The structure is gigantic, with buildings of varying heights, covering an area nearly half the size of Changning City.

Such a huge and complex single building cluster is the first time Wang Shouzhe has seen it.

Indeed, it's the Purple Abode Academic Palace! Indeed, it's the Profound Martial sacred land of the entire Longzuo County area.

Even Wang Shouzhe, a transmigrator, had to restrain his proud attitude considerably, not daring to underestimate the Academic Palace in the slightest.

After half a day's effort.

They arrived at a large square at the foot of the mountain.

This large square is so vast that it's nearly endless at first sight. Even more astonishing is the countless number of people gathered here.

There were prominent family members who brought their entire households and carriages. There were also groups of independent cultivators.

However, they could not easily enter the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

The Academic Palace is not a tourist attraction, you cannot simply enter as you please.

Non-students must have an invitation letter or a notification of re-examination to enter the Academy. And they can only stay in designated areas, they are not allowed to run around at will.

If Wang Dingyue hadn't met with an accident back then, forcing Wang Shouzhe to reluctantly take charge of the family...

He would have used his notice of re-examination and entered the Academic Palace for the test.

However, he knew that with his talents and strength at the time, the chance of passing the re-examination was only half. If Master Bilian had been helping him from behind, he could have barely made it in.

He would have merely been an ordinary student.

However, even ordinary students are something that many people are eagerly trying to get into.

Just for that saying, 'Once you enter the Academic Palace, you're destined to become a spiritual platform.'

The Purple Abode Academic Palace would not admit those who couldn't become a spiritual platform and wouldn't let its students fail to step into the spiritual platform.

And now as Wang Shouzhe came this time, the situation was quite different. Looking at the bustling crowd, his heart was full of emotion.

Then, since he had the care of Master Bilian and Wang Shouxin, a core disciple, was present.

Wang Shouzhe and his people easily entered the gate of the Academic Palace.

And were assigned several guest houses to temporarily stay in.

...

At the same time.

At the back of the Purple Abode Academic Palace was a Mysterious Ice Peak.

Atop the large platform on the peak, a large crystal clear white palace complex was situated. The peak was over a thousand and five hundred feet high, and above it was a thick layer of clouds.

It was unclear whether it was because of the prime Mysterious Ice Spirit Vein within the peak. This peak experiences heavy snowfall all year round, and hundreds of miles are covered in ice. It seems to cover all the cold in the world here.

While this is an icy hell for the common man, for those Profound Martial practitioners who cultivate the Mysterious Ice Technique, this place is viewed as a gifted sacred land.

The large Spirit Gathering Array has firmly locked the spiritual energy of this Mysterious Ice Spirit Vein, all contributing to the Ice Palace in its entirety.

At the highest point of the white palace.

There was an ice crystal-like pavilion, it was the core location of the entire Mysterious Ice Palace.

Inside this Mysterious Ice Pavilion.

A woman in white palace attire and a veil, stood next to the ice crystal railing.

Her beautiful eyes were deep, like eternal ice, gazing down at the foot of the mountain.

The thick clouds and heavy snow around her, seemed to sense her will and spread to both sides, revealing the scenery at the foot of the mountain.

Even a ray of sunlight penetrated in, covering this Ice Palace with a golden glow.

With just one stand there, she was like the incarnation of ice and snow between heaven and earth, integrating with the whole Mysterious Ice Pavilion and even the entire Mysterious Ice Palace.

Such a cultivation realm.

Has long surpassed ordinary mortals and has touched the vague, yet mysteriously profound, Dao of heaven and earth.

Behind her.

There was also a handsome and cold youth in white, standing still without daring to disturb her.

After a long while.

The woman in white palace attire withdrew her gaze, the clouds and heavy snow began to roll inwards again, barring the golden ray of sunlight outside.

She said in an indifferent and icy tone, "That child, Longyan, should be arriving at the Academic Palace in a couple of days, right? Yu An, go bring her here."

"Yes, Master." Fang Youan saluted respectfully. After a pause, he hesitated and said, "Master, Disciple Longyan reported that she's been cultivating the Yin Sha energy..."

"I'm aware of that matter," the lady in palace attire said indifferently, "Is there a problem?"

"This..." Fang Youan looked hesitant and nervous, "Some masters... aren't too pleased about accepting back Disciple Longyan. They say our Purple Abide Academic Palace is a model of righteousness in the world. Additionally, the Academic Palace has always been on bad terms with the Yinsha Sect.

Given that Disciple Longyan has cultivated the poisonous energy of Yin Sha, they think we shouldn't accept her back into the Academy."

"Some Masters are displeased? Is it Changchun or Xuan Yao?" The look in the eyes of the lady in palace attire didn't change as she said plainly, "Nevermind, regardless of who has a problem, let them express their views to me directly."

"I will convince them." She added lightly.

Convince, with force.

Fang Youan broke a sweat. As expected, his master's assertiveness hadn't changed a bit. She still enjoyed "Convincing with Force".

However, he was somewhat sentimental in his heart. Longyan, please don't disappoint the master's good intentions this time.

Of course, Fang Youan was also somewhat curious in his heart. Although Longyan's talents were not bad.

But to what degree would Master deem fit to show such favoritism? Could there be some untold secrets behind this?