

## Protect OCL VL2 81

Chapter 81: Battle with the Celestial Being! The Rise of the Wang Family\_1

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"You impudent brat! How dare you!"

In the sky, the Old Ancestor Hua Ye was taken aback by the sight, a mixture of shock and fury washing over him.

Wang Zhubo had tied him down, and he thought that even though Jinning and Jinyu were at the advanced stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm, they were no match. Nevertheless, it wouldn't be easy for the Ping'an Wang Family to kill them, so he didn't worry too much.

But to his surprise, it was merely the time it took to drink a cup of tea and one of the two had already fallen!

"Why wouldn't I dare?" Wang Shouzhe looked up at him, a cold smile on his composed face. "Huangfu Hua Ye, you plotted against my Wang Family, and now you are making a murderous attack on our property. Come on, are we Wang family supposed to wash our necks and wait for you to kill us?"

"You're courting death!"

Old Ancestor Hua Ye couldn't recall the last time he had encountered such a defiant junior in his face. His rage turned into an uncontrollable and furious blaze.

He swept his finger across his storage ring, and a halberd appeared in his hand.

This halberd was crafted from the expensive Red Refining Iron. As it appeared, it ignited fierce flames.

"Fiery War Halberd!"

This was the ancestral fire-type magical treasure of the Huangfu clan in Changning, known for its extraordinary power.

The only minor issue was its strict conditions of use. It required a cultivator in the Heavenly Human Realm or above, proficient in fire cultivation techniques, to control it.

Once, Huangfu Hong Yu, the founding ancestor of Huangfu Clan, relied on "Red Dragon True Verses" and the Fiery War Halberd to forge territories. He slew a Level Five Fierce Beast that occupied this area in Changning, which at that time was still a barbaric hinterland. This feat earned him an illustrious reputation and unprecedented merit points.

A solid foundation was laid for the Huangfu Clan to dominate Changning for five hundred years.

It has to be admitted that Huangfu Hong Yu was an extraordinary figure of his time. His achievements and fame far surpassed Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan's.

In the merit list of the Heavenly Human Realm Old Ancestors in Changning, he was basically considered the first.

Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but admire Huangfu Hong Yu's track record and boldness.

Unfortunately, everything changed during the reign of Huangfu Hua Ye, the third-generation Old Ancestor of the Heavenly Human Realm.

The Huangfu family stopped expanding and their strategic focus shifted from promoting the development of their clan to suppressing other prominent families to secure their leading position.

Looking back on history, it was crystal clear to Wang Shouzhe.

Once a family adopts such an inward-looking mindset, it loses the drive and boldness to progress.

Perhaps, the moment their thinking changed, trouble had already been brewing. Without Wang Shouzhe or the Ping'an Wang Family, sooner or later, other families would replace them.

However, despite the numerous hidden dangers and troubles sown by the Huangfu family of Changning, overthrowing a gigantic family like the Heavenly Human Na Clan would inevitably face their violent counterattack!

With the Fiery War Halberd in his hand, the aura of Old Ancestor Hua Ye soared!

Under the night sky, his flaming hair swept around wildly. His body was swathed in burning flames like a war god marching out of the flames, radiating a terrifying aura that made one's heart palpitate.

Behind him, a vague image of a Red Flaming Flood Dragon began to emerge.

The Flood Dragon whirled, red flames reaching up to the sky.

"Moo~~~"

A dragon roar, deep like a bellowing bull, echoed abruptly. The sonorous and distant sound chilled people to their bones.

Jun Yao, who was standing next to Wang Shouzhe, was caught off guard. He turned pale as if he had encountered a natural enemy. Even Old Ancestor Longyan at the Advanced Stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm and Old Ancestor Beichen found it uncomfortable.

Although Wang Shouzhe had been expecting this, he still looked a bit grim.

This was the terror of a cultivator in the Heavenly Human Realm.

Every Heavenly Human Realm cultivator is a genuine powerhouse that can both sit and dominate one side. At full strength, their fighting power is incredibly fearsome.

This was also why he had set up this ambush.

In his series of actions against the Huangfu Clan, he had to squeeze the Huangfu Clan's living space through commercial means, cut off its economic lifeline. Eventually, he was bound to face a desperate counterattack from Old Ancestor Hua Ye.

The most terrifying moment for a Heavenly Human Realm cultivator is not when he dominates one side, but when he loses all restraints and rationality.

For the Wang family, this would be a Sword of Damocles hanging over their heads. Unless they severely damage or even annihilate it, the Wang family's development will inevitably face restrictions.

"Boy, your life is mine!"

Old Ancestor Hua Ye swung his halberd. The waves of flames and oppressive aura swept down like a storm.

In the firelight, he charged towards Wang Shouzhe with his halberd in hand, his hair standing on end, as if the Jiaolong had possessed him, making him unmatched momentarily.

Wang Shouzhe sneered, stepped back lightly like a floating willow catkin, and waved the Bloodthirsty Vines.

It seemed slow but was actually fast.

At the same time, countless Iron Python Vines entangled and woven into a thick vine wall in front of him. The Iron Python Vine's skin was as hard as iron. Although it definitely couldn't block a strike from an Old Ancestor in the Heavenly Human Realm, it was more than sufficient to stall for time.

The Fiery War Halberd arrived almost instantaneously. When obstructed by the vine wall, its speed temporarily slowed.

Even though only a moment later, over half of the vine wall was destroyed in the raging fire, the movements of Old Ancestor Hua Ye were still half a beat slow.

At the same time, an authoritative roar filled with irresistible rage suddenly echoed from high above.

"Hua Ye, I am your opponent!"

As the words fell, a relentlessly dominant blade of golden light cleaved through the air. The overwhelming Blade Intent was as powerful as a stone shattering the sky.

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In the blade light, a golden shining war blade was clearly visible.

The war blade has an ancient appearance, forged entirely from incredibly expensive secret copper, mixed with about one-tenth of Geng Metal. The body of the blade is filled with closely arranged mysterious runes, which were currently emitting glaring golden light.

"Geng Metal War Knife!"

The face of Old Ancestor Hua Ye changed.

It turned out that Old Ancestor Zhou Bo, seeing Wang Shouzhe in danger, also drew out his magical blade.

This knife is the well-known Divine Spiritual Treasure "Geng Metal War Knife", a replica of the magic weapon, it is also a magical weapon passed down generation by generation by the Wang family of Longzuo, just like his Fiery War Halberd.

Despite being a replica, its power is definitely not weak.

The Wang family of Longzuo was once a Prominent Family of Purple Abode. Even though it has now fallen to the point where it can hardly maintain the cycle of Heavenly Human, its profound heritage still cannot be underestimated and is far from comparable to those barely advanced Heavenly Human Prominent Families.

At the same time as the blade light appeared, Old Ancestor Zhou Bo also arrived.

He had pushed his mysterious skill to its extreme, with his whole body shining golden. Even the exposed skin was showing a faint golden color.

Behind him, shadowy Dharma figures also appeared.

That was a Four-Armed Vajra Avatar, with wide and angry eyes, majestic and fierce, as if it could smash all evils.

Most cultivators who could cultivate to the Heavenly Human Realm had good bloodline talents. For example, Old Ancestor Hua Ye had a Middle Sub- Grade Lihuo Bloodline during the Vital Energy Refining Realm, and then he promoted to the Spiritual Platform Realm and underwent a bloodline metamorphosis once. When he reached the Heavenly Human Realm, his bloodline evolved once again.

He now looks like he has experienced bloodline awakening thrice. Although there is still a big step away from the legendary "Departing Fire Body", it is normal for the Dharma shadow to appear during the outbreak of the threefold bloodline.

Old Ancestor Zhou Bo, being able to cultivate to the Heavenly Human Realm, is of course also not to be underestimated.

Now, although he is far from the real "Geng Metal Body", he is a Heavenly Human Realm who has awakened threefold bloodline after all. Compared with Old Ancestor Hua Ye, the difference is merely a level of cultivation and there are no fundamental differences.

If Old Ancestor Hua Ye disregards Old Ancestor Zhou Bo and continues to chase and kill Wang Shouzhe, he will definitely be seriously injured.

Old Ancestor Hua Ye had no choice but to give up chasing Wang Shouzhe and fight with Old Ancestor Zhou Bo.

For Old Ancestor Zhou Bo, defeating Old Ancestor Hua Ye is extremely difficult, but if it is just to stall, it is much simpler.

In an instant.

The sky was drumming with thunder and was violently shaken.

Terrible energy fluctuations swept across the sky wave after wave. The surrounding clouds were dispersed, and the cement buildings in the gorge would also occasionally suffer casualties. Even the surface of the Peace River on the other side began to rave, setting off wave after wave.

Meanwhile.

After escaping from danger, Wang Shouzhe also let go of his Bloodthirsty Vines.

In just such a short time, the Bloodthirsty Vines have quickly digested the results of the battle. The old skin flakes off, and the new skin is more rich in blood color, exuding a cold bloody smell.

Even outsiders who are not familiar with Bloodthirsty Vines can tell at a glance that it has become stronger.

"Go!"

Wang Shouzhe flicked his finger, a trace of Changchun energy fell on the Bloodthirsty Vine.

The Bloodthirsty Vines stood up, greedily glancing at Huangfu Jinning who was still twitching violently, then its body twisted and jumped, and it flew to him.

The speed was so fast that it even brought out afterimages in the air.

Its hunting desire is so strong that it is much crueler than common people's understanding of vines.

When Liu Ruolan initially helped Wang Shouzhe choose the Bloodthirsty Vine Spirit Seed, she only felt that this object should be suitable for cultivators like Wang Shouzhe who have wood-type bloodlines.

But everyone didn't expect that the Bloodthirsty Vine would be so terrifying.

Actually, even Wang Shouzhe, who had just acquired this object and cultivated the Bloodthirsty Vine Spirit Seed for the first time according to the tutorial using his own blood, was initially startled by it.

Its thirst and aggression for blood, along with the predation of beasts that it showed later, sometimes made Wang Shouzhe get goosebumps, feeling like he unleashed a demon.

The only thing that comforted Wang Shouzhe was that it was very dependent on and trusted its "master". It seemed to have a "heart-to-heart" bond with Wang Shouzhe, and it always complied with his orders.

One could only say that it was indeed one of the highest prizes in the trial relics of the Divine Martial Dynasty. Compared to the precious top-grade spiritual artifact, its value is much higher.

From this perspective, Liu Ruolan's Water Spirit Pearl must also not be ordinary. Or the remaining treasures are all rare and powerful things.

Meanwhile.

On the other side, Huangfu Jinning, seeing the Bloodthirsty Vines pouncing on him, his face changed drastically, and he was terrified to the extreme.

If he had to fight that blood-thirsty monster alone, he could surely win. But now, where can he find an opportunity to fight alone?

He wanted to escape, but he was tightly entangled by Elder Longyan and Iron Python Vine, and couldn't escape at all.

The outcome is already destined.

Soon, he was entangled by the Bloodthirsty Vines, falling into the same fate as Huangfu Jinyu.

The blood was sucked dry, and he turned into a dry corpse.

And the Bloodthirsty Vine that sucked the blood dry entered the lazy digestion stage again. However, it is impossible for it to advance again this time.

The two venerable elders, Huangfu Jinyu and Huangfu Jinning of the Spiritual Platform Realm's advanced stage, can be counted as big figures who have been rampant in Changning for a lifetime. But now, they have become the growth nutrients for the Bloodthirsty Vines, without even having a good end.



If this were to be spread out, it would definitely shock the entire Changning Guard.

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"Jinning!"

The Old Ancestor Hua Ye roared mournfully.

He had desperately tried to rescue Huangfu Jinning, but was stopped by the damn Wang Zhubo. The hatred and anger in his heart soared to its extreme in this moment.

"Wang Zhubo! Wang Shouzhe! Fine, fine, fine, I, Hua Ye, swear to return tenfold of what was gifted to me today!"

With that said, he fiercely thrust his magical treasure, the Fiery War Halberd, forcing back Elder Zhubo and his physical form suddenly transformed into a flaming meteor, fleeing towards Peace River.

Quite evidently, he had no more intention to linger and fight, planning to retreat for now and prepare a decisive battle against the Wang family afterwards.

However, just as he had barely flown further, he saw a white streak coming from the usually turbulent waters of Peace River

The next moment.

The massive waves arose and kept stacking up to the sky, crashing directly above him.

The rolling water seemed endless, its momentum daunting, giving one the sense of an apocalyptic collapse!

"How can there be such big waves on the Peace River?!"

Old Ancestor Hua Ye looked up in disbelief, just to see a large Water Spirit Tortoise swimming leisurely above the monstrous waves.

For a turtle-class spirit beast, which has a natural affinity for water, this was nothing but a gentle breeze. It was purely laid-back and content.

On its back stood an extremely graceful woman.

Standing with her sword, her exquisite face stern, her long water-blue dress fluttering in the wind, she looked like the legendary Goddess of Xiang, a fairy among people at first glance.

Without a doubt, this woman was the Great Wife of the Ping'an Wang family, Liu Ruolan.

Next to her, the blue Water Spirit Pearl was spinning madly, with the blue Water Aura gushing out and continually pouring into her body.

At this moment, she seemed to be under great strain, her expression was tense, her complexion pale, and there were even faint sweat beads seeping from her forehead.

Obviously, the enormous wave was formed under her control!

Clearly, all of this had been premeditated and might have been brewing since the beginning.

Although not each wave contained Water Aura and its actual power was still inferior to the formidable spell used by a Tianren Realm Cultivator sensing celestial energy, this wave cunningly used the current of Peace River, allowing it to roll in with the mighty torrent of the river.

Its momentum was as strong as that of heaven and earth!

Old Ancestor Hua Ye realized the danger and wanted to change his direction immediately.

However, it was too late.

The next moment.

The monstrous waves swept down and slammed fiercely onto Old Ancestor Hua Ye!

"Boom~~!"

In the huge sound of water, Old Ancestor Hua Ye was directly smacked down from the sky and plunged into the water of Peace River, with the protective flame around him dimming significantly.

"Damn it!"

Old Ancestor Hua Ye's face had become extremely ugly.

This blow, though not significantly damaging to him, was hugely insulting, as if he had been slapped in the face!

However, even though he was furious to the extreme, he still dared not stay underwater for long.

A Level Three aquatic beast, if on land, he could kill it in several rounds. However, underwater, it would be much more difficult. Moreover, his Red Dragon True Verses mainly functioned with fire, how much power could he wield underwater?

Under such circumstances, and with that woman who was extremely adept at controlling water around, he could easily end up capsizing.

"Splash~~!"

With a splash, Old Ancestor Hua Ye immediately leaped out of the water, looking extremely embarrassed.

With this slight delay, Old Zhubo had once again caught up, clinging to Old Ancestor Hua Ye like a stubborn ailment.

At the same time, Old Longyan, Old Beichen, and Wang Shouzhe had also rushed over.

Everyone quickly joined in the siege against Elder Hua Ye.

Wang Longyan and Xu Beichen, among the Spirit Platform Realm cultivators in the advanced stage, possessed unparalleled combat power. Although there was still a significant gap compared to the Heavenly Human Realm, it was much easier for them to perform their techniques with Elder Zhou Zubo holding Elder Hua Ye in check.

Especially the deadly moves and ultimate techniques they had, now had enough time to brew and execute.

Even someone as powerful as Elder Hua Ye didn't dare to directly face off against their lethal attacks!

Compared to that, their only weakness was their inability to stay airborne for extended periods. They needed to land on a cliff, water surface, or the turtle's back to catch their breath, then take to the sky again to join the fight.

In addition, Liu Ruolan had also joined the fight.

However, she chose to attack from a distance, periodically sending a water dragon to harass Elder Hua Ye. Even if her attacks missed, the water dragon would burst in mid-air, transforming into heavy rainfall.

As water naturally countered fire, the potency of Elder Hua Ye's flames was considerably diminished.

However, amongst all the people, the one who frustrated and troubled Elder Hua Ye the most was not her, but Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Shouzhe held a shield in his left hand, a sword in the right, and he did not fight up close. Instead, he kept on slashing from a distance, sending sword energy to harass his enemy.

The harassment itself wasn't a big deal, what truly frustrated him was when he finally managed to repel Xu Beichen or Wang Longyan, even causing them some injuries.

Yet, in just a few moments, Wang Shouzhe would rush over to them and heal their wounds rapidly.

Further, he gave them both a piece of lush green leaf, instructing them to keep it in their mouths during the fight to incessantly restore their vitality.

With this situation, the fight naturally couldn't continue.

Elder Hua Ye tried to retreat several times but was consistently thwarted by Elder Zhou Zhubo, who, wielding a Geng Metal War Knife, kept him suppressed just tens of feet above the water's surface.

If this situation didn't change and continued to drag on, even a formidable Tianren Realm powerhouse may eventually be drained to death!

Elder Hua Ye felt a chill of dread in his heart.

By this point, he had stopped underestimating Wang Shouzhe.

He gritted his teeth, the look on his face displaying both anguish and resolve: "Wang Shouzhe, Wang Zhoubo, you're both forcing my hand!"

Up to this point, when it came to the person he hated the most, Wang Shouzhe was undoubtedly at the top of the list.

Having said that, he spotted an opportunity and pulled out a palm-sized scale from his storage ring.

This scale was a fiery red color, translucent like jade, with a red hued glow flowing on its surface, giving it an extraordinary appearance.

"The Red Fire Dragon Scale?!" Elder Zhubo, well-informed due to his ancestry, had his face turned pale at the sight of the scale, "Does the Huangfu Clan still possess such a thing?! I thought they had used them all?"

He was well-versed regarding the Huangfu Clan's secrets, having gathered much intelligence on them due to their mutual enmity.

"Snap!"

While talking, Elder Hua Ye crushed the Red Fire Dragon Scale into dust with a casual squeeze of his hand.

A horrifying swirling flame energy emerged from it and quickly flowed into his body through his palm.

"Roar!"

Elder Hua Ye roared in excruciating pain.

In an instant, his entire body's pores emitted intense flames, and amidst the towering blaze, a terrifying oppressive aura began to pervade the surroundings.

"Damned brat, this was the last Red Fire Dragon Scale of my Huangfu Clan!" The hatred in Elder Hua Ye's eyes, shrouded by the blazing flames, seemed to reach the sky as he glared at Wang Shouzhe, "Brat, even a thousand deaths wouldn't be enough to soothe my hatred for you!"

It's not surprising, after all, how precious is a Red Fire Dragon Scale? Its price is much higher than that of a middle-grade spiritual artifact. The key was that it was extremely rare, could only be refined by a Purple Abode Realm powerhouse of the Huangfu Clan of the Southern Desert.

When Huangfu Hong Yu first came from the main family branch to forge a path in Changning, he was given only three of them.

Two of them were used up during Huangfu Hong Yu's frontier expedition.

The last one had been passed down in the Huangfu Clan for more than five hundred years. Even if it wasn't called a clan's spiritual treasure, it still represented the family's heritage and faith, a means to save one's life or even kill the enemy in critical moments.

Yet unexpectedly, it was compelled by Wang Shouzhe to use this final scale today.

No wonder his hatred knew no bounds; the loss he had suffered today was simply too great!

Chapter 82: Killer Move! Summon Another Wife\_1

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With Old Ancestor Hua Ye's move, the situation on the field seemed to suddenly change.

He directly aimed at Wang Shouzhe, and Elders Zhou Xuan and others hurriedly stepped forward to obstruct.

His aura became strong and dangerous, forcing Elder Zhou Xuan, Elder Beichen, and Elder Longyan to retreat continuously, barely able to hold on.

"Shouzhe, he harbours deep hatred for you, you should withdraw first." Elder Zhou Bo was swinging the Geng Metal War Knife, emitting golden blade lights as he barely held off Old Ancestor Hua Ye.

"Shouzhe, don't mind us."

Wang Longyan also pushed the Sword Intent of the Mysterious Ice True Verses to the extreme. Each sword swing condensed countless ice crystals and frost flowers into delicate cold ice, creating a powerful Mysterious Ice storm, putting great pressure on Old Ancestor Hua Ye.

A stern and resolute look appeared in her eyes. Even if it meant sacrificing her life, she would keep Shouzhe alive.

Under the night sky, Wang Shouzhe floated above the Peace River, his robes billowing, his brow couldn't help but furrow.

True to its reputation, an old Tianren family that has been inherited for five hundred years indeed has a profound foundation, which is indeed not to be underestimated.

It seems that he could only use that move.

Were it not for the compelling situation, Wang Shouzhe wouldn't really want to use his hidden trump card.

Immediately, Wang Shouzhe swayed and landed on the Spirit Tortoise, his gaze solemnly landed on Liu Ruolan.

Liu Ruolan, currently sending out "Water Dragons" from time to time and creating night rain to cool down Hua Ye, was slightly startled, her heart somewhat uneasy. In such a critical juncture, instead of figuring out how to fight, what did her husband mean by looking at her like this?

"My wife." Wang Shouzhe said in a deep voice, "The situation is critical now. There are some things that I have to tell you the truth about. Actually, I have liked our little sister Ruolei for a long time."

"What?" Liu Ruolan's eyes widened in surprise, looking astonished at Wang Shouzhe. After a few moments, she frowned and said, "I did notice that Ruolei has some thoughts about you, but I didn't expect that you would also have such thoughts."

"My wife, I know I was too excessive, but I can't control this thought. Why don't you lose your temper and hit me to let off some steam?" Wang Shouzhe said with a somewhat "guilty" expression.

"Forget it, there's nothing to be angry about in this matter. After all, Ruolei is quite interested in you." Liu Ruolan shook her head solemnly and said, "If that's the case, when we get through today's crisis, I will write to ask Ruolei to come back from the Academic Palace. If she agrees, she can be your equal wife. It's also good to add a few more bloodlines to our family."

"Pff!"

Wang Shouzhe almost spewed out a mouthful of old blood and almost died, somewhat stunned. Is this really okay?

"Husband, don't make such a face." Liu Ruolan said, "I have also given this matter a lot of thought. After all, you are likely to take the path to the Purple Abode in the future, and life is a long journey lasting eight hundred years..."

"This, let's discuss this matter later. My wife..." Seeing that he could not provoke her, Wang Shouzhe hurriedly changed the subject and said, "My wife, wait until tonight is over. I have a few new moves that I have understood recently..."



"Tch, why are you talking about these things at this moment?" Liu Ruolan's pretty face slightly reddened, and she forcefully stamped her foot and whispered, "Is this the time to talk about this?"

With her stamp, the Spirit Tortoise beneath her feet shook violently, feeling innocent and wronged. You, a couple quarrelling, why are you venting your anger on Old Tortoise for? If it weren't for the fact that Old Tortoise can't beat you two, humph! "Just say if you're willing or not?"

Liu Ruolan, I've put up with you for a long time now." Seeing that there was a chance, Wang Shouzhe hurriedly seized the opportunity to press on, declaring in a domineering voice.

Liu Ruolan's face flushed a deep red, her eyes seeming to hold a different meaning as she bit her teeth and muttered in a low voice: "Fine, I'll yield to you this time, but don't make it a habit. Hurry up and find a way to resolve the current crisis. Elder Zhou Bo can't hold on for long."

Can this really work? Will she really not get angry?

Wang Shouzhe was stunned instantly, what now? What does she mean by finding a solution to the crisis, isn't he already thinking of one?

If she won't get angry in these two situations, Wang Shouzhe was really at a loss. Racking his brains, he hardened his heart and started dropping bombs: "My wife, I think Elder Xuanfu has a pretty good figure..."

Then, a cold aura spread from Liu Ruolan, she said coldly: "Wang Shouzhe, what did you say?"

"I meant Elder Xuanfu... her figure is full and graceful. Compared to my wife..." Seeing that there was a chance, Wang Shouzhe immediately took a huge risk and doubled down.

"Boom!"

A tangible cold killing intent enveloped Wang Shouzhe, making him feel as if targeted by an exceptional beast. His breath stagnated and he almost suffocated.

Liu Ruolan's once gentle and watery eyes suddenly clouded over with icy blue, and even her black hair seemed to be tinged with blue.

She seemed like a queen looking down on the mortal world from above.

The Spirit Tortoise was extremely sensitive to killing intent. It quickly retracted its head and tightly closed its eyes. Being connected to me by bloodline, master, I can't help you this time. You'll have to rely on your own luck.

"My wife, don't misunderstand." Wang Shouzhe hurriedly turned the conversation around, "I mean, no matter how good Elder Xuanfu's figure is, it can't compare to my wife's. Let's not talk about that for now. Do you see that old man on fire in the sky? He said he wants to beat me, kill me, and make our children fatherless."

Liu Ruolan's icy blue eyes looked up at the sky, with an intense killing intent amidst the frosty chill, enveloping Old Ancestor Hua Ye. She merely uttered coldly: "Death wish!"

As soon as this "death" word came out, the Spiritual Pearl floating around her seemed to sense her emotions, and suddenly began to operate violently, emitting a thick Water Elemental power.

She beckoned casually, and the enormous energy in the Spiritual Pearl wildly surged into her body.

She then pushed off her feet and like a fired bullet, she rushed straight into the sky. The Spirit Tortoise beneath her feet was even pushed downwards by her.

"Buzz!"

At the same time, the top grade spiritual artifact, the Autumn Water Sword, emitted a dragon-like roar. A slash sent out, and a clear blue sword light like a brilliant meteor streaked across the sky, hitting straight towards Old Ancestor Hua Ye.

Such terrifying might.

Even Hua Ye, the Old Ancestor, who had used the Red Fire Dragon scale to significantly boost his strength, felt a strong sense of threat.

His heart abruptly quivered, and he quickly went from attack to defense, wielding the Fiery War Halberd to block the sword intent infused with powerful elemental water energy.

"Boom!"

The energies of elemental water and Li Huo violently collided, and a shock wave continuously spreading outward erupted, filling the air with a burst of fireworks.

"How can it be?" Even as the Old Ancestor Hua Ye felt the faint tremor in his hand that held the Fiery War Halberd, he was astonished. This woman appeared to be merely in the early stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm.

Her previous impressive performance and awe-inspiring power had already far exceeded her level, rendering her not to be underestimated.

But in a blink of an eye, she seemed to have transformed into a different person.

The feeling of danger she gave him was no less than that posed by Xu Beichen and Wang Longyan. After all, both Xu Beichen and Wang Longyan were considered top combat powers in the Spiritual Platform Realm.

Even Tianren realm cultivators could not completely disregard them. But the combat power demonstrated by this woman—how many people in the entire Changning could overcome her?

With Liu Ruolan joining the fight and the three peaks of the Spiritual Platform Realm, plus Elder Zhou, who held the Geng Metal War Knife, and Wang Shouzhe's occasional long-distance harassment and healing of his teammates..>

The five-to-one odds once again shifted the dynamic of the battle. Hua Ye, the Old Ancestor, who absorbed the Red Fire Dragon Scale, could no longer achieve an overpowering state, but merely gain a slight upper hand.

At this moment, theoretically speaking, the greatly advanced Old Ancestor Hua Ye had the ability to escape from the battlefield.

But he was unwilling!

This operation had cost him two elders in the advanced stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm, as well as the last Red Fire Dragon Scale.

But in the end, he got nothing!

How could he accept this?

All of it was part of Wang Shouzhe's calculated plan.

Wang Shouzhe!

Old Ancestor Hua Ye fiercely spat a mouthful of essence blood on the Fiery War Halberd, its blazing flames spiked again, waving the Fiery War Halberd around like a Flame War God!

"Boom!"

After taking a hit from Wang Longyan, he gritted his teeth to bear the injuries and broke through Liu Ruolan's blockade. His figure darted towards Wang Shouzhe like a shooting star, the Fiery War Halberd tore through the sky, bringing with it layers of flames and enveloping Wang Shouzhe.

He had it all calculated!

Even if injured, he was determined to kill Wang Shouzhe, this great menace.

Finally, it came!

As though he had anticipated this scene long ago, Wang Shouzhe didn't use the Guardian Heart Spirit Shield to defend, but instead wiped his Storage Ring.

Suddenly!

He held a palm-sized purple Sword-shaped Jade Charm in his hand.

It was small and exquisite and seemed insignificant, but the moment he took it out, Old Ancestor Hua Ye's face changed drastically. How could this kid possibly possess such an item?

A strong sense of coldness welled up from his heart.

Damn it, he had fallen into his trap after all.

He wanted to escape, but it was too late.

Without hesitation, Wang Shouzhe crushed the purple Sword-shaped Jade Charm.

"Snap!"

The sword symbol shattered instantly, a formidable and boundless energy immediately condensed into a massive purple sword shadow dozens of feet long.

The purple sword shadow hovered in the air, as if the mighty heavenly power had descended on the world, capable of annihilating everything.

"Go!"

Cold sweat kept dripping from Wang Shouzhe's forehead, directing such a purple sword shadow with his spiritual sense at his cultivation realm was somewhat strenuous.

The purple sword light immediately tore through space, carrying endless might, it headed towards Old Ancestor Hua Ye for the kill.

Yes, this Purple Abode Sword Symbol contained the energy of a full-force strike by a Purple Abode Realm Cultivator. This was his trump card for Hua Ye, the Old Ancestor!

Before he had gone to the trial site in the foreign region, he had spent a lot of effort and resources, and apart from the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, his biggest gain was this Purple Abode Sword Symbol!

Originally meant for the level five fierce beasts of the foreign region, using it on Hua Ye, the Old Ancestor, was just right!

Chapter 83 Heavy Blow to Hua Ye! Changning Guard's Situation Changes \_1

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The moment the purple sword light slashed out, Wang Shouzhe felt a pang of pain.

This Purple Abode Sword Symbol was acquired with great difficulty. Not only did it take a lot of time to gather, but the price was also extremely high.

It was a hereditary item from a declining celestial family of the Linyang Guard. Only a cultivator of the Purple Abode realm, depleting his own cultivation base, could seal his sword energy and intent within the jade talisman.

Usually, only when a cultivator of the Purple Abode realm sees no hope of breakthrough, and his lifespan is about to be exhausted, would he sacrifice his cultivation base to refine such one-time sword symbols or magical symbols, leaving a few treasures of the clan for his descendants.

The Celestial family was so poor that they couldn't even afford a celestial succession, and they had to sell the last treasure of the clan, giving Wang Shouzhe a great bargain.

Of course, this was also related to Wang Shouzhe's high bid.

Those families that could casually take out hundreds of thousands of Qian Gold usually had very strong family strength, and they didn't need this Purple Abode Sword Symbol.

However, for the Wang family, nothing could be more suitable.

At a critical moment, it could truly determine the outcome of the situation and completely change the current situation.

What happened next was quick.

When the Purple Abode Sword light was slashing towards Old Ancestor Hua Ye at close range even under the dim night, Wang Shouzhe could clearly see that the face of Old Ancestor Hua Ye was twisted with fear.

With the fastest speed, he changed from attack to defense. The Fiery War Halberd was condensed inward and began to rotate violently. The red fire bloomed like a hot sun, forming a protective shield.

"Boom!"

The Purple Abode Sword light ruthlessly slashed into the Fiery War Halberd, and the violent energy exploded all around. The protective shield only lasted for a moment before it shattered, leaving the perfect sword light to break into countless pieces of energy, some of which penetrated into his body.

Old Ancestor Hua Ye couldn't withstand such a strong impact and was like a missile that had been hit. He was thrown backward, smashing brutally into the towering cliffs of the Fallen Eagle Gorge.

"Boom!"

With a loud explosion, a large crater was created on the cliff, and the whole Fallen Eagle Gorge seemed to vibrate faintly, with countless rocks falling down. In the process, his Fiery War Halberd was also thrown out, making a "splash" sound as it fell into Peace River. The searing flames were not extinguished immediately, causing the small part of the river to boil and emit steam.

However, water naturally overcomes fire. The burning flames on the Fiery War Halberd didn't have any mysterious energy to replenish, and they quickly died out.

"Puff!"

Old Ancestor Hua Ye spurted out a mouthful of blood. There was no hint of the dignified air of a Celestial being in his appearance. His clothes were torn apart by the sword energy, and there were wounds all over his body caused by the energy. What's more terrifying was the foreign sword energy had invaded his body, constantly wandering and corroding his internal organs.

"Argh~~~" Under the severe pain, Old Ancestor Hua Ye let out a roar: "Boy, you should die!"

Such a powerful blow did not instantly kill Old Ancestor Hua Ye, and this was naturally within Wang Shouzhe's expectations. After all, the power of that Purple Abode sword symbol was equivalent to a full blow from a strong cultivator of the Purple Abode realm.

If he were up against a newly-promoted, not very powerful Celestial beginner, it might be possible to kill him in one strike. But Old Ancestor Hua Ye was different. He was considered a veteran of the Celestial realm.

"Hehe! It's not clear yet who will die." Wang Shouzhe said coldly, "Senior Ancestors, let's take his life while he's ill."

The one who hated Huangfu Hua Ye the most, Old Ancestor Longyan, took the lead in attacking. After him, Old Ancestor Zhou Bo, Old Ancestor Beichen, and Liu Ruolan encircled them from all sides.

The face of Huangfu Hua Ye, the old ancestor, turned pale immediately. Trying to suppress the alien sword energy inside his body, he prepared to quickly leap into the water to fetch his Fiery War Halberd. That's his Celestial family of Huangfu's ancestral treasure, and the first-generation family treasure passed down by the founder of the Huangfu Clan, Huangfu Hong Yu.

Unexpectedly, just before he was about to dive into the water, he saw a giant tortoise beat him to it, emerging from the water, with the Fiery War Halberd in its mouth!

Then, the tortoise quickly ran towards Wang Shouzhe, lifting its head high, showing off the Fiery War Halberd in its mouth, as if flaunting to its master.

Seeing such a scene, Old Ancestor Hua Ye was so angry that he coughed up blood again. He wanted to kill the tortoise, but he was helpless because Old Ancestor Zhou Bo and the others had already begun their attack.

Without the Fiery War Halberd, he could only use his fists to barely fend off the attacks, constantly retreating in mid-air.

"Damn it, damn it!"



Hua Ye, the old ancestor who lost all opportunities, yelled outrageously. In an emergency, he was forced to take out a life-saving talisman passed down from his ancestors - a clear and transparent jade talisman.

The shape was slightly similar to Wang Shouzhe's Purple Abode Sword Symbol, but it did not have any sword energy sealed inside.

As Old Ancestor Hua Ye crushed the jade talisman, a huge pure white energy erupted and enveloped him, and he quickly fled to the distance.

"Wang Shouzhe! You wait for me..."

Before leaving, Old Ancestor Huangfu Hua Ye didn't forget to leave a fierce remark, but that escaping light was extremely fast. His words were only half-spoken when he disappeared into the night sky.

"Spirit Shield Talisman!" Broad-minded Old Ancestor Zhou was a bit embarrassed, "I didn't expect that old little dude Huangfu has such a life-saving object."

Spirit Shield Talisman?

Seeing this, Wang Shouzhe's eyes slightly narrowed. He had heard about this treasure before. It was a jade talisman that was extremely difficult to refine. Although its value was not as outrageous as the Purple Abode Sword Symbol, it was still not cheap.

Most importantly, no one in the entire Great Qian Land could refine it.

The existing Spirit Shield Talismans were all excavated from ancient ruins, decreasing in quantity each time they were used. Some families who owned these talismans almost always kept them as their last card in hand, only selling them when absolutely necessary.

"Shouzhe....." Old Ancestor Longyan looked a bit disappointed. Today's trap set up against Old Ancestor Huangfu Hua Ye was a set-up that Shouzhe had planned for many years.

He never expected that Huangfu Hua Ye has such a life-saving object, which ultimately allowed him to escape at the last moment.

"Nevermind." Wang Shouzhe said in his usual calm manner, "Actually, I have considered the unlikely event that we couldn't kill Huangfu Hua Ye. Now, the situation is very favorable for us. He resisted the strike of the Purple Abode Sword Symbol head-on, then forced the use of the Spirit Shield Talisman to escape. Even if he doesn't die, most of his vitality is gone."

"Haha, Shouzhe is right," Old Ancestor Beichen laughed and agreed, "I observe that the unusual sword energy from the Purple Abode Sword Symbol has invaded his body. The unusual sword energy left by the Purple Abode Realm is not that easy to remove. He won't be creating trouble for a while. If nothing unexpected happens, I should be able to advance to the Celestial Human Realm in a few years."

Then, the situation in Changning will have to change."

"Old Ancestor, this time we can consider it as collecting interest from Huangfu's family." Wang Shouzhe smiled, "The unusual sword energy from the Purple Abode should be enough for Huangfu Hua Ye's consumption. The torments it will bring would be comparable to when you were poisoned by Yin Sha. Let him taste what your pain feels like."

Meanwhile.

Wang Shouzhe took the Fiery War Halberd from the tortoise's mouth. The fire on it had been extinguished, but when held in hand, it still gave off a hot sensation, making one feel the strong energy contained within.

However, because it had struggled against a stroke of the Purple Abode Sword Energy, there was a shallow sword cut on the Fiery War Halberd.

It really deserves to be a magical treasure. Such a terrifying hit and yet it wasn't split in two.

"Shouzhe, you didn't lose out on this deal." Old Ancestor Beichen said, with evident envy, "That old geezer Huangfu may have escaped injured, but he left behind his family's inherited magical treasure. Plus, the loss of a Spirit Shield Talisman has greatly weakened Huangfu Clan."

No wonder he was envious.

The value of a magical treasure is usually hundreds of thousands of Qian Gold, more expensive than the Spirit Shield Talisman. It's at least not cheaper than the Purple Abode Sword symbol that Wang Shouzhe broke.

And a Celestial Human Realm Cultivator, with or without a magical treasure, has entirely different combat power.

"Shouzhe, you keep this magical treasure." Old Ancestor Zhou said from the side, "For this trip, first, I came to pay back for the affection I had with Zhou Xuan. Second, also to repay you for your help to the Wang family of Longzuo."

Old Ancestor Beichen also immediately agreed, albeit nervously, "What Old Ancestor Zhou said is right, our Xu Family and Wang Family are one family. Your help for the Xu Family is too much, and our Xu Family's repayment is too little. My assistance this time is also to repay the Wang family."

Just as Wang Shouzhe was about to speak, they kept persuading him, especially Wang Shouzhe having broken a Purple Abode Sword symbol this time, and suffered quite some losses. Having the Fiery War Halberd as a spoils of war could at least make up for some of the loss.

"If that's the case, it would be impolite for me to refuse." Wang Shouzhe pondered for a while, and didn't refuse their kindness any further.

After all, giving and receiving is necessary in maintaining relationships. They don't want to always owe the favor to the Wang family of Ping'an, and it's only right and natural. Moreover, the current Wang Family is spending a lot. Both the Purple Abode Sword energy jade symbol and the later acquisition of the old Ma Huangfu's family property, have put Wang family in debt.

He decided to sell this Fiery War Halberd in a black market to relieve some financial pressure. After all, no one in his family could make use of this magical treasure. Even if Old Ancestor Longyan breaks through in the future, using a fire-element magical treasure wouldn't align.

As Wang Shouzhe was considering what to do with the Fiery War Halberd, a cold voice rang out, "Wang Shouzhe, come with me."

Upon seeing this, all the old ancestors immediately made excuses to leave. Even the Spirit Tortoise, Yuanshui, felt something was wrong and dived into the Peace River, disappearing without a trace.

Not long after.

On top of Fallen Eagle Gorge.

Wang Shouzhe and Liu Ruolan, who had transformed, were facing off in a battle.

In the biting cold wind, Liu Ruolan's long icy blue hair was fluttering in the wind. She stared at Wang Shouzhe, "Repeat what you just said."

A chill ran through his body.

Wang Shouzhe felt a sudden panic in his heart. He felt he was about to be beaten by his wife. Quickly, he must think fast!

Chapter 84 How to Deal with Two Wives?\_1

...

My wife, after her transformation, has a completely different character than before. One was as gentle as water and didn't care about anything, while the other was as cold as ice and had a volatile temper.

Being stared at by her gaze made even someone with Wang Shouzhe's state of mind and strength feel a faint flutter of fear. Her combat power showcased earlier was still lacking compared to the Heavenly Human Realm, but among the local Spirit Platform Realm cultivators, she probably belongs to the very top.

Compared to Old Ancestor Longyan and even Old Ancestor Beichen, she was not in the least bit inferior. Therefore, Old Ancestor Longyan, seeing the situation, did not intervene but gracefully left, leaving the couple to resolve their problems. Her attempts to persuade had failed before, and she had suffered the consequences.

With Wang Shouzhe's confidence, he felt that his chances of defeating the transformed Liu Ruolan were less than thirty percent. He couldn't help but feel helpless at heart. Was he really going to be beaten up by his wife today?

"Wang Shouzhe, what is your constant looking around for?" Liu Ruolan's eyes were icy, "You're not planning to run away, are you?"

What?

Suddenly!

An idea flashed across Wang Shouzhe's mind.

That's right, based on her previous temperament, if she really wanted to pick a fight with him, she would've drawn her sword and charged long ago. Unlike now, where she's still speaking out with such nasty words?

Immediately, Wang Shouzhe regained his composure and spoke to her in a gentle tone, "My lady, what I did earlier was just a desperate measure. If you're really angry, you might as well give me a beating to vent your anger."

"Hmph!" Liu Ruolan's eyes grew colder, "Remember, you're not allowed to take concubines, especially not Liu Ruolei. Even if she agrees, you're not allowed. Otherwise, don't blame me for not being polite."

"This..." Wang Shouzhe was speechless, but honestly said, "Don't worry, my lady, I really don't have such intentions."

Only then did she look slightly better, then she glanced up and down at Wang Shouzhe, "Also, all you just said..."

"I didn't mean it." Wang Shouzhe immediately shook his head like a rattling drum. "I just wanted to provoke my wife earlier. It was all nonsense..."

"I promise."

"Fabricat..." Wang Shouzhe's "fabricate" was swallowed before completing the word. He was dumbfounded as he looked at the transformed Liu Ruolan.

"What are you still dazing about?" Liu Ruolan, with an unmatched dominance, grabbed Wang Shouzhe and floated down towards Fallen Eagle Gorge. In the end, they landed on a small wooden boat docked at the harbor.

The small boat, without a paddle, moved at the speed of a speedboat towards the center of Peace River under the urge of Mysterious Energy.

Shortly after.

The small boat began to shake violently.

From inside faintly came Wang Shouzhe's voice, "My lady, what...what are you doing?"

Then very soon, the small boat shook even more violently. It was like a leaf floating in the waves of Peace River.

...

A little later, at the main residence of the Huangfu Clan in Changning.

Family Head Huangfu Jinhuan was in a good mood and had even drank some Spiritual Wine today, lying slightly tipsy in the Taishi Chair.

Two young maids of good qualifications were serving by his side, one massaging his legs and shoulders, and the other offering tea and water. These two maids were both women with lower cultivation qualifications.

Their status, however, wasn't high. Even if they had children with Huangfu Jinhuan, they would only be considered illegitimate, and their status was far below that of direct descendants, and even less than that of the main line.

Today, the Old Ancestor was out handling affairs, all of which he had personally arranged and was perfectly in control of, there would definitely be no issues.

The Old Ancestor was a well-respected Heavenly Human Realm Cultivator. In this small Changning Defender's domain, he almost ruled supreme. With him taking action, how could anything go wrong?

The Huangfu Clan of Changning would certainly usher in a new situation.

And he, Huangfu Jinhuan, as the head of the direct line, would also get his opportunity, qualifying him to try for the Heavenly Human Realm. You should know that previously, in maintaining the family situation, they could only afford to support one Heaven-human Seed.

Who becomes the Heaven-human Seed not only depends on qualifications, but also luck. Each cycle of Heavenly Human succession is around two hundred years. The earlier you are born in the cycle, the less the opportunity.

The reason is simply "poverty"!

To cultivate a Heavenly Human Realm cultivator requires a tremendous amount of resources. The resources needed for the early phase of cultivation alone are far beyond what ordinary cultivators can afford. To advance to the Heavenly Human Realm, you need an "Ascension Pill", which costs hundreds of thousands of Qian Gold - a staggering sum.

Even for a prominent family, accumulating this amount of several hundreds of thousands of Qian Gold requires a long period of time. Although the prominent families have a lot of property and their income appears substantial, how much is their expenditure each year to maintain their current situation?

There are more than a dozen Spirit Platform Realm cultivators in the family, and their annual upkeep is a huge cost. In addition, it is necessary to educate the younger generation, ensuring family continuity.

A prominent family that can be passed down is not just supported by the Old Ancestor. The family from top to bottom, inside and out is a large and well-functioning whole.

Even the Old Ancestor can't support the whole family alone!

Most of the time, the Old Ancestor is just a mascot, placed there for people to worship, even serving to intimidate opponents.

As a result, despite the Huangfu Clan of Changning owning half of Changning's resources and looking glamorous to the outside world, gathering hundreds of thousands of Qian Gold on the spot is not an easy task.

This is just the current situation; during the decades after Old Ancestor Hua Ye completed the Heavenly Human succession, that was the poorest period for the Huangfu family. Every year when there were some surpluses, they had to be used to repay various loans and mortgages.

From this, one can see that the development of a family absolutely cannot be separated from resource support. And where do resources come from? It all comes down to economic income.

If the economy is not enough, even if the talent is excellent and the double bloodline awakening is innate, the advancement of cultivation would be very slow, and with time, one would become ordinary.

There are countless commoners in all of Da Qian. Haven't any of them birthed children with excellent talents?

Of course they have!

It's just that most of them don't even get the chance to stand on the Spirit Testing Platform; they end up living out their entire lives in obscurity.

"Wang family, oh Wang family. When cement industry falls into your hands, it is as though pearls are covered in dust," Huangfu Jinghuan's eyes gleamed with excitement as he said "Only when it is in the hands of our Celestial Huangfu Family can it be of most use. In time, we, the Huangfu Clan, will rise..."

Before he could finish his sentence,

A figure swiftly descended from the sky outside, fiercely landing in the residence with a 'boom,' shattering a house in the process. The sound echoed as if a meteorite had just fallen.

"What happened?"



Huangfu Jinhuan was shocked and immediately rushed to the scene with the guards on night-duty.

Then he was struck dumb.

The figure, who had fallen like a meteor, was none other than the Sea Stabilizing Needle of the Huangfu Clan - the Old Ancestor Hua Ye. Stretched to the point of collapse, Hua Ye expressed extreme pain, his body riddled with tiny foreign sword energies that moved within him like a sharp blade.

"Old Ancestor, what happened to you?" he asked.

"Jinghuan, we have lost this time! Ping'an Wang Family, Changning Xu Family, Wang Shouzhe, you will not die well!" Huangfu Hua Ye bellowed as though he had gone mad.

Huangfu Jinghuan was startled, unable to believe they had failed. It took him a while to react. He immediately ordered his guards, "Quickly, take the Old Ancestor back and call the revered physician."

The Old Ancestor's appearance was particularly worrying. His severe injury caused Huangfu Jinghuan to panic. The Old Ancestor was the pillar of the Huangfu Clan and everyone's Sea Stabilizing Needle.

But now that the Old Ancestor was in crisis, it felt like the sky was collapsing for the Huangfu Clan.

...

At the Peace River.

A small boat anchored beside Peace River near a hidden dock.

Wang Shouzhe, in his tattered clothes, exchanging complex looks with likewise disheveled Liu Ruolan.

After tidying herself up like nothing had happened, she warned Wang Shouzhe coldly, "She can't know about this."

Wang Shouzhe of course knew whom she was referring to. He moved his lips, but did not dispute.

"Next time you look for me, just call me Liu Ruoling," she commanded with an overbearing tone. "Don't bother with any of those other nonsense."

Liu Ruoling?

Wang Shouzhe was speechless and bitter. She even had a name now. Was this a case of dual personality or dual souls?

Was it all caused by the Innate Dao fetus spirit seed?

According to Old Ancestor Xuanfu, the Innate Dao fetus spirit seed was obtained in the relics of the Divine Martial Dynasty, an item she stumbled upon while venturing into a high-level dungeon with her Master.

The Divine Martial Dynasty sounded glamorous; all its items seemed impressive, representing an advanced civilization.

But the more Wang Shouzhe thought about it, the more he perceived there were debatable aspects of that dynasty.

His Bloodthirsty Vines, for instance, were quite peculiar.

Just look at his nephew Wang Zongchang, who was affected by the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu. It changed the nature of his bloodline and destiny. But no matter how you saw it, everything about Bridal Clothes Blood Gu was peculiar.

That Divine Martial Dynasty was so peculiar that its destruction might have been the result of its own internal issues.

One must exercise caution regarding items from the Divine Martial Dynasty in the future.

While Wang Shouzhe was deep in thought, the blue in Liu Ruolan's eyes faded and the color of her hair magically returned to black. Looking around in confusion at her disheveled clothing and Wang Shouzhe's messy attire, she furrowed her brows.

"Husband, what happened to me just now?" Liu Ruolan asked curiously.

"You were too tired and fell asleep," Wang Shouzhe casually straightened his clothes. "So, I brought you back."

"Even if we're married, husband, isn't it inappropriate to do such peculiar things while others are asleep?" Liu Ruolan cast a strange look at Wang Shouzhe, seeming slightly displeased.

It wasn't me who was doing things to you. In fact, you were...

Forget it...

Wang Shouzhe quickly yelled, "Liu Ruoling!" Damn it, explaining all this is too difficult.

Her eyes turned cold and blue again as she stared at Wang Shouzhe, "What do you want?"

"I was just testing..." Wang Shouzhe looked at her in awe. "Seems like it really does work. Nevermind, let's clean up and you should go home."

"..." Liu Ruoling, "Wang Shouzhe, are you looking for death?"

Then, once again, the boat started shaking violently, seemingly on the verge of falling apart.

Chapter 85: Tragedy! The Decline of the Huangfu Prominent Family\_1

...

The Battle of Fallen Eagle Gorge.

Though the conflict unfolded in the shadows, only those prominent families involved had knowledge of it.

Yet, the surge of undercurrents and the shift in dynamics, seemed to have only just begun.

In recent days,

News of the revered ancestor Hua Ye's critical injuries abruptly spread throughout Changning, carefully disseminated by those with ulterior motives. The rumor mill around it was in full swing.

Some said Hua Ye explored foreign realms in search of opportunities and unfortunately encountered a Level Five Fierce Beast. After an intense battle which left both parties severely injured, Old Ancestor Hua Ye returned gravely wounded and on the brink of death.

Others stated that a disagreement had arisen between the Hua Ye and the Jiaolong Gang, leading him to fight the notorious vice-leader of the Jiaolong Gang, Sikou Luoxia. The battle ended with both parties severely injured.

There were people who mentioned that...

"Rumors" of Old Ancestor Hua Ye fighting various masters were circulating in no less than five or six versions.

In summary, every story was detailed and vivid, as if the speakers had all been eyewitnesses. In all these versions, the one common point was that Hua Ye's life was hanging by a thread due to his serious injuries, and he would probably die any day now if he couldn't contain his wounds.

As one of the two Celestial prominent families of Changning, the Huangfu Clan was enraged by these harmful rumors.

On one hand they "demystified" the rumors, on the other, they dispatched family members and even hired numerous Independent Cultivators to "put out the fire". They threatened and beat groups of people discussing these rumors.

They attempted this crude and simple method to extinguish and suppress the rumors.

Unfortunately, if they continued their tyrannical method of suppressing all with a single hand, even the Celestial Lei Family would not want to confront them.

The true puppet master behind this was Wang Shouzhe.

Back when he lived on Earth in his previous life, he was not an experienced spectator. However, through passive exposure, he became well-versed in various underhanded schemes.

Soon after, "fires" were sparked everywhere across Changning, with detailed "revelations" bombarding the public without end.

For instance, the Huangfu Clan's tyranny and exploitation of the market.

Or, how the Family Head, Huangfu Jinhuan, pressurised a declining family and forcibly took in two of their members to be his concubines.

These "scandals", one after another, seemed to expose the "filthy" and "stench-ridden" scenes beneath the glamorous façade of the Huangfu Clan in Changning, leaving people "astonished".

The grand Celestial prominent family had such character?

The Daqian Court granted the prestigious family status in the hope that they would expand and stabilize their regions on behalf of the court, not to oppress the good and live off the land.

As such, the court has certain expectations for the character and actions of the prominent families. If they did indeed incite the anger of the masses, they would be rebuked at the very least, demoted in rank at the worst case, or even stripped of their prestigious emblem in the most severe cases.

Just when the Huangfu Clan was in a frenzy, the Celestial Lei Family delivered another heavy blow.

After the Lei Family ancestor learned of Hua Ye's injuries, he personally hired the best physician in Changning, Gu Hanyu, to diagnose Hua Ye.

Gu Hanyu was an Independent Cultivator. Unlike other Independent Cultivators, she possessed a unique lineage of wandering healers.

She did not originally practice in Changning, but because of the severe flooding this year, the Purple Abode Academic Palace especially invited her here to halt the plague. She was a kind person who often sent her disciples to help refugees free of charge, earning her an excellent reputation.

In addition, she was also a renowned alchemist, known as the Pill Doctor Par Excellence.

Despite her middle-rank cultivation base in the Spirit Platform Realm, she had a substantial reputation in Changning. With her large following, she could be considered an influential figure. In terms of reputation, she was only behind the two Celestial ancestors and Marquis Xiahou.

Her status was on par with Wang Shouzhe and Old Ancestor Beichen.

Her diagnosis of Hua Ye resulted in him being stuck between a rock and a hard place. Since he couldn't hide it anymore, he let her treat him reluctantly. At least Gu Hanyu's medical skills were unrivaled within Changning.

Her diagnosis led to mixed feelings within the Huangfu Clan. Gu Hanyu's intervention indeed alleviated Hua Ye's injuries temporarily.

However, she mentioned that Hua Ye's heavy injuries were a result of a peculiar Sword Energy of the Purple Abode Realm invading his body, combined with the adverse effects of forcibly using a secret technique to escape.

With her capabilities, she was only able to slightly relieve and suppress the injuries. It would take decades to completely dispel the peculiar Sword Energy.

The best solution was to seek treatment at the Purple Abode Academic Palace. Only Master Changchun from Changchun Valley could possibly cure him within a few years.

Moreover, he couldn't exert himself during this period. Otherwise, his injuries would worsen, possibly affecting his lifespan.

This gave the Huangfu Clan a glimmer of hope. The problem was, Master Changchun was a well-known, long-standing Purple Abode master. How could they easily get in touch with such a person?

Furthermore, even if Master Changchun agreed to treat Hua Ye, it would still take several years. How could they show nothing in return?

However, Hua Ye was the pillar of the Huangfu Clan, the reason they had achieved their current success. The number of families they had suppressed and offended in secret was not few. If anything happened to their revered ancestor, it would spell disaster for the Huangfu Clan.

The truth of Hua Ye's injuries, much to the Huangfu Clan's dismay, was "unintentionally" spread throughout Changning. As they suspected, the suppressed and bullied families and powers started to stir.

#### Chapter 85: Tragedy! The Decline of The Huangfu Prominent Family\_2

Especially in places involving conflict of interests, those once restrained noble forces had gradually become more aggressive.

This was a bad sign.

For the Huangfu Clan, this was a hard situation. If they choose to suppress aggressively, it could lead to public anger and unite everyone against them. But how could they suppress it without the Old Ancestor? Moreover, clans such as the Celestial Lei Family and the Ping'an Wang Family were likely making trouble behind the scenes.

But if they choose to give in, they might fall into a situation where they have to step back one step at a time, to a point where they can't retreat any more.

Therefore, there was only one way for the Huangfu Clan to follow, which was to hurry and take the Old Ancestor to the Purple Abode Academic Palace for treatment. As long as the Old Ancestor was cured, all difficulties could be resolved.

...

During this chaotic time.

Xiahou Hongde, the City Lord of Changning Weicheng, came back after finishing his tasks. His mood was quite good because he had done an excellent job in disaster relief and received a praise from higher-ups. There might be a chance for promotion in the next appointment.

But as soon as he returned to Changning Weicheng, he was utterly taken aback. Who was he? Where was he? What on earth had happened? How could he leave Changning Weicheng for just a month, and the whole Guard City had fallen into turmoil?

Facing all sorts of rumors, Xiahou Hongde was quite annoyed. The noble families in this city were all obedient on the surface. But behind the scenes, they were all stark raving mad.

With such open and secret fights stirring up the situation, did they even respect him as the City Lord?

Especially that Wang Shouzhe!

Did he take Xiahou Hongde for a fool? There must be something to do with that kid.

Immediately, a somewhat irritated Xiahou Hongde prepared to summon Wang Shouzhe. He wanted to interrogate him in person if he could serve his term quietly for the next two to three years.

But as soon as this thought rose, it was quickly suppressed by him.

Given the kid Wang Shouzhe's status, even if he came and got scolded, he would probably just say a few compliant words on the surface. His actions behind the scenes would probably not change at all.

Moreover, that kid was meticulous in his work and it was almost impossible to find official faults with him. It wouldn't be easy to make things difficult for him. With Wang Shouzhe's capability, Xiahou Hongde could hardly suppress him.

Forget it!

He would be leaving his post in two or three years anyway. Why should he upset the Wang Family?

If they wanted to fight, let them fight. As long as they didn't murder openly, he could only pretend not to see it.

...



Time passed quickly.

A month later.

The grand and majestic Purple Abode Academic Palace in Longzuo County still remained the same.

Even outside of the enrolment season, people were still coming and going outside the gate of the Purple Abode Academic Palace.

The majority of them were independent cultivators who had come from all over the country. They all had a dream, hoping that they could be selected by the Purple Abode Academic Palace to change their destiny, and among them, some independent cultivators had good qualifications.

However, the Purple Abode Academic Palace has its rules for admitting students. For independent cultivators to join, the conditions are extremely harsh. They must prove their backgrounds, have documents from County Level Government Offices, and have a prominent family as a guarantor.

Under such conditions, very few people qualified, and then they would have to go through further examination and selection. So, it was very difficult for independent cultivators to join the Purple Abode Academic Palace. The academy would rather find students from reputable families, since these families have roots and a long history, which can be traced back for many generations.

This is also to prevent infiltration by enemy forces.

Of course, noble families aren't necessarily completely honest, they could also betray their country or sect. But as soon as this was confirmed, the entire family would be obliterated, and everyone related would be implicated.

Therefore, higher reliability lies within these noble families, as they are less likely to be infiltrated compared to independent cultivators.

Apart from independent cultivators, most major powers and families would also come to the Purple Abode Academic Palace for various matters - securing business, visiting relatives, or conducting businesses like the Qian Family.

They all had to register and stay in the outer courtyard, waiting for arrangements.

One day,

In one of the manors in the outer courtyard, the Huangfu Clan, which had come for treatment, was stationed. Beside the household head, there were several important clan members who accompanied the Old Ancestor Hua Ye seeking medical treatment..

The most important person among them was a direct elder named Huangfu Chengpeng.

He was the father of the current head of the household, Huangfu Jinghuan, and had served as the head of household himself. He was eighty-some years old, and his current status in the family was second only to Old Ancestor Hua Ye. The sole reason was Huangfu Pengcheng, the current heavenly human seed of the Huangfu Clan.

At a young age, he had already reached the peak mid-stage of the Spirit Platform Realm, just half a step away from the advanced stage.

Huangfu Pengcheng's main task was not to deal with family affairs but to focus on cultivation, striving to break through the Heavenly Human Realm and complete the Heavenly-human Transition at the minimum cost.

Given his age and cultivation base, even in the Academic Palace, he would be a core disciple. This time, he was interrupted in his seclusion and asked to accompany the Old Ancestor. This was to make a show of the family's strength.

Those people of the Purple Abode Academic Palace tend to look highly upon and treat talents with great potential preferentially.

Chapter 85: Tragedy! The Decline of the Huangfu Prominent Family\_3

Today.

A clear and robust male voice was heard outside the temporary residence of the Huangfu Clan. "Is Brother Pengcheng in?"

Huangfu Pengcheng, who was then in service to the Old Ancestor, had a gleam of delight in his eyes. He hastily ran to the door and courteously bowed to the incoming person. "Brother Pengcheng

has been waiting for Senior Brother Jinshan. Please have a sit inside. I have prepared the finest Spiritual Tea for you."

He was very respectful and amiable toward Senior Brother Jinshan, firstly because he had requests for him. Secondly, this "Senior Brother Jinshan" was already a formidable Mid Stage Spirit Platform Realm practitioner before the age of sixty and a Core Disciple among the Changchun Valley lineage. Besides, he was specifically responsible for a lot of miscellaneous matters.

Such a significant figure, Huangfu Pengcheng dared not look down upon! Therefore, he spent a lot of resources and money to curry favour and build rapport with Senior Brother Jinshan, hoping to meet Master Changchun through him.

"This..." Still looking sadly familiar, Senior Brother Jinshan was a little serious this time, "I'll skip the Spiritual Tea. I have something to notify you, Brother Pengcheng."

Huangfu Pengcheng, who had once held the position of a Family Head, immediately felt a thump in his heart when he heard these words. Since he had been catering to the interests of Senior Brother Jinshan and making efforts to get closer, the two had become quite close.

He was hesitant even to come in for a tea, which was probably a bad sign.

As feared.

Senior Brother Jinshan coughed twice and said, "I was a bit overconfident when I promised to introduce you to my Master. I didn't expect my master to suddenly go into seclusion. I will return all the things you've given me."

With that, he pulled out a Storage Ring and handed it back to Huangfu Pengcheng.

Huangfu Pengcheng panicked and quickly said, "Senior Brother Jinshan, how long will the Master need for his seclusion? We can wait!"

"How would I know how long my master will be in seclusion?" Senior Brother Jinshan answered somewhat impatiently, "It may be as short as five or six years, or as long as several decades. I dare not casually inquire about my master's affairs. I must take my leave."

With that, despite Huangfu Pengcheng's attempts to keep him, Senior Brother Jinshan left as if making a hasty escape.

Huangfu Pengcheng suddenly felt a chill in his heart.

This... Senior Brother Jinshan was very enthusiastic before, confidently stating that he would definitely help get things done. However, things took an unexpected turn in the blink of an eye.

What exactly happened, and what should we do now?

In a place hidden from Huangfu Pengcheng, Senior Brother Jinshan left, hurriedly ducking around a few corners until he bumped into a girl who was dressed in a purple dress, who looked quiet and pretty. She appeared pure and innocent, like a girl-next-door.

However, upon seeing her, a hint of wariness and fear flashed through Senior Brother Jinshan's eyes. It wasn't that he couldn't beat the girl, but her reputation within the Purple Abode Academic Palace was already somewhat frightening, surpassed only by another.

More importantly, she was Wang Shouzhe's sister! He dared not mess with Junior Brother Shouzhe.

"Thank you, Senior Brother Jinshan." The girl bowed respectfully and handed over several bottles of Spiritual Nectar, "These are a few bottles of Hundred Flowers Nectar, a small token of my appreciation. Please don't refuse, Senior Brother Jinshan."

This girl, of course, was Wang Luo Jing, the fifth Miss of the Wang family.

Senior Brother Jinshan hurriedly took the Hundred Flowers Nectar, appearing to be overwhelmed by the unexpected favor. "Junior Sister Luo Jing, you're too kind. I and Shouzhe are fellow disciples. If I didn't know the truth, that would be one thing. But now that I know, how could I aid the Huangfu clan? However, we need to keep this matter confidential.

After all, I'm suspected of getting involved in the disputes between prominent families."

The few bottles of Hundred Flowers Nectar were nothing compared to the benefits given by the Huangfu clan. However, Senior Brother Jinshan was still very pleased. This little girl demon seemed quiet, but was always aloof, always cold to her fellow brothers.

"Senior Brother Jinshan, you really are a good person." Wang Luo Jing gave a light smile and expressed her gratitude, "Several of my seniors from the Valley of Ten Thousand Butterflies told me you were a warm-hearted person when they mentioned you."

Seniors from the Valley of Ten Thousand Butterflies?

Senior Brother Jinshan immediately became spirited, asking, "Which senior has such good taste? You're right, I, Jinshan, am indeed a good person. Junior Sister Luo Jing, tell me her name. I'll prepare gifts and visit her later."

"..." Wang Luo Jing was rendered speechless for a while.

Chapter 86 Full-scale Suppression of the Huangfu Clan

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Meanwhile, as Wang Luo Jing is chatting with Jinshan.

Upon receiving the bad news, Huangfu Chengpeng hurriedly returned to his room to report to Old Ancestor Hua Ye: "Old Ancestor, what should we do if Master Changchun goes into a long-term retreat?"

At this moment, Old Ancestor Hua Ye sat cross-legged, his face haggard and old, his once vibrant red hair was faintly withered and unlike his previous arrogant appearance.

He was continuously using the "Red Dragon True Verses", his whole body engulfed in a thin layer of flames. The powerful Fire Type Mysterious Energy constantly circulated to combat the alien Sword Energy inside his internal organs.

Yet despite this, the fragments of the Purple Abode Realm's alien Sword Energy were still eroding his body like maggots in bone.

Do not underestimate the difference between the Purple Abode Realm cultivators and the cultivators in the Heavenly Human Realm. It seems like they only differ by one major level. However, the difference between these levels is truly vast.

It should be known that the foundation of a Purple Abode Realm cultivator requires an understanding of the Heavenly Dao, and mastery of some of its rules.

The Profound Martial Cultivation Techniques they employ have been referred to as Divine Skills!

One can imagine how difficult it is for Old Ancestor Hua Ye to struggle against the fragment of the Purple Abode Sword Energy within his body. The difficulty is even greater than when Old Ancestor Longyan combated the Yin Sha poison years ago.

After all, the Yin Sha poison that had afflicted the Old Ancestor then was on the same level as him. It was only uncertain it could be eradicated because it had infiltrated his viscera.

Old Ancestor Hua Ye's eyelids twitched when he learned of this bad news. Normally, among the Masters in the Purple Abode Academy, Master Changchun was the most reasonable.

Moreover, the Huangfu Clan of Changning is not an Independent Cultivator without roots or foundations. Their first generation ancestor, Huangfu Hong Yu, was also one of the founding heroes of Changning.

Normally, as long as the Huangfu Clan was willing to pay a sufficient price, Master Changchun should not refuse, considering the merit of their Old Ancestor.

Unfortunately, Old Ancestor Hua Ye did not understand that this was only under normal circumstances.

And the current situation is not normal.

He fell silent for a while and spoke: "We can't delay the injury anymore, otherwise our Huangfu Clan's days will become more and more difficult. And this time's grudge, I must avenge it by myself."

The thought of this filled his chest with a violent hatred. A cold light flashed in his eyes: "Get in touch with our in-law families for help. I remember that in his prime, Old Ancestor Hong Yu had done some favors for Lady Huandie of the Valley of Ten Thousand Butterflies.

There used to be some correspondence between them in their early years~~ But with the departure of Old Ancestor Hong Yu, their relationship faded. Try to see if we can make use of Lady Huandie's route and ask her to put in a good word."

"Lady Huandie? I will go and find a relation to see if I can get an audience with Lady Huandie." Huangfu Chengpeng's spirits lifted, he had also heard of this Master's name. It was said that she was the most mysterious Master in the Purple Abode Academy. Unexpectedly, she had a past connection with the Huangfu Clan.

This is also the most normal thing. Any family that has existed for a long time will have some connections that can be pulled and twisted.

However, it's not certain how much use these connections will be in the end.

"Write a letter to Jinghuan; let him mortgage some of the unimportant family properties to raise some funds. I hope these Masters don't have too big of an appetite." After Old Ancestor Hua Ye finished speaking, he closed his eyes, concentrating on countering the alien Sword Energy.

"Yes, Old Ancestor." After Huangfu Chengpeng responded, he bowed and retreated.

At the same time, he had a sense of regret in his heart. Originally, he was of a Middle Sub- Grade bloodline, and also had the opportunity to enter the Academic Palace. However, the clan needed a Celestial Successor more, so he gave up entering the Academy in the end and became the family's Heavenly-Human Seed.

Not that this choice was a bad one.

If the transition of the Heavenly Human was completed normally, being an Old Ancestor of the family who has the final say, and essentially the local Emperor, would naturally be more free and easy compared to being a disciple of the Academy.

But now that the family is in trouble, he finally realized how unfortunate it is not to have a strong person in the Academy.

Huangfu Chengpeng couldn't help but secretly think, if he had chosen the path of the Academy at that time, wouldn't he be a distinguished Core Disciple or Senior Brother? If he could seize some

opportunities with the platform of the Academy, there might be a chance to gain the identity of a direct disciple.

Alas! Unfortunately, with his current status and position, all he could do was to go around and beg people humbly.

...

Meanwhile.

Also in the outer court of the Purple Abode Academy.

The "old head of household" of the Ping'an Wang Family, Wang Yong, was directing some young stewards and servants to unload the things from the carriage.

As a seasoned servant who followed the Family Head Wang Shouzhe traveling from east to west, although he was already forty-six or seven years old and his cultivation level was only at the Early Stage of Qi Refinement Level Seven, his status in the servants was high.

He was specially taken care of by the Family Head Wang Shouzhe, his treatment was extremely good, even more so than some of the direct descendants of the family.

However, despite his good treatment, he was still very frugal with resources, just to leave a little more for his children. His wife is a daughter from the Wang Family's collateral lineage, they have one son and one daughter. His son didn't have the ability to cultivate and started working in the Silkworm Manor at a young age. Now, he is already the Great Steward, life is good.

The one he cares most is his daughter Wang Feng.

When he was following the Family Head Wang Shouzhe traveling from east to west, his daughter was only six years old and had not been tested for her qualifications. Later on, his daughter Wang Feng was tested to have Low Grade Class C qualifications.

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Such aptitude, if placed on the offspring of the direct line of Rank 8 or 9 families, would undoubtedly be considered inadequate. But for a guard of a low-ranking prominent family, such a



bloodline is considered a blessing from their ancestors, and many direct descendants of low-ranking prominent families can't even match her.

In addition to the Wang family's intensive cultivation efforts, Wang Yong was also determined to support Wang Feng, hence he spent the majority of his subsistence and valor points on her.

Wang Feng was indeed a hard worker. She was now almost seventeen and had served the Wang family for nearly a year. Her cultivation base had reached Level Five of the Vital Energy Refining Realm!

At this age, with this level of cultivation.

She had already overtaken many direct descendants of Rank 8 and 9 families in Changning ward. Some direct descendants of Rank 9 families were not even on par with her, and some were even inferior.

The Family Head Wang Shouzhe had summoned her several times to praise and instruct her personally. He granted her the permission to cultivate the Mysterious Elemental Technique and movement technique of the Wang family, as long as she didn't share them with outsiders.

This made Wang Feng hold a respected position among the young generation of guards, even those from the direct line treated her politely.

The current Wang Feng was very ambitious, always eager to take on family tasks. Now, she had followed the Fourth Lady to Qianma Town to make a better future for herself.

With such a proud daughter, Wang Yong could not be more proud, even his walk had a spring in its step. He was not even afraid of hardship, taking on laborious tasks for the family.

For example, he always volunteered for the long journey to the Academic Palace, delivering supplies to the young masters and ladies studying there.

"Uncle Yong."

A man of massive stature, as bumbling as a walking stone puppet, crashed into the courtyard. As soon as he saw Wang Yong, he greeted him with due respect.

"Young Master Zongsheng." Wang Yong did not dare to be lax and returned the salute hastily. He looked at the young man with a hint of surprise in his eyes, "Huh, Young Master Zongsheng, your cultivation has advanced significantly. I can hardly see through it. And your physique, it's really..."

This robust yet somewhat immature young man was naturally the third in the Zong generation, Wang Zongsheng. Although young, he was exceptional.

But now, he had grown even larger than when he came to the Academic Palace. The standard Profound Martial uniform of the Mysterious Ice Palace male disciples, which was meant to be elegant and aloof, became bulging on him, a true "martial outfit"!

"Hehe!"

Wang Zongsheng laughed awkwardly while scratching his head, "Senior Brother Yu An said that the Mysterious Ice Technique doesn't suit me, so he informed the master, who then gave me a body tempering technique. See, my physique just keeps getting bigger as I practice. But Senior Brother Yu An told me not to worry. The Nine Transformation Body Tempering Technique does this at the beginning.

Once I progress further, my physique will get thinner with the practice. Then again, it will get bigger and then thinner! After nine cycles, the War Body will be fully formed, achieving an invincible state."

Wang Yong had never heard of such an amazing body tempering technique in his life. He gawked, awestruck, "The Academic Palace truly is remarkable, offering such a formidable technique with such casualness."

"But this technique is a pain to cultivate," Wang Zongsheng said with a resigned expression on his face. "The resource requirements are high. Not only does it require abundant Spirit Food, but it also needs various kinds of Heaven and Earth Treasure for body tempering. The further along I go, the more resources it consumes. As an Inner Sect Disciple, my monthly allowance is far from enough.

Now, I'm not powerful enough to take on suitable tasks."

"In that case, Young Master Zongsheng, you need to personally write a letter to the Family Head explaining the situation," said Wang Yong, with a serious look on his face. "How to deal with this will depend on the Family Head's arrangements."

His current mission was to deliver resources and subsidies to the young masters and ladies at the Academic Palace. However, it was clear that Young Master Zongsheng's requirements exceeded the budget, and he dared not promise Zongsheng anything on his own.

"I have already written the letter, and I need Uncle Yong to deliver it to my Fourth Uncle. I'm really causing trouble for the family." Wang Zongsheng showed a letter with a look of helplessness, "I did not expect this technique to consume so much resources, otherwise I would rather practice a more common body tempering technique."

Wang Yong accepted the letter solemnly, then added, "Apart from sending supplements and resources for the young masters and ladies this time, I also brought goods related to beauty care and mirrors. Selling these items in the Academic Palace can add another income stream for the family, granting you some additional subsidies, which can make up for your deficit in resources.

However, you must keep clear accounts. You know how the Family Head is."

Wang Zongsheng's eyes lit up, then he frowned slightly, "The goods do sell well, and I will keep clear accounts for sure. The only problem is, those senior sisters keep asking me for discounts. I can't really decide on that. Those senior sisters are really troublesome, they keep disturbing me, affecting my practice."

Wang Yong was speechless. He understood why the Family Head assigned Zongsheng this task. He obviously wanted to create more opportunities for Zongsheng, but it was a shame that Zongsheng was still too young to understand the benefits.

"If you find them troublesome, you should just beat them up." A domineering voice sounded. A woman in yellow Profound Martial uniform walked in with her hands behind her back, "That's what I do. Beat up a few, and those seniors won't dare bother you again."

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Seeing the newcomer, Wang Zongsheng quickly saluted, "Zongsheng pays his respects to Sixth Aunt." Then he sighed, "I do not possess the dominance of my aunt, the school sisters are really formidable."

Implicitly, he didn't mean that he didn't want to fight, but rather, he couldn't.

The woman who had arrived was none other than the sixth sibling from the Wang family's Luo generation, Wang Luoqiu.

Wang Yong also hastily saluted, "Greetings, Miss Luoqiu."

"Hello, Brother Yong." Wang Luoqiu, who was quite respectful to the family's elder, Wang Yong. After all, they had struggled together from the most difficult period of the Wang family.

"Miss Luoqiu, Young Master Zongsheng should get more familiar with the school sisters." Wang Yong advised earnestly, "Each and every school sister are outstanding. If he can marry one of them, it would also be a contribution to the Wang family. Besides, Young Master Zongsheng needs to sell skincare products. Offending the school sisters would not be good."

This advice was quite reasonable, so Wang Luoqiu turned and instructed Wang Zongsheng, "Zongsheng, it may be a bit of a hardship for you. Try to find a talented school sister, have a couple of children, and then leave them to the family."

"Ah...this..." Wang Zongsheng pulled a face of distress—women were just too much trouble, nothing like physical training which he enjoyed. However, he didn't dare to defy his Sixth Aunt. Otherwise, he would unjustly suffer a beating.

"Zongsheng, you don't need to listen to her nonsense." Another woman's voice sounded—it was Wang Luo Jing who had quietly come in after finishing her tasks, "If you are looking for a partner, it should still be based on mutual affection. In short, you are still young, there's no need to be so hurried."

"Wang Luo Jing, why do you show up everywhere?" Wang Luoqiu responded angrily, crossing her arms, "I think Zongsheng should start looking for a partner earlier so that he can contribute to the family sooner. Zongsheng, you listen to me."

"I said there is no need to rush." Wang Luo Jing retorted mercilessly, "He is still young and has a promising future ahead of him. Zongsheng, your Fifth Aunt won't harm you."

"This..." Now Wang Zongsheng was stuck, on one hand was Sixth Aunt, on the other, Fifth Aunt.

He couldn't offend either aunt—this was too difficult! He looked helplessly at Wang Yong, Uncle Yong, help me...

Wang Yong directly looked away, joking, he couldn't offend either of these grand aunts.

Only the family head or the wife of the family head could suppress these types of situations.

Unfortunately, Miss Lici wasn't present this time because she went out on a "cloud trip" with her master.

...

While these young members of the family were enjoying their own lives at the Academic Palace.

The Wang's Ping'an Town was also undergoing great changes.

The flood brought disaster to countless people. However, the Wang family opened the grain warehouses and took in many refugees. With the Wang family's concerted efforts, the refugees were all engaged in reinforcing river embankments, dredging river channels, and terracing developments, etc.

This avoided a strategy of merely doling out grain relief, raising a group of layabouts. Instead, they were given work which allowed them to find a foothold in Ping'an Town through their own labour.

Gradually, these refugees started to adapt to the rhythm of Ping'an Town.

Now it's nearing winter.

The large number of temporarily assembled refugee huts have harsh conditions, with many families having to squeeze together. The huts were breezy, making this winter even more unbearable.

Many people, after getting through the initial difficulties, couldn't help but miss their old homes. Perhaps their former homes were dilapidated, but they were the very foundations of their families.

Zhuge Wenya's family was just a typical one among the refugees.

However, middle-aged Zhuge Wenya wasn't in good health, unable to do heavy labour, and could only join many of the physically weak refugee women and elderly in simple labour tasks, earning a lower wage.

But this lower wage was only relative.

In reality, in Wang's Ping'an town, as long as you were willing to work, even the lowest wage would give you three copper coins a month, and you could also get an additional fifty shillings worth of food aid each month.

If one is thrifty, they could save about two copper coins a month on average.

Luckily, Zhuge Wenya had a son and a daughter. The son was in his twenties and still single, while the daughter was only fifteen.

The son, Zhuge Tiezhu, was strong and sturdy from a young age. As expected of his name 'Iron Pillar', as soon as he arrived at the refugee camp, he joined the most strenuous river embankment repair team. He could earn eight copper coins of wages and two copper coins of meal subsidies per month. If he was thrifty, he could save a Qian Gold in a year!

Recently, Zhuge Tiezhu had applied to join the Wang's Patrol Team and had passed the assessment. As long as he trained every day, he could get ten copper coins a month and various generous subsidies throughout the year, bringing in two Qian Golds a year without problems.

The daughter, Zhuge Cuiflora was a nimble and skilled girl who managed to join the weaver squad in Silkworm Manor, becoming a weaving apprentice. Even as an apprentice, she could earn five copper coins a month.

All four members of their family had jobs. Despite differences in income, this provided a basis for a stable life.

However, today,

The entire family had taken the day off to stay in the refugee camp because it was an important day. They were anxiously awaiting a major decision.

There were many families in similar situations to the Zhuge family.

Many refugee camps had numerous families eagerly waiting.

At this moment, a young and capable man in his twenties, along with a few followers, walked into the refugee camp. Soon, many people surged up, "Great Steward Ouyang, how is the situation?"

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"Our family also applied, have we been approved?"

"My two sons are both repairing the river embankment. According to the public announcement, our family is a priority."

Many refugees began to argue back and forth.

"Everyone, keep quiet." Ouyang Junyan commanded with an authoritative tone, "Whoever dares to disrupt the order, those who are eligible will have their eligibility revoked, and those who are not eligible will be postponed for three years."

As soon as these words were spoken, everyone promptly hushed, waiting with awe for the announcement of Manager Ouyang.

"I, Ouyang Junyan, was once a refugee. Thanks to the sixth young lady of the Wang family who nurtured and sent me to the Wang Family School, I have come this far.

Although I cannot serve her in the Academic Palace, I can assist the eighth young lady with family affairs." Ouyang Junyan declared solemnly, "Each and every one of you has a chance to stand out, as long as you work diligently and remain loyal to the Wang family."

This resonated with many young people in the refugee crowd, sparking their envy and aspiration. Manager Ouyang, first favored by the sixth young lady and now trusted by the eighth, managed a large refugee camp—this proved his capabilities and luck.

"Now, I announce that in our Thirteenth Refugee Camp, the families who have qualified for the first phase resettlement housing loan are Shentu Hanlin, Wenren Xinbo, Dugu Yongkang, Murong Yuyang, Shangguan Haotian, Wuma Xiujie, Zhuge Wenya..." Ouyang Junyan read off the list of small households.

Naturally, there were some who rejoiced, and some who despaired.

In the end, after he finished the list, he said, "There are only a thousand spaces in the Ping'an First Phase Resettlement Houses, and only fifty out of the Thirteenth Refugee Camp have been selected. However, everyone should not lose heart.

The eighth young lady Luolan stated that after the New Year, the fifth resettlement houses will gradually be constructed, and everyone will have a place to live within at most two years."

"But there is only one precondition, and that is the necessity to work, even if it's the simplest job," Ouyang Junyan said sternly. "As long as they are within the Thirteenth Refugee Camp under my management, if any family makes trouble, it will have its housing loan qualification revoked."

Afterwards, under the escort of his followers, Ouyang Junyan departed from the refugee camp, surrounded by the vast crowd of refugees.

...

Meanwhile.

In the Ping'an First Phase Resettlement Houses.

Miss Wang Luomiao, Miss Wang Luolan, along with the family head Wang Shouzhe, were inspecting the newly constructed resettlement houses.

The entire resettlement housing project was overseen by Wang Luomiao.

Now, the good thing about the Wang family is that as long as you are willing to work hard and progress, there will always be opportunities to achieve something within the family.



Family Head Wang Shouzhe stood in front of a large resettlement housing complex, feeling a surging wave of emotion. This housing complex reminded him of Earth.

His long-held idea of using concrete and cement in ordinary buildings was coming to life.

Ping'an Town is quite large, spanning about four hundred square kilometers. However, because of its hills, the total amount of usable land is actually quite limited.

To accommodate more people, they need to build these resettlement housing complexes. This approach saves a lot of land and leaves more space for future development in Ping'an Town.

The design of these resettlement buildings adopts a five-entrance, three-story structure. Each entrance can accommodate six households, and each building can house thirty households. This housing complex, despite consisting of only about thirty buildings, can provide for a thousand households.

This is unimaginable compared with the previous village model.

"Brother. Our housing complex was built based on your ideas and designs," said Wang Luomiao, who had matured considerably after her recent experiences, "like the water tower, the advanced drainage system, the uniform cement floors and walls in the houses, the individual balconies for each house, and the cement roads within the housing complex."

"Currently, without considering the cost of the land, the cost of construction has already reached over five hundred Qian Gold per building, amounting to a total of sixteen thousand Qian Gold!" Wang Luomiao informed him, "That's considering we got the cement at a discount."

The price for the refugees is only twenty Qian Gold per house with installment payments, and they only need to pay one Qian Gold per year. It's essentially selling at cost."

Wang Luomiao was a little upset. She had worked hard to develop and construct this housing complex, and it was barely making any profit.

"Miaomiao, you have worked hard recently. You had to oversee the entire resettlement project, and supervise the construction of each housing complex," Wang Shouzhe said, ruffling her hair with a smile. "But remember, people are the wealth. Our future development in Ping'an heavily relies on having a large population. You should expand your horizons."

Moreover, the lives of refugees have always been hard, and we, the Wang family, have other sources of wealth, so there's no need for us to exploit them."

"Understood, brother." Although Wang Luomiao was a little reluctant, she still nodded obediently. After a pause, she added, "The biggest problem now is funding. Even if we purchased cement at near-cost price, if we start constructing ten housing complexes next year, that will amount to an expenditure of over a hundred thousand Qian Gold!

Mother said that our family is currently having financial difficulties."

"Financial difficulties?" Wang Shouzhe was slightly taken aback. "Didn't I just sell the 'Fiery War Halberd' on the black market, in exchange for two hundred and eighty thousand Qian Gold?"

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"What good will that do?" Wang Luomiao asked, "Previously, you purchased the Purple Abode Sword Symbol, the Storage ring, and the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, etc., all of which totalled up to 650,000 Qian Gold! More than half of that was borrowed. The Fiery War Halberd is merely enough to pay back the debt."

This year, due to the floods, we've taken in many refugees. Although they work, most of these jobs do not generate immediate profits," Wang Luomiao rambled on, "The food, drink, and wages for so many people, along with miscellaneous expenses, add up to a significant sum over a year."

Additionally, the purchase of fixed assets in Qianma town... brother, you cannot continue to be so extravagant. Our family income is not low, but our expenditure is much higher, and there is already a considerable deficit." Wang Luomiao, who grew up with Gongsun Hui, was very sensitive about finances.

"Well..." Wang Shouzhe also seemed a bit worried. "I haven't managed the finances in a while, I'll check with the old lady later. Then, I'll think of ways to earn more money."

Nowadays, the family's finances were nominally managed by Liu Ruolan as the head wife, but she was not interested in that and preferred to spend more time with the children.

Therefore, it was actually Gongsun Hui, the old lady, who was still primarily handling the Wang family's finances.

Gongsun Hui was a woman who could handle pressure. Although the family's expenditures were growing, she never complained to Wang Shouzhe.

Only Wang Luomiao knew the financial pressure on the Wang family. He thought he could make a small profit by dealing with the resettled houses, but Wang Shouzhe rejected it.

Faced with the pressure presented by Wang Luomiao, Wang Shouzhe left in a hurry after inspecting the resettlement houses.

He couldn't help but sigh at the thought of how much larger things had become. It's no wonder that the annual income of these Celestial prominent family is not low, but they ended up with very little surplus.

It appears that in addition to accelerating the construction of cement, glass, and paper factories, we need to work harder on the piece of land in Qianma Town.

We spent hundreds of thousands on that place. We can't just let it sit there without generating a profit."

...

A few months later.

The harsh winter has passed.

In the warmth of spring, everything is reviving.

The Wang family's vanguard, taking advantage of the Celestial Huangfu Family's difficulties, had already started to establish a foothold in Qianma Town. They tried to win people's hearts and minds and embarked on development.

In fact, many people's eyes were on this piece of land.

Everyone knew that Ping'an Wang Family paid a hefty price for this plot to strangle the throat of the Celestial Huangfu Family.

However, to many people's surprise, the first thing the Wang family did was to harvest all the existing grass—alfalfa—and entirely eliminated it.

Alfalfa is a perennial grass. As long as it is not eradicated, it can yield several harvests of fodder a year, making it an cheap and efficient fodder.

Harvesting all at once can indeed yield profits in a short time, especially taking advantage of the Celestial Huangfu Clan's shortage of fodder. Hence, the market price has risen, and it is an opportunity to make a fortune.

But that is ultimately like killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. Replanting alfalfa will demand a large amount of manpower and resources.

Could it be that Ping'an Wang Family plans to plant food crops on that piece of Qianma land?

Everyone knows that Qianma land indeed spans a vast area, but most of it has a sandy soil texture. The yield of food crops will be very low.

Only by planting drought-and-drought-resistant grass and then converting it into meat through grass can the greatest benefit be generated.

The original Huangfu Clan of Qianma, was smart enough. If they could plant food crops, why would they plant grass instead?

Surprisingly, to everyone's shock, what the Ping'an Wang Family planted again was still alfalfa.

This inexplicable operation has been laughed at by the Huangfu clan and some disgruntled families. Did Wang Shouzhe's head get caught in the door?

But when spring came next year, they stopped laughing.

The alfalfa that Wang's family planted grew rapidly, and soon, the entire mountains and plains turned green. Moreover, the new alfalfa plants, having thick, deep roots to draw water from the

sandy soil, produced tender and juicy grass that was greatly loved by cattle, sheep, and other livestock.

What does this represent?

It means that Wang family is ready to fight the Huangfu Clan to the death. This is a comprehensive act of provocation and suppression.

Don't underestimate a tiny alfalfa plant.

In the livestock and meat industry, conversion rate is paramount. How much fodder and grain can produce how much meat? This is the fundamental competition in the meat industry.

A type of grass that grows faster and is more palatable will greatly reduce the cost of the same amount of meat. In simpler terms, the Wang family can raise a cow at a lower cost. As long as they sell it at the same price, the profit will be higher.

But obviously, the Wang family won't do that.

This isn't the time to seek higher profits, but to beat the competitors to death. The Celestial Huangfu Clan, due to their shortage of fodder, had to purchase from other places at a high price, which significantly increased the cost of their meat. They are barely maintaining their operations now.

As long as Wang's family increases their efforts to rear more pigs, and beef cattle, they can significantly lower the price of meat. When that time comes, for every additional livestock the Huangfu Clan raises, they will lose a portion of Qian Gold.

And the livestock industry is the most significant pillar of the Huangfu's Clan.

With this move, the Wang family is preparing for a comprehensive crackdown, no, a complete crush of the Huangfu Clan's foundation.

Chapter 87: System List! Wang Family Inventory\_1

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Qianma Town.

This name also has its history.

When Changning territory was still a frontier wilderness, Anyuan was at the very edge of human habitation. The name "Anyuan" shows that it was a remote borderland.

Qianma Town, on the other hand, was an outpost established by humans relying on the stronghold of Anyuan and the strategic location of Anyuan Pass to expand into the frontier.

It is said Huangfu Hong Yu, the Old Ancestor of the Huangfu clan, was an extraordinary individual. He single-handedly established Qianma Town in the frontier, and then together with the government office and the Lei Family, they opened up Changning territory.

"Qianma", meaning the foremost horses, was naturally the pioneer of expansion back then.

Over the past five or six hundred years, Qianma Town still carries a strong historical imprint. Behind it lies Anyuan Pass, leading to Anyuan territory. To the west is a vast Huangfu Ranch. To the south is a canyon with a castle-like fortification named Qianma Fort within it.

Qianma Fort separates Qianma Town from Changning territory, but its control is in the hands of the government office. It is within the jurisdiction of the town's defender of Qianma Town.

This also makes sense because many important transit routes are directly administered by the government office. For example, Ping'an Town also has a town defender, and the Zhou Xuan Pass was also under the jurisdiction of the Defender's Office of Ping'an Town.

The reason the Wang family was able to take over the management rights of the Dingpu Ferry was also because there was a Changning Ferry managed by the Government office on the other side of Peace River. As a result, the government office didn't care much about the control of the Dingpu Ferry.

The fixed assets of Huangfu Clan in Qianma Town bought by Wang Shouzhe were valued at a total of 600,000 Qian Gold!

A low-key carriage, surrounded by the family's retainers, passed through Qianma Fort and arrived in Qianma Town.

Qianma Town is not geographically expansive, with many hilly areas. Most of the land is not suitable for farming, so it has been planted with pasture grass as a forage base for Huangfu Ranch.

Wang Shouzhe was sitting in the carriage, sorting through some account books and ledgers, and updating his system.

The main panel still reads:

[Clan Name]: Longzuo Changning Ping'an Wang Family

[Clan Level]: Eighth grade

[Clan Reputation]: [Township hope 100) Covering the sky with a single hand][County Reputation 80) Dominating All Around][Prefectural Reputation 19) Obscure]

[Clan Industry]: 29 items click to view details)

[Clan Members]: [Internal 47)][Married Out 11)] click to view details)

[Clan Relatives]: 6 click to view details)

[Clan Generals]: [Adults 19)][Minors 38)] click to view details)

[Family Servants]: [Adults 273)][Minors 152)] click to view details)

[Development Facilities]: [Scripture Pavilion][Treasure Pavilion][Spirit Material Pavilion][Spirit Pill Pavilion][Clan School][Martial Arts Field][Spirit Testing Platform]

[Treasure Land]: [Foreign Trial Field][Marrow Washing Cave][Fire Cloud Cave Middle Grade Fire Vein Spirit Field) Medium)][Spirit Medicine Cave

Middle Grade spirit medicine field) Small))]] click to view details)

[Income and Expenditure List]: [click to view details](#))

...

There's no need to mention the reputation anymore. Township hope has been maxed out, the Wang family has long achieved total domination in Ping'an Town. As for County Reputation, it's gradually accumulating and has recently experienced an "explosive growth", reaching a level of domination.

Even the Huangfu Clan that had a dispute with Wang Shouzhe and the Celestial Lei Family dare not underestimate the Wang family. Regarding Prefectural Reputation, there's nothing that can be done about it for now. It is still considered obscure since the Wang family is only an eighth-grade family, and it has a long road ahead.

Set aside the industry for now.

The number of clan members has gradually grown to 47. Several brothers have gotten married, and wives and children are all counted under the Wang family. But it seems that the achievement of "100 clan members" is still some time away. Unless Wang Shouzhe marries an additional 53 wives! Then the achievements of "Wives Abound" and "Death from Domestic Violence" would both be accomplished.

The number of household heads has seen a significant increase, but the majority are still underage heads of the household. They are children who have been nurtured by the Wang family from a young age. When they reach the age of sixteen, they can join the family system as household heads, which will help alleviate the lack of clan members.

Moreover, the number of servants has suddenly reached nearly 300. This is not because the family has grown and expanded, requiring so many people to serve. In fact, besides being able to raise a clan general, most prominent families will also cultivate strong house servants.

These strong house servants are house servants in name but in actuality, they are the clan's soldiers of the Wang family.

They, due to their bloodline talent not reaching Class C grade, can only cultivate some of the most basic body strengthening techniques, accumulate some sparse mysterious energy, and after many years of cultivation, they might just barely reach the first or second level.



No family would be willing to waste cultivation resources on them. After all, even a small Cultivation Pill costs ten Qian Gold, while a clan soldier's annual expenses are only two or three Qian Gold.

This is also the reason why people like Wang Yong are called the head of household. Even though many prominent families also have a clan army besides the head of household, during the official registration with the government office, they all categorize them under house servants.

However, these completely armed clan soldiers can pose a threat to low-rank cultivators if they are well-trained and operate in groups. Moreover, a head of a household who has the support of clan's soldiers has a significant advantage when facing opponents of the same level.

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As for facilities like the Scripture Pavilion and so on, they are still in their infancy stage under Wang Shouzhe's refurbishment. There isn't much notable inside yet, apart from some basic cultivation techniques, swordsmanship, movement techniques and so forth. There are a few of low-grade and a small number of mid-grade techniques.

As for the high-grade cultivation methods that Wang Shouzhe and others practise, the Wang family does not have such heritage as of now, and Wang Shouzhe and his associates cannot randomly pass it around either.

#### Chapter 87: System List! Wang Family Inventory\_2

In other words, most of the influential families, even the celestial families, may not necessarily have their own top-tier cultivation technique inheritance. The "Red Dragon True Verses" of the Celestial Huangfu family, although it is a top-notch cultivation technique, reportedly only has inheritance within chapters related to the Heavenly Human Realm.

To practice the Sky Human Chapter, you have to go through their main lineage.

That's the current situation.

For example, the Wang family of Longzuo County, with their founding Old Ancestor being a Master from the Violet Abode, has a more complete cultivation system compared to the Ping'an Wang Family, as they have their own direct system to the Violet Abode.

The Ping'an Wang family's "Xuanyuan Jue" can only cultivate to the Heavenly Human Realm. If they wish to follow the Violet Abode path, they either need to create their own cultivation technique or attach themselves to the Violet Abode Academic Palace.

Just for the time being, this is not a big problem. However, if the Wang family truly wants to rise to prominence, they must continually improve and strengthen the cultivation system in the Scripture Pavilion. They must have their own foundation accumulation, and in the end, they should at least have one top-notch cultivation technique of their own.

The Treasure Pavilion also has a similar problem. Most of the items in it are mundane soldier-grade items below the Spirit Instrument level. However, some top-tier mundane soldier-level items are already comparable to those in the martial arts novels Wang Shouzhe read in his previous life, like the Heavenly Sword or Dragon Sabre. They're not common items.

Similar top-grade mundane items cost at least one or two thousand Qian gold, with the most expensive ones costing several thousand Qian gold. There are a few of such items stored in the Wang's Treasury.

As for Spirit Instruments, the Wang family has quite a few, but at present, every single one is claimed. In the Treasure Pavilion, there isn't a single spirit instrument. This aspect, too, needs a great deal of time to accumulate.

The Spirit Material Pavilion and the Spirit Pill Pavilion are facing the same circumstances.

What Wang Shouzhe did was merely set up a framework for his family, then slowly fill it. This process might take hundreds, or even thousands of years.

The rest of the categories won't be related individually in detail.

What Wang Shouzhe is most focused on at the moment is the various family businesses. Only when the industry grows bigger, there will be more Qian Gold resources, which can rapidly develop and strengthen the Wang family.

In this world, once you have certain self-protection capability, as long as you don't break away from the framework of the Great Qian Kingdom, Qian Gold resources are extremely useful. For instance, Wang Shouzhe once bought a Jade Talisman carrying a seal of Violet Abode-level Sword Energy.

It was precisely because of this Jade Talisman that he turned around the entire situation of Changning Guard at a critical moment.

And cultivating a Tianren Realm cultivator is a colossal expenditure. The total expenditure from start to finish far exceeds the price of a single Violet Abode Sword Energy.

While Wang Shouzhe was revising some of the family business's components and inventory, he was also sorting out his thoughts.

The Wang family's businesses are currently concentrated primarily in Ping'an Town. He opened the list for business inventory.

\*\*\*[Family Businesses]\*\*\*

[United Paper Secret) Share)]

[United Glass Secret) Share)]

[United Cement Secret) Share)]

[United Caravan Secret) Share)]

[United Textile Share)]

[Daily Chemical Research Room]

[Science and Innovation Research Room]

[Wang Family School]

[Fishing Squad]

[Changning Fish Stall]

[Wang's Winter Hunting]

[Wang's Engineering]

[Fenggu Farm]

[Prosperous Farm]

[Xinmao Silkworm Farm]

[Dingpu Ferry]

[Zhuwei Manor Commercial)]

[Anping No. 1 Farm]

[Anping No. 2 Farm]

[Anping No. 3 Farm]

[Anping No. 4 Farm]

[Anping No. 5 Farm]

[Anping No. 6 Farm]

[Anping No. 7 Farm]

[Anping No. 8 Farm]

[Anping No. 9 Farm]

[Terraced Field No. 1 Farm]

[Terraced Field No. 2 Farm]

[Sky Rainbow Pasture]

[Front Horse Farm]

[Xingwang Pasture]

[Fixed Property Business]

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From the early five businesses, they have expanded to thirty in no time. Among them, there are profitable businesses, as well as purely investment-losing businesses, and also specialties mainly operated with a large number of fixed assets.

However, the Wang family's most profitable businesses are mainly divided into two major areas. The first is manufacturing and selling industries such as cement, glass, and paper.

This sector is operated in partnership with several related families. In the production segment, the Wang family takes the majority of the returns, while they receive less from the sales segment.

The paper industry and the glass industry made over 20,000 Qian Gold last year. Cement, being its most profitable, netted a profit of over 60,000 Qian Gold for the Wang family. From the sales side, the Wang family made over 30,000 Qian Gold last year.

Just from these few businesses alone, excluding expenses, the Wang family netted around 140,000 Qian Gold.

In addition, within the various farms of the Wang family located in Ping'an Town, they own a total of 210 mu of low-grade spirit fields. Last year, they all planted the White Jade Spirit Rice's fifth seed type, which was personally stimulated by Wang Shouzhe!

That's right, starting from last year, they weren't planting the White Jade Spirit Rice for consumption, instead, they were planting grain seeds. These grain seeds were all sold throughout Longzuo County via the Qian family.

Last year, they harvested over 1,200 dan of the White Jade Spirit Rice's fifth grain seed type. They wholesaled it to the Qian family for sixty Qian Gold per dan, amassing a gross profit of around 70 to 80,000 Qian gold.

The twenty Mu of mid-grade Red Crystal Rice's sixth grain seed type produced 130 dan, which eventually sold for over 20,000 Qian Gold.

Just the grains produced by the spirit fields account for a gross revenue of around 100,000 Qian Gold.

Why did Wang Shouzhe want to buy out the ancestral possessions of Ma Huangfu? Apart from using it as leverage to strangle the Celestial Huangfu's family, he was also looking at the combined total of 250 mu of low-grade spirit fields.

In the hands of Ma Huangfu, it was used to plant Spirit Beans. The beans were first pressed to extract high-priced spirit oil, and the residual spirit bean pulp was used as supplementary feed for the Celestial Huangfu's family livestock of Spirit Horned Yaks.

With such an operation, although the annual income is not low and quite fixed, the maximum gross income is only around 30,000 Qian Gold. However, once it falls into Wang Shouzhe's hands, to be used for the cultivation of White Jade Spirit Rice's fifth grain seed, the gross revenue could multiply by several times, potentially reaching close to 100,000 Qian Gold!

Chapter 87: System List! Wang Family Inventory\_3

Moreover, the extra Qian Gold generated was almost pure profit.

Therefore, just the 250 acres of Spirit Field could bring astronomical profits into Wang Shouzhe's hands, not to mention his other assets.

If the Huangfu Clan found out prematurely, they would, even if it means their lives, not let the Wang family succeed.

Of course, Qianma Town, which had just been acquired, currently requires massive investments without yielding any profits yet.

The Ping'an Wang Family, aside from Spirit Fields, also had a high output from regular farmland. The Wang Family currently owns up to 60,000 acres of farmland, among which approximately 20,000 acres of core farmlands are cultivated with Wang's No.19 rice variety and Wang's No.23 wheat variety.

These two varieties of staple food crops have extremely high yield. Even if the cultivators purchase the seeds at high prices, their farmlands' yield per acre increases by 50% from previous years, and that is pure profit after all costs are deducted.

Most prominent families focus mainly on farming. If they have 100,000 acres of good farmland, and they all purchase Wang seeds, their yield wouldn't be lesser than 150,000 acres, and it would also save them a lot of trouble.

For these reasons, these two types of grains are sold like hot cakes under the secret dealings of the Qian Family. The prices keep increasing as a result. Therefore, only from these 20,000 acres of core farmlands, over 60,000 Qian Gold of profit was made.

Additionally, 40,000 acres are cultivated with the more common Wang's Number Seven wheat variety and Wang's No.9 rice variety, yielding a total profit of over 40,000 Qian Gold.

To sum it up, the Wang family's regular farmland generated over 100,000 Qian Gold in profits! Adding the profits from Spirit Fields to this, the total profit from farming exceeds 200,000 Qian Gold. This figure surpasses the combined figures for cement, glass, and the likes.

This showcases the terrifying aspect of Wang Shouzhe's bloodline talent. It's not merely in his combat skills, but also significantly potent in farming.

As for fishing, selling fish, and fall/winter hunting, these are small profits. Even when combined, they generate only around fifty or sixty thousand Qian Gold.

Taking into account other miscellaneous income, the Wang family's total income from various family businesses reached more than 450,000 Qian Gold, setting a new record.

Even the old 7th-rank Aristocratic Families couldn't match this terrific Qian Gold income. If they were generating such income, they would have already aspired to rise to a Rank Six family group.

As of now, the wealth of the Wang family could almost be compared to the poorer Rank Six families.

Of course, their current earnings are still nowhere near those of the old Rank Six families.

However, those traditional Rank Six prominent families incur terrifying costs. The expense of maintaining three or more Heavenly Human Realm beings alone is enormous every year. Moreover, feeding a group of Spirit Platform Realm beings, often numbering in dozens, is also a huge cost to bear.

But those poor Rank Six families will eventually decline if they can only sustain such income.

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As for the spoils of war and other gains, they are not factored into these. Despite their sizable quantity, they are generally lesser in the long years of peace when averaged out. These are usually directly transformed into combat capacity, except for the Fiery War Halberd that Wang Shouzhe sold, which was only to compensate for their losses.

For a prominent family, sustainable and long-term profitable assets are more critical. With time, this can make a family increasingly strong and in-depth.

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According to the accounts that Wang Shouzhe received, there was a severe deficit last year. The main losses came from the procurement of the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill, two storage rings, Purple Abode Sword Energy Jade Talisman, expenses for the Purple abode academic palace, acquisition of assets from Ma Huangfu's family, and market price subsidies for spoils of war, etc.

Together, these cost the Wang family about 1.4 million Qian Gold. Deducting the 280,000 Qian Gold from the Fiery War Halberd sale, they still have an expenditure deficit of over 1.1 million!



In addition, "Flood Disaster Endurance," "Refugee reclamation," "Terraced Field Development," "Settlement Development," "Other development project research," etc., overall expenditure also exceeded 200,000 Qian Gold.

The "Family Expenses" section, which mainly includes buying cultivation materials, high spending on the nurturing of family members, and losses incurred by Wang Shouye, the alchemist, also exceeds 200,000.

Meanwhile, only the cultivation materials for Wang Shouzhe and his wife, excluding the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill and storage rings, consume forty to fifty thousand Qian Gold annually.

There is no way around it, their future goal lies in the trajectory of the Purple Abode, and they need to accelerate development in the early stages rather than stall.

According to the accounts, the Wang family now has a Qian Gold deficit of more than 800,000. These deficits are acquired through loans from the Qian Family, and they also have to pay interest annually.

But the expenses for the upcoming new year will, of course, not be insignificant!

Facing such a deficit, Gongsun Hui, who is in charge of finances, was under immense pressure. It's no wonder that Wang Luomiao was even planning to make some profit from the resettlement housing scheme.

Luckily, although the Qian Gold deficit is large, the family's assets expanded. The terraced fields that were developed and the assets of the Huangfu family from Qianma Town, which were acquired, will generate profits one after another. The renovated canals and the fortified dams will have a significant stabilizing effect on Ping'an Town's long-term income.

All in all, the Wang family is much stronger than it was one year ago.

Besides, with the size of the industry expanding this year, and with the management and development of Qianma Town, Wang family's revenue in the new year will certainly far exceed 450,000 Qian Gold!

Wang Shouzhe's carriage leisurely drives down the roads of Qianma Town. This somehow heralds that the Wang family will once again welcome a big opportunity for development.

And Qianma Town will also breathe new life.

Chapter 88: Setup before the horse! Suppression of the Huangfu Clan\_1

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The Tianhong Pasture.

It is one of the three largest pastures in Qianma Town.

Just the grazing field alone is a full thirty thousand acres, with eight hundred herding households.

Last year, the Wang family utilized all eight hundred herding households, even transferred two thousand strong men and three hundred auxiliary workers from Ping'an Town, solely for harvesting the old alfalfa grass like killing the goose that laid the golden eggs.

The sandy soil was also turned over, burying the alfalfa stems and roots that cattle and sheep could not eat into the ground, recycled into the nourishment of the earth.

Alfalfa is a magical grazing plant. Since humankind domesticated it, it has become inseparable from the development of animal husbandry. It is not picky about soil, produces a high yield of forage, and also has the effect of fertilizing the field.

The alfalfa grass seeds originally planted by the Huangfu Clan of Qianma were ordinary superior seeds painstakingly obtained from the main lineage of the Huangfu family lines. It has been cultivated for hundreds of years into high-quality alfalfa grass.

Each acre of pastureland can be harvested multiple times a year, with average annual fresh fodder yield reaching up to two tons per acre!

The cattle raised on the ranch are usually classified into several types.

The most common is a type of beef cattle called "Short Horned Red Bull".

In this regard, there is a significant difference from ancient Huaxia times, where usually, only draft cattle were raised. There were even many eras where slaughtering cattle was prohibited by the government. This reflects the fundamental differences in social structures.

The cultivation of Da Qian is very prevalent, from the low-profile Xuanwu Family to independent cultivators, to prominent families of different grades. Every one of them requires a large amount of meat to replenish their vigor.

Although the meat of fierce beasts is great for replenishing vitality, the price is too expensive. Hence, ordinary meat has become a regular expense for many cultivators. Even the Wang family's household servants receive meat supplementation now and then.

Beef cattle, pigs, and sheep intentionally raised for eating, all have been bred generation after generation with very specific purposes.

Take the short-horned red bull, this type of beef cattle, its meat ration is high, it is a high-quality beef cattle, a very popular breed for families involved in similar farming operations.

Wang Shouzhe's wagon team is about to arrive at the Tianhong Pasture.

Hearing this, Wang Luotong, who had arrived early, is waiting outside the pasture on horseback. The wind in the pasture is quite strong. The black cloak draped over her profound martial uniform is blowing in the wind, making her look especially heroic.

In addition to two household heads, she is unexpectedly accompanied by a fine-looking youth on a towering horse. The youth himself is also tall and handsome, but when he looks at Wang Luotong, his gaze appears somewhat uneasy yet can't help but glance over.

"What are you looking at? Believe it or not, I'll gouge your eyeballs out!" Wang Luotong glared at him, her hand on the hilt of her sword, exuding a threatening aura.

The youth in fine clothes stiffened, hurriedly laughed awkwardly, turned his head away, and explained in a low voice, "I won't look, I won't look. I just came to greet Master Shouzhe."

"The Tianhong ranch now belongs to our Wang family." Wang Luotong said coldly, "Does my fourth brother need you, Young Master Lei to greet him when he comes? If you're wise, you'd better get out of here and stop hindering."

Speaking of this, Wang Luotong sighed internally. This fine-suited young man happened to be Lei Bowu, the seventh elder of the Bo generation of the Celestial Lei family, the current second son of the direct line. Because he had provoked her younger brother Wang Shouye, Wang Luotong had schooled him harshly.

Originally, she wanted to divert the hatred away from her brother to prevent him from disturbing her brother's alchemy practice. However, unexpectedly, this guy chased after her to Qianma Town after a few days.

Regardless of how she beat and humiliated him, he persisted like chewing gum to a shoe, sticking to Qianma town. He returned home for a short while during the new year, but soon after the spring, he was back again.

"Luotong, you can't say it like that." Lei Bowu shamelessly said, "Your fourth brother is a hero to everyone, one of the top leaders in Changning. I have admired him for a long time. It's my duty to come and greet him."

Wang Luotong shot a look his way. Does her brother needs this kind of person to admire him? What on earth has she done to have attracted such a clingy nuisance?

But at this moment, Wang Shouzhe's wagon team has already arrived. Wang Luotong hurriedly rode forward to greet them. She jumped off the horse in front of the wagon, flashed a radiant smile, and said, "Fourth brother, you're finally here."

Wang Shouzhe got out of the wagon, strolled forward, ruffled her hair, and said in a caring tone, "You, this girl, didn't even come home for the new year. You must have had a hard time these days."

Whether Luotong was just two years younger than him, to Wang Shouzhe, his sister will always be his little sister. No matter how old she gets, she will always be his sister.

"Fourth brother, our house spent so much money to buy the assets in Qianma Town," Wang Luotong shook her head and said, "There are too many things here that need to be taken care of. We need to activate these assets as soon as possible. Missing one New Year's Day is not that serious."

Wang Luotong is a heroic lady who acts rather sisterly in front of her younger brothers, giving off a dominant elder sister vibe. But in front of Wang Shouzhe, she behaves somewhat childishly.

Lei Bowu watches her intently, entranced. The normally tough and mighty Luotong can actually be this gentle and amiable?

"This gentleman must be the young master of the Bo generation from the Lei Family, right?" Wang Shouzhe looked over at Lei Bowu, with a hint of seriousness and scrutiny in his eyes.

With Wang Shouzhe's network of contacts and informants, if a man had been harassing his sister for few months and he knew nothing about it, then he would have been quite ineffective.

Lei Bowu had been pampered since childhood. He has met all kinds of big shots. But when he faced Wang Shouzhe's gaze, he felt a chill in his heart. He quickly dismounted and bowed, saying, "Lei Bowu meets Master Shouzhe."

Chapter 88: Setup before the horse! Suppression of the Huangfu Clan\_2

The current Wang Shouzhe is not a nobody. He is someone who can share a hearty conversation with his father, Lei Yangyu, address him as his brother. Besides, he is also the brother of Wang Luotong.

Even with his status as the second son of the Celestial Lei Family, he wouldn't dare to act rashly.

Wang Shouzhe simply nodded slightly without making significant conversation with him.

Although the Lei Family is a prominent celestial family, the Ping'an Wang family is an eighth-grade peak family, while Wang Shouzhe is the Family Head. In his eyes, Lei Bowu was simply a youngster.

Under Wang Luotong's leadership.

Wang Shouzhe's group quickly arrived at the Tianhong Ranch, where they were settled in a decent house. Once there, Wang Shouzhe discussed matters in his study with Wang Luotong and Wang Zongwei.

"Fourth Uncle, please, have some tea," said Wang Zongwei, who was now thirty and had a small mustache, making him look quite mature.

Yet in front of Wang Shouzhe, he didn't dare to even breathe heavily. When sitting, he dared only to perch on the edge of his seat, his back straight like he was in a constant state of readiness for instruction.

"Zongwei, this is a spring outfit and a letter from home that Mrs. Rong asked me to bring for you." Wang Shouzhe took out a large parcel and a thick letter from his storage ring and handed them to Wang Zongwei.

"This..."

Wang Zongwei quickly stood up and took the parcel and letter, fearfully saying, "How could she bother Fourth Uncle like this, that's completely unacceptable."

"What's there to bother about?" said Wang Shouzhe indifferently. "Rong is my niece by marriage, a daughter-in-law of Wang family whom we married properly. She's part of our family. She has a soft demeanor, and you must treat her well. Do not let her down."

Ultimately, Wang Shouzhe and Gongsun Hui personally stepped in to arrange the marriage between Gongsun Rong and Wang Zongwei. Otherwise, with the carefree nature of his youth, Wang Zongwei wouldn't have been able to marry a girl like Gongsun Rong.

But the way the Gongsun Clan named their daughters seemed quite random, unlike Wang family daughters, who were named according to their generation.

"Fourth Uncle, don't worry," Wang Zongwei hurriedly stated. "If I disappoint Rong, I assure you I won't die peacefully. Even if you kill me with a single sword, I won't bear any grudges."

"You've behaved commendably in the past couple of years, particularly this time when you've done a great service," Wang Shouzhe said rarely praising him. "This time too, you need to show some results in Qianma Town. Let it be a testament to everyone that the young men of the Wang family are fine individuals."

"Yes, Fourth Uncle," replied Zongwei, nodding his head repeatedly, brimming with excitement. Being commended by Fourth Uncle like this was better than anything else.

Subsequently, Wang Shouzhe reached into another parcel and gave it to Wang Luotong: "Your mother has been busy at the Jinsha Xu Family recently, and she had no time to buy you new clothes. These two spring outfits were specially prepared for you by your fourth sister-in-law."

"Thank you, Fourth Brother, and thanks to sister-in-law," beamed Wang Luotong as she received her gift. The value of the gift wasn't important. What mattered was the concern coming from her family.

After their brief pleasantries, they started the official discussion.

"Fourth Uncle, let me first give you a general introduction to the Tianhong Ranch," Wang Zongwei stated with a serious expression, opening the book in front of him. "The pasture has eight hundred households, totaling thirty-one hundred people. There are thirty thousand acres of grazing fields, which, after years of development, have little room for expansion."

"We have five thousand short-horned red cattle. Of those, two thousand are gestating cows, four hundred are young cows, one hundred are mature bulls, with the rest being cattle under a year old. Under the management of the Huangfu clan before, about three thousand calves were born each year, with approximately two and a half thousand surviving.

The cows are typically kept for five years and give birth to three calves. Apart from the bulls kept for breeding, all others are fed for meat which is then sold."

"On average, two and a half thousand cattle are sold every year to maintain a stock of five thousand," Wang Zongwei detailed eagerly. "Around ten thousand Qian Gold is earned from the two thousand young beef cattle, and the remaining five hundred gestating and culled cows can sell for one and a half thousand Qian Gold.

On average, we earn about eleven and a half thousand Qian Gold from selling these cattle each year."

"Tianhong Ranch has a herd of thirty thousand sheep, three thousand of which are lambs. They sell three thousand older sheep annually to maintain the balance of the herd, earning about three thousand Qian Gold. In terms of wool production, they sell about one and a half thousand loads per year.

With each load selling for five Qian Gold, the annual income from the wool is seven and a half thousand Qian Gold."

"We have a thousand horses, and the earnings from this are not fixed. If we manage to train a high-quality battle horse, it can fetch a high price, usually averaging about three thousand Qian Gold a year."

"In addition, there are ten Spirit Horned Yaks that typically breed one each per year. If you consider selling one each year, it makes two thousand Qian gold. Spirit Horned Yaks are quite large, around five to six-thousand jin each. The Huangfu Clan usually reserves it for their own consumption~"

"Besides, the product from the thirty thousand acres grass field and that from the eighty acres Spirit Field used for cultivating spiritual alfalfa belongs to internal consumption within the ranch."

"As a result, the average gross income produced each year is about twenty-seven thousand Qian gold. On top of that, we need to purchase other feed, along with herders' expenses, approximately eight thousand Qian gold in expenditure. Thus, the original annual gross profit of Tianhong Ranch was about eighteen to nineteen thousand Qian gold."

Wang Shouzhe listened and nodded, it seemed that Wang Zongwei had really worked hard and had already started to familiarize himself with the operations. However, the initial auction price for Tianhong Ranch was one hundred and seventy thousand Qian gold, even if Wang Shouzhe overpaid a bit, the purchase price for the ranch had not exceeded two hundred thousand Qian gold.

One way to say it is, Wang Shouzhe got an enormous benefit from this deal. But, in valuation, livestock breeding is usually underestimated since the risks can be quite significant if not managed well, especially with cattle and sheep.

"What about the dairy products from the cows?" Wang Shouzhe inquired.

"The milk produced by the cows is either provided to calves or supplied in a small quantity to the members of the Huangfu Clan," said Wang Zongwei, "The majority of the remaining milk is turned into dried cheese by the herders to be part of their own diet. Some of it is also sold to Changning Garrison. However, it's not worth much.

Fourth Uncle, as you know, many people are not accustomed to the taste, and it can only serve as a dietary supplement for herders."



Wang Shouzhe nodded in agreement, dairy products were not popular in this world, mainly because of the insufficient scale and preservation difficulties.

Fresh milk goes bad very easily and there are no pasteurization methods in this world yet.

However, prominent families are aware of the benefits of dairy products for children's growth.

In a prominent family farm such as the Wang family's, they would keep a few cattle and sheep and occasionally provide young clan members with the dairy products.

Most of the commoners in this world essentially have no chance to enjoy dairy products.

Even dried cheese can't be preserved for very long and its taste is generally hard to accept.

In the world Wang Shouzhe came from before he passed through, the dairy industry was massive.

Even Wang Shouzhe himself was slightly tempted.

One of the toughest issues--the sealed packaging and transportation after sterilization, can be completely solved with high-grade glass bottles!

Of course, dairy products represent only an additional value.

Wang Shouzhe was more interested in the growth of the fodder, he took a sip of his Spiritual Tea and asked, "Zongwei, tell me more about the fodder."

"The thirty thousand acres of grassland on the Tianhong Ranch can produce about four hundred and fifty-thousand dan of hay each year, each dan of dried fodder can be sold for one big copper and thirty shillings, which is approximately six thousand Qian gold. However, this is not enough.

Therefore, we also need to transfer a batch of hay from Xingwang Ranch, along with a large amount of bean residue left after oil extraction from Qianma farms. This batch of material is worth more than five thousand Qian gold."

Wang Shouzhe nodded and said, "That is to say, the fodder and food, etc. that the cows, sheep and horses consume in one year, along with Spirit Grass and so on, are also worth tens of thousands of Qian gold. The cattle, sheep, and horse breeding magnifies the value of the fodder."

"You could say that," Wang Zongwei nodded and explained, "But these are the prices for selling to the Huangfu Clan's ranch, mainly because it is close by and due to our branch family relationship. If it was sold to other garrisons, the transportation cost would be higher, hence it wouldn't be very cost-effective."

Thus, it was more profitable before to sell to the Huangfu Clan or to convert it into meat and wool."

"The overall feed output of the three ranches and farms in Qianma exceeds their own consumption, the surplus is all supplied to the Celestial Huangfu Family."

"Hehe~" Wang Shouzhe kept nodding, "Whether it is about selling calves, beef cattle, wool, or horses. Ultimately it all boils down to the problem of cultivating fodder. As long as the yield and nutrition per acre of fodder are higher, the cost of our beef cattle, wool, and horses will be lower."

When this matter was brought up, Wang Zongwei also got excited, "Fourth Uncle, you are absolutely right. Some of the old herders said that our newly sown alfalfa is more favored by cows and sheep, and they have a better appetite for it. Also, the yield of each acre of alfalfa will be 70% more than before."

Chapter 89: Troll! Shotgun\_1

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That's right, Wang Shouzhe doesn't know much about animal husbandry.

But he understands the basics of it, which is converting plants into meat, milk, wool, leather, draft horses, war horses, and so on! Therefore, he only needs to get hold of the root of the matter, increasing the quality and reducing the cost of food.

As for the rest, he leaves it to the clan members and old herders.

For Wang Shouzhe, he began to suspect a decade ago that the disaster he observed had the Celestial Clan's fingerprints all over it.

Therefore, as he started his investigation, he also began specifically researching the Celestial Huangfu Family and Celestial Lei Family's industry characteristics and weaknesses.

To deal with Huangfu Clan, the best method is to start from the grassroot level of the animal husbandry industry, that is, the most key fodder in animal husbandry—alfalfa. Even a slight increase in its yield can cause a significant impact on the livestock industry.

Not to mention, Wang Shouzhe, in his spare time over the years, has been selectively cultivating alfalfa, gradually increasing its unit yield by seventy percent, with better palatability too.

If to contend with the Lei Family, there are naturally different strategies. But now as the truth has been revealed, the incident had nothing to do with the Lei Family, so the tactics against them will naturally be kept in reserve.

"Zongwei, don't be too pleased yet," Wang Luotong seriously said. "A century worm dies but doesn't stiffen, let alone the Huangfu Clan is currently only handicapped by the injury of their old master, Hua Ye. They still have the wealth accumulated over five hundred years. This battle will inevitably be a marathon."

"The current head of the Huangfu Clan, Huangfu Jinhuan, is not that competent, yet has countless shrewd tricks," Wang Luotong said it with both disdain and solemn expression. "There has been plenty of scheming in our animal husbandries around Qianma Town."

"Fourth Aunt's words are sound," Wang Zongwei felt quite a headache as well when mentioning this matter, "After the beginning of spring, our new alfalfa had shown impressive improvements, which had attracted a lot of wolves. These are all lawless independent cultivators who act individually, spreading a ravenously toxic pesticide known as the herbicide in our fields.

This pesticide is very deadly, any place where it scatters will lead to the wilting of all plants, no grass growing for many years."

Wang Shouzhe was already aware of this.

The geographical location of Qianma Town is very beneficial. It is the thoroughfare between Changning and Anyuan. To the north is Anyuan Pass, to the south is Qianma Fort. Over the mountains to the east, is the territory of Donghai.

Thinking about it, only the west border adjoins the Huangfu Ranch of the Huangfu Clan, without any barriers between them. Furthermore, the boundary line spans dozens of miles, making it impossible to guard against any infiltrations from there.

In this world, the least valuable are the independent cultivators who dare to take risks for a small benefit. As long as the Huangfu Clan is willing to spend money, there will be countless desperados they could hire.

These people operate in secret. Whenever they scatter herbicide, they run away. By the time Wang Luotong and other experts rush over upon hearing the news, they are long gone.

How can Guangtian Hong Ranch, with as much as three million acres of pasture, be guarded against such?

This loss of dozens of acres of pasture every now and then is undoubtedly a very annoying matter. In the long run, it will not only cause huge losses to the Wang family, but also make the ranchers feel insecure and depressed.

Wang Clan also sent out patrols with fully armed men and crossbow arrows, each consisting of ten people, to guard the perimeter of the ranch.

However, most independent cultivators are slippery, and they are good at movement techniques. The patrols were of low power and couldn't keep up with their dazzling movements. More often than not, the crossbow arrows do not hit their targets.

To deal with them, only the well-skilled household head and clansmen, or similarly hiring a large number of independent cultivators, could achieve it. Wang Shouzhe has always had a low opinion of independent cultivators, as it creates a situation where it's easy to hire but difficult to dismiss them.

And there is already a shortage of household heads and clan members. If directed towards Qianma Town, other places will be short of manpower.

"Fourth Uncle~" Wang Zongwei carefully suggested, "I have thought about this problem. Currently, there are only two solutions. The first is to borrow men from other families, but this involves a long-term confrontation. This might take ten or twenty years, which is certainly not a permanent solution."

"Secondly, can we properly absorb some independent cultivators? I know that Fourth Uncle has trust issues with them since you were bitten by them once. However, as long as we can form a mutual interest with them, it can work."

"Fourth Brother, Zongwei is right," Wang Ruotong also advised. "True, most independent cultivators are slick and go with the flow. But given the right price and opportunity, they are still willing to take risks and fight. Moreover, we can perform long-term observations and assessments by hiring many independent cultivators."

If truly there are those with impeccable morals, they can gradually be incorporated into household heads or the guest elder system."

While sipping his tea, Wang Shouzhe pondered. Both Ruotong and Zongwei's suggestions are grounded in reality. The current situation Wang clan is facing is that their land and wealth are expanding too fast, but the clanspeople and household heads are unable to keep up.

Based on the past experiences with the Liu Clan and Zhao Clan, Wang Shouzhe has little trust in independent cultivators. But extensively hiring independent cultivators and selecting quality ones from them to be guest elders is manageable.

"Ruotong, you can try to organize this," Wang Shouzhe said after thinking for a moment.

"Regarding independent cultivators, even if it's a partnership, we can't let any stragglers come in. We, the Wang family, also have ways to resolve the current crisis. Look at this—this is the new weapon that our Science and Innovation Research Room developed some time ago—a shotgun!"

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Wang Shouzhe said, and a swipe on the storage ring, he held a peculiar long rod-shaped object in his hand. Its structure somewhat resembled a blunderbuss, but the muzzle was flared like a trumpet.

"Fourth Uncle~ What kind of weapon is this?" Wang Zongwei braced himself, he knew that Fourth Uncle's gifts were always extraordinary.

"We can test it in the yard." Wang Shouzhe brought Zongwei and Ruotong to the courtyard, instructing the head of the household to arrange some wooden stakes.

Then he raised the blunderbuss, without aiming and randomly shot in any direction.

"Boom!"

As if thunder flashed and roared, countless tiny steel balls were scattered and sprayed out in a bell shape, covering all the wooden stakes several meters away. Several stakes were blasted and knocked off, with many pits and craters on them.

"This..." Wang Luotong was taken aback by the scene. Her cultivation base had already stepped into the Level Eight of the Spirit Platform Realm, a small expert.

But she found that if she were close enough, even if she pushed her Willow Catkin Body method to the limit, she might not be able to dodge the range of the blunderbuss attack in an instant.

"I brought a hundred blunderbusses altogether." Wang Shouzhe said, "I also brought ten trained clan soldiers. They will train and guard with the patrol team and have a deterrent effect on those independent cultivators."

"Fourth Uncle, isn't this weapon too terrifying?" Wang Zongwei wiped the cold sweat, "If a team of patrolling clan soldiers fires together, I'm afraid even an advanced practitioner of the Spirit Platform Realm will die undoubtedly."

"Wouldn't say it's too terrifying." Wang Shouzhe shook his head, "This blunderbuss has good close-range power, and ordinary clan soldiers can get the hang of it quickly, and it can pose a great threat to ordinary cultivators of the Spirit Platform Realm. But there are also many drawbacks, firing one shot requires reloading black gunpowder and steel balls."

Being a transmigrator, how could Wang Shouzhe not think about firearms? However, the difficulty in making firearms is not small, the first is concerning gunpowder. This point was still fine, after all, this world is prosperous with alchemists and gunpowder had already been invented.

But gunpowder is usually used in alchemy furnaces and mining. It's said that some artifact refiners tried to make it into cannonballs, but they soon gave up due to their minor strength.

Wang Shouzhe also wanted to create weapons like long-range sniper rifles... but any high-tech equipment requires too much preeminent technology. Advanced guns must involve the use of precision lathes, but the Science and Innovation Research Room of the Wang family had just begun to develop primary water lathes.

Therefore, he could only make a simple blunderbuss for the clansmen to give the bottom line's combat power a slight boost.

About technologies such as steam engines, Wang Shouzhe had long wanted to invent them. The principle seems simple, the craftsmen in the research room also understood it, but in the actual research and development process, each step was a hurdle.

It's estimated that it would take decades to create a primary steam engine.

Many things in scientific research take a lot of time to tinker and accumulate.

Even if a small steel ball, wanting to produce on a large scale is very difficult.

The so-called steel balls in the blunderbuss could only be considered iron balls, not only end up rusting easily but also come in strange shapes and sizes. This was because the production process was quite rough, and they were all made by melting iron into paste and then spraying it, and then quickly producing iron balls via the cooling of air and water, so the overall quality was quite surprising.

Only by selecting suitable sizes and further refining shapes by craftsmen could they be used in the rolling bearings.

The rest of the steel balls were only used for the blunderbuss bullets.

Moreover, in the absence of a large number of basic industries, even those hundred crude-looking blunderbusses, because it was necessary to develop flintlock technology, also consumed a lot of time and money.

On average, each one cost more than ten pieces of Qian Gold coins.

This price could buy a top-quality warhorse, or two good-looking maidens.

The only two advantages were that it could patch up the lack of manpower in the Wang family's bottom line of battle, and it solidified the knowledge of the basic gun technology.

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Soon, the clan soldiers brought by Wang Shouzhe integrated into the ranch patrol team. The other members of the patrol team, after a brief training, quickly mastered the blunderbuss.

This stuff is even simpler than a crossbow, just trigger a pull in a general direction, it's just that it's very troublesome to reload after one shot.

More than ten days passed by in a hurry.

As the breath of spring began to thicken, two bouts of spring rain came and went.

The thirty thousand acres of pasture in Tianhong Ranch had verdant grass growing plentifully, creating an image of boundless green pastures against the azure sky that was a pleasure to behold.

Wang Feng!

Being a seventeen-year-old girl who served as the head of the household, her lineage had been loyal servants to the Wang family for generations. Because she had Class C potential since childhood, she was carefully nurtured by the Wang family.

Her training was as rigorous as that of the direct disciples of the Wang family, and she was even allowed to cultivate the family's cultivation technique, the Wang Family's Xuan Yuan Technique.

From then on, she worked hard. Her cultivation speed was quick, and she had always been an outstanding student in the clan school.

At this moment, she was dressed in soft but strong beast leather armor. She rode on a maroon horse, with her cloak flapping behind her, displaying an impressive image.

Behind her followed eight carefully selected clan soldiers, fully armed and carrying the newly-issued sawed-off shotguns.

Today, like any ordinary day, boasted fair weather.



Wang Feng led her ranch patrol team to perform their security patrol. Their main objective was to drive away the independent cultivators coming from the direction of the Huangfu Ranch.

Normally, these infiltrating independent cultivators used the cover of darkness to come and retreat under the night sky. Unless they had special backup, they would not dare to find trouble in broad daylight.

Murong brothers.

They were a pair of brothers who were famous among independent cultivators.

Despite being under forty years old, they both had attained the seventh level of the Vital Energy Refining Realm. Among independent cultivators, they were considered outstanding. Most importantly, the brothers had a unique movement technique known as Xunfeng Flash.

Once this technique was demonstrated, their movements were as swift as manic gusts of wind. Even cultivators of a higher stage couldn't keep up. A few months earlier, they had caused trouble at Tianhong Ranch.

They even fooled Wang Luotong, whose cultivation base was higher.

Despite Wang Luotong having reached the Level Eight in the Vital Energy Refining Realm and having trained in the family's Willow Catkin Body Method, this method prioritizes stealth and unpredictability; it was very effective in face-to-face combat.

However, when it came to chases, it was far behind the Xunfeng Flash in terms of speed.

On this day, they arrogantly crossed the border as reports showed that Wang Shouzhe had left. Meanwhile, Wang Xiaohan, the Spirit Platform Realm Old Ancestor stationed in Qianma Town, would be held back by an Independent Cultivator from the Spirit Platform Realm, hired by the Huangfu Clan at a substantial cost.

Their goal was not just to destroy dozens of acres of fields but to injure a bunch of ranchers who were starting to harvest their first crops. This operation was meant to instill fear in Tianhong Ranch, making the ranchers too worried to work.

The brothers were not alone in their mission; six or seven groups of independent cultivators were operating at the same time. The Murong brothers, however, were regarded as the main force.

Along the edge of the tens of thousands of acres ranch, the Murong brothers encountered Wang Feng's patrol team quite unexpectedly.

"Heh heh, if it isn't the pretty little lady," The Murong brothers didn't retreat when faced with the patrol team, but instead planned to have some fun thanks to their exceptional movement techniques.

Their speed was so fast that ordinary crossbow arrows would have a hard time hitting them, and they could retreat or advance as they pleased.

As the two of them performed their movement technique, they were as swift as a gust of wind in the fields, their speed exceeding that of galloping horses. They laughed maliciously, "Little Miss Wang Feng, we meet again. Come on, come and join the fun with big brother Murong~"

"Murong brothers!"

Wang Feng's expression hardened, and she said angrily, "You are audacious indeed. By offending my Wang family this much, do you not fear our revenge?"

"Heh heh, revenge?" They rapidly approached, brazenly stopping a few feet in front of the patrol team, laughing continuously, "Even if your Wang family is powerful, you are still just a small overlord of Changning Guard. This mission will earn us brothers two thousand Qian Gold. After that, this world is vast and open; where can we not go?"

This is exactly why Wang Shouzhe has always had a dislike for independent cultivators. They have no roots and keep thinking about worst-case scenarios, fantasizing about starting anew elsewhere. How would one trust such individuals?

Chapter 90: Huangfu Defeated! Three Years Later! Turn of Events\_1

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Wang Feng's expression was somewhat grim. These independent cultivators without a family were despicable, capable of doing anything as long as they could earn money.

Immediately, she coldly scolded, "Two thousand Qian Gold is not a small amount, but it is not worth losing your life for. Considering you haven't killed before, I advise you to leave now, and stop becoming cannon fodder for the Huangfu Clan."

However, the Murong brothers were not afraid at all, instead, they burst into mocking laughter.

Murong Zhi, the younger brother, said to his elder brother, "Brother, this is our last mission anyway. We don't have to worry about offending the Wang family like before. Why not just..." As he spoke, he continuously looked at Wang Feng with a sinister smile, "This young girl is soft and tender, and she's just a fledgling. Today, let's take advantage of this."

"Makes sense." Elder brother Murong Zheng also laughed in a strange tone, "Before we leave, let's deeply offend the Wang family."

Wang Feng's pretty face darkened, anger rising in her chest. She unfastened the strong bow around her waist, drew it, and shot a series of arrows.

Three arrows shot out in a trident shape, aiming at Murong Zheng.

Her archery was outstanding, evidently, she had dedicated time and effort to it. However, the Murong brothers were not to be taken lightly. Just as Wang Feng had expected, Murong Zheng, swift as a gust of wind, dodged the arrows.

All three arrows missed their target!

"Brother, let's go. Kill all the clan soldiers." Murong Zheng laughed menacingly, "And then let's have our fun with this young girl."

No sooner had he finished speaking than the two of them moved faster, aiming for the clan's soldiers.

Wang Feng's face went pale, she quickly commanded, "Fire together!"

Actually, before she even gave the order, the soldiers recognized the danger and instinctively pulled out the shotguns they had been training with for some time.

The Murong brothers were extremely fast, their speed rivaled that of a fierce beast hunting its prey. They were only shadows, but that was enough. The clan soldiers, who had undergone some training, were ready to aim. As soon as they confirmed their direction, they fired.

"Boom! Boom! Boom!"

A series of thunder-like sounds rang out, and a spray of bullets from the shotgun's muzzle showered the area in front, like a celestial maiden scattering flowers.

Under the violent sound of gunshots, the Murong brothers were scared. They faltered, and then their bodies were riddled with holes from the bullets, causing a flurry of blood to erupt.

Just joking. Although the bullets were only three to four millimeters in size, the sheer number of them was not to be trifurcated with. The shotgun is a powerful weapon in close combat.

Eight shotguns fired simultaneously, forming a barrage of steel bullets, which was extremely terrifying.

Such power even frightened Wang Feng. During previous training sessions, they had only fired one gun at a time. She hadn't expected that firing eight shotguns simultaneously would produce such a formidable force.

What made them most formidable was their large coverage area, making it extremely difficult for Qi Refinement Realm cultivators to avoid.

Wang Feng was even ready to signal for reinforcements and fight them head-on.

Could it be that the troublesome Murong brothers had fallen just like this? No, they were still alive. Even though each of them was hit by several bullets and severely injured, they were still not dead.

"Take them!" Wang Feng gritted her teeth and commanded reluctantly, "First cripple their hands and feet, then tie them up."

"Yes, Miss Wang Feng."

A few of the clan soldiers instantly sobered up from their excitement, quickly dismounted, drew their knives, crippled the Murong brothers' limbs, and tied them up.

"Wang Feng, you will not die well." The Murong brothers roared in pain and anger and hurled insults, "You treacherous woman, your methods are incredibly cruel, you..."

Before they could finish cursing, their mouths were gagged tight with dirty rags, and they couldn't speak.

"Hmph!" Wang Feng, for the first time, acted so mercilessly. She responded coldly, "You two shameless bastards, since you dared to kill us and oppose the Wang family, you should be prepared to die. Two of you, take them back to the ranch and lock them up. The rest of you, reload the shotguns and continue patrolling with me. Today, for these independent cultivators, we will let them taste defeat."

Actually, although shotguns were powerful, they had a fatal flaw. The reason they could achieve such results was due to the independent cultivators' unfamiliarity with shotguns.

If they became familiar with shotguns, they could develop many targeted tactics, such as using powerful bows for long-range attacks, stealth killings, or arming themselves with protective gear, etc.

However, once they knew about the shotgun patrol team, they would at least not be as fearless. After all, as long as there was a head of a household or a cultivator of a similar level in the patrol team, they would form an effective combat force.

Although these independent cultivators dare to take risks, in the end, they still value their lives.

Leaving aside the idle talk.

There weren't just one or two patrol teams like the one led by Wang Feng. Soon, the sound of gunfire echoed from all over. Under the ignorance and carelessness of those independent cultivators, the results obtained by the Wang family were pleasing.

However, apart from one independent cultivator at Level Four of the Qi Refinement Realm who was killed on the spot, the rest were only severely injured. Although cultivators at the Qi Refinement Realm are far inferior to those in the Spirit Platform Realm, their individual vitality is extremely tenacious, beyond the comparison of ordinary people.

Chapter 90: Huangfu Defeated! Three Years Later! Turn of Events\_2

The Huangfu Clan's long-planned operation was utterly annihilated by Wang Shouzhe's shotgun. In total, fifteen Independent Cultivators were captured or killed.

What infuriated Wang Luotong and interested her the most was still the Murong siblings. She was particularly intrigued by the "Xunfeng Flash" movement technique used by them, and so she had them detained for interrogation.

As a Prominent Family, there are certain rules to follow. Usually, it is forbidden to randomly oppress Independent Cultivators, and if any criminal is caught, they are to be turned over to the Government Office for handling.

However, as a local strong force, the Wang family holds an obligation and power to keep the peace. If an Independent Cultivator committed a crime on their territory, they could be killed with sufficient evidence, and the Government Office would just turn a blind eye.

Wang Luotong has dealt with quite several Independent Cultivators. With Wang Shouzhe's scientific teachings of interrogation techniques, she too has become an expert.

Soon, they could not endure the interrogation and confessed to all the crimes.

Once their guilt was confirmed, they would find it difficult to move around within Da Qian, as every county and guard post would be notified of the wanted order from Da Qian.

Then, Wang Luotong used this as a condition, demanding they hand over the Xunfeng Flash movement technique. In front of several family generals, she vowed in Wang Shouzhe's name that if they handed over Xunfeng Flash and agreed to be escorted out of Longzuo County by the Government Office, their crimes would be pardoned.

In the end, the Muring siblings collapsed in a desperate bid for survival.

They confessed to having a secret hiding place with the Xunfeng Flash movement technique and some possessions accumulated over the years. Both parties agreed that they would be left with one thousand Qian Gold coins.

Wang Luotong sent people to retrieve the items from the secret hiding place, quickly checked, and found other basic and low-grade Cultivation Techniques aside from the Xunfeng Flash.

Aside from this, it was a savings of more than three thousand Qian Gold coins.

After receiving these benefits, Wang Luotong, in accordance with the agreement, left them five hundred Qian Gold coins, allowed the City Guard Mansion patrol to take over, and had them exiled to other counties via the Government Office's channels.

This is the difference between a Prominent Family with some ambition and an Independent Cultivator. Wang Luotong had vowed to them, and no matter how she despised them, she would not break her word.

Because if a promise is broken once, there will be a second time and a third time. Then the family and the head of the household will lose trust in you.

Among the remaining Independent Cultivators, Wang Luotong picked out a few notorious culprits and killed them outright.

On the border of Huangfu Ranch, wooden stakes were erected with their bodies tied onto them.

This served as a warning to the Independent Cultivators working for the Huangfu Clan that they should think carefully before taking any action, weighing if they can afford to offend the Wang family.

The remaining Independent Cultivators were sent to the City Lord Mansion by the City Guard of Qianma Town after providing evidence and statements, and were officially dealt with by the Government Office.

Upon receiving the "Xunfeng Flash" movement technique, a quick glance told it was an incredibly mysterious method. It appeared to be on par with the family's unique technique, the "Willow Catkin Body Method". It was clearly a rare "Middle Grade Body Method".

Don't underestimate these two words "Middle Grade". Most of the prominent families in Changning do not have a Middle Grade Cultivation Technique. Or, they may only have one or two movement or combat techniques. As for the family's own Top Grade legacy, even the Ping'an Wang Family doesn't have it.

Moreover, "Xunfeng Flash" applies the body's energy differently from the Willow Catkin Body Method. Learning an additional Middle Grade Body Method may make one's tactics more flexible and variable.

After all, not everyone is suited to the Willow Catkin Body Method. This would give the family members another option.

What appealed to Wang Luotong the most was that there was a note in the Xunfeng Flash movement technique. If a person with the "Xunfeng Bloodline" cultivated this method, the results would be doubly effective, and the power would be even greater.

And among the family, Wang Zongchang happened to have the Xunfeng Bloodline. If he could learn this method, it would undoubtedly enhance his ability.

Therefore, after acquiring the "Xunfeng Flash," Wang Luotong made a rough record of it and immediately summoned the Old Ancestor, Xiaohan, to send it back to the family as soon as possible.

After this, the Wang family added a respectable Middle Grade Body Method, further consolidating their foundation.

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The appearance of the shotgun broke the Huangfu Clan's nauseating tactic of using Independent Cultivators to continually harass others. No Independent Cultivator dared to cause random chaos at the Qianma Ranch.

Even though the Huangfu Clan has figured out tactics against the shotgun, it's useless. The Independent Cultivators were all scared off by the Wang family's thunderous methods.



However, at this moment, the Huangfu Clan could not send their family members and the head of the household to directly harass Qianma Town. After all, the injury of the Huangfu Clan's Old Ancestor is a significant issue.

If it leads to a full-scale war with the Wang family, not to mention the City Guard Mansion would definitely disapprove, whether they could deal with the Wang Family Alliance is still a question.

Therefore, the border between the Huangfu Ranch and Qianma Town fell into quiet.

The quiet lasted for a full three years!

During these three years, the Huangfu Clan focused mainly on how to treat their Old Ancestor.

There is no mistake in this tactic, because as long as the Old Ancestor is cured, the Huangfu Clan could completely break free from the dilemma.

Unfortunately.

The injuries of Huangfu Hua Ye were extremely complex, and even experts in medical treatment at the Purple Abode Realm struggled. The best person to treat his injuries, Master Changchun, was on retreat.

Despite the Huangfu Clan's many pleas for help, they never got to see Master Changchun.

Chapter 90: Huangfu Defeated! Three Years Later! Turn of Events\_3

Huangfu Hua Ye, despondent and dispirited, returned to Changning Guard.

At this point, the Huangfu Clan was starkly different than their spirited selves from years ago. Over the years, they had sought medical aid and bought numerous Dan medicines, trying to control Huangfu Hua Ye's injuries and ailments.

This put an increasing strain on the Huangfu Clan's finances.

Adding salt to the wound, the rise of Qianma Town's pastoral farm, which had already developed considerably in just three short years, competed against Huangfu Clan's large ranch mostly through commercial means.

The animal meat and wool produced by the three major farms of Qianma were not only slightly better in quality, but their prices also continued to fall, gradually taking over the Huangfu Clan's original market share.

Pressured, the Huangfu Clan had no choice but to also lower their prices to fight for the market. Initially, the Huangfu Clan managed to hold their own, after all, the size of Qianma Town's ranch was relatively small, and the Wang Family was not proficient in animal husbandry.

However, three years later, the Wang Family incredibly managed to reduce the price of their animal husbandry products to 60% of their original price! It was a brutal stab to the heart of the Huangfu Clan.

If the Huangfu Clan followed suit and lowered their prices, they would enter a stage of loss-sales. But if they did not, the market would be taken over by the Wang Family, leaving the Huangfu Clan with unsold animal husbandry products.

Such a savage and brutal price tactic was driving the Huangfu Clan to the brink. To secure their remaining half of the market, they had no choice but to reduce their prices again.

But before they could recover, the Wang Family announced that they would once again increase their investment in animal husbandry and encouraged small prominent families in Changning Guard to grow pasture, which they would buy at high prices.

Even the Celestial Lei Family was tempted by this, changing some of their low-yield arable land to grow alfalfa for the Wang Family.

...

"Damn Wang Shouzhe! Those opportunistic small families deserve death too! And that damn Celestial Lei Family!" Within his study, Huangfu Jinhuan smashed his teacup with a 'thud'.

Compared to several years ago, the current Huangfu Jinhuan had aged significantly, with streaks of gray in his hair.

"Family Head, please calm down." The old butler rushed to comfort him, "There's a saying: let them rant if they want to, while we bask in the refreshing breeze on the mountain. The pressing matter at hand is to find a cure for our old ancestor.

"Cure, cure," roared Huangfu Jinhuan. "Where are we going to find one? We even wrote to the Main Lineage, and they just patronizingly sent us a few ten thousand Qian Golds and brushed us off, as if we were beggars."

"Family Head, after all, our branch has been separated from the Main Lineage for over five hundred years," the old butler said helplessly. "Everyone who had emotional and familial ties with us has long since died, including the old ancestor of the Main line. Back when we were in our prime, it was a given that we'd help each other. But now that we're in trouble, to ask them for help will be...

we simply lack the relationship."

"That's just how the world works, adding flowers to a brocade is easy but sending help in a snowstorm is difficult."

The old butler couldn't help but feel: is this retribution? The Huangfu Clan's downfall that led to the Ping'an Wang Family's suffering and decline was well-remembered.

Now, the resurgence and retaliation of the Ping'an Wang Family had made the Huangfu Clan taste the bitterness of this plight.

To treat their old ancestor's injuries and to counter the Wang Family's commercial warfare over these past few years, the Huangfu Clan had to sell many of their fixed assets and dismiss many of their servants.

The massive main residence of the Huangfu Clan was now desolate. The entrance hall was practically filled with dust.

As Huangfu Jinhuan brooded over this injustice, the thought of going all out against the Ping'an Wang Family emerged. Suddenly, a servant rushed forth to report, "Family Head, an urgent message for you."

"Bastard!" the face of Huangfu Jinhuan turned cold with immediate killing intent. "What is this panic? Where's your decorum?"

The servant rolled and crawled over, trembling as he took out an object, "There's a visitor at the door who claims that after you see this token, you'll ourselves go greet him."

While Huangfu Jinhuan was about to let out a roar, the old butler spoke, "Family Head, please calm down and take a look first."

Suppressing his murderous intent, Huangfu Jinhuan received the token and took a closer look. Suddenly, he was taken aback and his eyes flickered in disbelief.

Could it be... he's here?

But why come at such a time? Could it be...

Within a moment, Huangfu Jinhuan's face darkened, as if he were deep in thought. Yet, given the current circumstances of the Huangfu Clan, he scoffed, "If that is the case, then don't blame me, Huangfu Jinhuan, for being ruthless."