

Protect OCL VL2 91

Chapter 91: Xun Wind! The Dao of the Assassin_1

...

Almost at the same time.

Inside the martial arts training ground of the Ping'an Wang Family.

Two young men were sparring. The older one, dressed in cyan Profound Martial attire, demonstrated swordsmanship that seemed simple at a glance, but was imbued with an ancient and solid strength.

The other one, a young man dressed in black, moved swiftly and mysteriously like the wind. His swordsmanship was as fierce as a heavy storm, unleashing a barrage of attacks on his opponent.

Nevertheless, however splendid his attacks were, they failed to break his opponent's defense.

"Clang Clang Clang!"

Their steel longswords clashed incessantly, emitting a ringing sound of steel.

Half an incense stick's time later.

The young man in black could no longer hold back. He exhausted all his technique and moved swiftly, creating ghostly shadows like the Xun wind. Leveraging his powerful momentum, he struck down from above.

His steel sword released a highly condensed, invisible energy which transformed into a crescent-shaped sword energy heading towards his opponent. This move, seemingly capable of splitting a mountain, was irresistible.

The older young man in cyan, however, remained motionless without a hint of retreat. His steel longsword merely drew a circle in the air, and a vibrant energy radiated forth, instantly forming an energy shield.

"Boom!"

The two energy forces collided, creating a shock wave that spread in all directions. The young man in black, despite being the aggressor, was sent flying backward, rolling in the air for a few yards before finally stabilizing and hovering in mid-air.

He looked disheartened and said, "I surrender, I surrender. It's frustrating to compete with Fourth Uncle. Even my killing move 'Xun Wind Slash' can be effortlessly defended."

The older young man was none other than Wang Shouzhe, the Family Head of the Ping'an Wang Family. He sheathed his longsword and smiled, "Don't lose heart, Zongchang. You've just advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm and your foundation is not yet stable. You haven't fully explored your own strengths. Your Xun Wind bloodline is quite interesting, there's still much more to explore."

The young man in black was none other than Wang Zongchang, the nephew of Wang Shouzhe.

About four years ago, he awakened his Xun Wind bloodline due to a blessing in disguise from the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu. He stepped into the ranks of the Little Sky Pride. Over the last few years, he has been cultivating intensely under the support of Wang Shouzhe.

Not long ago, he had struggled to cultivate until he reached the peak of the Vital Energy Refining Realm. He got a decent result in the Trial Land, earning a Heavenly Spirit Pill, a Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid, and a top-grade Spiritual Artifact.

Unfortunately, when he further refined his bloodline with the Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid, he only reached the initial stage of the Double Bloodline in Xun Wind Bloodline Awakening, falling slightly short in his fight with the demonic puppet in the Spirit Platform Realm.

Despite this, he still managed to make great strides. With the help of that Heavenly Spirit Pill, he broke through the Spirit Platform Realm easily and reactivated a layer of bloodline, reaching the initial stage of Threefold Bloodline.

In the Wang family, only Wang Shouzhe, Liu Ruolan, Wang Licui, Wang Luoqiu, and Wang Luo Jing, the cultivators that reached the Spirit Platform Realm, had achieved such a level of bloodlines. Including him, there were only six.

Even the grand Old Ancestor Longyan, who had reached the Level Eight in the Spirit Platform Realm, was only at Double Bloodline high, still a step away from the Threefold.

"Thank you for your encouragement, Fourth Uncle," Wang Zongchang bowed in thanks.

"Go to my courtyard and have a rest. Try my newly brewed Ice Crystal Spiritual Wine. Besides, your Fourth Aunt is cultivating in seclusion recently, so you can keep me company for a chat," said Wang Shouzhe, inviting Wang Zongchang back to his courtyard.

The two sat face to face in the verdant and flower-filled courtyard, ordering some snacks from the stewardess.

Then, a man dressed in a cloak approached. In a hollow voice, he said, "Master, the Spirit Treasure Liquor Gourd is here. It's been exactly a month up till now." As he spoke, he offered a shining gourd with both hands.

The gourd was antique-looking, adorned with countless densely packed mysterious runes. It was obviously not a common item.

"Good work, Wang Shouwei," Wang Shouzhe greeted with a smile.

"It's not a bother to serve Master," He responded in a low voice.

This Wang Shouwei was not an ordinary human but a protective spirit weapon produced in the trial ground of the Divine Martial Dynasty.

According to the introduction by the trial artifact spirit, it was a protective spirit weapon at the early stage of Spirit Platform Realm. Therefore, neither Wang Shouzhe nor Liu Ruolan chose it initially. Only two years ago, Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luoqiu cultivated to the peak of Vital Energy Refining Realm and polished for a while before breaking the fourth stage in the trial ground.

One of them obtained the Spirit Treasure Liquor Gourd and the other got a Spirit Soldier for protection, both of which were eventually given to Wang Shouzhe.

Let's not talk about the liquor gourd for now.

He initially underestimated this guardian Spirit Soldier. He originally thought that the so-called initial stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm was just equivalent to a typical old ancestor, right?

But he didn't expect it to have a remarkably formidable combat power, almost equivalent to a Spirit Platform Realm cultivator with a threefold bloodline talent at the initial stage, and it could even pack a punch.

Among the family's Spiritual Platform Realm cultivators, only Wang Shouzhe and Liu Ruolan could surpass it.

Most importantly, it's composed of special materials and is extremely good at defense and protection. Once it activates its protective mode, even a cultivator in the advanced stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm wouldn't be able to break its defense in a short time.

As expected of a product from the Divine Martial Dynasty, this guardian Spirit Soldier at the initial stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm has both value and utility. The ordinary spirit soldiers sold in Great Qian Land are far inferior compared to it. It can be passed down as a part of the family's heritage.

Because it possesses some simple spiritual intelligence, Wang Shouzhe named it Wang Shouwei, which corresponds to 'guardian of the family'.

While deep in thought, Wang Shouzhe took the liquor gourd, uncorked it and an invigorating aroma of the wine filled the air. He decanted some of the liquor into a glass. The pure wine looked as clear as water, and it emanated an ethereal "spirit mist" amidst the chill.

"Fourth Uncle, this Spirit Treasure Liquor Gourd of yours is truly a treasure." Wang Zongchang licked his lips, clearly salivating, and said, "Ordinary spiritual wine might be beneficial for cultivation, but it's nowhere near the spiritual wine produced by the Spirit Treasure Liquor Gourd."

Ever since they got the Spirit Treasure Liquor Gourd, they were able to produce one hundred jins (a unit of weight) of spiritual wine per month. After Wang Shouzhe and his kins tried it, they decided to restrict the supply of this spiritual wine for family consumption only.

Not only is it delicious, but it's also tremendously beneficial for cultivation, coupled with a bit of breakthrough effect. Nowadays, Wang Shouzhe has been continually experimenting with its functions and in the recent months, he introduced one hundred jins of Ice Crystal Spirit Rice, producing a gourd of Ice Crystal Spiritual Wine.

It's just because the taste of Ice Crystal Spiritual Wine is the smoothest. It is even more refreshing than drinking an iced beverage.

The only regret is that the Wang family doesn't have a middle-grade ice spirit field to produce Ice Crystal Spirit Rice on their own. All they can do is entrust the Qian family's commercial firm to procure a batch. Also, Wang Shouzhe entrusts his personal connections to purchase some higher-end spirit rice and spirit fruits, to give them a try later on.

The uncle and nephew each enjoyed several glasses of spiritual wine, and it gradually started to hit them.

Wang Shouzhe sealed up the spiritual wine to prevent further drinking. Though the spiritual wine tastes good, drinking too much of it won't bring any benefits. Besides, no matter how smooth it may be on the palate, it's surprisingly easy to get drunk on it.

"Zongchang." Wang Shouzhe waved his hand and took out a suit of soft black armor from his storage ring, saying, "This armor is called the Night Shadow Armor, a rare piece of Spirit Instrument Level armor. Once used at night, it can merge with the darkness, making it hard to be noticed by others. Moreover, its defense is not bad either."

Wang Zongchang's eyes lit up immediately. He enthusiastically took the armor and said, "Fourth Uncle, this piece of armor is pretty good, but it's a pity that it's only effective at night."

"Nothing in this world is ever perfect," Wang Shouzhe laughed and said, "You are now carrying threefold Xunfeng bloodline and are only one step away from the Xun Wind Spirit Body. You've learned faster and performed better than all of us when practicing the 'Xunfeng Flash' movement technique. Since you possess such a bloodline, why not fully exploit its advantages?"

If you move at night, you will undoubtedly leave no trace. When your cultivation base is higher, I fear that even a Tianren Realm Cultivator won't be able to catch you."

"Fourth Uncle..." Wang Zongchang said with a bitter smile, "Are you suggesting that I should become a thief?" Given the upright education he'd received since childhood, he had a hard time accepting this.

"It's called being a scout!" Wang Shouzhe said, "You can gather intelligence as well as assassinate some important figures of the enemy. You're not a kid anymore, the struggle between families is often bloody and brutal. Equipping yourself with an additional skill is the equivalent of having an additional trump card and a higher probability of winning."

Wang Zongchang's face grew solemn. After a long pause, he said seriously, "If it's for the family and you, Fourth Uncle, then I'll become a scout."

"Hmm." Wang Shouzhe nodded with satisfaction and handed him some dishes, saying, "I've asked Wang Mei to find some independent cultivator teachers for you. Although they are merely independent cultivators in the Qi Refinement Realm, don't underestimate them. Each of them has their own specialty. There are experts in sneaking, tracking, lockpicking, and even poison techniques.

Besides, Wang Mei is also skilled at disguise. You can learn a lot from them."

With each thing mentioned, Wang Zongchang's face darkened further. Fourth Uncle was clearly molding him into a thief. But, considering the need of the family and Fourth Uncle, he decided to go all out.

Actually, he guessed right.

In his previous life on Earth, Wang Shouzhe enjoyed playing games like World of Warcraft, where his favorite was playing the rogue class known for strong wilderness survival ability.

But what a pity, his bloodline talent had destined him to be a healer, so he entrusted his dream of becoming a great rogue to his nephew, Zongchang.

"But, I still need to thank you, Fourth Uncle, for providing me with the Night Shadow Armor as well as nurturing me meticulously." Wang Zongchang said with gratitude.

"The Night Shadow Armor is worth 40,000 Qian gold, which will be calculated as 40,000 family contribution points." Wang Shouzhe said, "The rest of the expenses for hiring the teachers will also be deducted from your contribution points. But don't worry, with your current strength, you can quickly repay these contribution points."

"...." Wang Zongchang was shocked, "Thank you for generously shoving it down my throat, Fourth Uncle."

Poor Wang Zongchang, who originally intended to be a suave swordsman, didn't expect that Wang Shouzhe would set his career, force-feed him equipment, and deduct his DKP forcefully.

Chapter 92: Wife's Promotion! The Spirit of Primordial Water Body _1

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Wang Shouzhe observed his somewhat excited expression, his words weighty with emotion, "Seeing you so excited, your fourth uncle can't help but feel relieved. After you have learnt some techniques from those few masters, I will send you to the foreign territories to experience and learn."

Fourth Uncle, please be merciful~

The hand Wang Zongchang used to hold the Night Shadow Armor trembled slightly, he was so "moved" his tears were about to fall.

Right as they were chatting, Wang Liyao and Wang Zong'an returned home from school.

Three years have passed, the current Wang Liyao is already a blooming young woman.

Due to her parents' excellent genes, even though she is only eleven or twelve years old, she has already developed a bit of the aura of a young goddess. Especially her large apricot eyes, full of confidence and self-assurance, were very likable at first sight.

And the "Young Clan Leader" Wang Zong'an has also become much stronger and taller than a few years ago, embodying the charm of a young lad.

His nose inherited from Liu Ruolan is straight and prominent, making the entire contour of his face more three-dimensional and cool.

However, his temperament is unlike Wang Shouzhe who exudes a refined gentlemanly demeanor, nor Liu Ruolan who is gentle and magnanimous, but is inching towards Liu Ruoling as he grows older. It's hard to pinpoint where the issue lies.

None the less, his personality has always been calm and low-key. He doesn't like to show off and as usual, he quietly follows behind his elder sister like a serious, little adult.

"Greetings, Father. Greetings, second elder brother."

The two children saw Wang Shouzhe and Wang Zongchang in the courtyard and greeted them according to the customary family etiquette. Status and seniority are very important within the clan. Even if they are the direct line of descent, they still need to pay their respects to their elder brother.

Wang Zongchang also hurriedly stood up and returned the courtesy, "Hello, third sister. Hello, fifth brother." Wang Liyao ranks third among the girls of the "Yao" generation. And Wang Zong'an, indeed, is the "Zong" generation and ranks fifth in line.

After exchanging formalities, both of them sat down and chatted with Wang Zongchang.

Wang Zongchang also shared some insights about learning and cultivation with them.

One can learn many things from others through discourse, not only from Wang Shouzhe and Liu Ruolan. Each person has their unique ideas and thoughts about cultivation and learning, exchanging ideas help to accumulate a repertoire of knowledge.

Moreover, communication is a skill that can help build a close relationship among clan members.

Therefore, Wang Shouzhe just sipped his tea without intervening.

Over these years, the younger generations of the Wang family have been growing rapidly, and the clan's population has been expanding quickly.

Although Wang Shouzhe's son and daughter are young, they are already showing signs of promise.

His daughter, Wang Liyao, is decidedly extroverted and has her firm ideas and unique thoughts. Although she is young, she doesn't blindly follow Wang Zongchang in their conversations. She has a somewhat imaginative way of thinking, and she often provides different perspectives that even force him to think.

On the other hand, Wang Zong'an's personality is rather sober and steady. He sits ramrod straight, much like a little adult.

He is more of a listener and seldom speaks. However, whenever he speaks, his words are sure to hit the mark or stir deep thoughts.

Seeing his son and daughter show great promise, Wang Shouzhe feels quite relieved.

There's no need to mention his daughter, who is naturally smart.

Her bloodline talent has reached the Top Grade Class B, she was born with a second level releasement of the primary water bloodline, and she is merely two steps away from being a threefold bloodline.

If she manages to achieve the threefold bloodline while she is in the Qi Refining stage, she will reach the fourfold bloodline once she advances to the Spirit Platform Realm, and once she transforms into a primary water spiritual body she will be very formidable.

However, advancing one's bloodline gets more difficult as it progresses to higher levels.

To help her achieve threefold bloodline while she is in Qi Refining stage is an extremely difficult task. Pills like Bone Marrow Cleansing Pills are no longer as effective. She would have to consume Stone Marrow like Wang Licui to experience any significant effects.

But they surely need to find a way despite the difficulties.

Otherwise, once she advances to the Spiritual Platform Realm, her bloodline will again advance by one level. At that time, enhancing her bloodline will be even more difficult.

In short.

It is less difficult to achieve a fourfold bloodline (spiritual body) by first achieving a threefold bloodline in the Qi Refinement stage and then using the Spiritual Platform advancement than it is to achieve a fourfold bloodline (spiritual body) directly in the Spiritual Platform stage based on a threefold bloodline.

In addition, his son, Wang Zong'an's bloodline talent isn't as good as his sister's, but it still reached the grade of Middle Sub-Grade with Yi Wood bloodline.

Unlike Wang Shouzhe's unknown bloodline, Wang Zong'an's is a standard Yi Wood bloodline.

This made Wang Shouzhe couldn't help but wonder if his original body was also supposed to have a Yi Wood bloodline? Perhaps some unknown changes occurred due to the transition that caused his bloodline to mutate.

This can only be a suspicion as it cannot be retroactively confirmed.

However, his son Wang Zong'an's bloodline awakening level only reached the middle of the first layer. The safest way to develop in the future is to use the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill and see to what extent it can awaken the Yi Wood bloodline.

If it directly reaches Top Grade Class C, it will be able to awaken the initial bloodline of the second layer during the Qi Refining stage. Even if the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill doesn't have such an effect, there will be the Primary Talent Improvement Liquid that can be used in the future.

In a nutshell.

Wang Shouzhe's expectation for his son is for him to reach the second tier of bloodline awakening during the Qi Refining stage. After that, with the advancement to the Spiritual Platform Realm, he hopes his son can use the process of life-transition to advance his bloodline by another tier.

Chapter 92: Wife's Promotion! The Spirit of Primordial Water Body _2

Thus, after Zong'an ascends to the Spirit Platform Realm, his bloodline will reach a triple level, similar to Luo Qiu, Luo Jing and Zong Chang. His promotion to the Heavenly Human Realm in the future should not be an issue, and he could even have the qualifications to impact the Purple Abode.

However, items that can improve one's aptitude are expensive, whether they are used to cultivate a son or a daughter, they require a significant fortune.

Therefore, Wang Shouzhe increasingly values the development of family businesses, continuously striving to expand its wealth.

In the past few years.

The Wang family has gone through drastic changes, continually increasing its cement, glass, and paper production. At the same time, they are constantly developing auxiliary products such as beauty treatments and mirrors.

Additionally, as the terraced fields are being exploited, the number of good fields owned by the Wang family is gradually increasing. This led to greater yields of high-quality crops, making a handsome profit by selling premium grains privately.

As for the situation in Qianma Town.

The livestock industry in Qianma Town, due to its consistent price-cutting, can only ensure break-even operation with minimal profits. However, it had a strong tactical effect, putting the Huangfu Clan under pressure and causing them losses year after year.

But don't forget, Qianma Town also has 250 acres of Spirit Field. With the cultivation of high-quality Spirit Rice, it has also brought substantial profit to the Wang family.

And the Xu Clan of Jinsha, the constantly operating silk weaving workshops generate a large amount of high-quality silk. Besides bringing prosperity to the Xu Clan of Jinsha and Xu Clan of Changning, it also brought considerable Qian Gold income for the Wang family.

Looking at these factors together, the Wang family's annual income has broken through a million Qian Gold, achieving a great accomplishment.

Going forward,

As long as they have time, it is possible for the Wang family to become the wealthiest family in Longzuo County.

For this reason, while considering his children's cultivation, Wang Shouzhe has started to think even further into the future. Unlike him and Liu Ruolan, who had no choice but to ascend to the Spirit Platform Realm before reaching the triple-level bloodline during the Vital Energy Refining Realm.

The difficulty of making up for this is naturally not small.

While pondering, Wang Liyao, Wang Zong'an, and Wang Zongchang finished their conversation. Wang Zongchang got up to bid farewell to Wang Shouzhe, ready to embark on his path of being a thief.

After Wang Zongchang left, only the father and his two children were left in the yard. Wang Zong'an and Wang Liyao then let down their guard a lot, their mentality and attitude much more casual.

Wang Zong'an looked at Wang Shouzhe and said, "Father, mother has been in closed-door cultivation for some time now. Do you know when she will come out? I miss her."

It has been three months since Liu Ruolan started her closed-door cultivation.

The main purpose of her closed-door cultivation this time was to impact the fourth level of the Spirit Platform Realm from the third level. This was indeed a terrifying cultivation speed, truly worthy of her almost Yuan-Water spiritual body status.

Ever since she ascended to the Spirit Platform Realm, with the Yuan-Water spiritual pearl and abundant resources, her cultivation base has been improving every day. In just a few short years, she has reached the early-stage peak of the Spirit Platform Realm.

At this rate, wouldn't she be able to impact the Heavenly Human Realm in her fifties or sixties?

Comparing people can drive one crazy~

Wang Shouzhe was also at the early stage of the Spirit Platform Realm with triple bloodline level, but despite his hard work, he was only at the peak of Spirit Platform Realm Level Two.

If he wanted to advance to the mid-stage, he would likely have to spend several more years grinding.

"Given your mother's aptitude, it shouldn't take this long in theory." Wang Shouzhe also furrowed his brows, "Come, let's go to the Water Moon Pavilion and see."

After saying that, Wang Shouzhe took his son and daughter by boat to a small island exclusively for him and his wife.

This island's "Water Moon Pavilion" has always served as their sanctuary.

And Liu Ruolan had been in closed-door cultivation here for some time.

As the head lady of the Wang family, she knew about the heavy burden her husband carried, so she also sped up her cultivation. If she can upgrade to the Heavenly Human Realm early, she could relieve her husband's pressure significantly.

At the entrance of the Water Moon Pavilion, a giant Yuan-Water Spirit Tortoise was lazily basking on a large rock.

Lately, its main duty had shifted from playing chauffeur for the children to guarding "lady master" during her closed-door cultivation.

The Yuan-Water Spirit Tortoise instantly perked up upon seeing Wang Shouzhe. Extending its limbs, it stretched its head high, showing its devoted "spirit beast" demeanor.

Ever since it was promoted from a wild creature to a "Clan Guardian Spirit Beast," it has been living a relaxed life. Not only was it free to eat common fish and meat, but it also had a supply of at least a thousand pounds of Fierce Beast meat each year.

Such easy days, not even a chance of going back to the past would it be willing to let them go.

And hence,

Being in line with the owner who shared the same bloodline was one of its daily tasks. Its large head rubbed intimately against Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Shouzhe patted its head, didn't pay it much attention, and instead activated his Spiritual Sense to probe into the Water Moon Pavilion.

The biggest change in the Spirit Platform Realm involves the Spiritual Sense, equivalent to spiritual power on Earth or commonly known as God Sense.

The effect of God Sense is incredibly profound, often able to replace the eyes.

Although the spiritual sense of Spirit Platform Realm cultivators covers only a limited distance, not more than a couple meters, it significantly influences their battles and daily lives.

Using his Spiritual Sense, Wang Shouzhe could sense that Liu Ruolan was still in her closed-door cultivation. The Yuan-Water Spiritual Pearl was suspended in front of her, emitting a bright, bluish glow, enveloping her.

Just as Wang Shouzhe was about to retract his spiritual sense.

Suddenly.

A vast and suffocating aura emanated from Liu Ruolan.

Chapter 92: Wife's Promotion! The Spirit of Primordial Water Body _3

"Boom!"

The elemental water energy intertwined with her God Sense, dispersing in an instant, shattering the rooftop of the Water Moon Pavilion, and shooting straight into the sky.

Meanwhile.

A blurry but imposing figure emerged behind Liu Ruolan.

Amid the misty water vapor, her appearance was somewhat hazy. It could be seen that she was sitting cross-legged, her posture identical to Liu Ruolan's. Her figure was also elegantly curvaceous yet dignified, quite similar to Liu Ruolan.

But unlike the actual Liu Ruolan, there was a sense of inner pressure emanating from this figure. It was formless and substanceless, yet it scared people inexplicably, as if they were facing some sort of terrifying existence.

Dharma Shadow.

Wang Shouzhe's expression was frozen, he hastily withdrew his God Sense, and took his children's hands to retreat far away. His wife must be breaking through, he couldn't disturb her.

At the same time.

The Spirit Tortoise of Elemental Water also sensed something, lying prone on the ground and nodding its long head up and down as if worshipping the powerful elemental water energy.

As the light flickered inconsistently.

The crossed-legged female goddess-like Dharma Shadow became more and more distinct, even her facial features were constantly solidifying into reality. Eventually, she transformed into an exact replica of Liu Ruolan, continuously emitting a light blue light of elemental water.

Such a powerful Dharma Shadow.

Wang Shouzhe was also taken aback.

He'd seen Liu Ruolan's Dharma Shadow before, but it was far from being as formidable as today's. From the early stage of the Spirit Platform Realm to the mid-stage, was the transformation of strength so powerful?

Wang Shouzhe was confused.

After a long while.

The Dharma Shadow slowly faded until everything seemed to return to normal.

Not long after, Liu Ruolan gently floated out of the Water Moon Pavilion.

Under the sunlight, her delicate face and arms emanated a radiant glow, as if cloaked in a layer of treasure light. She seemed just like a water spirit goddess descending to earth.

However, the Elemental Water Spirit Pearl held in her slender hand had lost all of its glow, turned into a lifeless bead.

"Wife, are you alright?" Wang Shouzhe hurriedly rushed over, full of concern.

Under normal circumstances, the breakthrough from the early stage of the Spirit Platform realm to its mid-stage, it's usually devoid of danger. However, her breakthrough earlier was so great that it was baffling.

"My Husband..."

Liu Ruolan slowly approached, grasping Wang Shouzhe's hand.

Her beautiful eyes were filled with joy: "My husband, don't worry, I am fine, everything went smoothly."

"As long as you are safe, as long as you are safe."

Wang Shouzhe finally relaxed and looked her up and down. He found that the gap in cultivation had grown even larger, becoming unfathomable, completely beyond his comprehension.

This was the result of her cultivation level far surpassing his own.

"Congratulations, my wife. Congratulations." Wang Shouzhe's face showed a genuinely pleased smile, "From today onwards, you are a master of the mid-stage of the Spirit Platform Realm. With the speed at which you are advancing, reaching the Heavenly Human Realm is just a matter of time."

With joy in his heart, he couldn't help but feel a bit envious.

His wife's bloodline talent truly made him jealous. With the right cultivation resources and a bit of diligence, her cultivation base would skyrocket like a rocket.

"That's not all," Liu Ruolan, holding Wang Shouzhe's hand tightly with a beaming face, said, "When I was breaking through, I tried to utilize the power of the Primordial Water Spiritual Pearl. Unexpectedly, I absorbed a bit of the primitive water-based innate power source, causing my bloodline to transform and advance another level."

Another level? Had she reached the level of a Primordial Water Spiritual Body?

Wang Shouzhe was pleasantly surprised and curiously examined Liu Ruolan again, "No wonder my wife has become even more beautiful! Your skin is truly radiant and tender! It's so soft one could squeeze water out of it."

The fact that his wife Ruolan's bloodline had transformed into a Primordial Water Spiritual Body was indeed pleasantly surprising, but it was also expected.

After all, she was born with a top-grade class A water-based talent. She had already achieved the double bloodline quality at an early stage. After consuming the Primary Bloodline Improvement Fluid, she nearly reached threefold bloodline quality directly.

After she ascended to the Spirit Platform Realm, her life evolution caused her bloodline to advance to a higher level. She was only a half-step away from the quadruple bloodline. Now, by stepping over that half-step, she logically transformed into a Primordial Water Spiritual Body.

"Husband, don't stare like that, it's too embarrassing," Liu Ruolan said bashfully, her cheeks slightly red.

"What's there to be shy about? We're an old couple," Wang Shouzhe held her hand tightly, "I've been in seclusion for three months, don't you know how much I've missed you?"

"Husband, the children are right here. Don't be so shameless," Liu Ruolan said with a blush, her eyes full of happiness. She stomped her foot down in feigned anger.

Wang Liyao and Wang Zong'an on the side exchanged glances and sighed quietly.

What a touching scene. Their mother finally remembered them.

The siblings approached their mother to greet her and express their longing.

"Indeed, the children are present~" Seeing them, Wang Shouzhe sighed with annoyance, then instructed, "Wang Liyao, you take your brother first and ride the Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise back. Your mother and I have important matters to discuss. You guys go and have dinner prepared. We will join you when we are done."

The two children suddenly felt like crying.

How could he be so blunt?

The couple had just reunited and they were already showing such affection towards each other, even to the point of finding them bothersome?

Fortunately, they have been used to this treatment since they were young. After exchanging helpless glances, the two obediently departed on the Primordial Water Spirit Tortoise.

Alas~ One can't defy their father's orders~

"Husband, was that really necessary?" Liu Ruolan glanced at their departing figures, feeling somewhat guilty.

"Didn't you also just let them go?" Wang Shouzhe rubbed her increasingly delicate hand with a smile, "Don't worry, they are all grown up now and more sensible than you think. Let's not talk about this anymore. It's been three months since we met, and my wife has successfully cultivated into a Primordial Water Spiritual Body. I can't wait to experience your power."

"Husband, I don't underestimate you, but I fear you won't be able to withstand it," Liu Ruolan's beautiful eyes brimmed with anticipation. Just as Wang Shouzhe said, they were an old couple and she wouldn't feel too shy when alone with him.

"Ha ha!" Wang Shouzhe laughed confidently, "My wife, don't you know my capabilities? I'm not a vegetarian!"

And then.

An hour later, there were faint sounds coming from the Lake Heart Island, Wang Shouzhe's voice slightly hoarse and weak, "Wife, it's getting late and the children are waiting for us to have dinner."

"What? You still want to spar? No, no, no. One can't live without food... let alone the children..."

"Help me!"

Chapter 93 Finally Got Results! Long-term Layout_1

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At the same time period.

Inside the main residence of the Huangfu Clan.

By the time Huangfu Jinhuan arrived at the front courtyard, he saw a figure standing quietly under the porch of the front courtyard.

It was a tall and elegant young man.

He was standing with his back to him, his gaze lightly falling on the flowering trees in the courtyard.

From Huangfu Jinhuan's perspective, he could only see the back of the man's robe and half of his profile.

He was wearing a white robe embroidered with flowers of the same color, a long cloak carelessly draped over his shoulders. It looked careless, but the fur on the cloak was made from precious fierce beast fur, shiny and smooth, extraordinarily luxurious.

Just this cloak alone was worth a fortune.

This made him look like a dandy from some prominent family, magnificent and full of nobility, but without much deterrent power.

However, the moment Huangfu Jinhuan saw this figure, his breath tightened, and he subconsciously stopped.

As if sensing it, the figure under the porch looked back at Huangfu Jinhuan: "It seems that the pressure the Ping'an Wang family has put on the Huangfu Clan is more significant than I thought. The usually wise and decisive Master Huangfu has become cowardly."

His voice was light and carefree, with a touch of indifference.

But this "wise and decisive", sounded to Huangfu Jinhuan not like praise, but more like sarcasm.

There was a moment of rage in his heart, but he forcibly suppressed it, and casually raised his hand to salute him: "Jinhuan didn't know that the young master would personally come and apologize for not welcoming you far. I hope you can forgive me."

"What people don't know is not surprising. If I hold on to this kind of detail, it would seem petty of me." The young man in white laughed lightly, his tone still carefree, "but, Master Huangfu, don't tell me you have forgotten, you owe me three lives."

Three lives?

Huangfu Jinhuan's heart skipped a beat, and he instantly reacted.

They were Mr. Yin and the other two.

Originally, in order to calculate Wang Shouzhe, to seize the blueprint of the manufacturing workshop, he specifically asked Mr. Yin and the other two to make a move, but it ended in failure.

Afterwards, the Huangfu Clan tried to seize the design and blueprint of Wang Shouzhe's cement workshop.

Old Ancestor Hua Ye even took action personally for this, but he still fell into Wang Shouzhe's plan, not only couldn't save the situation, but also caused Old Ancestor to suffer serious injuries.

Late on, on one hand he had to find a way to heal Old Ancestor Hua Ye's wounds, on the other hand, he was oppressed by the Wang Family's series of business attacks and could hardly breathe. In the midst of the chaos, he didn't take care of the matter of the Yinsha Sect.

Could it be that this person came to settle accounts?

He broke out into a cold sweat immediately: "Young, young master, there's a reason for this..."

"No need to explain." The young master interrupted Huangfu Jinhuan before he could finish, his tone neither light nor heavy, showing no emotion, "Yin Wujiu failed, it was his lack of ability, I don't listen to excuses. However, Yin Wujiu died while working for me. Since he died under your jurisdiction, you owe me his life."

Saying this, he turned around, confronting Huangfu Jinhuan for the first time.

His face was undoubtedly handsome, his facial features were impeccable, but those dark eyes didn't show the slightest warmth of a normal person, like an abyss, cold and indifferent.

It was as if in his eyes, he was just one of the many ants that could be crushed to death easily.

Huangfu Jinhuan felt a more oppressive feeling than when facing the old ancestor.

He unconsciously lowered his head, gritting his teeth and asked, "How would the young master like me to repay these three lives? The strength of my Huangfu Clan is not as good as before, I'm afraid..."

"Don't you still have Hua Ye?"

The young master's voice was still carefree, but Huangfu Jinhuan felt a jolt through his system, he lifted his head quickly: "You, you mean..."

The young master's tone was still casual: "As far as I know, although Hua Ye's injuries are serious, the most troublesome thing is still the Purple Abode Sword Energy in his body. As long as you can suppress the sword energy, most of his injury would be healed."

Huangfu Jinhuan was still a bit unsure: "But that's Purple Abode Sword Energy..."

"What about Purple Abode Sword Energy?" The young master chuckled, "I have a secret technique that can suppress it. Do you not trust me, or do you not trust the foundation of my Yinsha Sect?"

Hearing the young master's possible displeasure, Huangfu Jinhuan quickly reassured him, "I trust, I certainly trust the strength of the young master and the Yinsha Sect."

The Yinsha Sect was the number one sect in the Extreme Western Land, and its strength was naturally immeasurable.

The man in front of him was one of the direct disciples of this generation of the Yinsha Sect. He advanced to the Heavenly Human Realm at a young age, and after his promotion, he also became rare among those who ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm with a Four-level Spirit Body bloodline. His potential for entering the Purple Abode was immense, and his strategies were also top-notch.

Among the people Huangfu Jinhuan knew, only Fang Youan, the direct disciple of the Purple Abode Academy, could compare with him.

In terms of strength, even Old Ancestor Hua Ye at his peak may not have been his opponent.

Even though he was in Da Qian, he had heard of this man's reputation, of course he dared not discredit him.

"I am grateful to the young master for being willing to suppress Old Ancestor's injuries on behalf my Huangfu Clan." He bowed to the young master, "What does the young master need my Huangfu Clan to do?"

"Use the name of the Huangfu Clan to prepare several ships and a crew. I am going out to sea. Also, let Hua Ye prepare himself. This time, there might be other guests."

The young master spoke lightly, but Huangfu Jinhuan heard a multitude of murderous intent from his words.

Chapter 93 Finally Reaping Rewards! Long-Term Layout_2

His heart quivered slightly.

However, what did it have to do with him?

He was merely the family head of a humble celestial family, managing his own family was difficult enough, who cares about what plot the Yinsha Sect had?

"Once the matter is settled, this young master will conveniently eliminate the Ping'an Wang Family for you." The young man in white spoke lightly, as if disposing of the Ping'an Wang Family was as simple as sweeping away a pile of ants.

Huangfu Jinhuan's heart surged with anticipation. As long as the Old Ancestor's injuries could be suppressed, and with the young master's intervention, wouldn't the Ping'an Wang Family inevitably be destroyed?

He immediately bowed and said, "Jinhuan will arrange accommodations for the young master. I will handle this matter for the young master as quickly as possible, and will absolutely not delay the young master's important affairs."

...

Every day in Changning Guard City, various incidents happened, but not many of them were really noteworthy.

During the following period, there were only two major events in Changning Guard City that were memorable.

The first was the end of City Lord Xiahou Hongde's term. He was transferred to a prosperous Guard City in the mainland. Naturally, Wang Shouzhe personally bid him farewell.

However, despite Xiahou Hongde's term ending, their business dealings would still continue, they had to maintain their relationship.

Then, the new city lord, Wei Wenxun, took office and arrived in Changning Guard City.

As a representative of the Grade Eight Prominent Family, Wang Shouzhe naturally participated in the welcoming ceremony, but he did not hastily deepen relationships. Wei Wenxun was a newly promoted celestial being, his temper and nature were still unknown, he could not be mingled with casually.

As the saying goes, a new official must set the place on fire when taking office.

As soon as Wei Wenxun took office, he began revamping Changning Guard City's administration of public security, tax collection, and community defense. This was resulting in a great sweep of the gray and black forces in Changning Guard City, similar to how fallen leaves are swept away by the autumn wind.

Afterward, he took a patrol camp to stroll around the territories of various families, re-registered and compiled their lands, properties, and population, which was quite imposing.

Unfortunately, this momentum could only intimidate ordinary Grade Eight and Nine prominent families.

Privately, Wang Shouzhe directly showed Wei Wenxun his identity as a direct disciple from Purple Abode Academic Palace and subtly hinted at his three sisters who were also direct disciples of the Purple Abode Master.

In this way, Wei Wenxun immediately restrained his actions significantly, and went through the motions swiftly during the extensive inspection in Ping'an Town.

This was not because Wang Shouzhe didn't want to pay taxes as required, but because there were too many secret industries on Wang family's territory that they did not want to disclose, as well as many secret research projects.

If Wei Wenxun were allowed to investigate at will, wouldn't the Ping'an Wang Family be exposed?

The city lord's position was indeed high, as a general representing the Daqian Court to guard the region, but the powerful local tyrants were not easy to deal with. Mutual checks and balances were the standard way of coexisting.

After suppressing Wei Wenxun's momentum, Wang Shouzhe then personally visited him confidentially, exchanged "cordial" communication and deepened their "relationship".

Aside from that.

The second major event was the Old Ancestor Beichen of Changning Xu Family, who attempted to break into the realm of heaven and humankind after many years of cultivation, finally crossed the threshold and caused a heavenly thunderstorm, breaking into the celestial realm in one go.

After the successful promotion of Old Ancestor Beichen, it injected a shot of adrenaline into the in-law allies, and also changed the pattern of Changning Guard City, turning the balance of power from two Grade Seven Celestial families into a tripartite balance.

The current Changning Xu Family, although it can't compete with the Lei Family yet, its momentum has already surpassed the declining Celestial Huangfu Family.

Unless the Old Ancestor Hua Ye of the Celestial Huangfu Family recovers from his injury and reigns over Changning Guard City again, the status of the Huangfu Family will continue to decline, just as the Wang Family experienced over the past decades.

...

The suburbs of Changning Guard City.

A lavish carriage with the emblem of the Huangfu family slowly stopped outside a low-key manor, the carriage curtain was then pulled open, and Huangfu Jinhuan, the family head of Changning's Huangfu Family, got off the carriage with the help of his guard.

"Family Head, the manor's messenger has already gone in to notify, there should be a response soon." The guard helped Huangfu Jinhuan stand steady and reported in a low voice.

"Hmm. Let's wait and see~"

Huangfu Jinhuan nodded, then looked up at the manor in front of him.

This manor was once his favorite among many manors. He had secretly managed it for many years. Although it looked unremarkable on the outside, it was extremely luxurious and exquisite on the inside, making it particularly comfortable to live in. Over the years, many major decisions about the Huangfu family had been made here.

Once.

In order to keep the secret, this manor was registered under the name of a foreign merchant. Later, this estate was confiscated and sealed by the City Guard Mansion due to its entanglement with the Yinsha Sect.

Eventually, it was Lady Ji from Ji Clan, who once lived here for a while and was quite fond of this manor, who bought this manor from the City Guard Mansion and renamed it "Plum Breaking Garden".

But why did Lady Ji choose such a strange name?

Huangfu Jinhuan felt inexplicable, he clearly remembered that there were no plum trees planted in the manor.

At the same time, his heart was filled with fluctuations and emotions.

Once upon a time, the Celestial Huangfu Family was so spirited, often dictating the situation in Changning Guard City.

Chapter 93 Finally Reaping Rewards! Long-Term Layout_3

Master Huangfu Jinhuan was also a towering figure, able to guide nations with a casual gesture, and could even determine the rise and fall of an insignificant prominent family.

But now, in just a few short years, everything has been turned upside down.

Master Huangfu Jinhuan was merely middle-aged, yet white hairs had already appeared at his temples. His appearance was wrinkled and aged. This was all due to him exhausting his energy in these years, trying desperately to preserve the Huangfu Clan, working his heart out.

"Master Huangfu."

While he was deep in thought, a beautiful maid at the second or third level of the Vital Energy Refining Realm walked out of the "Plum Breaking Garden."

She bowed to Master Huangfu Jinhuan and said respectfully, "My lady said that she's been feeling slightly unwell lately and is not prepared to meet anyone. However, since Master Huangfu has personally come, considering the old times, she is willing to meet with you."

Master Huangfu Jinhuan also hastily returned the courtesy to the maid, "Thank you for your effort."

Given his status, he wouldn't usually give a second glance to a maid of this level.

However, under other people's roofs, one has to bow their head. With him needing favor from others everywhere, he certainly could not afford to be arrogant any longer.

Under the lead of the maid, Master Huangfu Jinhuan entered the manor, where blooming plum blossoms could be seen everywhere. At this season, the thriving spring plums made the manor full of plum fragrance, creating a truly enchanting sight.

Lady Ji really loved plum blossoms, as she had transplanted so many of them.

Master Huangfu Jinhuan realized Lady Ji's preference and could not help but plan to find some rare plum blossom varieties after this visit, to further enhance his relationship with Lady Ji.

These years, as the Huangfu Clan continued to decline, more and more prominent families had severed ties with the Huangfu Clan. Now, the ones who were willing to lend a helping hand to the Huangfu Clan, apart from a few in-law families, was Lady Ji.

Considering the relationships of the past, she had helped him out a few times.

For a moment, Master Huangfu Jinhuan was deeply grateful to Lady Ji.

"Master Huangfu, we have arrived." The maid leading the way suddenly stopped, bowed to Master Huangfu Jinhuan, and said, "The lady is waiting for you up ahead."

"Thank you, miss."

Master Huangfu Jinhuan came back to his senses, thanked her, and then headed forward.

Ahead was a pavilion filled with a dazzling array of stone flowers.

It sat next to a small lake in the garden, facing the water on one side and open to the wind on all sides. The beautiful flowers obscured everything in the pavilion, and only a stone path twisted its way through the flowers, creating a somewhat hazy beauty.

Walking a dozen steps along the path, the view in front suddenly opened up.

The scene inside the pavilion came into Master Huangfu Jinhuan's sight.

He saw a stunningly beautiful woman in a purple gauze dress sitting casually at the edge of the pavilion, idly waving a fan while sporadically tossing fish food into the lake. This amused the fish in the lake, making them swim back and forth to compete for food, creating a lively scene.

This gorgeous woman was Lady Ji.

Seeing this scene, Master Huangfu Jinhuan couldn't help feeling a wave of emotion. Back in the day, the fish were fry he had released, and he had often fed them just like this.

Unfortunately, times had changed. These fish had nothing to do with him anymore.

Master Huangfu Jinhuan took a moment to compose himself, pushing away the random thoughts in his mind. He stepped forward and said, "Jinhuan greets Lady Ji."

"Master Jinhuan has arrived."

Lady Ji withdrew her gaze, lazily welcoming Master Huangfu Jinhuan.

The two sat opposite each other in this pavilion. After some casual greetings, Lady Ji got straight to the point, "Master Jinhuan, with your visit this time, could it be that you've encountered another problem?"

Huangfu Jinhuan put down his tea cup and sighed slightly, "As the saying goes, adding flowers to brocade is easy, but sending help in a snowstorm is hard. My Huangfu Clan has experienced all kinds of ups and downs over the recent years. Throughout these years, it is only you, Madam, who has been quietly helping me. Jinhuan is deeply grateful."

Even someone like Huangfu Jinhuan, couldn't help but be genuinely grateful to Lady Ji.

"Master Jinhuan is being too polite," Lady Ji chuckled lightly, waving her round fan, "In the beginning, I intended to partner with the Huangfu Clan to make money. But as fate would have it, we ended up cooperating with the Xu Family of Changning instead. You didn't fault me for it, and what could my little assistance ever amount to? Consider it as making up for the regret."

A sigh echoed lightly in Huangfu Jinhuan's heart.

Following the failure of the power struggle against the Xu Family of Changning over the textile business, Lady Ji had quickly defected to the other side, using the resources of the Ji Family to make a fortune.

He did want to bear a grudge against Lady Ji, but given the grand wealth and power of the Ji family, his resentment was futile. So he had no choice but to keep in touch with Lady Ji, even though he did it begrudgingly.

Unexpectedly, Lady Ji, while seemingly delicate yet prickly on the surface, placed great importance on integrity and camaraderie.

This kind of powerful woman inspired admiration in Huangfu Jinhuan.

Once the Huangfu Clan recovers from its lowest point and returns to its heyday, he must find a way to repay Lady Ji in kind.

"I'm afraid you'll be dissappointed. This time, I have come to trouble Lady Ji because I am in need of her help," he said, clasping his hands.

"Master Jinhuan, please feel free to tell me." Lady Ji responded with a seductive smile, "You know my disposition does not take kindly to beating about the bush."

Huangfu Jinhuan straightened his face in an instant and spoke solemnly, "I wonder if Lady Ji has ever heard of a single-use spiritual treasure from the Purple Abode Academic Palace, the 'Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl'?"

"Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl." Lady Ji slightly frowned, "Pardon my ignorance, but I know very little about it."

After looking around and seeing no one nearby, Huangfu Jinhuan lowered his voice and explained, "It's understandable since you're not interested in fights. The Purple Abode Academic Palace has always been in a long-standing struggle with the Yinsha Sect. Over the long years of battle, we have researched and developed spiritual treasures specifically designed to deal with the Yinsha Sect."

"This 'Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl', is a top-quality spiritual treasure specifically for dealing with the Yinsha Sect. Unfortunately, the refining process is extremely difficult and the supply is limited. Even within the Purple Abode Academic Palace, only direct disciples are eligible to exchange for it."

Lady Ji's delicate brows twitched slightly. She sized up Huangfu Jinhuan again, with a hint of confusion and incomprehension in her mesmerizing eyes, "What would Master Jinhuan need the 'Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl' for? Are you planning on dealing with someone from the Yinsha Sect?"

"There's something Lady Ji may not know." Huangfu Jinhuan shook his head gravely, "In the past, a branch of our family colluded with the Yinsha Sect, pained and frustrated as we were, it also causes much risks for the Huangfu Clan. I received news that a Yinsha Sect expert is planning on taking revenge on my Huangfu Clan.

As our old ancestor's injuries have not healed, I could only seek to acquire a spiritual treasure specifically targeting them to provide some protection for the family."

"This spiritual treasure is single-use and priced at about 200,000 Qian Gold within the Purple Abode Academic Palace. If Lady Ji is willing to use her connections to get it, we of the Huangfu Clan are willing to pay 300,000 Qian Gold to acquire it."

"A difference of 100,000..." Lady Ji narrowed her eyes, "Since Master Jinhuan needs it for self-defense, I'll give it a try. But I can't guarantee that I'll be able to get it."

"As long as Lady Ji is willing to help, that's enough." Huangfu Jinghuan stood and bowed, "In that case, I will not disturb you any further and take my leave."

After a series of farewells, Huangfu Jinghuan hurriedly left the premises with his people.

He still needed to visit other in-law families. The Purple Abode Academic Palace has a very strict control over the 'Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl'. Even though he did not completely trust Lady Ji's ability to get it, he thought it safer to try and prepare from multiple sources.

After the departure, Lady Ji's gaze gradually became elusive.

Truly worthy of a long-term strategy by the Family Head, all aimed to bait this fish. After years of tireless efforts and enormous investments, some results were finally in sight.

With this merit, the Family Head will surely reward me, right?

Heeheehee~

Thinking of the fun and satisfying part, Lady Ji couldn't help releasing a series of seductive and sinister chuckles.

Chapter 94 Sky Pride! Who Doesn't Have A Few_1

...

Time passed hurriedly, and a month flashed by.

Inside the main residence of the Wang family.

Wang Shouzhe's small courtyard, though seemingly ordinary and unimpressive, had been his home for over a decade. Every flower, every stone, every blade of grass, and every piece of wood inside had been meticulously arranged by him.

Only close members of the clan, trusted household heads, and important guests have the privilege to step into this small courtyard.

On this day, two esteemed guests arrived at Wang Shouzhe's courtyard.

In a cool pavilion, a small stone table held a feast of signature dishes of the Wang family. This included fresh Spirit Fish from Peace River, savage Fierce Beast meat from other regions, various tasteful snacks, and a variety of Spiritual Wine produced from the Spiritual Gourd.

Surrounding them were bursts of intoxicatingly fragrant flowers. Spirit Bees and Spiritual Butterflies were fluttering around, showcasing the unique charm of spring.

Wang Shouzhe, Liu Ruolan, and the two guests were seated around the stone table, enjoying their meal while engaging in lively conversation.

One of the guests was a young man dressed in white, blessed with an air of scholarly grace and a longsword slung over his back. This man was Fang Youan, the direct disciple of Mysterious Ice Palace in Purple Abode Realm's Academic Palace.

Not his first time here, he still couldn't help but praise, "It's truly befitting of Brother Wang Shouzhe who is a named direct disciple of Changchun Valley. Although this courtyard is small, every detail reveals his taste and attention to life."

"You flatter me, Senior Brother Youan," Wang Shouzhe responded modestly with a smile. "Over the years, I've been able to accumulate a considerable sum for the Wang family by selling wine, largely thanks to your help. As a token of my appreciation, allow me to toast you a drink."

"Oh, please," Fang Youan responded with a breezy laugh, "I should be thanking you for giving me this opportunity to make money. Cheers!"

Their cups clashed as their conversation flowed freely, and the atmosphere became increasingly warm.

Although Fang Youan was a direct disciple of Mysterious Ice Palace in the Academic Palace of Purple Abode Realm, and his family background was not bad, Cultivation required a considerable amount of resources and financial power. This was particularly true for him, aiming for the Purple Abode Realm, which required a terrifying amount of financial and resource consumption.

Relying solely on family support or assignments from the academic palace was generally insufficient.

Over the past few years, he has made quite a fortune by collaborating with the Wang family to sell Spiritual Wine. As a result, he felt even closer to Wang Shouzhe.

Meanwhile, Liu Ruolan, the head wife of the Wang family, was seated next to a woman dressed in a green skirt.

The woman in the green skirt had a laid-back posture and mannerisms, seemingly careless about her eating manners. Even the hair bun on top of her head was casual, lacking the refinement you'd typically see in other women. However, due to her attractive appearance and refined features, she didn't look bad at all. Quite the contrary, she exuded an aura of laid-back grandeur.

This woman in a green skirt was indeed Green Fern, a direct disciple of the Changchun line.

"Disciple Brother WangShouzhe, Sister Ruolan, these dishes are really delicious~" Green Fern, while devouring large mouthfuls of fresh steamed Spirit Fish and Fierce Beast meat with special sauce, couldn't help but chitter-chatter, "Especially this Fierce Beast meat. So yummy~"

Five or six years ago, Green Fern was only at the Spirit Platform Realm. Now, she had reached the Heavenly Human Realm, giving the impression of unfathomable and bottomless Cultivation base.

However, her appearance hasn't changed much, only appearing even more youthful. Her skin was so delicate that it seemed like it would break from a puff, despite the pinkish hue showing through the white. It was obvious that this was the result of her buying the most expensive skincare products without considering the cost.

As one of the VVIP clients of the Wang family's skincare industry, Green Fern's products were custom-made. Whatever was useful, whatever was expensive, she just used.

The reason was simple: this Green Fern was simply too rich.

Leaving aside the fact that she cultivated many unique plant seeds, just from further research and improvement on the Insecticide Powder, she had made a fortune.

Her way of selling grain was different from Wang Shouzhe's. She didn't need to worry about being pirated. As long as the big clans wanted to use her grain, they just needed to pay a licensing fee to the Purple Abode's Academic Palace. Green Fern lived quite comfortably, just by relying on the income from these licensing fees.

Not like Wang Shouzhe, who had to cultivate his grain with untold hardships, merely to sell secretly.

For such a wealthy and generous customer, Wang Shouzhe's attitude naturally made one feel like the warm spring rain, "Junior Sister Green Fern, you may eat to your heart's content. Later, I will have people prepare more for you to store in your Storage Ring and eat slowly."

"If Junior Sister likes it, I can arrange for some Fierce Beast meat to be stored for you every year hereafter," Liu Ruolan laughingly offered Green Fern a chopstick-full of food, "This Fierce Beast meat can not only be used as a snack, but can also serve as a ration when traveling. Apart from meat, I would also have a variety of other snacks prepared at home.

I'll arrange for someone to pack all of them for you."

Since Liu Ruolan loved snacks, she and the chef of the family had developed numerous unique snacks. In addition to fish and meat, there were many dishes made from Spirit Beans, such as Spirit Bean dry tofu in soy sauce, and five-spice dried tofu, etc.

All these snacks were very popular among the females in the family, and were included in the Contribution Points exchange list.

Inside the pavilion, the four of them chatted while they ate, creating a harmonious atmosphere. The surrounding attendants and maidservants could also not hold back their excitement and happiness.

They had not expected that the head of household and his wife were so well-connected, capable of inviting two direct disciples from Purple Abode's Academic Palace. This was rather impressive. If this news were to spread, it would certainly cause a sensation.

Soon enough, everyone had eaten and drank to their heart's content.

Chapter 94 Sky Pride! Who Doesn't Have A Few_2

Wang Shouzhe had the leftover food cleared away, replaced with fresh Spirit Melons and Spirit Fruits, candied fruits and various snacks, while also brewing a pot of high-quality Spiritual Tea.

The four of them then began to discuss the main topic.

"Senior Brother Youan," Wang Shouzhe said as he sipped his Spiritual Tea, "You got to know the cause of this matter four years ago. I have always been unable to put the Yinsha Sect investigation aside, as their evil spirit still lingers.

It's apparent that this matter is likely the work of some force or person within the Yinsha Sect, searching and excavating some ancient ruins of the Divine Martial Dynasty around some place in the southern part of our Longzuo County."

"Over the years, I have intermittently conveyed the information I obtained through letters to you, Senior Brother. Have you been able to piece together anything from it?"

Fang Youan sipped his Spiritual Tea leisurely and said, "Based on the information you have provided, I have been delving into related records in the Academic Palace non-stop. It can be concluded that the ancient ruins of the Divine Martial Dynasty have something to do with a character from the Dynasty known as the 'Blood Venerate'."

Even in the open-minded and tolerant Divine Martial Dynasty, the "Blood Venerate" was seen as a heretical figure.

His main proposition was to refine the bloodline of demons and graft it into a human body, turning all commoners of the Divine Martial Dynasty into bloodline possessors.

Moreover, he didn't only talk the talk, but also walked the walk, leading a considerable number of followers and taking on countless disciples.

What made matters worse were his cruel research methods. He would often set up large-scale experimental fields in the big towns, using humans as test subjects. Each experiment resulted in countless deaths of civilians and warriors.

For this reason, he was deemed one of the blacklist criminals by the Divine Martial Dynasty.

After more than three thousand years of activity, the Blood Venerate's power was eventually completely dismantled, he was captured on the spot, and received the ultimate punishment.

However, many of his countless disciples managed to slip through the net.

These people continued to stealthily operate on the fringes of the Divine Martial Dynasty's historical stage ever since. Although they did not produce any prominent figures from generation to generation, causing no significant upheaval, they persisted.

Fang Youan continued fluently, "Based on my deductions from the historical materials, environmental changes, and maps, what the Yinsha sect has been coveting is likely a 'Blood Nest'."

"'Blood Nest'?" Wang Shouzhe frowned slightly, "That sounds extraordinary. Could you explain in more detail, Senior Brother Youan?"

"The 'Blood Nest' is an evil breeding ground set up by the descendants of the Blood Venerate's disciples who managed to escape. They dedicate it to nurturing Blood Nest Warriors. They've been continuously trying to cultivate more powerful Blood Nest Warriors to overthrow the Divine Martial Dynasty."

"However, as you might already know, the Divine Martial Dynasty is massively stronger than our Da Qian. While the remnants of the Blood Venerate hold ambitious dreams, they are but moths to a flame."

"However, while a 'Blood Nest' might not mean much to the Divine Martial Dynasty, its significance shifts in our era. If it falls into the wrong hands, it could cause major disaster."

"I've also heard of 'Blood Nests'." added Junior Sister Green Fern with interest, "I read about it in the resources from the Academic Palace. Our Academic Palace has discovered and explored several Blood Nests. Though their methods are bizarrely brutal, we have to admit that their research on bloodlines is advanced."

It's said that the more advanced Blood Nests can even mass-produce Heavenly Realm Warriors."

"Mass-produce Heavenly Realm Warriors?!" Wang Shouzhe was taken aback, "Junior Sister Green Fern, isn't that a bit of an exaggeration?"

"There are indeed records of these high-level Blood Nests in the history of the Divine Martial Dynasty," said Fang Youan, "However, high-level Blood Nests are rare, even during the Divine Martial Dynasty era. The few Blood Nests that were established by our Purple Abode were of the common variety, able to mass-produce Spirit Platform Realm Blood Nest Warriors at their peak."

"But the Divine Martial Dynasty has been destroyed for over a hundred thousand years, most of the Blood Nests' energies are depleted. There probably wouldn't be many Blood Nest Warriors left in the cultivation tanks, and even if there were, they'd mostly be at the Spirit Platform Realm, maybe just one or two at the Heavenly Human Realm."

Hearing this, Wang Shouzhe had a rough idea of what the Blood Nests were.

After some thought, he said, "That being the case, we still need to be cautious. Senior Brother Youan, I previously wrote to Master Binglan, asking for her aid in dealing with the Yinsha Sect. Has she replied yet?"

Given Wang Shouzhe's approach of preparing for the worst when dealing with opponents, he naturally wouldn't rush into an unknown level of Blood Nest.

The Yinsha Sect has always been a major enemy of the Purple Abode Academy. In Wang Shouzhe's view, if the Purple Abode Academy were to send a Purple Abode Realm master, the matter would be solved in no time.

As for what good things might be inside the dungeon? Wang Shouzhe wasn't greedy. The family business was doing well, and given a couple hundred years, he didn't dare claim that his family could rival the wealth of a country. However, at least in Longzuo County, they would certainly rank high in terms of wealth.

Was there any need for him to risk venturing into the dungeon?

Upon hearing Wang Shouzhe mention the message, Fang Youan's expression became somewhat peculiar.

He said helplessly, "Indeed, Master asked me to bring a message to you. However, I can't utter this message; I'll just write it for you to see."

With that, he took out a pen and paper, mulled it over for a moment, and with great flourish wrote a single, large character - "Scram!"

Yes, he had written the word "Scram!"

"Puh~" Liu Ruolan, who was watching on the side, had to cover her mouth to stifle her laughter. "My husband, you must have greatly offended Master Binglan at the Purple Abode Academic Palace. The fact that she even sent a message back shows that she still regards you highly."

Wang Shouzhe's face was one of helplessness.

He was truly grateful for her high regard~

As a respected master, was it necessary to be so petty?

"Senior Brother Youan," Wang Shouzhe sighed, "Essentially, maintaining peace in the world is the duty of our Purple Abode Academic Palace. Even if Master doesn't help, there's no need for such nasty words, right?"

"Junior Brother Shouzhe, you're wrong," Fang Youan laughed. "Our Purple Abode Academic Palace provides aid to all under heaven out of goodwill, not duty. Furthermore, aren't you also a named direct disciple of the Academic Palace?"

"Alright, alright~ Don't worry," Fang Youan said confidently. "Even if Master isn't coming, aren't Ruolan and I still here? Don't belittle me. I'm a celestial being already in the mid-stage of forming my spirit body, which makes me stronger than the average celestial being."

When he said this, Fang Youan was clearly proud, which was one of the signs of a Sky Pride."

The Qi Refinement Realm signifies the awakening of the second bloodline, the Spirit Platform Realm represents the third awakening, and thus, directly upon reaching the Heavenly Human Realm, they would possess the four-level spirit body bloodline.

Such individuals were on the path to the Purple Abode, and if they didn't falter or fall, they had a considerable probability of becoming a Purple Abode Master in the future.

"Senior Brother Youan is absolutely right," Wang Shouzhe replied nonchalantly. "However, even though you're a celestial being and possess a spirit-level bloodline, you still can't defeat those in the Purple Abode Realm. Also, isn't everyone considered a Sky Pride?"

Fang Youan's prideful look faded momentarily before he slowly regained his senses.

Sky Prides are indeed rare, but are there a few in the Ping'an Wang family?

Wang Luo Jing, Wang Luoqiu, and Wang Licui, who was taken as a cherished disciple by the Vice Principal, aren't all of these academic palace disciples also Sky Prides?

And here's Wang Shouzhe, along with his low-key wife Liu Ruolan, who are also Sky Prides.

In the Ping'an Wang family, the term Sky Pride isn't all that remarkable.

What Fang Youan doesn't know is that Wang Zongchang has also reached the third level bloodline upon ascending to the Spirit Platform Realm, and he will also possess the wind spirit body the moment he ascends to the Heavenly Human Realm.

And Wang Shouzhe's beloved daughter, her bloodline talent is even more powerful, her future achievements will definitely far exceed Fang Youan.

As for his wife, Liu Ruolan, there's no need to even mention her. She's not just a Sky Pride - she's a Great Sky Pride!

Fang Youan brags about reaching the fourth bloodline and becoming a spirit body in the Heavenly Human Realm.

But Liu Ruolan, she has already reached the fourth bloodline and became a standard water elemental spirit body by the Spirit Platform Realm.

With such a high-end starting point, if she ascends to Heavenly Human Realm and awakens the fifth level bloodline, no matter how you look at it, she's much stronger than Fang Youan.

Being a Sky Pride, huh? In the Ping'an Wang family, it's really just standard~

Chapter 95 Turn the tables! Huangfu Clan

...

"Junior Brother Shouzhe." Fang Youan's face involuntarily darkened a bit, he coughed twice and said, "It's just because you still don't know much about the world, not because Master is unwilling to help. Every Purple Abode Master in our Da Qian has important tasks on their shoulders. For something as small as a Blood Nest problem, we can solve it ourselves."

Wang Shouzhe ignored him and turned his hopeful gaze to little Senior Sister Green Fern. "Did Master send any reply?"

"Well..." Green Fern, who was eating candied fruits and didn't expect to be questioned, rolled her big eyes a few times. She said after swallowing the fruit with difficulty, "Reply's here, take a look."

Then, she pulled out a letter and handed it to Wang Shouzhe.

Wang Shouzhe opened it and saw just a few words: "Noted, Green Fern has been dispatched for support."

This...

The corner of Wang Shouzhe's mouth twitched twice.

The invasion by thieves from the Yinsha Sect and the disaster created by the terrorists from the Divine Martial Dynasty in the Blood Nest Ruins, and this is all the words she can spare? Dispatching only little Senior Sister Green Fern, what use is that? Even if she herself couldn't come, it would have been better if she sent a few more senior successors.

This was really not taking the incident of the Yinsha Sect and the Blood Nest seriously.

Seeing Wang Shouzhe's face of disappointment, Green Fern who is the junior sister immediately raised her hand and defended weakly, "I am also very powerful, alright?"

"How powerful can our Changchun Valley lineage be?" Wang Shouzhe sighed and shook his head.

He had seen their capability back at Changchun Valley.

Green Fern, being disdained to this extent, felt somewhat aggrieved. The candied fruit lost its sweetness, and the dried meat lost its aroma.

"Sister Green Fern should pay no attention to him." Liu Ruolan comforted with a smile, "He is too attached to life. Once it comes to life and death matters, even if he has a 90% chance of success, he would not risk it."

"Madam, your words are a little off." Wang Shouzhe corrected with a straight face, "How could I act on matters that determine the life and death of the clan or my own life with just a 90% assurance?"

"We should always be fully prepared to face our enemies. Because we can never be completely certain of how many tricks the enemy has, we should always be fully committed, even when hunting a rabbit. We, members of the Purple Abode Academic Palace, uphold righteousness and guard the common people.

Not sending at least two Purple Abode Masters to deal with this wicked disturbance is truly disappointing."

Fang Youan, who was drinking tea on the side, almost spat out his tea.

Dealing with some delinquents from Yinsha Sect, and they need two Purple Abode Masters? What a joke!

Each Purple Abode Master is a pillar of Da Qian. They each carry more important duties and missions. If they all had to personally deal with every random problem, every single one of them would probably die of exhaustion.

Shouzhe's train of thought was truly intriguing.

"By the way, Senior Brother Yu An, what about the letters I wrote to Master Xuanyao, Lady Huandie, the master of Heavenly Lake, and the vice-principal? Any reply from them? We don't need any spoils of the war. As long as they can come to assist us." Wang Shouzhe, still harboring hope, wished that some Master who wasn't too busy would get rid of the evil spirits along the way.

Previously, Wang Shouzhe didn't have a deep impression of the power held by Purple Abode Masters. Until he used a "Purple Abode Dao Sword" himself did he realize the incredible power they held.

Like that arrogant Hua Ye Old Ancestor, who was overconfident, it was questionable if he could even survive two attacks from a real Purple Abode Master.

"Er... Dear, did you really write letters to those Masters?" Liu Ruolan slapped her own forehead, her pretty face blushed, "Our family... I believe we are not that close with those Masters, are we?"

"You can become familiar after more communication. I write to them every year and prepared each of them a generous gift." responded Wang Shouzhe, "It's necessary to establish and maintain relationships. After all, several of our children are developing inside the Academic Palace. Having more connections is good."

"I understand this. But as for the master of Heavenly Lake, you haven't met her, right? I worry she might ignore you." Liu Ruolan was quite impressed by her husband who had no shame in trying to curry favor with these masters.

"I just introduced our daughter Liyao to her and I plan to send Liyao to be her direct disciple in the future." Wang Shouzhe explained, "It seems like she really likes Liyao. These past two years, she wrote back to Liyao every time and even sent her small gifts."

This was also... someone with a talent and a top grade B bloodline like Wang Liyao was surely seen as a treasure by the master of Heavenly Lake.

However, with her character, it is doubtful she would cater to her husband's wishes. Every time she replied to Liyao's letters instead of his, this was clear.

"Shouzhe, as requested by you, I have visited each of the masters. They have all replied." Feeling his face heat up as he spoke of these events, Fang Youan felt as though he had gone to beg, "Master

Xuanyao said that there were too few Heavenly Human Realm Direct Disciples, who were all busy with other things. So he gave you a 'Dao Sword' for protection."

"A Dao Sword?" Wang Shouzhe felt a wave of excitement, "This shows that Master Xuan Yao is fair and just to offer a Dao Sword right away."

He had a deep impression of the Mountain-Opening Sword Qi from Master Xuan Yao. Its power must be extraordinary.

"It's just a regular Dao Sword, roughly equivalent to all-out attack by a master in the Heavenly Human Realm." Fang Youan took out a sword-shaped jade talisman. On it were engraved runes and Master Xuanyao's unique mark. He said with a strange look on his face, "Don't tell me you thought he would be generous enough to give you a Purple Abode Dao Sword?

That requires consumption of a Purple Abode Master's cultivation base."

Chapter 95 Turn the tables! Huangfu Clan

"This..." Wang Shouzhe took the sword-shaped jade charm, feeling somewhat disappointed.

But upon reflection, it made sense. Master Xuanyao isn't his father, so why would he give him a Purple Abode sword charm?

Even if it were his father, during his prime years, he also wouldn't degrade his own cultivation base to forge such a transient item like a Purple Abode sword charm.

"This item isn't bad, if used well, it could be a hidden trump card." Wang Shouzhe said, "I saw similar jade charms being auctioned at the Duobao Pavilion Auction. One of them also sold for several tens of thousands of Qian Gold. It seems these gifts over the years have not been sent in vain."

"I didn't manage to meet the master of the Heavenly Lake, and she was unwilling to see me as well. However, afterwards, she sent me a Water Spirit shield charm through her disciple," Yu An took out a pale blue water spirit charm as he spoke, "Once this Water Spirit shield charm is crushed, it can form a Water Spirit shield, which could withstand one or two attacks from a Tianren Cultivator.

It could be handy during critical moments."

"The more life-saving items, the better." Wang Shouzhe also knew that this was already a valuable item. It seemed that writing letters to her every year did have some effect.

"Lady Huandie did agree to see me and gave me an Illusion Jade Charm. Naturally, it can cast an illusion. If the opponent's will and God Sense are not particularly strong, they will fall into the illusion, and if they cannot break free, they may very well die within the dream." Yu An said, "However, although this item is powerful, it also has a significant drawback.

Because every cultivator who can advance to the Tiaren realm has strong will and God Sense."

"It could also be considered a trump card." Wang Shouzhe is fond of this Illusion Jade Charm. It's indeed difficult to use it against a Tianren realm cultivator, but it has the potential to catch them off guard and be surprisingly effective when used appropriately.

The more trump cards one possesses, the better. Even if he didn't need it personally, he could place it in the family treasure vault as a hidden asset.

"As for the vice-principal, he had already taken his disciples to tour far and wide, I failed to meet him." Even now, when Yu An thought about the tasks entrusted to him by Wang Shouzhe, he felt somewhat embarrassed. As the Heavenly Proud-Level disciple of the Mysterious Ice Palace, visiting Masters and openly asking for gifts was indeed quite humiliating.

Had it not been for his close relations with Shouzhe, he would have found it difficult to set his pride aside.

However, on the flip side, he was surprised by the number of items he had managed to collect. The combined value of the three jade charms was worth several tens of thousands of Qian Golds.

After playing with the three jade charms for a while, Wang Shouzhe put them into his storage ring and then asked, "Yu An, what about the 'Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl' I asked you to purchase?"

When it came to this item, a trace of heartache crossed Yu An's face: "'Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl' could effectively counter the cultivators of Yinsha Sect. However, if we use academic points to exchange for Qian Golds, it would amount to approximately two hundred thousand Qian Golds. The price of this one-time consumption item is almost catching up with a magical treasure.

I did not have enough academic points, so I had asked several junior brothers to pool in, to exchange for it."

As he spoke, Yu An took out the "Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl" and handed it to Wang Shouzhe.

The pearl was about the size of a fist, entirely crimson as if it was on fire. Even though its power had been sealed inside, one could still sense the colossal and pure fire energy contained within.

"I will give you two hundred and fifty thousand Qian Gold for this."

Wang Shouzhe took the Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl, and then directly handed over a stack of gold notes to Yu An. Among these notes, two were made of purple paper.

This type of purple gold note is made from a spirit wood known as Purple-Blooded Dragon Spirit Wood that has been specially processed into paper. Its durability is extremely high; it is both fireproof and waterproof, and can be preserved for thousands of years without decay.

Therefore, the state-owned bank of Da Qian uses it as a form of large denomination gold notes, with each note being exchangeable for one hundred thousand Qian Gold!

Even mediocre Rank 9 prominent families might not get their hands on such a purple gold note in their lifetime.

"This..."

Even Yu An, a Sky Pride from a well-off family, was taken aback by Wang Shouzhe's generosity. In the Academic Palace, Qian gold can be exchanged with other students for study points.

This means that this time when he bought the Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl on behalf of Shouzhe, he made a profit of fifty thousand Qian gold.

His heartache at having expended all his academic points vanished in a flash, and he looked at Wang Shouzhe with a somewhat fervent gaze, "Shouzhe, whenever you need to exchange anything in the Academic Palace in the future, just mention it."

As a Sky Pride desperately seeking to break through to the Purple Abode Realm, even with the supplementary resources from his family and the resources he earned himself by taking on tasks, he was still in want of resources.

"Shouzhe, isn't it too lavish of you to use this to smash someone?" Even Green Fern, a rich senior sister was taken aback, "Even if the opponent is a high-rank Tianren realm cultivator, Yu An and I can handle it."

"Under normal circumstances, using this treasure to hit someone is indeed a bit extravagant." Wang Shouzhe put away the Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl and casually said, "However, if someone else is willing to buy it and use it against someone, it wouldn't be considered extravagant."

"Someone else is willing to buy it and smash someone with it?" Green Fern looked surprised, "Is there really such a fool in this world?"

"Senior Sister doesn't know something." Wang Shouzhe smiled and said, "As the saying goes 'a man is not himself when he is in a situation'. If someone is willing to use this to launch an attack, it must be for some grand scheme. We should just sit back and watch the show."

...

Several days later.

In the Plum Breaking Garden, Huangfu Jinghuan and Lady Ji met once again.

As he looked at the Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl in Lady Ji's hand, uncertainty flashed in his eyes – he felt a bit heartache, yet it was as if he was also anticipating something.

Chapter 95 Turn the tables! Huangfu Clan

"Master Jinhuan," Lady Ji spoke blandly, "I'm not being stingy, but my brother Mingyu had to use a large amount of study points, incurring a large debt, in order to exchange for this Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl at the Academic Palace. His own expenses alone reached about three hundred thousand Qian Gold coins."

"I'm not trying to profit from you. I only want to secure a benefit of one hundred thousand Qian Gold coins for my brother Mingyu."

"Four hundred thousand Qian Gold..."

The eyes of Huangfu Jinhuan narrowed, as this price far exceeded his estimations.

"No, four hundred and fifty thousand Qian Gold," Lady Ji replied slightly annoyed. "Favors are one thing, but I've run myself ragged for so long and still owe Mingyu a favor. Doesn't Master Jinhuan have any acknowledgment of this?"

Huangfu Jinhuan had also once attempted to exchange for a Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl, but the conditions for exchange were very rigorous, demanding not only a large number of study points but also the status of a direct disciple.

Ji Mingyu had performed well in recent years and Master Binglan had accepted him as a direct disciple, thus enabling him to qualify for the exchange.

All of the direct disciples of the Academic Palace carry high status. The Huangfu Clan could still have built connections during its peak period. But now, even in Changning Guard City, they don't find it easy to talk, let alone at the Purple Abode Academy where they initially had few connections.

"Lady, this price is quite steep," Huangfu Jinhuan's face became somewhat awkward and uncomfortable. He pleaded weakly, "You surely understand the situation of my Huangfu Clan in recent years. I hope that you could be somewhat lenient."

"If you are unable to produce the money for a while," Lady Ji said, "I'm willing to give you some time to pay on credit."

"I thank you, Lady Ji," Huangfu Jinhuan's face beamed, as he continuously thanked her. "In this hour of need for the Huangfu Clan, we shall engrave your assistance on our hearts. If an opportunity arises, we will repay you."

"Don't be so eager to thank me," Lady Ji said, squinting seductively, "The Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl is of considerable value. You can have it on credit, but you need to offer something as collateral."

Huangfu Jinhuan's expression stiffened, and he laughed dryly, "Lady, these recent years our Huangfu Clan..."

"Spare me your excuses. Given your clan's plummeting reputation, without physical collateral, if you think I would lend you one hundred thousand Qian Gold coins, I'll take your surname," Lady Ji's expression turned frosty, her hand swiftly waving her fan as she scoffed, "I regarded the Huangfu Clan as friends, yet it's like casting pearls before swine. Huangfu Jinhuan, do you think I'm a fool?"

Guards, show him out!"

"I accept, we, the Huangfu Clan, are willing to provide collateral," Huangfu Jinhuan hastily agreed, soothing Lady Ji, "Lady, please calm down. I spoke out of turn."

In recent years, the Huangfu Clan had already mortgaged many of their low-value fixed assets. Now, all that remained were assets crucial to the family like farmland estates.

Moreover, the benefactor had been growing impatient after urging several times. The time Huangfu Jinhuan had left to plan was running out. They couldn't miss such a golden opportunity for a comeback.

Consequently, the Huangfu Clan made the tough decision to use several valuable farms on the outskirts of the Changning Guard City as collateral.

The farms were located in the core areas of the Guard City, maintaining a high value and price.

Farms near the city were naturally more valuable than those in remote countryside, and such properties in the core zone rarely went on sale.

From this, one could tell the depth of the Huangfu Clan's foundation. Under the suppression of the Wang family's In-laws Alliance, only now had they gradually resorted to mortgaging their core assets.

The four farms that Huangfu Jinhuan offered as collateral represented almost the worth of five hundred thousand Qian Gold.

Now, with a stroke of Huangfu Jinhuan's pen, all four farms were mortgaged to Lady Ji. If the debt of four hundred and fifty thousand Qian Gold weren't repaid within three years, these farms would be transferred to Lady Ji's name.

As a compensation,

Huangfu Jinhuan managed to get his hands on the Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl, one of his trump cards for a reversal of fortune.

The reason it was considered 'one of them',

was because after suffering heavy losses at the hands of Wang Shouzhe, Huangfu Jinhuan had become more cautious – which was why he kept a few more cards up his sleeve, just to be safe.

This time, the Huangfu Clan had to make a comeback!

Chapter 96: You Must Be Cautious When Running a Dungeon_1

...

The days flew by in a hurry.

Unconsciously, everything was already in place.

On the grand and vast Eastern Sea.

A large sail merchant ship, departed from the well-known Donghaei port, forging through the waves towards the deep sea.

This merchant ship, a brand new ocean vessel funded by the Chen Clan and the In-Laws Alliance, had an incredibly sturdy structure. Many essential elements like the ship's ribs, boards, and masts were crafted from thousand-year-old spiritual oak.

As such, the total cost of the ship exceeded ten thousand Qian Gold.

The effect is also evident. The ship is like a sturdy fortress on the sea that can expel Level Five fierce beasts and withstand medium-sized storms.

This ship is a luxurious merchant vessel built at Wang Shouzhe's request. It usually operates in commercial fleets, but when needed by important family members, it can be reallocated with a heads-up.

In addition, Wang Shouzhe also brought the Water Elemental Turtle. In case of adversity, he could ride the turtle to escape, or hide underwater to avoid unmanageable storms.

The salt concentration of the seawater is not particularly problematic for the Level Three Spirit Beast, the Water Elemental Turtle. After a slight adjustment, it can balance the osmotic pressure difference between fresh and saltwater. Despite this, the turtle always showed a clear distaste for seawater.

Furthermore.

At Wang Shouzhe's request, Fang Youan borrowed a Level Four Zhu Topecrane from the Academic Palace. It was well-fed on the ship, ready to be of use at crucial times.

However, it's not a good idea to let a spirit bird flying carriage rove freely above the boundless ocean. Firstly, the ocean is full of hurricanes, which could mislead even a Level Four Zhu Topecrane. Secondly, it could unintentionally attract a Level Five flying fierce beast, which would pose a problem.

The more unfamiliar the route, the more careful one must be.

On the spacious deck at the bow of the ship.

Wang Shouzhe and others gathered here, enjoying the sea breeze and marveling at the vast ocean.

"Husband, this is my first time seeing the real ocean." Liu Ruolan sighed as she observed the endless sea. Her emotions surged, leading her to exclaim, "It's just like how it's described in the books—the ocean, it's so vast, it's all water."

Being an elemental water spiritual body, the water element Qi was naturally attracted to her, and she increasingly cherished water. To her, water seemed as if it had life.

Err... Wang Shouzhe hesitated at her choice of words, but he showed a look of admiration on his face, "My wife's description plainly presents a timeless truth. It notably highlights the two most important aspects of the ocean—'vast' and 'all water'. Indeed brilliant!"

"Only my husband understands me."

"Oh no, it's just because my wife is too excellent."

Longyan Old Ancestor, standing nearby, twitched at the corner of her mouth. Not willing to hear more, she used her Mysterious Energy to seal her ears.

This couple, no matter when and where, always flaunted their affection. Their child was already over ten years old, yet they still acted the same. Were they taking advantage of her lack of love experience as an old ancestor?

This...

Beichen Old Ancestor, Fang Youan, and little sister Green Fern were different.

They all had their eyes wide open, feeling as if their goosebumps dropped to the ground. Could they keep their affections private? Could they be a little more considerate of others?

"Senior Brother Yu An." Green Fern shuddered and said, "Is this the state of married humans? Too terrifying, I initially wanted to experiment with marriage..."

Fang Youan nearly stumbled, thinking that Green Fern wasn't less terrifying. Could marriage also be experimented with?

He immediately began brainwashing Green Fern with a correct life view, "Not all spouses are so... 'loving'. However, as direct disciples of the Academic Palace, we should be responsible for the world's security, so it's better not to have marriages. Married life is too boring."

Wang Shouzhe shot him a glance.

Senior brother Yu An, this was obviously a single dog mindset. It was just sour grapes.

After a while of affectionate playfulness with his wife, Liu Ruolan, Wang Shouzhe sent her back to rest, not allowing her to be exposed to the sea breeze for too long.

After that, he took out a jug of Spiritual Wine, arranged for a table to be brought over, and invited Beichen Old Ancestor, Fang Youan, Green Fern, and Longyan Old Ancestor to sit down and drink with him.

Fang Youan took a huge gulp of Spiritual Wine. His eyes on Wang Shouzhe were somewhat desolate, as if holding some resentment.

"Why the grim look, Brother Yu An? With your handsome looks, there must be no shortage of junior sisters pursuing you." Wang Shouzhe said seriously, "But till now, Brother Yu An, at over one hundred and fifty years old, still remains single. There can only be one explanation."

"What explanation?" Green Fern's younger sister perked up, her eyes twinkling with the light of gossip, "Tell us quickly, Shouzhe junior brother."

At this moment, not just Green Fern, even Longyan Old Ancestor sat up straight, tilting her ears as if she was somewhat interested.

Beichen Old Ancestor, meanwhile, pretended to drink while pricking up his ears.

"Brother Yu An must have a woman he likes, and she must be an exceptional woman." Wang Shouzhe analyzed seriously, "There is even a high possibility that she is so outstanding that Brother Yu An feels inadequate for her."

Chapter 96: You Must Be Cautious When Running a Dungeon_2

"Impossible, right?" Old Ancestor Beichen expressed his disbelief, "I heard that our younger brother Yu An was born in the Lingbei Province, a Fifth-Grade Purple Abode aristocratic family. Because he has inherited the Mysterious Ice Heavenly Arrogance Bloodline and could not find suitable successor in Lingbei Province, he joined the Purple Abode Academic Palace in Longzuo County.

As such a prideful figure, which lady can resist him?"

Since Old Ancestor Beichen had secluded himself and made a breakthrough to the Heavenly Human Realm, his entire demeanor seemed to have greatly sublimated. The slight white hair at his temples

had disappeared, and the wrinkles on his face had lessened, making him appear more confident and youthful.

It's no wonder. If he hadn't advanced to the Heavenly Human Realm, his lifespan wouldn't have been much longer. Now, having become a celestial being, his maximum lifespan has reached four hundred years.

Even if his physical condition makes it very difficult to live to his full age, living to three hundred and fifty-sixty years old should not be difficult.

Moreover, with his successful ascension to the Heavenly Human Realm, the Changning-based Xu family also achieved the dream of generations, successfully stepping into the ranks of the 7th-rank aristocratic families.

Under such circumstances, how could Old Ancestor Beichen's mindset remain unchanged?

"Shouzhe and Older Brother Beichen, you should not guess wildly." Fang Youan looked somewhat embarrassed, "I just think that dating is quite a waste of cultivation time."

Such a feeble explanation naturally had no believers.

"Among our Purple Abode Academic Palace, which direct senior sister can Brother Yu An not match up to?" Green Fern, a junior sister of the palace, was burning with her gossip, starting to calculate on her fingers.

There are not many direct disciples in the Academic Palace, and the direct senior sisters from each pulse and peak can be counted on fingers.

"It may not necessarily be a senior sister." Wang Shouzhe, holding his Spiritual Wine, made a casual comment.

"If it's not a senior sister, could it be a junior sister?" Green Fern, the junior sister, widened her eyes, "Each pulse and peak, is a junior sister, and has to be more outstanding than Brother Yu An. The only one who meets the criteria is me!"

Wang Shouzhe almost spat out a mouthful of wine. The sentence about being more outstanding than Brother Yu An came out quite smoothly.

"No, no, although Brother Yu An handsome and has mediocre strength, he is too boring." Green Fern, the junior sister, shook her head vigorously, "I prefer someone like Shouzhe. If I were to experiment with marriage, I would certainly consider Shouzhe first."

Wang Shouzhe twitched at the corner of his mouth, his face dark.

Green Fern, junior sister, truly, thank you for your favor~

Let alone that he already has a "faithful" loving wife. Even if he didn't, he wouldn't consider Green Fern, junior sister, even if he had to stay single for a lifetime.

However, Old Ancestor Longyan thought of a possibility and couldn't help but exclaim, "Could it be that Brother Yu An likes..."

Then, she looked at Fang Youan with complex eyes.

Old Ancestor is quick to react. Wang Shouzhe, with a smile, gave her a thumbs up smoothly.

"Shouzhe, Sister Longyan." Fang Youan's face turned pale, and he became rather angry out of embarrassment, "You mustn't conjecture wildly. My feelings toward Master are only... uh..."

"Master?" Green Fern, the junior sister, covered her mouth, her big eyes blinking at Fang Youan, "So the one Brother Yu An likes is... No wonder, you are always..."

"Green Fern!" Fang Youan's face turned white, the corners of his mouth twitched uncontrollably, "Shut up."

"Brother Yu An, it's actually not a big deal." Wang Shouzhe patted him on the shoulder, "It's just that your pressure is quite heavy. You need to concentrate on cultivation, and strive to reach the Purple Abode Realm as soon as possible."

"Cough, cough! I told you I don't..." Fang Youan coughed, quickly changing the topic, "By the way, when you visited Mr. East Sea King from the Dantai family at Donghaei before, why did you take us with you? Isn't this..."

"Taking advantage, is it?" Wang Shouzhe responded naturally, "Our Wang family alliance already has cooperation with the East Sea King's family. But they are after all an old Celestial family, the top leaders are slow to change their state of mind. I was acting in the East Sea King's best interest, to avoid unnecessary disputes in the future."

"Indeed, now it's much better. The East Sea King even personally sent us on board, even his smile has become amiable."

"Next, which family are we going to support for you?" Fang Youan rolled his eyes disapprovingly, taking advantage of their status as two direct disciples from the Academic Palace to bully everywhere, and this kid can still argue vehemently?

Previously, he also visited Old Ancestor Beichen from the Changning-based Xu Family. He took advantage of their status as two direct disciples from the Academic Palace to fool Old Ancestor Beichen into joining the group.

No wonder, their Master seems always displeased with Wang Shouzhe. If it weren't for taking into account Sister Longyan's face, she wouldn't have bothered with him at all.

"We will go to the Zhong family in Bai Dao Guard next. I have already sent someone to connect with them." Wang Shouzhe spoke seriously as he drank his Spiritual Wine, "As the saying goes, the strong dragon does not oppress the local snake. We, the Academic Palace, need to make use of the local forces when handling things outside."

As the saying goes, it is always safer to know your enemy. Understanding that he could not avoid this issue, Wang Shouzhe wanted to ensure nothing went wrong, naturally, he would use any relationships he could.

He had previously written a letter to Old Ancestor Zhou Bo. Unfortunately, the Wang family in Longzuo has been developing rapidly in recent years and has had interest conflicts and several physical frictions with a Celestial family.

In order to ensure success, Old Ancestor Zhou Bo has to stay and maintain order in the old house in Longzuo.

Although the East Sea King is courteous, but under the circumstances where it is not clear what the task is, he politely declined on the ground that he was busy.

Chapter 96: You Must Be Cautious When Running a Dungeon_3

Indeed, having a Celestial being as an ancestor from another family, no matter how good the relationship is, is not as convenient as having your own Celestial ancestor. Now, all that the Ping'an Wang family needs is a true Celestial ancestor of their own.

The most promising candidate, without a doubt, is the Old Ancestor Longyan.

Due to injuries she incurred, her cultivation was stalled at the mid-stage of the Spirit Platform Realm for over fifty years. But after her wounds healed, she dual cultivated Mysterious Ice and Yin Sha, rapidly advancing her cultivation over the last few years.

If she could obtain a suitable Yin Sha cultivation technique to practice along with the Mysterious Ice True Verses, her progress could be even faster. This is one reason why Wang Shouzhe is keen to deal with the puppet master behind the Yinsha Sect.

The puppet master might possess a Yin Sha attribute cultivation technique.

His requirements are minimal; as long as it is of middle grade, it will suffice.

...

Hundred Islands Guard.

In terms of geography, the Hundred Islands Guard is located at the southernmost tip of the Da Qian territory. Further south lies the outer sea.

Like the frontier, the outer sea refers to oceanic areas that are yet to be developed by humans. The outer sea is deep with high waves and bad weather, with frequent hurricanes and tsunamis. Additionally, powerful sea beasts roam around, making the area fraught with dangers, even more, perilous than the frontier.

Even with full preparation, exploring the outer sea is risky, even with a Tianren Realm Cultivator on board, it can't be guaranteed safe.

In contrast, the inner sea, thanks to its shallow waters and small waves, and rarity of powerful sea beasts, coupled with the protection of prominent families like the Zhong's of Bai Dao Guard, is gradually becoming increasingly prosperous.

If someone were to take a census of the population of the Hundred Islands Guard, they would find that it has almost doubled from five hundred years ago. Even the number of fishing boats crossing the sea had increased substantially.

From time to time, massive cargo ships laden with goods sail across the sea, stirring up the exuberant spray of waves, showcasing the flourishing commerce of the Hundred Islands Guard.

In the southwest of the Hundred Islands Guard, there is a small private island.

This island, known as "Zhong Mountain Island", though not large in area, is in a strategically advantageous position. Not only is it easy to defend, but it is also near important sea routes. It is currently the most important private island owned by Zhong's Family.

This is where Zhong's main residence is, and also where their ancestral celestial being practices cultivation.

For this reason, there are patrol boats from Zhong's that patrol the area around Zhong Mountain Island every day. This makes it one of the safest sea areas in the Hundred Islands Guard. Many fishermen are happy to settle in the nearby sea areas, where they can safely go fishing.

Liu An is one of the fishermen living in this area.

One day, he, his elder brother, and a few cousins were out at sea fishing, when they noticed a patrol boat from Zhong's appear unusually at noon.

"What's going on?" Liu An's older brother was somewhat uneasy, "Has something gone wrong?"

As they talked, the distance between the fishing boat and the patrol boat was getting closer.

Noticing a familiar figure on the boat's side, Liu An hurriedly shook the flag at the bow of the boat, cupped his hands around his mouth, and called out to the patrol boat in the distance, "Big brother Han, has something happened at sea?"

The figure on the other side turned out to be his maternal cousin, Han Ying, one of the house guards of Zhong's Family. He regularly performs duties on the patrol boat.

"Is that you, Liu An?" Han Ying also noticed their fishing boat, and seeing it was his relative, he smiled, "There is a level four sea beast roaming nearby. We are conducting a large-scale search. It's not safe here. Stop your fishing and go back home immediately."

Upon hearing this, Liu An and his brothers immediately became anxious.

Their fishing boat, bought together by several families, was sturdy enough to withstand the sea waves, but it would not stand a chance against a formidable sea beast.

If they were unlucky and encountered a sea beast, or if a sea beast accidentally got caught in their net, it would, at the least, mean a destroyed fishing net and, at the worst, loss of their lives.

"Let's go, let's go~ We're not fishing today. We'll wait until this level four sea beast is caught," Liu An's older brother, who had always been cautious, thanked Han Ying and decided to take his brothers back home. They could always fish another day. The safety of his brothers was the most important thing.

Just as their fishing boat slowly turned around, suddenly, in the distance, a massive sailboat appeared.

The commercial ship was enormous, with towering masts and large white sails inflated by the wind. From afar, it looked like a colossal deep-sea beast.

It cut through the sea, speeding past their fishing boat. Huge waves surged behind it, splashing white foam.

As the distance closed, the giant ship's oppressive force became more powerful. Their fishing boat's deck wasn't even halfway up the waist of the ship, it was like a child's toy by comparison, the contrast was striking.

Liu An, who thought he had seen many commercial ships, was stunned for a moment, feeling awe, "Whose ship is this? Isn't it too big?"

"Do you see the flag on its bow?" Liu An's older brother was knowledgeable, "That's the emblem of the Ping'an Wang Family. This must be a large commercial ship from the Ping'an Wang Family. Such ships need to be specially custom-made and can't be afforded by ordinary families."-

Upon hearing his elder brother's explanation, Liu An's eyes lit up, "Do you mean the same Ping'an Wang Family that is almost on par with the Celestial Huangfu Family of Changning Guard?"

The Changning Guard and Hundred Islands Guard are quite far apart, and small matters rarely spread this far. But the price war between the Ping'an Wang Family and the Huangfu Clan has been going on for three years and has even caused the price of meat in the Hundred Islands Guard to drop significantly. Even ordinary fishermen like them have heard many tales about it.

As such, he understood immediately.

"Yes, that very Ping'an Wang Family."

Liu An's older brother nodded, feeling a sense of admiration.

It is said that every household under the Ping'an Wang Family is living a good life. He wondered if the rumors were true.

It's a pity that their family has been fishing for generations, and without this sea, he would be clueless about other things. Otherwise, he would really like to go and see for himself.

While they were talking, the giant commercial ship had already sped past them and was heading towards Zhong Mountain Island.

Chapter 97: The Mantis Stalks the Cicada, Unaware of the Oriole Behind _1

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Meanwhile.

All the key figures of the Zhong Family had been waiting in advance at the deepwater harbor built at the expense of Zhong Mountain Island.

Among them was the present head of the Zhong Family, Zhong Wannian.

Not yet sixty, he was at his prime, his robust figure under the magnificent brocade robe exuding a composed, dignified manner, characteristic of the steersman of a prominent family.

However, he did not stand in the chief position today, because the pillar of the Zhong Family, the Celestial Being Old Ancestor Zhong Xiangyang, was also at the dock.

Among the Celestial Beings, Zhong Xiangyang was considered old, his face already showed some signs of aging. Even so, his countenance remained as vast as the sea before him, embracing everything with a profound sense of gravitas—enough to discourage anyone from taking him lightly.

At this moment, he stood at the front of the waiting queue, hands behind his back, looking at the approaching large ship.

In addition to him, the most important person was Zhong Xingwang. He was the paternal uncle of Zhong Wannian and the third legitimate son who was sent to polish his skills at the Academic Palace due to his ineptitudes.

However, Zhong Xingwang was nothing more than an unremarkable student at the Academic Palace.

When his fellow Sky Prides or senior brethren showcased their prowess at the training grounds, he would cheer from the audience, his face full of exhilaration and admiration.

Soon, the colossal merchant ship slowly docked at the deepwater harbor of Zhong Mountain Island, and Wang Shouzhe and his entourage disembarked via the gangway.

"Welcome~ Welcome~"

The moment the two direct disciples from the Academic Palace set foot on the dock, the family head of the Zhong Family, Zhong Wannian, had already put on a big smile and greeted them enthusiastically.

The direct disciples of the Academic Palace commanded high social status outside. Not only do they have a Purple Abode Master as their mentor, but they also have the potential to become Purple Abode Realm cultivators in the future.

How could they miss the chance to build a relationship with such esteemed individuals?

Even the Celestial Being, Old Ancestor Zhong Xiangyang, showed a hint of joy.

Being able to connect with two direct disciples all at once was a big deal for the Zhong's of Bai Dao Guard. Moreover, among the guests were the Celestial Being, Old Ancestor Xu Beichen from the newly-risen 7th-rank Aristocratic Family, the Xu Family of Changning, as well as numerous members of the Wang Family of Ping'an.

In recent years, thanks to Zhong Xingwang's link, the Ping'an Wang Family has naturally been in good standing with the Zhong's of Bai Dao Guard.

As the Wang Family-In-Laws Alliance became increasingly potent, their joint businesses with the Zhong Family also multiplied, leading to an expedited warmth in their relationship.

Of course, this kind of sentiment was largely based on mutual benefits and was nowhere near as solid as the In-Laws Alliance.

Subsequently, the Zhong Family of Bai Dao Guard naturally rolled out the best hospitality to entertain everyone.

After a lively feast.

The main figures from both sides finally sat down to drink Spiritual Tea and discuss serious matters.

As the host, Zhong Wannian naturally initiated the conversation, "Master Shouzhe, your visit this time must be related to the Yinsha Sect's spy, right?"

Wang Shouzhe saluted Zhong Wannian and replied, "This matter indeed requires me to express my gratitude to Master Wannian for his help over the years."

A few years ago, Wang Shouzhe's nephew, Wang Zongchang, had a close encounter with a rogue Yinsha Sect cultivator in Bai Dao Guard. Even though Zongchang eventually awakened his Wind Bloodline as a blessing in disguise, the danger involved was all too clear. Given the longstanding grudge between the Ping'an Wang Family and the Yinsha Sect, how could he easily give up following this lead?

The ones who died on the Chen Clan's merchant ship hid their identities well, but even with their best efforts at concealment, they could still trace the origin of the spies through the network of relationships around them.

Later, with the assistance of the Zhong Family and through factors such as the keen sensitivity of Old Ancestor Longyan to the Yinsha qi, Wang Shouzhe eventually dug out the Yinsha Sect's spy who had been hiding in Bai Dao Guard.

He was a Tribute Elder from a 9th-rank Aristocratic Family in Bai Dao Guard who looked old and frail—nothing like a Yinsha Sect member.

However, to catch the big fish, Wang Shouzhe had been keeping him under observation without alarming him, assigning Zhong Family's internal top-grade experts to monitor him in the long term.

"Not at all~" Zhong Wannian courteously replied to Wang Shouzhe, "Our Zhong Family and Wang Family are closely connected, and this is just a trivial matter that warrants no thanks. Besides, the Yinsha Sect is an enemy of Da Qian. It is only right for our Zhong Family to contribute to the cause."

Old Ancestor Beichen at the side admired Wang Shouzhe, "Shouzhe, you are truly far-sighted and strategic, envisioning today's situation years ago."

"Old Ancestor Beichen is overpraising." Wang Shouzhe returned the courtesy, "The Yinsha Sect has been operating secretly within our territory for a long time, and they couldn't do this for no reason. As for the mishap that my clan member, Wang Zongchang, encountered years ago, it was also related to the Yinsha Sect, thus I casually put down a chess piece."

As for when it would be useful, no one can tell."

"It is still quite astounding, demonstrating your thorough and meticulous consideration," Old Ancestor Beichen admired, "Working with you, Shouzhe, gives such a sense of security. If it had been someone else inviting me, I might have had to think twice."

Even Fang Youan couldn't help but view Wang Shouzhe with respect. To put it simply, this lad was reliable in dealing with matters and did not just focus on immediate problems.

"Master Shouzhe, are you planning to make a move against him during this visit? However, it seems like an overkill for just a Spirit Platform Realm cultivator?" Zhong Wannian, who was only aware of what's on the surface and not privy to the actual reason, frowned slightly.

Chapter 97: The mantis stalks the cicada, unaware of the yellow oriole behind_2

Instantly.

While sipping on the Spiritual Tea, Wang Shouzhe detailed the entirety of the situation.

The reason for his visit to the Zhong family today, is not merely for reminiscing old times.

"This..."

Zhong Wannian's expression instantly turned solemn. He hadn't expected the matter to be so, deeply intertwined, reaching even the Blood Nest of the Divine Martial Dynasty.

Even Xiangyang Old Ancestor, who had been silent all this while, opened his weary eyes, "Does Master Shouzhe intend for the Zhong family to get involved in this matter too by entrusting us with this intel?"

"It's merely a precaution. After all, this matter took place in the Zhong family's territory. If the Zhong family participates, it will naturally be even better." Wang Shouzhe calmly stated, "Presently, our side is powerful, and two direct disciples from the Academic Palace are also part of this. Under normal circumstances, resolving this matter is almost guaranteed.

If Old Xiangyang were to participate, you will naturally be included in the distribution of benefits too."

Old Ancestor Xiangyang hesitated slightly.

If it were a usual situation, and Wang Shouzhe tried to persuade him to risk going to the Blood Nest, even with the potential of eventual benefits, he would undoubtedly decline without a moment's consideration.

After all, a heavenly human old ancestor is the foundation of an entire family. If something were to happen, it could affect every member of that family and their descendants.

Because of this, any prominent family with only one heavenly realm ancestor tends to keep them secluded within, not venturing out, guarding the family like a Sea Stabilizing Needle. They can go on like this without doing anything for even a hundred years.

However, today the situation is different. Two direct disciples are involved, which requires more careful deliberation.

"What if I don't want to get involved? Will the Academic Palace use their summoning order?" Old Ancestor Xiangyang asked with a frown.

"The Old Ancestor is joking." Before Fang Youan could answer, Wang Shouzhe chuckled, "It's a minor matter. Why resort to the summoning order? If the Old Ancestor really doesn't wish to participate, all you need to do is swear to keep this matter a secret."

"Old Ancestor, I think it's worth a try." Zhong Xingwang suggested, "I've been acquainted with Master Shouzhe for many years, and I trust in both his character and his abilities. After all, Master Shouzhe, more than anyone else, is afraid of death. If he didn't have great confidence, he wouldn't be so ready to take action."

Although Zhong Xingwang came from the direct line, he wasn't highly regarded within the family due to his aptitude and temperament. However, in the past decade or so, his status in the family has steadily climbed. Just by doing black market purchases or disposals for the Ping'an Wang Family, he had earned the family quite a bit of money.

Furthermore, many of the Zhong family's island products are now sold by the In-laws Alliance's United Fleet, and they gave him quite a bit of profit in consideration of Zhong Xingwang's relationship with them.

Because of his consistent achievements, Zhong Xingwang was beginning to take on the demeanor of a pillar in the family.

"I too, have heard of Master Shouzhe's reputation." After weighing the matter, Old Ancestor Xiangyang said, "The Zhong family can participate in this matter. Apart from other aspects, just our fishermen scattered across the areas of the Hundred Islands Guard provide us with the best network of informants.

Additionally, I can also join the team adding my strength of a Celestial being Realm to the team. As for the division of spoils, I trust in Master Shouzhe's character."

This matter seemed to have very high chances of success.

Moreover, by participating in it, it could not only cultivate relations with the two direct disciples of the Academic Palace, bolstering the family's network in the palace, but deepen relationships with the rising Changning Xu Family and Ping'an Wang Family, making it worth taking a slight risk.

Furthermore, the Yinsha Sect's activities within the Hundred Islands Guard posed a disadvantage to the Zhong family, so this was a problem that needed to be resolved sooner or later anyway.

"With this, the overall strength of our team should be foolproof." Wang Shouzhe raised his Spiritual Tea, "I toast to the successful completion of our mission."

Fang Youan was genuinely impressed with Wang Shouzhe, who had effortlessly roped in another veteran Realm Cultivator.

Old Ancestor Xiangyang was no ordinary being. Unlike the recently promoted Northern Star Old Ancestor, whose foundation was not yet stable and who didn't even have a Magical Treasure, he was a Heavenly Human Old Ancestor.

The Hundred Islands Guard mainly dealt in black market trading, and countless treasures have passed through the hands of the Zhong family. Over time, this was bound to continuously accumulate in the Zhong family's depth.

Who knew what fortunes this near 300-year-old Xiangyang Old Ancestor held in his hands?

However, having another powerful old ancestor in the team added to Fang Youan's assurance.

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Outer Sea.

The vast expanse of misty waves, and the wide sea of clouds.

The sky of the Outer Sea seemed even bluer compared to the Inner Sea, clear and pure, like blue jade. The sea breeze churned up waves, causing ripples. Fish leapt on the winds as seagulls called from afar, creating a scene as lively and beautiful as a painting.

However, beneath this beautiful exterior lay the turbulent waves of the Outer Sea, rife with crisis.

The gusts that rushed across the surface of the sea were large and urgent, the waves turbulent, big enough to overturn smaller fishing boats instantly. Beneath the surface of the sea, even more formidable fierce beasts lurked, capable of appearing at any moment, smashing and capsizing passing ships.

Yet, even so, the passion of mankind for exploring the sea remained undeterred.

Today, across this vast expanse of sea, a fleet of ships sailed fearlessly amid the storm.

These were three ships built from hundred-year-old Spiritual Oak. They were enormous and strongly built, appearing like sea fortresses.

However, all three ships were in a less than optimal condition now. Not to mention the mast of one ship that had broken, the other two had many dents and divots, and the wood in several places was of different hues, obviously patched up later.

Chapter 97: The Mantis Stalks the Cicada, Unaware of the Oriole Behind _3

Obviously, the journey wasn't a smooth one.

Aboard the leading ship, a grey-robed old man with a hooded cloak, was carefully observing the compass in his hand, while his other hand was constantly calculating something.

After a while, he put down the compass and indicated to the helmsman to slightly adjust the ship's direction, yet his brows remained furrowed.

"Principal, are you still uncertain of the direction?" A young man next to him asked tentatively, seeing this.

The old man shook his head.

The young man's expression turned into clear disappointment: "It's been nearly three months now. We have faced danger after danger on our journey, with storms and sea beasts, and we've even lost a ship. How much longer is this going to last?"

The old man gave him a cold glance: "If you're not willing to stay on the ship, I can send you into the sea to clear your head."

The young man shivered at his words and immediately shut up. The sea was filled with vicious sea beasts; if he really did get thrown overboard, there was no chance he would be able to return.

At that moment, a young man dressed in the uniform of the Huangfu Clan's head of household ran out from the cabin and bowed to the principal, "Mr. Nine, the young master and old ancestor demand your presence."

"I'll be there."

The old man put away his compass and turned to enter the cabin.

Inside the cabin, a young master in white robes sat opposite an old man with red hair, both sitting in a low-key, yet luxurious cabin, casually conversing.

The man in white robes was naturally the young master. His real name was kept secret and subordinates simply referred to him as the young master.

And the red-haired old man was naturally the Celestial Being great-ancestor of the Huangfu Clan of Changning, Old Ancestor Hua Ye.

After the secret technique of the Yinsha Sect suppressed the sword energy rampaging within Old Ancestor Hua Ye's body, his injuries had largely healed. He seemed to have regained his full strength, and if it weren't for the traces of age on his face, one couldn't have guessed that he was ever seriously injured.

Behind him stood Huangfu Jinhuan, who was dutifully serving his family's old ancestor.

Upon the entry of the principal, Old Ancestor Hua Ye turned his head to glance at him, "Principal Yin Nine, have you found a trace of the Ice Sha Island?"

Yin Nine bowed to him, lowered his head, and said respectfully, "Not yet."

Old Ancestor Hua Ye frowned upon hearing this, looking somewhat displeased. However, out of consideration for the presence of the young master, he refrained from getting angry.

"Why the hurry?" The young master picked up his tea cup and took a sip, his tone casual. "Those remaining minions of the Blood Venerate did their utmost to escape the pursuit of the Divine Martial Dynasty; naturally, the location of the Blood Nest is extremely hidden and has plenty of formations protecting it. It's not so simple to locate."

"Indeed, the young master is correct." Yin Nine explained to Old Ancestor Hua Ye, "The formations of the Divine Martial Dynasty era were brilliant. This Blood Nest is extremely well-hidden and its location constantly changes, making it very difficult to find. Had the formations not fallen into disrepair over the years, giving us an opportunity, it would be even harder.

I've calculated that every three years at this time, that's when the flaws in the formation are most severe. I should be able to find the Ice Sha Island in about half a month's time at the most."

"That sounds pretty," Old Ancestor Hua Ye said, his expression darkening, "How do I know if you can truly find it? If we missed our chance, who will I complain to?"

The young master turned a disdainful glance towards Old Ancestor Hua Ye, "If Old Ancestor Hua Ye is impatient, feel free to send your own men out. I won't stop you."

Only then did Old Ancestor Hua Ye close his mouth and stop speaking.

The Huangfu Clan did have their own Array Masters too, but compared to Yin Nine, they were quite lacking. Furthermore, Yin Nine, having been stationed in the Hundred Islands Guard for many years, had an unparalleled understanding of the Blood Nest's outer formation. He wasn't confident that his clan's Array Master could find the position.

The room fell silent for a moment.

The voice of the young master once again sounded, "Old Ancestor Hua Ye, there's no need to be so anxious. Even if we can't find the Ice Sha Floating Island this year, I'll once again suppress the purple abode sword energy in your body. There's no need to worry."

Old Ancestor Hua Ye lowered his eyes; his expression didn't get better but turned even darker.

Seeing this, Huangfu JinHuan quickly bowed to the young master, helping his old ancestor to save face, "We thank the young master. Your noble act, our Huangfu Clan is very grateful."

He understood; the young master was planning on using his old ancestor's injury to control the Huangfu Clan, to continue to make them work for him. But they were under another's roof and had to bow their head, even if they were dissatisfied, they couldn't express it.

In the middle of their conversation, someone came to report.

"Young master, Old Ancestor Hua Ye, a large area of fog has suddenly appeared on the sea, and the temperature has dropped dramatically."

Before the young master and Old Ancestor Hua Ye could react, Yin Nine was not surprised but delighted, "The Ice Sha fog has appeared? Perfect, this means our direction is correct."

He bowed to the young master, excitedly saying, "Young master, please allow me to go to the deck now to continue calculating the location, to find Ice Sha Island."

The young master nodded his head, "Go ahead."

Yin Nine immediately left light-footed, quickly returning to the deck.

Old Ancestor Hua Ye couldn't help but follow.

Naturally, Huangfu Jinhuan followed along as well.

Once he got to the deck, he looked around at the many guards of the Huangfu Clan, and fixed his gaze on an old man dressed in a green outfit. He nodded at him.

The old man understood immediately and quietly withdrew.

At the same time, Yin Nine had quickly started calculating at the ship's bow.

The fog that spread across the sea was exceptionally cold, with a strong evil energy mixed in, like it was creeping up from the Nine Hells. It made one's heart heavy.

Chapter 97: The Mantis Stalks the Cicada, Unaware of the Oriole Behind_4

Yin Jiu was not afraid at all, but rather tremendously excited.

"Turn left a full circle and continue forward, don't stop..."

He held a compass in one hand and made calculations with the other. His excited voice echoed on the deck.

"Hurry up! The opportunity will pass in a flash."

As the fleet gradually proceeded, a hazy silhouette of a small island gradually appeared in front of everyone through the misty Ice Sha fog.

Upon seeing this, Huangfu Jinhuan's heart stirred.

Ice Sha Island, we're finally here!

So long as we successfully obtain what's within the Blood Nest on this island, the Huangfu clan will certainly rise again, and might even surpass its past glory. The rise or fall of the Huangfu clan hinges on this single move!

...

Soon, the silhouette of Ice Sha Island became clearer in people's eyes. From a distance, you could almost make out the outline of some of the structures on the island.

However, at this point, the large sea vessel they were riding could no longer proceed.

Sea vessels, their bottoms shaped to resist ocean waves, could only dock in deepwater ports. Approaching shallow shores risked running aground.

The group then switched to several smaller boats, continuing towards Ice Sha Island.

"Ice Sha Island constantly floats and moves within a certain range."

Having visited the island before, Yin Jiu explained to Huangfu Hua Ye and the other nobles, his calculations picking up speed significantly.

"The fog around us is created by an island's formation, covering a radius of several miles around the island. Anyone not aware of this would merely think that fog had formed at sea and set their course around it."

As he spoke, the boat got closer and closer to Ice Sha Island.

The closer we got to the floating island, the louder the "whooshing" wind from the island. It sounded like mournful wails echoing through the heavy mist.

Yin Jiu said solemnly, "My lords, this Ice Sha Floating Island once had two top-grade spirit veins planted on it, one is the Yin Sha Spirit Vein, the other is the Mysterious Ice Spirit Vein."

"Because of this, the island has been subject to a chilling wind, a fusion of Mysterious Ice and Yin Sha, year-round. Even Realm Cultivators would not be able to withstand it for long."

"However, this chilling wind follows a certain pattern. After waiting for several hours, once this bout passes, we will have the time of a stick of incense left to enter one of the Blood Nest Pavilions on the island for shelter from the wind."

During Yin Jiu's previous exploration, his disciples suffered greatly from these chilling winds and only managed to reach the outer perimeter of the island. They ended up losing several recruited disciples in process.

"Several hours is too long."

The master glanced forward, casually tossing out an antique lamp-shaped magical treasure.

The antique lamp flew into the air and suddenly emitted a bright radiance, extending downwards like a gauze and enveloping all of the small boats inside.

The boats immediately sped towards the island.

The chilling wind, as cold as if it were gnawing on one's bones, was blocked outside by the invisible intangible radiance of the lamp.

"The master indeed lives up to his reputation," Huangfu Jinhuan stared with admiration, "Merely an impromptu act reveals a defensive magical treasure. The Yinsha Sect's direct disciple indeed cannot be compared to us ordinary prominent families."

"It's merely an auxiliary defensive magical treasure, it can only resist various kinds of evil winds." Standing with his hands behind his back, the master replied indifferently, "You, of the Huangfu Clan, need only to do your work for me. I will naturally reward you well when the time comes."

"Thank you, master." Huangfu Jinhuan was delighted, "Our Huangfu clan do not have great ambitions, we just wish to restore our former glory."

"This will not be difficult." In high spirits as his goal was about to be achieved, the master replied, "Once I claim this Blood Nest, I will follow our agreement and incidentally sweep out the Ping'an Wang Family."

"Thank you, my lord, thank you," Huangfu Jinhuan bowed repeatedly, his face filled with gratitude.

Whilst they were conversing,

The fast-approaching small boats had already docked at the coastline of the floating island.

Not far from the coastline was a Blood Nest Pavilion.

The Blood Nest Pavilion had a peculiar appearance, resembling a giant Blood Cocoon. The dark-blood-colored exterior was crisscrossed with vein-like patterns, as if it were covered in protruding blood vessels.

Upon seeing this Blood Nest Pavilion, a look of respect crossed the master's face, "The Divine Martial Dynasty has produced countless odd and outstanding individuals, and the Blood Venerate is one of the few powerhouses I admire most."

Such a Blood Nest can be regarded as a semi-life form. As long as it has abundant energy, it can continuously grow into a giant Blood Nest. Even if a Blood Nest warrior is severely injured, as long as they return to the Blood Nest, their injuries can quickly heal.

The Yinsha Sect is also a formidable power, and naturally there are more than one Blood Nests within the sect.

However, those Blood Nest bases belong to the sect. This Blood Nest is something he found, and he certainly must keep it in his control. This way, his status within the sect can be further elevated.

"My lord," Yin Jiu started to introduce as they bowed, "The last time my people explored till this Blood Nest Pavilion. There are about a dozen Blood Cocoons inside, all of which have rotted and decomposed over many epochs. However, one of the Blood Cocoons hatched a Blood Nest warrior."

"It took me a lot of effort to kill it and control the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu that flew out of its body, sealing it in the special Jade Box given by the lord."

While talking, everyone stepped into this Blood Nest Pavilion.

True to Yin Jiu's words, most of the Blood Cocoons had withered and decomposed, and only one torn cocoon looked relatively fresh. Nearby laid a distorted blood-colored corpse. Years had passed and even in this frozen land of Ice Sha, the corpse had started to decay, giving off an offensive odor.

Chapter 97: The Mantis Stalks the Cicada, Unaware of the Oriole Behind _5

But the Young Master was showing keen interest in everything, discussing passionately, "There are two types of Blood Nest Warriors; those whose bodies contain the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu are actually failures."

"They are unable to resist the erosion of the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu, eventually becoming crazed experimental subjects. The Blood Nest, then, controls these failed subjects, turning them into tools of war and cannon fodder."

"The truly high-ranking Blood Nest Warriors have successfully passed the test of the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu, elevated their bloodlines, and the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu will naturally die. These high-ranking Blood Nest Warriors are the true elites of a Blood Nest. They possess exceptional cultivation talents, no different from the true Little Sky Prides."

"So, isn't that the same as the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill?" Huangfu Jinhuan's eyes lit up with curiosity.

"Although the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill is good, the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu is superior in terms of effectiveness," The Young Master slowly shook his head, "Generally speaking, as long as the bloodline changes can be endured, the bloodline talent of the test subjects usually reaches the Heavenly Proud level of Middle-Rank 'A' Level."

"Middle-Rank 'A' Level, so powerful?" The silent Hua Ye Old Ancestor's eyes brightened slightly upon hearing this.

His own bloodline talent came from a Middle Sub-Grade B Level.

If he were of Middle-Rank 'A' Level, even if his cultivation resources were slightly insubstantial, his chances of achieving the Heavenly Human Realm in the future would not be low. This kind of

Bridal Clothes Blood Gu is indeed a treasure against the heavens. As long as there are enough Bridal Clothes Blood Gu, could it not mass cultivate Little Sky Prides?

"Middle-Rank 'A' Level just sounds nice," The Young Master scoffed, "but if one's bloodline talent does not reach Top Grade, it is extremely difficult to cultivate to the Purple Abode Realm. Ultimately, it is all in vain."

The faces of Hua Ye Old Ancestor and Huangfu Jinhuan turned stagnant upon hearing this, and they couldn't help but curse internally. You are the one with a top-grade bloodline; why do you have to boast about your superiority? Each class of people has its ambitions.

A top-grade bloodline is indeed powerful and has extraordinary potential. However, most families would be thrilled if they could produce a few people with mid-grade bloodlines. If they could produce an individual of Middle-Rank 'A' Level, that would be even more delighting.

"You must be thinking that mid-grade bloodlines have a chance to reach the Purple Abode Realm?" The Young Master sneered, "After all, such legends are still circulating."

"Does the Young Master mean...it's not possible to reach there?" Hua Ye Old Ancestor's brow furrowed.

"A top-grade bloodline means you can awaken a Double Bloodline in the Qi Refinement Stage.

When you reach the Spirit Platform Realm, it becomes a threefold bloodline, and when you reach the Heavenly Human Realm, you can have a Four-level Spirit Body," The Young Master said, "With a Spiritual Body, you can truly sense the Heavenly Dao Laws and begin to comprehend Divine Skills within the Heavenly Human Realm. This is the key to advancing to the Purple Abode."

"Those rumors out there saying that people with mid-grade bloodlines can also reach the Purple Abode Realm either exist to comfort people, to prevent those with insufficient talent from losing their motivation. Or, it requires relying on some extremely rare Heaven and Earth Treasure to change their destiny."

"Does... does the Young Master mean that I have no chance?" Hua Ye Old Ancestor's face looked somewhat displeased.

Following the Young Master's words, was he not cutting off his path to ascension?

"Your chances are too remote, after all, you're already at the Heavenly Human Realm." The Young Master gave him a glance, "From the initial awakening of a Single Bloodline to the current Threefold Bloodline, the higher the bloodline, the harder it is to advance, and the more resources you need to consume."

"However, in the undeveloped Blood Nest Bases, usually, one or two Bridal Clothes Blood Gu Kings can be born. As long as you, Hua Ye, sincerely submit to me and pledge your allegiance, I will leave one for you. In this way, if there is a Mid-Grade bloodline in the Qi Refinement Stage among your descendants, they can use the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu King to challenge and awaken a top-grade bloodline."

"Young Master, what about in the Spirit Platform Realm?" Huangfu Jinhuan's eyes suddenly brightened, "I am also of the mid-grade bloodline."

"You're not eligible. First, you're only Middle Grade Class C.

Second, you have advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm and have awakened an extra bloodline." The Young Master thought for a moment before saying, "To achieve the maximum effect of the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu King, you must either have a single bloodline in the Qi Refinement Stage, or a high-grade, double bloodline not far from the Threefold realm during the Spirit Platform Realm.

Or, alternatively, you are at the peak of the Threefold bloodline in the Heavenly Human Realm, and there is only a step away from the Fourfold realm."

The Young Master explained so much to them mainly because he wanted the Huangfu Clan to be more active in their efforts later on. Besides, he can't linger in Longzuo County for too long, so he will need his own loyal puppet here.

"In that case, we can only rely on cultivating our descendants." Huangfu Jinhuan gave a somewhat "helpless" bitter smile, bowed deeply to the Young Master and said, "Thank you, Young Master, for giving the Huangfu Clan a chance to become a Grade Six Prominent Family in the future. We, the Huangfu Clan, are willing to follow the Young Master's guidance.

Once we return to Changning, we will pledge our allegiance to the Young Master."

"Well, it depends on your performance from now on." A glimmer of satisfaction flickered in the Young Master's eyes.

Being able to genuinely subdue a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family of the Dry Country was worth spending a Bridal Clothes Blood Gu King.

With a real "pledge of allegiance", he wouldn't be afraid of the family revolting. Moreover, the success rate of enduring the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu King and improving the bloodline is very low; most likely, they would turn into mindless monsters.

Otherwise, wouldn't the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu King be too against the heavens?

...

Almost at the same time.

Dozens of miles away from the Floating Island, a large merchant ship was sailing steadily through the waves.

In the sky, a figure quickly descended, landing steadily on the bow of the ship.

The figure, dressed in white, was leisurely and care-free. In his hand, he was holding an object several feet long with different ends dimensions.

He was engrossed with his hand-held device, marvelling to Wang Shouzhe, "Shouzhe, you really have constant amazing thoughts. This treasure called a 'telescope' can greatly expand your field of vision and can even compete with some minor divine abilities for reconnoitring enemy situations."

"These are just some small gadgets I came up with randomly. If Senior Brother Yu An likes it, then consider it a gift," Wang Shouzhe laughed, "So, how is the investigation going?"

The principle of the telescope is very simple. Since he made glass, the "invention" of the telescope was almost a matter of course.

"Thank you, Junior Brother Shouzhe." Fang Youan gratefully put away the "treasure", at the same time, he exclaimed, "Junior Brother Shouzhe, you are truly able to predict things so well, they have indeed found the Blood Nest Base. We can start to gather."

"No rush, no rush." Wang Shouzhe chuckled, "The show has just begun, wait for them to finish their play. Then we can go clean up the mess. Come here~ Try this meaty wine I brewed using the Fish Sauce Fruit, a special product of the Hundred Islands Guard."

Ever since Wang Shouzhe obtained the Spirit Treasure Liquor Gourd, he always loved brewing wine and inviting people to try it.

Soon, Wang Shouzhe and others set up a table of good food and drink on the deck and started to eat and drink.

Chapter 98: Blood Nest Base_1

...

Deep within the blood nest base!

In front of a gruesomely bloodstained blood nest, Old Ancestor Hua Ye is surrounded by blazing flames. With just a Spirit Instrument Level fire-themed Halberd, he blasts apart two frenzied Blood Nest warriors.

Blood Nest warriors are incredibly powerful, surpassing the Old Ancestors of comparable level from other clans. Even when Old Ancestor Hua Ye makes a move, it takes quite some effort.

As their bodies twist, a Bridal Clothes Blood Gu bursts out from each of them. They are crimson all over, with gruesome mouthparts, and their abdomens are full of essence blood.

They scramble towards Old Ancestor Hua Ye, instinctively sensing that the enemy capable of killing their host is more qualified to be their new host.

Bridal Clothes Blood Gu has fostered its own laws through successive generations. Hosts who can't withstand the alteration of their bloodlines and instantly go mad are nothing more than their puppets.

Only those hosts who can ultimately resist them will willingly dedicate their lives, giving their entire essence to the host.

Though strange, one has to admit that Bridal Clothes Blood Gu is a very magical species.

Meanwhile.

Yin Jiu's figure flickers, stepping in front of Old Ancestor Hua Ye, and opens two specially prepared jade boxes. Inside the jade boxes, a special kind of Dan medicine known as Gu Attracting Pill has been placed. As soon as it's stimulated by mysterious energy, its aroma spreads out in no time.

The moment the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu smell the Gu Attracting Pill, they become even more frantic and irritated, plunging headlong into the jade boxes.

Having easily captured the two Bridal Clothes Blood Gu, Yin Jiu respectfully hands over the jade boxes to the young master. "Young master's method... really works wonders."

It's just a minor trick," the young master said calmly as he collected the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu. "Our Yinsha Sect has opened many blood nests over the generations. This Gu Attracting Pill's formula also came from the Blood Nest ruins, so it's available to any direct disciple."

Huangfu Jinhuan, who'd been watching by the side, felt his eyes burning with desire, and a flash of greed in his gaze.

On this journey, they'd already captured the fifth Bridal Clothes Blood Gu. If they used it properly, just one Blood Gu could add a Little Sky Pride to the clan, with a middle-class bloodline talent.

Though the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu had a high failure rate and couldn't be used on their clansmen, they could find servants passed down from generation to generation or members with side branch bloodlines for testing. If they died, they died.

As long as one succeeded, the head of household could be received as a direct son-in-law, and the side branch member could be included in the clan genealogy and promoted to a direct bloodline.

Therefore, in Huangfu Jinhuan's eyes, the so-called drawbacks of the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu weren't drawbacks at all. It was all good stuff. You just had to take a detour to make it a heavenly treasure!

The only pity was that the Blood Nest warriors in the Blood Nest had all turned into Blood cocoons to survive the long past ages, and even in their cocoon state, had withered and decayed in the more than a hundred thousand years, leaving the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu inside of them dead.

Only a few Blood Nest warriors survived.

After blasting open the Blood Nest, what came into everyone's view was an enclosed building like a massive Battle Beast's Arena. Many facilities inside have been damaged due to the long years, with ruins everywhere.

Once inside, a strong smell of blood cloyed the air. The floor was littered with various remains and damaged Blood Cocoons. What was surprising was that many of the Blood Nest warriors' bodies were still very fresh.

"This..." Yin Jiu's face changed slightly. "Young master, did someone break in here before we did?"

"Not quite. I believe when you broke in earlier, you disturbed something inside the Blood Nest Base. It sacrificed some of the living Blood Nest warriors in a blood ritual."

The young master's eyes glanced at the middle of the giant Blood Nest, revealing a touch of fanaticism and greed. "As expected, the information I gathered from the ancient literature is accurate. This Blood Nest base has bred some good things."

In the middle, there was a blood-colored altar. A blood sphere was floating above it, which seemed to contain a Bridal Clothes Blood Gu.

There were also two giant blood cocoons on either side of the altar. The tubular substances on their surfaces, as thick as blood vessels, pulsed continuously, as if something living might burst out at any moment.

"Warning, warning!"

An ear-piercing alarm echoed within the large Blood Nest. "This is Blood Nest Base number 3795. Unidentified intruders, leave the Blood Nest base immediately or we will take forceful measures."

"As I expected." A smile crept into the young master's eyes. "We're in luck. The Artifact Spirit of this Blood Nest base is still alive!"

Artifact Spirit?

Huangfu Jinhuan paused. He had heard of Artifact Spirits that were said to inhabit very powerful Divine Spiritual Treasures. But he didn't expect to find one in a Blood Nest base.

He couldn't help but ask Old Ancestor Hua Ye curiously, "Old ancestor, why would there be an Artifact Spirit in a Blood Nest base? And it even speaks our Great Da Qian language, though the accent is a bit off."

"This..." Old Ancestor Hua Ye, just a local power, having spent his lifetime exploring ancient ruins, furrowed his brows, unable to comprehend.

"Too ignorant." Yin Jiu sneered from the side, "How strong was the Divine Martial Dynasty during its peak? In their era, many facilities were controlled by the Artifact Spirit. It's just that as too many years have passed, many of the Artifact Spirits within the Divine Martial ruins have dissipated."

"As for saying Da Qian language... the language spoken by the Artifact Spirit is the genuine language of the Divine Martial Dynasty, and yours is merely a simplified version of that ancient language that was passed down from the Divine Martial Dynasty."

Huangfu Jinhuan was not vexed. Instead, he respectfully said, "Thank you, Mr. Nine, for your guidance. We of the Huangfu Clan are indeed less knowledgeable."

Seeing his courteous attitude, Mr. Yin relaxed his stern face and explained, "Actually, I don't blame you. It's just that both the Yinsha Sect and your Purple Abode Academic Palace have monopolized knowledge like this. Many such knowledge and history are not disseminated to the outside world. The prosperous and powerful state of the Divine Martial Dynasty far exceeds common people's imagination."

Meanwhile.

The young man simply stood hands crossed, his voice indifferent, "Artifact Spirit, times have changed. Whether it's your Blood Nest organization or the Divine Martial Dynasty, they have both long been annihilated. If you're wise, surrender immediately. This Blood Nest Base will henceforth be inherited and carried forward by me."

"The Blood Nest organization is destroyed? The Divine Martial Dynasty has fallen?"

The voice of the Blood Nest Artifact Spirit sounded somewhat surprised and lost, "Was it the outer realm demons? Did we fail in that all-out confrontation?"

"You also know about the outer realm demons?" The young man seemed somewhat surprised, his eyes lighting up with excitement, "It seems your wisdom level is not low. You will be able to assist me even better in the future."

"Confronting the outer realm demons is a responsibility of all humans," the Artifact Spirit said. "Our Blood Nest Base 3795, although always at odds with the brutal Divine Martial Dynasty, still received orders from Shangfeng and dispatched all elite Blood Nest warriors to the battlefield at the critical moment. Since then, our Blood Nest Base 3795 has been in hibernation.

I have been waiting for their return..."

"It's been a hundred thousand years, your wait is in vain. I have no interest in things of the ancient times," The young man's eyes burst with a domineering air, "You have two choices, submission or destruction."

"Invader, your demands greatly disagree with the system," the Artifact Spirit said, "I will now initiate the program to annihilate the invader. You have one last chance to retreat."

As the Artifact Spirit's words fell.

The two enormous blood cocoons beside the altar suddenly pulsed rapidly and exploded with a "boom".

Two Blood Nest warriors, each over a yard tall, emerged from the remnants of the cocoons. Their bodies were massive and blood-colored, much like small giants. Each step they took caused the ground to tremble and rumble.

Their imposing manner, coupled with the overwhelmingly strong smell of blood, presented a daunting sight. Judging by their power, they were clearly not Spirit Platform Realm Blood Nest warriors, but ones with Heavenly Human Strength.

A murderous look flashed in the young man's eyes, "If you don't drink the toast, you'll be forced to drink a forfeit. You're courting death. Hua Ye, you handle one, leave the other to me. Fight from a distance, don't damage the Blood Altar."

"Yes, young master." Old Ancestor Hua Ye didn't dare to slack off. He waved his Spirit Instrument Level Fire Halberd, encircling a Blood Nest warrior, occasionally fighting and drawing it away.

Just at the beginning of the battle, the expression on Old Ancestor Hua Ye's face changed. The strength and power of the opposing Blood Nest warrior were shockingly strong, he found it somewhat difficult to resist.

He could only fight as he retreated, keeping his opponent engaged.

"Damn Wang Shouzhe." As Old Ancestor Hua Ye fought, he inwardly cursed. If not for Wang Shouzhe, how could he, Hua Ye, have fallen so low?

As a venerable Old Ancestor on the brink of the Heavenly Human Realm Mid Stage, even his ancestral magical treasure was gone, and he had to resort to using a mere Mid Grade Spirit Weapon. If his ancestral treasure, the "Fiery War Halberd", were still in his hands, dealing with a Blood Nest warrior wouldn't be such a struggle.

What angered him further was that he heard Wang Shouzhe had sold the Fiery War Halberd on the black market!

The underground organization operating the black market was incredibly complex. Once something was sold there, who knew where it would eventually end up. Even if he wanted to retrieve it, it would likely be impossible to do so.

Just as Hua Ye was restraining a Blood Nest warrior, the young man made his move.

He stroked his storage ring, and with a "clang," a black body coffin was harshly thrown on the ground. A terrifying battle corpse, over two meters tall and body hard like black iron, crawled out.

That battle corpse was etched with countless dense and profound runes, emanating waves of Yin Sha energy.

"This is the master's Yin Sha Battle Corpse!" Admiration emerged in Yin Jiu's eyes, "That is the Yin Sha Battle Corpse that the master once refined using countless Heaven and Earth treasures after beating a hostile Tianren realm cultivator to death. Regular early-stage Tianren realm cultivators are no match for it."

Simultaneously, the young man flipped his hand over, and a demonic blade engulfed in Yin Sha energy appeared. Judging by the oppressive feeling from that demonic blade, it was definitely a magical treasure level weapon on par with the 'Fiery War Halberd'!"

Huangfu Jinhuan's pupils slightly contracted. Indeed, as expected of the Yinsha Sect's Direct Disciple, his means and power are truly extraordinary.

However, what of it?

After my plan, young master, all your efforts today will end up like the name of the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu, they will become the wedding clothes for our Huangfu Clan."

Chapter 99 Wang Shouzhe! How could it be you!_1

...

Despite the formidable strength of the Blood Nest Warrior, a formidable entity with the strength of the Heavenly Human Realm, the young master dealt with it with relative ease.

His Yin Sha Mysterious Zombie roared furiously, taking the brunt of the Warrior's attack. His Yin Sha Demonic Blade, in the meantime, conjured blades imbued with the power of Yin Sha.

The dark blades, capable of carving gold and shattering jade, incessantly ripped open the Warrior's body, wound after wound.

The Yin Sha Sect, being the premier sect of the Extreme Western Land, had naturally endowed the young master with the profoundest techniques befitting his status as a direct disciple. His casual attacks carried immense strength, which was leagues more potent than those of independent cultivators who did not have the privilege of being part of an organized sect.

The resistance of the Blood Nest warrior was futile.

In just a matter of minutes, the giant warrior fell crashing to the ground, his life extinguished.

As its body twisted in agony, a Blood Gu, the size of a chicken egg, sprung to life and with a buzz of its wings, launched itself at the young master.

Without a doubt, this Blood Gu was significantly more potent.

And it had chosen the young master as its new host.

"Hmph."

The young master sneered, "This insignificant Blood Gu King dares to desire possession of my distinguished body."

With a flick of his robe-

A powerful surge of energy forcefully pushed back the Blood Gu King, upending it.

Yin Jiu hurriedly stepped forward, reached into his specialized jade box, and used the same trick, luring the Blood Gu King into the box.

However, the Blood Gu King refused to stay quiet, and kept banging against the walls of the jade box, seemingly desperate to escape.

Yin Jiu quickly channeled his Mysterious Energy, suppressing the Blood Gu King and finally calming it down.

Huangfu Jinhuan, who was watching all this, was extremely excited.

This was the Blood Gu King that the young master had spoken of.

It was powerful enough that a normal Vital Energy Refining Realm cultivator who managed to change their bloodline using it would directly achieve a top-grade blood talent.

Once the cultivator achieved top-grade blood talent, even if it was a low-grade top-caliber blood talent, he could awaken the second level of bloodline during the cultivation of Vital Energy Refining and become a true Sky Pride.

Such a Sky Pride would be coveted by the Masters of the Purple Abode Academic Palace and could easily become a direct disciple. In the future, they could also have a place in the Purple Abode.

Previously, the young master had used a Blood Gu King to tempt the Huangfu Clan into becoming his true followers. This shows how valuable a Blood Gu King truly is.

"Young master, here's your Blood Gu King." Yin Jiu respectfully handed over the jade box to the young master, yet his eyes burnt with desire.

Quite obviously, he too desired the Blood Gu King.

"Yin Jiu, you are a second-class cultivator of the Spirit Platform Realm. You are a core disciple of the Yin Sha Sect.

Once you ascend to the realm of heaven and humankind, you will already be at the three-fold mid-level bloodline of the Heavenly Mirror." The young master took the jade box and responded indifferently, "This Blood Gu King is unlikely to elevate your bloodline from its current two-fold mid-level to three-fold all at once. The risk and reward ratio of this is not proportional.

This Blood Gu King is not suitable for you."

"Yes, young master."

Yin Jiu's face was slightly disheartened.

If he was currently a Vital Energy Refining Realm cultivator, he could use the Blood Gu king to immediately promote to a two-fold bloodline, and then use the opportunity of promoting to the Spirit Realm to morph his bloodline to a three-fold.

His life would be completely different, just like the young master, he would become a highly-respected direct disciple of the Yin Sha Sect.

In this world, the earlier the elevation of the bloodline, the better the start. A better start means a completely distinct life.

Still, the importance of bloodline talent is that the earlier it is upgraded, the better.

Unfortunately, when he was in the Vital Energy Refining Realm, he was only an insignificant person. Who would be willing to give him a Blood Gu King to use? In the end, he did not have the fate to possess the Blood Gu King.

"Do not be discouraged. Wanting to become a Sky Pride is a matter of both luck and opportunity. Some people are born to be Sky Prides, while others become Sky Prides due to spectacular luck.

If becoming a Sky Pride was easy, then being a direct disciple wouldn't be as valuable as it is." The young master said, "However, as you have brought substantial merits to me this time around, I will cover the cost of your Ascension Pill, which is required for your future breakthrough to the Heavenly Human Realm."

Yin Jiu exclaimed in surprised delight, and hurriedly bowed deeply, "Yin Jiu thanks you, young master."

A Spirit Platform Realm cultivator looking to ascend to the Heavenly Human Realm, apart from bloodline talents and other factors, the biggest challenge is to acquire an Ascension Pill. Even though he is a core disciple of the Yin Sha Sect, without a substantial clan foundation, gathering enough resources for an Ascension Pill is incredibly difficult for him.

Now that he had secured the young master's Ascension Pill, he could gather the remaining resources for cultivation and promotion through hard work.

While the two were talking-

The Old Ancestor Hua Ye who was nearby pleaded, "Young master, I can only hold off this Blood Nest Warrior, but I cannot defeat it. I need your assistance."

A hint of dissatisfaction appeared in the young master's eyes.

This Old Ancestor Hua Ye was almost at the mid-stage of the Heavenly Human Realm, yet he couldn't subdue a Blood Nest Warrior at the Heavenly Human Realm's early stage. This merely proves how cultivators from such local realms could never compare with Yin Sha Sect's core disciples.

"Go."

With a slight impatience, he sent his Yin Sha Mysterious Zombie to assist Old Ancestor Hua Ye counter the Blood Nest Warrior. He then took to the skies and landed on the altar, leaving them behind.

The blood altar stood several feet tall. The young master walked on air with an ethereal grace and elegance. In just a few strides, he landed atop the altar.

Chapter 99 Wang Shouzhe! How could it be you! _2

In the center of the altar, a bloody spherical object is hovering quietly within the formation.

No larger than the size of a palm, shadows interweaving within it, one can vaguely see a worm-like figure inside, emanating bursts of frost-killing air in a dark blue hue.

Compared to the previous Blood-sucking King, the bug figure inside this bloody sphere is noticeably stronger and far more evil in aura. The difference between the two is as vast as between a rabbit and a wolf.

"Good, good, as I expected, this Blood Nest base has two top-grade spirit veins, Mysterious Ice and Yin Sha, meant to cultivate the Ice-chill Wedding Blood Gu King," a wild frenzy flickers in the young master's eyes, "In this way, there's hope to further enhance my Yin Sha spiritual body's bloodline."

He is a direct disciple and the Sky Pride of the Yinsha Sect, his bloodline talent is out of the ordinary. If he could advance further, he will stand out even among the direct disciples. In the future, there is a hope to step into the high rank of the Yinsha Sect and become a man of authority.

However, he is now at a four-level spirit body bloodline, so naturally, he can't advance to the next level. But even advancing one or two steps on the basis of four-level bloodline, such as entering the middle or high segment of four-level bloodline, he will be quite satisfied.

Besides, once he learns the cultivation method of the Blood Gu Emperor from this Blood Nest Base, he can naturally try to create the second, third Blood Gu Emperor. By that time, wouldn't the five-layer bloodline be within reach?

"Warning! Warning!" The Artifact Spirit emitted a sharp warning, "Intruder, this mid-range Ice-chill Wedding Blood Gu is an important asset of Base 3795. Please leave immediately. Otherwise, we will take mandatory measures!"

The Blood Gu King in everyone's eyes is referred to as only mid-range by the Artifact Spirit. I can imagine how powerful the Profound Martial Cultivators were in the Divine Martial Dynasty Era. Even a suppressed rebel organization shouldn't be underestimated.

"Artifact Spirit, don't make such a foolish warning," the young master scoffed coldly, "If you had any mandatory measures, you would have used them already. Just accept your fate. Both you and this Ice-chill Wedding Blood Gu Emperor will become my personal property."

He plotted for so many years and made tremendous efforts for this day, right?

Immediately.

Under his Demonic Blade, with swaying shadowdeath aura, the formation outside the bloody sphere was forcibly broken, and the bloody sphere inside was taken out.

"Hahaha~ Ji Tianyin, Linghu Wuji, you look down on me. Once I have reached the high segment of the four-level bloodline, I will suppress you," he stared at the bloody sphere in his hand, his eyes steamy as if it was a treasure. He was both fearful and wildly excited.

At the heart of the young master's frenzied moment.

Suddenly!

The battlefield where Hua Ye's ancestor was located had a change.

Originally, Hua Ye's ancestor, with the assistance of the yinsha zombie puppet, was taking all advantages and severely injured the Heavenly Human Realm's Blood Nest Warrior.

However.

Just when the Yin Sha zombie puppet rushed forward to kill the Blood Nest Warrior, a sudden burst of fire engulfed Hua Ye, and his powerful aura exploded.

At the same time, he swept suddenly his Spirit Instrument Level fire halberd.

In the blazing fire, a vast Red Dragon Mysterious Energy gathered at the blade's tip, transforming into a roaring red fire dragon.

The target was remarkably the head of the Yin Sha zombie puppet!

The yinsha zombie puppet was merely following the orders of the young master to assist Hua Ye in the fight. With its simple wisdom, how could it foresee Hua Ye's sudden pounce?

"Boom!"

In a violent explosion, the head of the Yin Sha zombie puppet was blown up by the red fire dragon, splattering into several pieces.

Then, Hua Ye swung his weapon, quickly knocked down the seriously injured Blood Nest Warrior, and cut off its legs.

In a blink of an eye, both the Yin Sha zombie puppet and the Blood Nest Warrior were dealt with by Hua Ye.

The young master's face changed, and he rebuked angrily, "Hua Ye, have you gone mad?"

"Hahahaha~ Young master, our Prominent Family of the Heavenly Human Realm from the Da Qian would not genuinely cooperate with the likes of you," since he has already made a move, Hua Ye had no more constraint. He let out a hearty laugh, "Previously, I was just pretending to cooperate with you."

In the raging fire, he stood with his halberd, looking fresh, full of vigor, and awe-inspiring. He truly had the aura of a Flame War God manifested.

"Good, good, good! People's hearts are truly unpredictable. I admit I underestimated you," the young master laughed in anger, but his eyes seemed to be filled with ice, exceptionally cold, "Do you think that by killing my Yin Sha zombie puppet, I have no means to deal with you? It seems you underestimate me, the Sky Pride of the Yinsha Sect heavily."

"You jest, young master," Hua Ye's face still carried a smile, "I, Hua Ye, am just an old Ancestor of a small rural city. How can I be compared with the Sky Pride of the Yinsha Sect? If I dare to plot against you today, surely I would be prepared? Elder Yuan Wu, isn't it time for you to make an appearance?"

An Elder Yuan Wu?

The young master's face changed abruptly.

He never expected that Hua Ye would invite another old ancestor. What's more, abominable was the fact that he never detected it.

At this moment.

Among the followers of Huangfu Jinghuan's Spiritual Platform Realm, an obscure old servant slowly straightened up and walked out slowly.

Chapter 99 Wang Shouzhe! How could it be you! _3

He swept away his previous frail and decaying demeanour; as he moved steadily, a strong Heavenly Human Realm aura filled his body.

He stared coldly at the Young Master: "As Brother Hua Ye put it, how could we, the noble Da Qian Tianren Family, become puppets and servants to the Yinsha Sect?"

"Greetings to Elder Yuan Wu." Huangfu Jinghuan's face was full of excitement as he apologized to Elder Yuan Wu, "I was frightened when I asked Elder to pretend to be an old servant, please forgive me."

"Never mind. To accomplish great things, what's a small sacrifice?" Elder Yuan Wu waved his hand, implying that he did not care. Despite still dressed as an old servant, his demeanor as a Tianren Realm powerhouse demanded respect, not to be underestimated.

Elder Yuan Wu was the ancestor of the Tianren Xiao Clan of Anyuan. Anyuan and Changning were adjacent territories, and the Tianren families there often intermarried. Huangfu Jinghuan's wife was the direct line lady of the Tianren Xiao Clan, and the two families had a very close relationship.

Their relationship was somewhat similar to the Ping'an Wang Family and the Shanyin Liu Family.

Only such a closely allied family would be willing to assist the Huangfu Clan in their fallen state. In recent times, Huangfu Jinghuan was relying mainly on the Tianren Xiao Clan for funds.

They were even older than the Huangfu Clan. Elder Yuan Wu was only slightly over three hundred years old and had already accomplished the Celestial Transition. Today's Xiao Clan was in a prosperous state with two Celestials emerging.

Moreover, Elder Yuan Wu had reached the mid-stage of the Heavenly Human Realm, even surpassing Ancestor Hua Ye in his heyday.

Of course.

For Huangfu Jinghuan to recruit Elder Yuan Wu, he had to make a considerable effort and even promised many future benefits and concessions. Otherwise, even the ancestral Celestials of in-law families would not take such a risk.

"Good! Good! Good!" The young master laughed in fury, "Well done, Old Ancestor Hua Ye, well done, Old Ancestor Yuan Wu. I admit, I was careless. However, you cannot easily take me down!"

"Let me see, how powerful is the direct disciple of the Yinsha Sect!" Elder Yuan Wu was a veteran in the Heavenly Human Realm and had reached the mid-stage. Having held the position for a long time, he was naturally extremely proud.

He had not attended the Academic Palace solely because he needed to take over the family business. Otherwise, if he had chosen to develop in the Academic Palace, he would at least be a core disciple, and his status would not be much lower than the current Young Master.

Immediately.

Elder Yuan Wu swiped his Storage Ring, and a gleaming battle blade appeared in his hand.

"This saber is called 'Gale Blade', an ancestral magical treasure of the Xiao Clan," he said with a condensed gaze, stroking the battle blade, "Our Xiao Clan's Elder Ancestor established the territory for Da Qian with this blade. Today, I will use this blade to kill the evil heretics of the Yinsha Sect and make a new achievement for our Xiao Clan."

Afterwards.

Elder Yuan Wu's figure wavered, disappearing in front of their eyes like an invisible wind.

Almost in the blink of an eye, his figure suddenly appeared behind the Blood Altar.

At the same time, the battle blade in his hand was already raised high, and a bright blade light shot toward the Young Master like a bolt out of the blue.

The blue blade light was as light as a breeze, flickering, and as sharp as an ice blade, tearing through the blood-filled surroundings, erupting with an indescribable intimidating power.

As the direct line descendant of the Xiao Clan of Anyuan, Elder Yuan Wu and his ancestry possessed the bloodline of the Gale. Now, even his Mysterious Energy carried a strong Gale attribute. With the addition of his magical treasure, his combat power was not far behind the core disciples of the Academic Palace.

In an instant, the blue blade light had already reached the Young Master's back.

The blade light was aimed directly at his heart!

"Hmph~ Good one!"

The Young Master sneered, and with a quick turn of the Yin Sha Demonic Blade in his hand, he blocked the blade light without looking back.

The blade light collided with the blade body, creating a powerful shockwave.

But this shockwave touched the Yin Sha Demonic Blade and was instantly shattered by the overflow of the Mysterious Energy from the blade body.

With the force of this strike, the Young Master's body skimmed forward like a willow leaf, quickly re-establishing distance with Elder Yuan Wu.

His movements were elegant and casual, seemingly effortless, but his eyes revealed a touch of solemnity.

Because his opponent was not just one, but two!

Indeed, just as he defended against Elder Yuan Wu's attack, over on the other side, Ancestor Hua Ye was charging over with his battle halberd.

"Hahaha ~ Die!"

With a loud shout from Ancestor Hua Ye, the red Mysterious Energy burst out from his palm, instantly coloring the entire halberd red.

With a sweep of the halberd, it was instantly filled with red light.

Though the weapon he held was not the original magical treasure halberd, it was still a middle-grade spiritual artifact. The Mysterious Energy cultivated from the top-grade cultivation technique, the 'Red Dragon True Verses', was dense when combined with a middle-grade spiritual artifact.

Although the power unleashed was not as formidable as a magical treasure, it was not much inferior to an average Tianren Realm.

Besides, he had crushed a piece of the Red Fire Dragon Scale right before the battle started, increasing his strength by about two to three times above his regular abilities.

At this moment, as he circulated the Mysterious Energy in his body to the extreme, a red dragon shadow emerged behind him. Chants of dragon roars were heard from the void, giving off a formidable aura.

Chapter 99 Wang Shouzhe! How could it be you! _4

But how easy could it be to handle him as a direct Disciple of the Yinsha Sect?

Compared to the old ancestors, Hua Ye and Yuan Wu, not only are his cultivation techniques superior to both, but he also possesses a quadruple bloodline and Yin Sha spiritual body. He can initially manipulate the Power of Laws between heaven and earth.

In addition, there is a Yinsha Spirit Vein here, and the surrounding Yin Sha Qi is very strong, which can be said to have all the geographical advantages.

Under the full force, evil Qi surged all around him and a clear Dharma shadow clearly rose behind him, emitting ghost-like roars. He looked like a ghost who had slaughtered thousands of evil spirits, one who could destroy heaven and earth with a casual blow. This made people shudder in fear.

With the power of one person, he was able to withstand the two Enlightened Ones without falling under the wind.

For a while, the area surrounding the altar was filled with shockwaves caused by the battle of the three people. Even the remnants of the formation on the altar is destroyed, almost unrecognizable.

The surrounding Spiritual Platform Realm cultivators unconsciously backed away several feet, fearful of being affected by their fight.

"How is this possible..."

Yin Jiu's face looked very bad.

He also didn't expect that the Huangfu Clan hid so deeply and had such audacity to make a move. If the other party dared to do it, they must have been prepared in advance.

Immediately, he quietly backed away, trying to escape from this place of right and wrong when everyone's attention was not on him.

However, he had only taken a few steps when he was stopped by Huangfu Jinhuan and several Spiritual Platform Realm cultivators from his clan.

"Where is Mr. Nine planning to go?" Huangfu Jinhuan stood with his hands behind his back, a face full of triumph.

Yin Jiu's face turned extremely ugly. He pleaded in a slightly begging tone, "Master Jinhuan, we have no grievances or grudges between us. Why not let me go this time? Yin Jiu will surely repay you in the future."

"Ha ha ha ~ let you go?" Huangfu Jinhuan stood with his hands behind his back, scoffing, "You are a beast of the Yinsha Sect, while we are the prominent family of the Daqian Temple. It is rightful for me to capture you and deliver your heads to the Prefecture Mansion for rewards."

"With such a great merit, it is reasonable, reasonable, and legal to ask the offices of the prefecture to find a way to heal our old Ancestor's injuries."

"Elders and heads of households, let's take down this beast from the Yinsha Sect together!"

With the order from Huangfu Jinhuan, all the Spiritual Platform Realm Cultivators that came with him made their moves.

Although Yin Jiu's strength was not bad, how could he manage to escape when he was outnumbered?

In a short moment, accompanied by Yin Jiu's scream, he tragically died on the spot.

Looking at the miserable scene, the face of the man turned as cold as ice, with anger burning in his eyes. He angrily said, "Huangfu Clan, Xiao Clan, this young master will remember you."

The voice just fell.

He forcibly repulsed the two besieging Enlightened Ones and quickly took out a dan medicine with very strong Yin Sha Qi.

The dan is called the "Extreme Yinsha Poison Pill", one of the special products of Yinsha Sect, extremely valuable, and can greatly enhance the combat power of Yinsha Sect Disciples in a short period of time.

But the shortcomings of the pill are also quite clear.

Once the effect of the medicine is over, the body will fall into a weak state, and the Extreme Yin Sha poison will enter the body, which is likely to damage the cultivation base. It may take several years to recover.

Most core disciples of the Yinsha Sect can't even afford to exchange for it, only some direct disciples with wealthy families will exchange for an "Extreme Yinsha Poison Pill" to keep as a trump card just in case.

The man hesitated slightly, but in a blink of an eye, he made up his mind and swallowed the "Extreme Yinsha Poison Pill".

The next moment.

A strong Yin Sha Qi mixed with poison exploded in his body and instantly spread throughout his body, soaking his meridians.

The aura in his entire body suddenly soared.

At the same time, the Dharma shadow behind him seemed to be stimulated and suddenly became active, emitting a real high pitch mournful roar.

In the suddenly soaring aura, the man's hair was flying, and the clothes on his body kept bulging up like an inflated balloon.

Rows of dark evil poison qi spread quickly from his neck to his jaw. His skin quickly turned pale, his eyes got darker, making his originally handsome face chilling.

At this moment, he is more like a fierce ghost than an Enlightened One!

"Humph~"

The Bone Corrosion poison stoked the man's anger. He showed a cold smile, picked up the Demonic Blade and faced the two old ancestors who charged up again. With a sweep of the demonic blade, several strong Yin Sha blade lights instantly swept across, enveloping both of them.

This blade light was as dark as ink, with a sharp edge that was extremely intimidating. With the extreme Yin and evil poison qi, it seemed to be able to tear the void!

"Die!"

Accompanied by a roar, the blade light immediately tore through the air and reached the two Enlightened Ones.

The expressions of Hua Ye and Yuan Wu changed drastically, and they hurriedly waved their weapons to resist.

However, the power of this blade light completely exceeded their expectations. After one blow, they were shocked to the point that they almost dropped their weapons from their hands.

Before they could recover their strength, the man's next attack had arrived again.

The crisscrossing blade light was like the Death God's Scythe that reaped all things. Everywhere it passed, even the altar below was cut with a notch.

Chapter 99 Wang Shouzhe! How could it be you! _5

Old Ancestor Hua Ye and Old Ancestor Yuan Wu joined forces, repeatedly defending but they were still continually forced back, completely powerless to retaliate.

"This can't continue," Old Ancestor Yuan Wu was frantic, "Hua Ye, if you have any tricks left, use them now!"

"Cover me for a moment."

Old Ancestor Hua Ye gritted his teeth, understanding that he could no longer cling to any slim hope.

Seizing the moment when Old Ancestor Yuan Wu struggled to hold off the attacks, he swiftly swiped his left hand over his storage ring, and a new object emerged in his palm which he then tossed out, causing it to explode viciously in midair.

In that split second.

An intense, fiery aura abruptly spread outwards.

This fiery aura felt as if it had been seized from the core of a volcano, ferocious and overwhelming, carrying with it an extreme heat that seemed capable of charring a person, engulfing a radius of hundreds of meters around the area like wildfire in the blink of an eye.

Instantly, the surrounding Frost-Killing Air was melted away, and the temperature in the air rose by at least twenty degrees, even the hardened ice on the ground from the Mysterious Ice Spirit Veins showed signs of melting.

It was as though everyone had experienced the transition from the coldest winter to the warmth of early spring in a flash.

However, the change in temperature was not the main issue, the most crucial part was that all the Evil Qi permeating the vicinity was completely neutralized by this fiery aura.

More importantly, this fiery aura acted like a sky canopy, enveloping the entire area, and the rich scent of fire filled every corner. At first glance, it seemed that it would certainly not dissipate for a while.

Seeing this scene, Old Ancestor Yuan Wu couldn't help but gasp in surprise.

"Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl!"

The prince's eyes suddenly widened, his face full of disbelief.

He was, of course, aware of the Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl. As a member of Yinsha Sect, how could he not know about this weapon specifically developed to counter the Yinsha Sect by the Academic Palace?

But this item was extremely rare and only the Direct Disciples of the Academic Palace could possess it. How did Hua Ye get it?

"Hahahaha~ You didn't expect this~" the shocked look in the prince's eyes delighted Old Ancestor Hua Ye, he could barely contain his laughter, "You even thought you could control me by suppressing the sword intent. You're dreaming! Today, I'll make sure you have no way out!"

After finishing, he glanced sideways at Old Ancestor Yuan Wu: "Yuan Wu, stop idling. Put all your strength to use! Come on!"

"Alright!"

Old Ancestor Yuan Wu no longer held back and pushed his cultivation technique to the extreme.

An indistinct Dharma Shadow appeared behind him boosting his aura immensely in an instant.

Going all out, his knife light faintly embodied the sound of thunder, demonstrating unparalleled sharpness in every stroke.

With the aid of the Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl's fiery aura suppressing the Frost-Killing Air, he and Old Ancestor Hua Ye joining forces had finally successfully repressed the prince.

The scales of victory began slowly tipping in their favor.

Seeing the situation once again under control, the elders and the head of household from the Huangfu Clan collectively breathed a sigh of relief.

The preparations made by the Family Head this time were quite thorough. Everyone looked towards Huangfu Jinhuan with admiration.

A self-satisfied smile appeared on the face of Huangfu Jinhuan.

What does it mean to pre-empt your enemy? This is what it means.

A revered disciple of the Yinsha Sect would surely have some hidden cards to secure his safety, right?

This Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl was a trump card that he had acquired at a great cost. Despite the painful expenses, it was somewhat relieving to see it effectively used.

Without this item, they might have fallen short against the prince once again.

The battle that followed did not have much suspense. With the Six-Pole Sun Flame Pearl repressing the Prince's Evil Qi, he had no chance to turn the tables.

In a short period, with the combined efforts of Old Ancestors Hua Ye and Yuan Wu, the prince was dealt several heavy blows.

"Boom!"

The prince was knocked and crashed hard next to the Blood Altar, damaging half of it.

Now, the prince's appearance was extremely miserable, covered in injuries and continuously spitting out blood, he had lost the strength to keep fighting for a while.

"Truly befitting of a Direct Disciple, even more powerful than I imagined," groaned Old Ancestor Yuan Wu, floating above, catching his breath.

Although they won the battle, the power displayed by the Direct Disciple was admirable even in the eyes of Old Ancestor Yuan Wu.

If it had been a one-on-one fight, Old Ancestor Yuan Wu would certainly not have been a match for him.

Old Ancestor Hua Ye's eyes were icy as he said, "Brother Yuan Wu, as the saying goes, where there's a will there's a way. Let us jointly make a move to kill him. The Merit Points for this victory will be equally shared between the Huangfu Clan and the Xiao Clan."

Killing a Direct Disciple of the Yinsha Sect who had reached the Mid Stage of the Heavenly Human Realm was undoubtedly a significant merit. Furthermore, they had discovered a Blood Nest Base.

Such an achievement would likely even alarm the National Capital; the reward must be extremely generous. Even if the two clans split this merit, they would undoubtedly be greatly enriched.

Even the Old Ancestor Yuan Wu, who hailed from the old lineage of a Heavenly Human Prominent Family, couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement. This level of merit, other than the Old Ancestor, would have placed him second.

It is highly probable that their clan would ascend to Rank Six due to this.

If not for such a huge temptation plus Huangfu Jinhuan's careful preparations, would such a venerable Heavenly Human risk coming here?

"Never mind, never mind," the grievously injured prince was at the brink of despair and helplessness, "I never thought I, the prince, would die here...I was too careless."

"Prince, make a safe journey, without any escort," Old Ancestor Hua Ye sneered, raising his fire war lance, ready to send the prince on his way.

Suddenly.

A round of applause rang out.

"Clap. Clap. Clap."

From afar came a familiar, mocking laughter that Old Ancestor Hua Ye recognised.

"What a wonderful performance. Huangfu Jinhuan, Huangfu Hua Ye, I didn't expect you to become clever, even knowing how to anticipate the enemy's moves. It seems like you've learned everything I tried to teach."

Wang Shouzhe?! How...how is this possible?

The faces of Old Ancestor Hua Ye and Huangfu Jinhuan both turned white in an instant.

Chapter 100 Advantages of Being Lenient with the Enemy_1

...

How many times now?

Huangfu Jinhuan could barely recall the number of times he had suffered in the hands of Wang Shouzhe.

Now, every time this name was mentioned, shadows filled his heart, making him feel as if his years were wasted in the life of a dog, pushing him into a state of self-seclusion.

This time, after racking his brains and doing an extensive preparation, and even staking a large part of his family fortune, he dispatched the family elders who, after traveling thousands of miles, desperately pleaded with the Huangfu Clan in the southern desert, and finally procured two Red Fire Dragon Scales.

As a result, their relationship with the southern desert Huangfu Clan has now been nearly exhausted.

All his efforts were just to deal with the enemy with full leniency and increase his chances of winning.

The Huangfu Clan of Changning, in reality, could not afford to lose again.

And the eventual result turned out as he had wished. The resourceful prince finally met his match at Huangfu Jinhuan's hands.

This indeed restored much of Huangfu Jinhuan's confidence.

Who would have thought that at his moment of triumph, Wang Shouzhe, like a bad dream, would appear again?

With a pale face, Huangfu Jinhuan asked in a trembling voice, "Why? Why are you here?"

Why won't this youngster scatter his soul and disappear?

Master Jinhuan, your manner of speaking is a bit over the top~" Wang Shouzhe, with a faint smile on his face, calmly retorted, "The Blood Nest Base is not opened by your family, for me to explore these ruins, I don't need to report to you, right?"

Having said that,

His gaze fell on the sorry figure of the prince, and a trace of mockery appeared on his face: "Unexpectedly, the direct disciple of the distinguished Yinsha Sect, ended up in such a pitiful state. It's indeed lamentable. I will be taking your head."

"You!"

The prince was so angry that his blood churned up within his chest and he couldn't help but turn pale, once again spurting out a mouthful of blood.

It was indeed the case of a fallen tiger being bullied by a dog!

As the direct disciple of the prestigious Yinsha Sect, not only was he insulted by the Huangfu Clan, but he was also being humiliated by a passer-by who sprang out of nowhere. Absolutely outrageous!

"Wang Shouzhe!" Huangfu Jinhuan was so enraged that his whole body was trembling. He gritted his teeth and said, "If you want to pluck peaches, you should first look if you have the capability! We have two Tianren Realm old ancestors here. Even if you bring along Xu Beichen and Wang Zhubo, you will never benefit from it!"

"Initially, I thought you had learned to be smarter, but you are still as foolish as ever." Wang Shouzhe glanced at him and couldn't help but sigh after hearing his words: "You really don't think, knowing my temperament, would I appear at this time if I didn't hold a trump card that ensures victory?"

As his voice dropped, his allies started to trickle in one after another.

Firstly, it was his own people from the Ping'an Wang Family. Since this journey was extremely perilous, Wang Shouzhe didn't let those with insufficient combat power participate.

Therefore, from the Ping'an Wang Family, only the Old Ancestor Longyan, along with the senior female member Liu Ruolan and Wang Shouzhe, totaling three people, came.

Then came the Old Ancestor Beichen from the Changning Xu Family, followed by Old Ancestor Xiangyang from the Hundred Islands Zhong Family.

The appearance of these two people changed the expressions of the Old Dog Huaye and the Old Ancestor Yuanwu.

The Xu Family's Xu Beichen is a popular figure in several guard cities lately.

The fame of any new Tianren realm cultivator will quickly spread throughout several nearby guard cities.

However, such a new cultivator of the Tianren realm is still okay, as his newly promoted strength must be weak and probably does not even have a magical treasure, or has no time to cultivate a magical treasure!

But, the old cultivator of the Hundred Islands Zhong Family, Zhong Xiangyang, was different.

This is a celebrated veteran of the Tianren realm. His unfathomable strength, and the fact that he runs a black market for his family, left everyone guessing about how many cards he holds in his hand.

They say that with age comes cunning. If an old cultivator of the Tianren realm like Old Ancestor Xiangyang didn't have some certainty, it would be difficult to get him to lend a hand.

Sure enough.

Following them, two more people leisurely walked in.

One of them was a woman who looked very young, who was looking around curiously. The other was one who made Huangfu Jinhuan and Old Dog Huaye gasp.

"Fang Youan!"

That one was indeed the Direct Disciple from the Purple Abode Academic Palace, Fang Youan.

How could such a person be in Wang Shouzhe's team?

Especially, Huangfu Jinhuan's mind was buzzing. The Direct Disciple from the Academic Palace, Wang Shouzhe actually brought the Direct Disciple from the Academic Palace.

How powerful is the Direct Disciple of the Academic Palace?

Looking at Yin Yuzhe, the prince from the Yinsha Sect, it was clear as they were on the same level.

As soon as Fang Youan appeared, his eyes were immediately fixed on the prince, and his face subtly changed: "It's actually you, Yin Yuzhe!"

Until now.

The name of the mysterious son of the Yinsha Sect was finally revealed.

Yin Yuzhe strained to lift his head to look at Fang Youan, his expression becoming somewhat complicated. He coughed: "Fang Youan, we parted ways on the battlefield beyond the domain ten years ago. I never expected our reunion to be under such circumstances."

Battlefield beyond the domain?

Wang Shouzhe slightly narrowed his eyes. That single phrase from Yin Yuzhe did allow much inference. He laughed, "Brother Youan, could this be your old friend?"

"Indeed." A strong killing intent appeared in Fang Youan's eyes, "This Yin Yuzhe is one of the Sky Prides of the Yinsha Sect. We 'fortuitously' met on the battlefield once, and I have quite the vivid impression of him."

"The feeling is mutual." Yin Yuzhe sneered in reply, "You, Fang Youan, likewise have quite a reputation, having killed many of our people. It's a pity that my state today is not ideal, otherwise, I would have loved to witness the Deux Ex Machina of your Frost Sword."

The two of them conversed eloquently, capturing the demeanor of true direct disciples. As Sky Prides, they observed all others from a perspective of superiority.

Only those of their kind, even if they were antagonistic, could make them face each other equally.

Perhaps, this is the pride of the Sky's Pride.

"Yin Yuzhe." Fang Youan adopted a solemn tone, "You've killed countless people on the battlefield beyond the domain and dared to stir up trouble in my Da Qian. It's time to leave your life behind."

"Hmph!"

An intense sternness emerged from Yin Yuzhe's narrow eyes, "Consider yourself unlucky! I was hoping to retaliate with this move when the old dog Huaye made his move. Who would have thought, the mantis stalks the cicada, but a yellow oriole lurks behind...Having you die together with me is worth it!"

"What?"

Fang Youan's face changed slightly.

Immediately, the scene became chaotic. Seeing Yin Yuzhe's eyes flash sharply, revealing a merciless and resolute look, a blood sphere appeared in his hand, which he detonated.

In the blink of an eye, the slumbering Wedding Blood Gu Emperor within the blood sphere was startled. It bit Yin Yuzhe's arm and instantly drilled into his blood vessels.

"Ahh!"

Accompanied by a painful scream, a terrible energy erupted from Yin Yuzhe's body that caused the air to shake violently.

"This... Yin Yuzhe, you have some nerve." Fang Youan exclaimed, his expression changing greatly, "In your current state, using the Wedding Blood Gu Emperor guarantees demonic possession."

Fang Youan, as a direct disciple of the Academic Palace, understood the danger of this object quite well. Even they, as direct disciples, had to weigh the pros and cons carefully before using such a domineering object like Wedding Blood Gu Emperor, even if their state was optimal.

Despite the outstanding efficacy of this object, it was indeed too dangerous.

There had been several instances of direct disciples failing to control the Wedding Blood Gu Emperor and ending up being controlled by it instead.

"Controlled by the devil?" A fiery red light burst out of Yin Yuzhe's eyes, his veins and muscles were constantly distorting. With a fraction of his sanity left, he laughed maniacally, "Rather than being slaughtered like pigs and sheep by you, I would choose to strike out, taking you all with me."

The old Ancestors, Huaye and Yuan Wu, were both veritable cunning old foxes. Seeing that things were turning sour, they quickly retreated from the scene, the farther from the enraged Yin Yuzhe, the better.

They both could not help but wipe the cold sweat off their brows. It was fortunate that they did not get a chance to make a move, otherwise, they would likely have been counterattacked by Yin Yuzhe. Although they knew about the prowess of the Wedding Blood Gu Emperor, they did not anticipate it could be used in such a way. They had limited knowledge after all and were nearly tricked.

"Junior Brother Shouzhe!" Fang Youan's expression became extremely serious, "This is a big problem, once Yin Yuzhe is controlled by the Wedding Blood Gu Emperor, he will become extremely difficult to deal with. Moreover, he has not undergone the initiation rites of a Blood Nest Warrior, he cannot be controlled by the Blood Nest and will only act on his demonic instincts.

If he escapes, the entire southern region of Longzuo County will be plunged into a bloodbath."

"Brother Youan." Liu Ruolan glanced at him, "My husband said earlier to prepare more trump cards, but you dismissed it..."

"Ahem!" Fang Youan's old face turned red, he awkwardly said, "I was wrong, I should have begged for Master to come even if it meant begging for it."

"Can't Brother Youan best him?" Wang Shouzhe's brow furrowed. A single Wedding Blood Gu Emperor had made Fang Youan admit defeat! This proved that the thing was indeed exceptional.

"Normally, it would have been a close match between the two of us. However, the most dangerous aspect of the Wedding Blood Gu Emperor is when the host is weaker and controlled by the Emperor." Fang Youan took a deep breath, "With me and sister Greenferns together, we should be able to hold him off.

Brother Shouzhe, Sister Longyan and I will go first, after you finish dealing with your enemy, come and aid us immediately."

With that!

Fang Youan wasted no more words, stepping on air and launching into the sky.

"Clang!"

A sword song resonated.

A longsword of icy crystal traversed the sky, causing the temperature inside the Blood Nest to plummet in an instant, and snowflakes began to flutter all over the sky. The scene was indeed awe-inspiring.

At the same time.

Sister Greenferns also looked very serious, she pushed off the ground with her feet and, bang, shot off like a cannonball. The speed and explosiveness were so sudden that it caught people off guard.

Uh...

Seeing this, Wang Shouzhe's heart couldn't help but curse. He had previously advised to err on the side of caution and prepare a few more trump cards, only to be mocked.

Now, both the high-level warriors were restrained by Yin Yuzhe and were unable to make full use of their abilities. No, in fact, even Brother Youan expected Wang Shouzhe to quickly defeat the enemy and help him fight Yin Yuzhe.

Luckily, he didn't listen to Fang Youan. He still patiently prepared a few trump cards.

When Wang Shouzhe turned his head to look at Huangfu Jinhuan, their eyes met, sparking an intense "collision".