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Chapter 1: The 7th-Rank Aristocratic Family! The Changning Wang Clan_1

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Great Qian Changlong 3166 — Early February.

Early spring~

It had been only half a year since the Celestial feast of the Changning Wang Clan.

The spring rain was drizzling during this season, as if a mist of gloom had draped over the Wang family.

Just after the New Year, the grandfather of the cousin generation of Wang Xiaohui, passed away peacefully in his sleep, eternally separated from the world.

This was the first member of the clan to pass away since Wang Shouzhe took over as head of the family.

His grandfather Wang Xiaohui, was born in the year 3060 of the Changlong Calendar, and lived to be 106 years old when he passed away.

Theoretically, the life of his grandfather Wang Xiaohui was already long, longer than most people's lives.

Yet his death still brought more than a little melancholy to the Wang family.

Wang Shouzhe sat in the courtyard, watching the spring scenery and rainfall, seeming to be slightly lost in thought.

"Husband." Liu Ruolan leaned against him, comforting in a soft voice, "Birth, aging, sickness, and death are all natural occurrences. You've done your best for your grandfather, even going so far as to

seek a Longevity Pill to prolong his life. For all these years, he has also been holding on, waiting until the Wang family became a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family, before he passed away satisfied."

"Ruolan, I understand the truths you speak of." Wang Shouzhe sighed, "I was just thinking about what we've been striving to develop over the years. What is it all for?"

"Have you figured it out, husband?" Liu Ruolan brewed a pot of Cloud Mist Spirit Tea for him, "This is a new tea that was just harvested from the Cloud Mist Cave in the young winter. I knew you loved this fresh tea, so when I visited home a while ago, I brought back 30% of the yield."

Wang Shouzhe held the Cloud Mist Spirit Tea, looking at Liu Ruolan with tender eyes, "Of course, I understand. The reason I strive to develop the family is that I want our family members to be able to survive, to live better lives with more dignity. Just like you, my wife, if I could, I would want to live with you forever, loving each other until the end of time."

"Husband." Liu Ruolan's cheeks blushed with soft tides of warmth, her eyes covered with a layer of moving moisture, "I never tire of hearing your sweet words, no matter when. Marrying you is the luckiest thing in my life."

"Your words move me too, wife. Marrying you is the true meaning of life for me." Wang Shouzhe held her hand.

"Don't be like this, there are children around." Liu Ruolan gave a charming, shy glance.

Somewhere close by.

Several children sitting quietly at the side, all remained incredibly calm.

Wang Liyao, the eldest who had grown into a young woman, holding Wang Zongrui, her two-year-old baby brother who had just been weaned, showed no emotion in her stunningly beautiful and ethereal face.

No wonder, their parents would always exchange sweet nothings and flaunt their affection. This had been going on for nineteen years, how could they not be used to it?

The children were almost sick of hearing it.

It's amazing that their parents still enjoyed it, seemingly never getting tired of it.

"Sister, I feel like I will never be capable of love." Wang Zong'an, who had grown into a sixteen-year-old young man, whispered, "If anyone talks sweet to me, my first reaction would probably be wanting to vomit."

"Me too..." Wang Liyao's eyelid twitched, she said gloomily, "The point is, after so many years of listening, there are only a few patterns they use. 'Wife, you are so good', 'Husband, you are amazing'... followed by declarations of greatest luck..."

"I think it's fine." A five-year-old little girl said with an adorable voice, blinking her eyes, "Dad looks really gentle when he sweet-talks."

Then, Wang Liyao and Wang Zong'an both gave her a glance, "Little Liyue, you're still too young. After a few more years, you'll be numb to it, and then gradually feel sick."

Obviously, the exquisite little girl is Wang Shouzhe's second lawful daughter Wang Liyue.

"Ha ha, what do you kids understand?" Wang Shouzhe looked back nonchalantly, "Your mother and my's sweet nothings set an example for you. We create a healthy, optimistic atmosphere for our family. You just don't appreciate your parents' hardships..."

"Hardships?"

A different look swept through Liu Ruolan's eyes, "Does living with me bring you hardship, husband?"

"No, no, no, I was just casually teaching the children..." Wang Shouzhe was filled with anxiety and hurriedly defended himself.

"Your casual words reveal your true thoughts. We have been married for twenty years. Even if you are tired of old things and passionate about new ones, I understand." Liu Ruolan spoke gently, "Thinking about it, I am the one at fault, I should have found you several concubines..."

"Wife, don't get me wrong... Yao Yao, say something nice about your father."

"Oh, I almost forgot." Wang Liyao rose to her feet with her little brother in her arms, in a fluster, "I have to go to the Academic Palace to take the admission exam, the homework given by the future Master is not yet done. Father, mother, Yao Yao is taking her leave."

After Wang Liyao finished speaking, she took a step forward, levitating and rapidly steering towards the distance, looking like she was riding a cloud. This kind of crossing the air indicates that her Mysterious Energy is profound and long-lasting, and more than just entering the Spirit Platform Realm.

"Sister, wait for me, I also need to practice." Wang Zong'an also picked up the little girl, Wang Liyue, taking several leaps and bounds on the roof, he quickly disappeared from view.

He just barely reached the Level Nine of the Vital Energy Refining Realm. He's still a long way from the Spirit Platform Realm, so naturally, he's not as natural as his sister.

Almost in the blink of an eye, all four children disappeared.

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The couple Wang Shouzhe was left alone, staring wide-eyed at each other.

"Wang Shouzhe, while the children aren't around, let's clarify some things. If you despise me, just say it outright."

"Madam, don't get me wrong, it was just a slip of the tongue."

"A slip of tongue? Hmph, who exactly is the illusion created by the System Artifact Spirit you made? Why is its figure so... big... tell me which young lady it is, I will personally go and propose for you."

"The Artifact Spirit System is just an exaggerated animation figure... it is not real; it is purely imaginary."

"What is this animation? Fine, fine, if it's an illusion created by you, it proves that you already despise me... my husband, no, Wang Shouzhe..."

"Liu Ruoling? This is bad... Old Ancestor, save me... Old Ancestor Longyan, save me!"

"You surnamed Wang, in this vast world, no one can save you."

"Madam, don't do this! Don't think that just because you have a Spirit Platform Realm Spiritual Body, you're remarkable, I'll challenge you..."

Afar!

Some clansmen who were preparing to come to report something to Wang Shouzhe immediately changed their faces, stopped, turned around, and left. In recent years, scenes like this have become more and more frequent. The peculiar hobbies of Master Shouzhe and his wife were too shameful.

However, the Old Ancestor Longyan who was cultivating at Longyan Habitat slightly raised her eyelids and then continued her closed-eye cultivation. Clearly, she had long been accustomed to this husband and wife's style of affectionate banter.

Previously, she was so anxious to save Wang Shouzhe, only to almost disrupt the good times of the couple. After several times, how could she intervene indiscriminately?

She, Wang Longyan, was only 136 years old. She had taken the Longevity Fruit to replenish her losses. According to the lifespan of a Tianren Realm Cultivator, which is 400 years, she was a young and thriving single immortal lady.

"Ah~ Shouzhe and Ruolan are fine in every way, just... their hobby... ah~~it's too embarrassing."

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Half a month later, at Donghai Hundred Treasures Pavilion.

The branches of the Hundred Treasures Pavilion spread rapidly across Longzuo County and were even said to have branches outside of Longzuo County.

However, in the region of the Southern Six Guards, although every Guard's Hundred Treasures Pavilion also has ordinary treasures for sale, some extraordinary valuable treasures are only auctioned once every two years in the Donghai Hundred Treasures Pavilion.

In the past few auctions, Wang Shouzhe had never missed one.

If Wang's post was sent up, Wang Shouzhe and Old Ancestor Longyan would be invited to the exclusive box for the Heavenly Human Realm family by the Spirit Platform Realm's principal and the best maids and abundant Spirit Fruits and Spiritual Tea would be arranged.

It was said that the Branch Master of Donghai Hundred Treasures Pavilion would come and meet Wang Shouzhe and Old Ancestor Longyan in person.

The original reason was that Changning Wang Clan was a Heavenly Human household, but the main reason was that the Wang Clan was always generous and was the VIP of the Hundred Treasures Pavilion.

Of course, before becoming a Heavenly Human household, Wang Shouzhe would always hide his identity. And in order to respect its VIPs, the Hundred Treasures Pavilion would also provide corresponding identity confidentiality services.

But this time,

Wang Shouzhe and Old Ancestor Longyan made formal appearances at the Hundred Treasures Pavilion, without hiding.

The situation had changed.

Previously, for the Wang Clan to deal with the Huangfu Clan, some tactical treasures had to be hidden and kept as the unexpected cards for key moments.

But now, the risen Wang Clan needed to show its face, add some strategic magical treasures to the old ancestors on the surface, and need many Heavenly Human households to know about it.

Just like a fierce beast would bare its fangs to warn and deter potential opponents, signals like "I'm not to be messed with, think twice before provoking me," are sent. This can help to avoid some unnecessary troubles.

In order for a prominent family to develop and grow, a long-term stable environment is required. Acting as a wolf in sheep's clothing recklessly is akin to enticing others to commit crimes and deliberately creating conflict.

With Wang Shouzhe's "first" official appearance in the Hundred Treasures Pavilion, the news spread like dandelion seeds, carried by the wind to everywhere.

One of the hosts of the Eastern Sea, the family head of the Tuoba family in the Eastern Sea, Tuoba Gaozhan, rushed over to meet Wang Shouzhe as soon as he heard the news. Upon his arrival, he first paid his respects to Old Ancestor Longyan, according to all due ceremonies.

Afterwards, Tuoba Gaozhan complained slightly to Wang Shouzhe, "Master Shouzhe, your arrival in the Eastern Sea has taken us by surprise. We, the Tuoba family, should have been informed earlier so that we could arrange a welcome and host Old Ancestor Longyan properly."

Since the Wang Family's Celestial Banquet, Old Ancestor Longyan's reputation has echoed throughout the Southern Six Guards. No prominent family dares to underestimate her now, considering her backing by a Master from the Heavenly Realm.

Even though that master belongs to the Academic Palace and would theoretically not support the Wang family in bullying other families, anyone intending to bully the Wang family would still need to consider the temperament of Master Binglan.

Among the Masters in the Purple Abode Academic Palace in Longzuo County, Binglan is said to be the most fiery tempered.

Therefore, many celestial families take a neutral stance towards the newly risen Wang family. They do not bully but also do not fear them, choosing to form favorable relations whenever the opportunity arises. However, they would not flatter the Wangs purely because they are backed by the Purple Abode State.

After all, the Wang family is not the only prominent family backed by the Purple Abode State.

"Brother Tuoba," Wang Shouzhe replied politely, "the Old Ancestor and I came to the Eastern Sea this time only with the intention of finding a suitable offensive magical treasure for her. We did not intend to disturb the Tuoba and Dantai families."

The Eastern Sea is located in the alluvial plain of Peace River, boasting countless fertile lands and a vast maritime area with plentiful resources. As a result, the overall prosperity and strength of the Eastern Sea exceed that of Changning Palace by a large extent. This is also the reason why the Hundred Treasures Pavilion had decided to hold the auction here.

Both the Tuoba and Dantai families in the Eastern Sea are powerful families. Although Wang Shouzhe has a better relationship with the Dantai family, he did not intend to take sides recklessly.

As the two were talking,

The family head of the Dantai, Dantai Yonigi, also rushed over with his entourage. After paying his respects to Old Ancestor Longyan according to the rules, he had a friendly conversation with Wang Shouzhe in front of Tuoba Gaozhan. "Shouzhe, due to your busy schedule at the last Celestial Banquet, we didn't get a chance to catch up.

Now that you've come to the Eastern Sea, we, the Dantai family, must take up our host duties and renew our old friendship."

Actually, Wang Shouzhe had only met Dantai Yonigi two or three times in his life, and mostly at formal occasions. Yet, Dantai Yonigi's words made it seem as if they had been close friends in the past.

However, Wang Shouzhe did have a good relationship with his son, Dantai and jade, with whom he had collaborated on various business ventures.

Seeing Dantai Yonigi's intimate demeanor towards him, Wang Shouzhe was filled with emotion. When the Wang family had trapped the Liu and Zhao families into their trap, they had borrowed the name of the Dantai family.

At that time, the Eastern Sea King Dantai family was a lofty presence that the Wang family could not hope to equal.

Who would have thought that after only two decades, the Wang family could now sit on equal terms with the Eastern Sea King Dantai family, and their relationship with Dantai Yonigi was akin to being close friends.

Wang Shouzhe also knew what the Tuoba and Dantai families had planned. They were both trying to find a way to gain an ally to boost their own strength and momentum.

Since the situation wasn't clear yet, Wang Shouzhe did not want to take sides blindly. That's also why he did not visit either family when he came to the Eastern Sea. Visiting either family could potentially trigger the fears and hostility of the other.

"If Master Shouzhe came this time to buy a magical treasure for Old Ancestor Longyan..." Tuoba Gaozhan presented a picture album and said, "I recommend this rare middle-grade treasure sword - the Purple Thunder Sword. Although it's not of the mysterious ice attribute, it's still an extraordinarily powerful magical treasure. Originally, my Tuoba family had set our sights on it.

However, to celebrate Old Ancestor Longyan, if Master Shouzhe wants it, we won't compete for it."

"Brother Tuoba, I must say I admire your audacity," Dantai Yonigi sneered. "Offering up treasures that are not yours as a favor is quite a move. If Shouzhe truly wants this treasure, your Tuoba family might not be able to outbid him. Why bother to owe you a favor for no reason?"

Well, what do you know!

Wang Shouzhe furrowed his brows slightly. Although he had received reports earlier that the relationship between the two celestial families in the Eastern Sea was deteriorating, he hadn't expected that their animosity had reached such an extent, and their conflicts had come into the open.

It's better not to let their quarrels disrupt the peace of the Southern Six Guards.

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At present, the Wang Family is in a rare period of peaceful development, with time to digest the fruits of victory. It would be unwise to get involved in the disputes among other prominent families at such a time.

So, Wang Shouzhe's smile became even more courteous. "The Tuoba Family and the Dan Tai Clan are both powerful families in the Southern Six Guards. It would be an honor for our Changning Wang Family to forge closer ties with both of you and learn from your wisdom."

He naturally unearthed his attitude.

Upon hearing this, both Tuoba Gaozhan and Dantai Yonigi were equally disappointed.

However, they understood that with the current relationship between the three families, it would be unrealistic to expect the Changning Wang family to take sides.

But none of them wanted to provoke the Wang family at this point and push it to the other's camp. They didn't reduce their enthusiasm for Wang Shouzhe, but instead became even more affectionate.

Wang Shouzhe, on the other hand, was making the most out of the situation, acting neutrally and not offending anyone. After a few rounds, he was as tough as an old hand, immune to all toss and turns.

This left the two family heads feeling like they were trying to bite a hedgehog, not knowing where to start.

Both of them held Wang Shouzhe in even higher esteem.

This young fellow was not even forty yet, but he handled things so skillfully that he could not be underestimated. The current situation of the Changning Wang family was not just pure luck after all.

Soon afterwards, the Hundred Treasures Pavilion gradually livened up, with various VIP boxes being occupied by prominent families of Celestial beings who had traveled from far and wide.

What slightly disturbed Wang Shouzhe was that besides the notable Celestial family of the Southern Six Guards, there were even Celestial families from the Langyowei Guard, the Cloud Security, and the New City Guard who had travelled far and wide to participate in the auction.

This was an unusual scene.

After all, within the entire region of Longzuo County, the whole Southern Six Guards were considered as "newly developed" areas, which had a relatively weak foundation compared to that of the central or eastern regions, and thus had weaker overall strength.

Unless there was something particularly attractive, there were seldom other Guards' Celestial families that would travel such a long distance just to buy an item.

Could it be for the Purple Lightning Sword in the medium-grade magical treasure category?

But this doesn't seem right~

While medium-grade magical treasures are rare and precious, they wouldn't attract so many Celestial families to compete.

Could there be some treasures in this auction that he doesn't know about? That's not possible, as a VIP customer of the Hundred Treasures Pavilion, he should have received the auction catalogue in advance...

The most precious item in the auction catalogue was the Purple Lightning Sword, with a starting price of 450,000 Qian Gold. This was also Wang Shouzhe's main target for this auction.

"Master Shouzhe, are you wondering why families from other regions would come here?" Tuoba Gaozhan said after reading the look on his face. "The reason is simple. In this auction, there is a bottle of 'Earth Mother Spirit Liquid'."

"Earth Mother Spirit Liquid?" Wang Shouzhe frowned. "I remember the auction catalogue mentioned that it's one of the raw materials for several precious fifth-grade spirit pills with a starting price of only 100,000 Qian Gold. Is it worth them travelling all this way?"

"Although Earth Mother Spirit Liquid is a rare and precious heaven and earth treasure, it doesn't usually cause too much disturbance, because most people can't refine high-grade Dan medicine." Dantai Yonigi said. "But there is a recent rumor that Master Danding wants to accept some students.

They're probably buying the Earth Mother Spirit Liquid to present it as a gift, in hopes of building relationships with Master Danding."

Without waiting for him to finish, Tuoba Gaozhan immediately added, "A few months ago, Master Danding mentioned that he wanted to purchase Earth Mother Spirit Liquid. The families who have come must have prospective candidates with good talent for alchemy."

Master Danding?

Wang Shouzhe had heard of this big shot.

This person supposedly started out as an independent cultivator. He accidentally obtained an alchemy heritage when he was young, and after countless hardships, he finally became a Master.

However, he prefers to travel around like an idle cloud and wild crane, making it impossible for ordinary families to connect with him.

Mentioning this, a thought popped into Wang Shouzhe's mind.

His brother Wang Shouye also chose the alchemy route. He had mediocre talent originally, but Wang Shouzhe left him a Bridal Clothes Blood Gu. Not long ago, he broke through the second barrier of the God Martial Dynasty trial dungeon at the peak of Qi Refinement, and got a Heavenly Spirit Pill and a Primary Talent Improvement Liquid.

With these two items, his bloodline was already awakened to the second layer, which allowed him to join the ranks of the "Sky Pride".

However, Wang Shou Ye was obsessed with alchemy and did not devote enough time to honing his combat skills, so he doesn't even possess a top-grade spiritual artifact.

Currently, he should be on the verge of impacting the Spirit Platform Stage.

If he were to succeed in breaking through, he would be able to awaken the third level Fire Departure Bloodline. With his talent, he was simply wasting his abilities remaining in the Danfang of the Changning Xu Family.

Originally, Wang Shouzhe was considering finding a suitable master for Wang Shouye while sending his daughter to the Academic Palace.

He didn't expect that a pillow would come flying while he was dozing off.

A bottle of Earth Mother Spirit Liquid, huh?

Wang Shouzhe's eyes narrowed slightly, a plan forming in his mind.

Soon after, the auction officially began.

Because this auction was quite grand, the person presiding over it was an old man in the Heavenly Human Boundary.

"The rules of our Hundred Treasures Pavilion are clear to all of our honorable guests." His face was stern. "No threats to other customers are allowed during the auction, no irrational bidding and then backing out. I won't say more. The first item up for auction is a Cold Crystal Spear, a Mysterious Ice Spiritual Artifact of lower grade, with a starting price of 26,000 Qian Gold."

The moment his voice faded, continuous bids started resounding from below.

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"Twenty-eight thousand!"

"Twenty-eight thousand five hundred!"

"..."

Those who are bidding now are mainly from common booths which host grade 8 or 9 families, many of whom have concealed their voices and identities.

Soon, the "Cold Crystal Spear" was cheerfully taken by a grade eight or nine aristocratic family at the final transaction price of thirty-three thousand Qian gold.

Then, the second item for auction was brought up.

"Third Grade Spirit Pill - 'Big Gathering Spirit Pill', twenty in total. The starting price is fifty thousand Qian Gold." the auctioneer announced.

"The Gathering Spirit Pill" is a third-grade spirit pill, categorized into ordinary Gathering Spirit Pill and Big Gathering Spirit Pill, which are extremely beneficial cultivation elixirs for Tianren Realm Cultivators. Especially the Big Gathering Spirit Pill, which usually costs three to four thousand each on regular purchase and has a very strong medicinal effect.

However, as an auxiliary cultivation type elixir, a price of several thousand each is already extremely expensive, and most Tianren Elders cannot afford it.

Of course, it's not that they can't afford fifty thousand Qian Gold, but they can't afford tens of thousands of Qian Gold every year...

A normal Seventh Rank Tianren Elder of a prominent family consumes several thousand Qian Gold worth of Spirit Food to replenish energy every year and takes a Gathering Spirit Pill every two or three months. This is considered a basic consumption, with an annual cost around ten thousand Qian Gold.

However, under such circumstances, the progress of their cultivation base is extremely slow and can only be considered as maintenance. It may not even reach the mid-stage of the Tianren Realm after a hundred years of cultivation, and it is basically cut off from reaching the Purple Abode.

Yet even an expenditure of tens of thousands of Qian Gold a year is a tremendous expense for most Tianren families. A hundred years is equivalent to a million! If you live for more than two hundred years, that's an expense of over two million Qian Gold.

A normal 7th-rank aristocratic family, even if you add up all their assets, they may not total more than three or four million Qian Gold. Plus, they still need to save up resources for Tianren alternation to prevent the family from falling off the Seventh Rank.

Therefore, the more expensive and less cost-effective Big Gathering Spirit Pill is not necessary for ordinary 7th-rank prominent families. Only some strong Grade Seven prominent families who want to reach a higher level will need it.

"Fifty one thousand!"

Someone from the booth bid, without hiding their identity, from the Wang family of Zhenze Guard.

"Fifty-five thousand." Wang Shouzhe bid.

"So, it's Lord Changning Wang." The person from the Wang family clearly recognized Wang Shouzhe's identity and said to Wang Shouzhe, "The Big Gathering Spirit Pill is not a rare Heaven and Earth treasure. With some effort, it can be bought in many places. But our family's Elder Kun Yuan is currently in closed-door cultivation, striving for a breakthrough. I hope Lord Wang will not compete with us.

Sixty thousand!"

He directly raised the price by five thousand, which also showed that he didn't want to offend the Wang family and sincerely wanted it.

The auctioneer elder frowned, but ultimately did not speak.

As long as they weren't threatening the other party, the Hundred Treasures Pavilion would turn a blind eye to this kind of borderline situation.

Striving for a breakthrough?

Wang Shouzhe, Dantai Family Master, and Tuoba Family Head all looked at each other, all seeing a trace of surprise in each other's eyes.

The Wang family is already a strong Seventh Rank family, and their first Elder, Wang Kun Yuan, is already a seasoned mid-stage Tianren realm cultivator. If he is now in closed-door cultivation striving for a breakthrough, it is very likely that he is going for the major breakthrough from the sixth to seventh level of the Tianren Realm.

If he succeeds, he might become the first Tianren at the advanced stage among the Southern Six Guards. That's quite impressive!

"In that case, I will wish Elder Kun Yuan an early promotion to the Advanced Stage of the Tianren Realm on behalf of Shouzhe." Wang Shouzhe laughed heartily and actually stopped bidding.

It's not that he fears the Zhenze Wang family, but that starting a quarrel with the Wang family over such a trivial matter is simply not worth it. As the Wang family said, although the Big Gathering Spirit Pill is rare, it can still be obtained with time and effort.

"Thank you, Master Shouzhe, for your accommodation." The head of the Wang Family also happily laughed, "Master Shouzhe, when you have time, please visit our Zhenze Wang family as a guest. I will certainly do my best to entertain you."

"Absolutely, I, Shouzhe, have long wanted to go to the Zhenze guard to experience the scenery of the Great Wilderness Dream Marsh." Wang Shouzhe chatted amiably.

The Great Wilderness Dream Marsh is an extremely dangerous boundless marsh and belongs to beyond the boundary. The Zhenze Guard is located at its corner, hence the name "Zhenze Guard".

In the midst of their exchange, the twenty Big Gathering Spirit Pills fell into the hands of the Wang family. The final transaction price was slightly lower than the market price, so it was a minor bargain.

After that, several more lots were auctioned off one by one.

Although Wang Shouzhe was somewhat tempted, he planned to spend his money on the essentials, so he did not take the initiative to bid.

Until the "Earth Mother Spirit Liquid" appeared.

"The starting price is one hundred thousand."

As soon as the auctioneer's voice fell.

Wang Shouzhe quickly said: "One hundred and ten thousand Qian Gold! Gentlemen from other clans, please give me, Wang family, a face. There are only two things that Wang family will bid for, Earth Mother Spirit Liquid and Purple Thunder Sword."

As soon as his voice fell, Dantai Yonigi and Tuoba Gaozhan immediately looked at Wang Shouzhe with strange eyes.

So you have your eyes on the Earth Mother Spirit Liquid as well.

What impresses them the most is the ingenuity behind Wang Shouzhe's thoughts. He was the first to bid and expressed his demand for Earth Mother Spirit Liquid and Purple Thunder Sword.

In this way, even if he competes with others to raise the price later, it's just a matter of financial capability. It won't give people the feeling that Wang Shouzhe is deliberately quarreling with them.

At this time, after Wang Shouzhe's voice fell, the auction venue was silent.

After a few heartbeats, a soft voice came from the booth of the Corridor Sun's Family: "We, from the Corridor Sun's Family, are sorry. We also need this treasure. Let's bid fairly."

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"Exactly, it's a fair competition, based on our own abilities." Someone spoke up from the box of the Liu Clan from Chu Yun, "Master Shouzhe, while we do share some friendship, I cannot pass up on this item."

"We, the Yuwen Clan from Xincheng, also want this item. Let's all compete fairly and not be calculative." The far-flung Yuwen Clan from Xincheng also made their voices heard.

A faint smile emerged on the corners of Wang Shouzhe's mouth.

It was necessary to stake a claim early on. That way, the bidding war that followed would be seen as them not giving face to the Wang family, instead of the Wang family not giving face to them.

It was just a bit of scheming, all for the sake of avoiding unnecessary trouble. Wang Shouzhe was keen to avoid unnecessary disputes.

Of course, if anyone truly failed to understand the situation, the Wang family wouldn't fear making enemies.

"One hundred fifteen thousand."

"One hundred twenty thousand."

"One hundred forty thousand."

"One hundred eighty thousand. I, Wang Mou, need this item greatly for my brother to become a disciple of Master Danding." Wang Shouzhe spoke loudly, "If anyone wants to compete, my maximum limit is three hundred thousand. If anyone is willing to exceed this price, I would admit defeat."

Three hundred thousand?

Surprised gasps and murmurs arose from the various boxes.

This price had exceeded the market price of the Earth Mother Spirit Liquid by more than double. It had also greatly passed their mental threshold.

The few out-of-town prominent families fell into silence, one after another.

The wealth showcased by the Wang family was somewhat terrifying.

Is this newly risen celestial prominent family so rich?

The message Wang Shouzhe's words undoubtedly transmitted to them was clear. Either outbid three hundred thousand to acquire the item, or withdraw. If they were to help raise the price to three hundred thousand for the Hundred Treasures Pavilion against Wang's family, it would definitely invite their displeasure.

All prominent families would weigh the pros and cons carefully. After all, their greatest desire was for their clans to prosper indefinitely. If they went around offending everyone like mad dogs, it would inevitably lead to a downfall sooner or later.

"Out of respect for the Wang family, my Liu Clan from Chu Yun will not compete. Liu Mou will consider other methods." The head of the Liu clan from Chu Yun was the first to back down.

His son, Liu Yunlong, was happily tagging along with Wang Luoqiu at the Academic Palace. It was something he couldn't ignore.

"Alright then, my Yuwen Clan was just trying our luck here. If it's not meant to be, we should let it go."

"Haha, the Wang family is indeed ambitious and has a hidden depth." A hearty laugh came from the box of the Sun Clan, "If the price exceeds three hundred thousand, the Sun Clan cannot afford it. Master Shouzhe, you're always welcome to be our guest along with Old Ancestor Longyan."

The money they had was not gained from the wind. With this price, they could buy two servings of Earth Mother Spirit Liquid elsewhere. It wasn't worth it for them to create unnecessary conflict with the Wang family.

The more ancient a prominent family, the more descendants it has, the higher their expenses. They would always have their own considerations and evaluations regarding any deal.

"One hundred eighty thousand, sold. Congratulations to the Changning Wang Family on winning the bottle of 'Earth Mother Spirit Liquid'." The elderly auctioneer's face somewhat darkened.

He had originally estimated that because of the special demand for the Earth Mother Spirit Liquid, it could fetch a price upwards of two hundred thousand.

However, the Wang family's unexpected interference ended up making it sell for only one hundred eighty thousand.

The Wang family played such a ruthless trick. And moreover, they played their trick after bidding three thousand more than the market price, clogging up his throat. He didn't know whether to react or not. It was indeed hard for him to swallow.

"Thank you all for your concessions." Wang Shouzhe said loudly, "Next, apart from the Purple Thunder Sword, the Wang family will not bid for anything else. If anyone else is interested, we will all bid fairly, letting the Qian Gold speak for itself, to avoid further disputes."

Such a fierce determination...

However, they do have sufficient confidence.

Subsequently, after several low-grade magical items were auctioned off, it was time for the highlight item of this auction - the Purple Thunder Sword.

This time, the auctioneer said in advance: "Ladies and gentlemen, we at Hundred Treasures Pavilion need to earn our keep too. I kindly urge everyone not to make unnecessary comments while bidding. Otherwise, we will strip you of your auction eligibility."

With his warning in place,

The bidders have become much more cautious and dared not utter any "nonsensical" remarks, for fear of being blacklisted and face troubles.

After a wrangle of contention, Wang Shouzhe eventually won the mid-grade magical weapon - the Purple Thunder Sword for a price of five hundred ninety thousand Qian Gold.

Following today, the already highly thought-of Wang family in the Southern Six Guards saw their prestige and evaluation among the celestial families rise even more.

Now possessing both offensive and defensive mid-grade magical treasures, Old Ancestor Longyan's combat power is extremely daunting. Given a few years of solidifying her cultivation base, even ordinary mid-stage Heavenly Humans wouldn't be a match for her.

Regrettably, what they didn't know was, they were still underestimating Old Ancestor Longyan to great extent.

Except for a few allies, the overwhelming majority of prominent families knew very little about Old Ancestor Longyan's true prowess.

As early as during her Spirit Platform Realm, she had achieved the Fourth Level of Bloodline Spirit Body. Now, upon upgrading to the Heavenly Human Realm, she has awakened the Fifth Level of Bloodline!

Given some time, she would be able to put up a fight, not just against an average Heavenly Human in the mid-stage but also against Fang Youan.

Chapter 3: Shou Zhe! Being handsome is the original sin_1

...

After the auction.

Wang Shouzhe politely refused the invitations from the Tuoba Family and Dan Tai Clan to stay for a while, promptly withdrawing under the pretext of sending his daughter to the Academic Palace to avoid being dragged into the vortex of their conflict.

Of course, this reason is true.

This year, his eldest daughter, Wang Liyao, is already nineteen and his eldest son, Wang Zong'an, is sixteen. Both have reached the age to go to the Academic Palace.

Out of the two, his eldest daughter, Wang Liyao, is incredibly talented with unlimited future potential. The platform provided by the Wang family is too small for her; she will certainly be going the Academic Palace route in the future.

Some years ago, on behalf of his wife, Liu Ruolan, he had already written a letter to her name-recorded master, the Sky Master of Tian Lake School in the Purple Abode College, to inform him of Liyao's basic situation and initially expressed the intention to accept her as a disciple.

This time going out, Wang Shouzhe is prepared to drop her off at the Academic Palace along the way.

As for Zong'an, although he didn't get the Bridal Clothes Blood Gu, over the years, he has bought many Blood Refining Pills, Enlightenment Pills, and Bone Marrow Cleansing Pills for him to improve his qualifications and he has taken a round of all these Dan medicines.

Last year, Zong'an broke through the second level of the Divine Martial Dynasty's trial dungeon and got the Junior Bloodline Aptitude Improvement Liquid. Now his bloodline is awakened to the second level. In the Academic Palace, he can be considered as a "Sky Pride".

However, Zong'an is the legitimate eldest son and it is unsuitable for him to go the Academic Palace route, so Wang Shouzhe never had plans to let him join the Academic Palace fully.

He is taking him along this time just to let him be an Ordinary Disciple in the Academic Palace for a few years, in order to broaden his horizons and avoid living under the shelter of the Wang family from an early age, lest he becomes a frog in a well.

The world is so huge, and Changning is just a small part of it.

As the saying goes, "Born in woe, die in peace," only by seeing the vastness of the world can you realize how tiny you are. And only then can you always harbor a heart filled with awe and not make some low-level mistakes because you think too highly of yourself.

Yin Yuzhe of the Yinsha Sect is a typical example.

If he didn't hold himself in such high regard and disregard Huangfu Hua Ye and Huangfu Jinghuan, with his Direct Disciple skills from the Yinsha Sect, how could he have been so easily killed?

...

Half a month later, the Wang family's caravan arrived at Longzuo County City.

This is Wang Shouzhe's second time to Longzuo County City. The last time he was here was when Luo Qiu and Luo Jing were sent to the Academic Palace.

Eleven years later, the county town walls still stand as lofty as they used to be.

The traces on the city wall are mottled with the marks of the years but still as sturdy and robust, giving a heavy sense of oppression as if they could stand for thousands or even tens of thousands of years without change.

However, the Wang family is not what it used to be.

Looking at this scene, Wang Shouzhe is also filled with emotions.

Last time they came, the Wang family were an 8th Grade Prominent Family, and now, they are a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family.

The noble families are numerous in Da Qian. Each grade brings different statuses and treatments.

In the past, when the Wang Family came to the county city, they needed to be received by the host family. Now, with the current status and position, even without a guide, they can directly pass through the VIP passage into the city and enjoy the courteous attitudes and admiring eyes of the city guards.

After handing out the name cards, the city guard immediately put on a warm smile, leading the Wang family's caravan to the VIP channel.

Accompanied by the rolling sounds of the carriage wheels, the caravan slowly entered the city.

After entering the city, Wang Shouzhe and his party didn't first visit Longzuo's Wang family but went directly to a storefront in the South Market.

This storefront has three streetside entrances with seven or eight courtyards that can accommodate people, the location is quite good. Of course, the price is also quite good.

Even the Wang family's wealth felt a major dent by buying the place. It cost a lot of Qian Gold.

County towns are county towns after all. The price of prime real estate of the same size is more than ten times that of Changning. The three storefronts plus some courtyards actually cost the Wang family nearly 150,000 Qian Gold.

Fortunately, the storefront now sells luxury goods, mirrors, glass products, and cosmetics produced by the Wang family. Although the operating time is short and the situation has not completely opened up, it still has a profit of several thousand Qian Gold each year.

If this expensive shop was used to sell salted fish and other common goods, it would take hundreds of years to recover the capital.

Wang Shouzhe expended a decent cost to have a foot in the county city for the future development of the Wang family. As the Wang family grows stronger and stronger, the frequency of visiting the county city will inevitably increase. It's not like they can always stay at the house of Longzuo's Wang family, right?

Even if the relationship between the two families is good, they have separated and become different branches. Over time, there are always times when it's not convenient.

"Fourth brother, sister-in-law, you're here."

Seeing the caravan stopping at the doorstep, Wang Shounuo, already in his mid-forties, immediately came out from the storefront.

After paying his respects to Wang Shouzhe and everyone else who came with him, he immediately commanded the young servants to lead the carriages straight into the inner courtyard.

That's right.

The person in charge of the storefront in the county city is Wang Family's "Shou" generation's third child, Wang Shounuo.

The population of the Wang family is gradually flourishing, but the growth of the clan members takes time, and there is still a shortage of those who can handle things on their own. Plus, with the Wang family's industries expanding, there is a need for clan members to manage each place, thus the manpower remains short.

Wang Shounuo is in his prime and has advanced to become a Spirit Platform Realm Cultivator with the support of his family. It is very suitable for him to be in charge of expanding the industry in the county city.

Chapter 3: Shou Zhe! Being handsome is the original sin_2

Of course, he was the only one here, his children were all staying in the main residence, taken care of by Shounuo's wife, and undergoing unified training of the clan.

The interior residence had been tidied up long ago. With the help of many house servants and the head of household, Wang Shouzhe and his party were quickly settled in.

This time, Elder Longyan came along with Wang Shouzhe.

After Wang Shounuo paid respects to Elder Longyan, the three of them held a small meeting together.

Elder Longyan's visit to Longzuo County was low-profile this time, to avoid giving the impression of the main residence being vacant. Of course, Wang Shouzhe had not actually left the defenses of the main residence empty.

With his wife Liu Ruolan in charge, if ordinary Tianren Realm Cultivators dare to act recklessly in Ping'an Town, they most likely wouldn't fare well.

"Third Brother, your assignment in the county town has resulted in your separation from your family, it's difficult for you." Wang Shouzhe clasped his hands in acknowledgment.

"Fourth Brother, what are you talking about?" Wang Shounuo quickly returned the gesture, "We are all part of the Wang family, and it is our duty to contribute to the family. I am incapable of handling big matters, so there is no hardship in doing small things within our sphere. Moreover, I rush home at the end of the year, it only takes eight or nine days."

"Once the little ones at home grow older, I'll let them follow Third Brother and learn to handle affairs." said Wang Shouzhe, "With them here, you can go back to see your family every three or four months."

Any clan that sends out members doesn't dispatch their entire family. For example, sending his wife and children here to live together.

Doing so can indeed keep the family together, but over time, it will gradually cause the family to lose its cohesion and centripetal force.

If everyone works outside using their small families as units, it wouldn't even take a hundred years for the whole family to disintegrate.

"It's no problem." Wang Shounuo said, "The growth of the family is not easy. Countless clan predecessors have paid the price of life for the family. I'm just doing my part for the family, Fourth Brother, you worry too much."

Upon hearing this, Wang Shouzhe was also somewhat emotional.

In this world full of prominent families, the concept and ideology of many people's families is very different from that of modern Chinese.

Like Wang Shounuo, his wife and children were all in the main residence, and once separated, it was for an entire year. To Wang Shounuo, it was all commonplace, suffering at most from longing, he was not reluctant at all.

His wife and children also thought that it is natural as long as the family needs it.

The rest of the clan members also didn't think anything was out of the ordinary.

Only Wang Shouzhe, who was once a "modern man," felt somewhat guilty towards Shounuo and his wife and children.

"Let's not talk about this for now, let's switch topics." Wang Shouzhe sat down with Elder Longyan and Wang Shounuo and said, "You have been collecting news from the County town for the past two years, and you have been quite successful. Please tell us, how is the Wang family in Longzuo doing recently?"

This time at the Celestial Banquet, Elder Zhou Bo still couldn't make himself available. Only the Family Head and Elder went very low-profile to the Wang family, gave a congratulatory gift. Soon afterward, they hurried back.

Although they didn't say anything, Wang Shouzhe could guess that the Wang family in Longzuo must have encountered trouble.

It just seems that the other party does not want to entangle Changning Wang Clan, so they have been evasive, trying to solve it on their own.

But the Changning Wang Clan and the Wang family of Longzuo are of the same branch, not only have they been helped by the Wang family of Longzuo in the past, a few years ago in the incident at Fallen Eagle Gorge, Elder Zhou Bo even risked his life to personally take action to deal with Elder Hua Ye, and did not take any rewards afterwards.

With such a camaraderie, Wang Shouzhe naturally couldn't just watch them in trouble and pretend to know nothing.

"Fourth Brother is right, the Wang family in Longzuo did encounter a problem." Upon Wang Shouzhe's mentioning of the matter, Wang Shounuo's expression suddenly turned serious, "I carefully investigated through subtle inquiries and the network I've built over the years, and I've finally uncovered part of the truth. Here's what happened..."

Through Wang Shounuo's account, Wang Shouzhe gradually understood everything.

As an old prominent family, the Wang family of Longzuo was once a Grade Five Prominent Family and had countless properties at their brightest time. However, due to continuous decline over the years and loss of ancestral property, apart from the untouched main residence and a few remaining stores, the clan now only relies on several farms outside the County Town for profit.

In recent years, the Wang family in Longzuo, following Wang Shouzhe's suggestion, vacated some of the housing in the main residence for keen management of "the Purple Abode Palace". They gradually accumulated a considerable fortune, and gradually had the thought of cultivating a second Tianren Realm cultivator and rising again, to restore their ancestral glory.

During the clearance of the past agreements of the family, they found a land lease agreement from three hundred and thirty years ago, which had actually expired thirty years ago.

Thus, Elder Zhou Bo tried to reclaim these two thousand acres or so of ancestral fields.

"But the other party kept evading, and conflicts eventually broke out between the two sides. Now the friction between the Wang family in Longzuo and this other family is escalating, and the conflict is deepening. If this continues, the Wang family in Longzuo is likely to suffer. Fourth Brother, my foundation in the County Town is too shallow, and I can't get to the bottom of the details.

But the other family is not weak, they should have one Tianren Realm mid-stage, and one Tianren Realm early-stage ancestor. Elder Zhou Bo is having difficulty coping and may be caught off guard."

Chapter 3: Shou Zhe! Being handsome is the original sin_3

"I see," Wang Shouzhe nodded, "The opposing party should only be a powerful seventh-rank family. If they were already at sixth-rank, Old Ancestor Zhou Bo would not dare to feud with them."

A powerful seventh-rank family is the top-tier family in the Southern Six Guards area, even the Changning Wang Clan would not wish to offend them.

However, in the county town where prominent families gather, a powerful seventh-rank could hardly be considered top-tier but rather average. There were still many more powerful than them.

Old Ancestor Longyan had been quietly listening on the side. At this point, a flash of coldness passed through her eyes: "Hmph, that family is so arrogant and bullying. It is infuriating. Shouzhe, the Longzuo Wang Clan has been good to us. You must think of a way for Old Ancestor Zhou Bo."

"Old Ancestor, rest assured." Wang Shouzhe made a formal bow and said, "It was already in the plans to assist the Longzuo Wang Clan in town. However, our Changning Wang Clan's foundation in the county town is still shallow and we lack detailed intelligence. Let me find a friend to inquire about it first."

...

Two hours later, the headquarter of the Hundred Flavors Pavilion.

In a room on the third floor, Wang Shouzhe leisurely sipped the fragrant tea he held.

The room was decorated elegantly, with famous paintings hanging on the walls, incense wafting around, curtains hanging loose, and the faint sounds of stringed music drifting from below, creating a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere.

Even without the delicacies, the decoration and atmosphere were enough to make people linger.

The tea being served to guests was lingering and aromatic, not inferior to that used by the Wang Clan itself.

The Hundred Flavors Pavilion has been passed down for a thousand years and truly had something special.

Just as Wang Shouzhe was pondering.

Suddenly.

A woman with a graceful figure lifted the curtain and walked in.

She was wearing a light crimson gauze dress. As she moved, the ethereal skirt gently swayed with her steps, showing a natural and captivating charm.

It was a charm that only married women possessed, mature and enchanting, especially her captivating eyes, filled with a charming lustre.

Wang Shouzhe looked up and smiled slightly, "My Lady Bilian, it has been a while. I thought you were not going to see me."

"How could I dare not to see the family head of the prestigious Changning Wang Clan? On the contrary, it is Master Shouzhe who came to see me, an old acquaintance, which is quite remarkable~" Lady Bilian glanced behind Wang Shouzhe with a sidelong glance, "Where's that gluttonous niece of yours? Hasn't she come along with you?"

Clearly, Wang Licui had left a profound impression on her. The money spent treating her to a meal could be enough for ten meals for others.

"She has been traveling with her master for some years now, and I haven't seen her for a while. Even for the clan's celestial feast, she couldn't make it back." Wang Shouzhe picked up his teacup and took a sip, casually laughing, "If Lady Bilian misses her, I'll let her stay here for a while when she returns from her travels."

Upon hearing this, Lady Bilian who had just sat down almost dropped the tea in her hand.

She glared at Wang Shouzhe in annoyance, "I don't miss her. Such a brilliant child, it's better you Wang Family raise her~~ speak up, what's the matter this time? In view of your handsome and valiant appearance, as long as it's not too difficult, I will help."

Indeed, Wang Shouzhe did have a request. Upon hearing this, he didn't beat around the bush and directly asked, "Do you know about the Zhang family in Longzuo?"

"The Zhang family? So you came here for this." Lady Bilian faintly frowned, "I heard that there is some enmity between the Zhang clan and the Wang clan. Over the past few years, due to industrial disputes, several conflicts have arisen."

Her business, the Hundred Flavors Pavilion, is a thousand years old and has extensive connections. Particularly, the happenings within the county town seldom escaped her attention.

"Although the Zhang clan is not prosperous, it is a well-established prominent family that has come up in the past six or seven hundred years. Its network of contacts and relationships are much stronger than the recently declined Longzuo Wang clan, and even have some connection with my Yuwen Clan.

However, in terms of relationships and resources, your Changning Wang Clan is stronger." Lady Bilian looked at Wang Shouzhe with a smile, "If you have any needs, I can mediate and resolve the enmity between the Zhang Clan and the Wang Clan."

"Mediation?" Wang Shouzhe shook his head, "Thank you for your kind intentions, Lady. But how could the Zhang family be willing to spit out the fat they have swallowed? Thanks to your warning, Lady, I know what to do now. Thank you for your help today, Lady. I will take my leave."

Having said this, he put down his teacup, ready to bid farewell and leave.

"Hold on."

Lady Bilian wasn't going to let him off that easily.

"I've already helped you. You can't just walk away like that, right? Right now I also have a difficult matter that I hesitate to bring up. I need your help. After all, Master Shouzhe is so handsome and excellent..."

During her speech, she sized up Wang Shouzhe with beautiful eyes, the light in her eyes indicating something.

This...

Wang Shouzhe felt a chill running down his spine. He thought to himself, "Could Lady Bilian have harbored some unruly thoughts because she had been living alone for so long and found him too handsome?"

He was awkward and quickly pretended to drink tea, "Lady, actually I'm very ordinary..."

"Master Shouzhe, do you believe that?" Lady Bilian shot a sideways glance at him, "For a man of such profound depth and outstanding posture like Master Shouzhe, it's hard to find a few even if you search throughout Longzuo County."

"Well..... but I'm not that familiar with the Lady. Since it's hard for you to speak, you better not reveal it. Please excuse me."

Wang Shouzhe cleared his throat and immediately made a quick exit.

Lady Bilian was fuming, "Well done, Wang Shouzhe! When you needed my help, one beg letter was all it took for me to push away important guests to see you. Now that I need your help, you're telling me that we're not familiar? Do you really think I'm easy to bully?!"

"No, I've been putting up with this matter for a long time. Only a man as excellent and handsome as you can solve it. A fixed price, fifty thousand Qian Gold!"

"What?"

Wang Shouzhe staggered, nearly falling to the ground.

No, has he been hit by a beauty with money again?

Isn't it just that he looks a bit too handsome and a bit too excellent? Why is life so hard?

Chapter 4 Shou Zhe! It's actually Shou Zhe who's come_1

...

Fifty thousand Qian Gold, that's really not a small amount.

The Changning Wang Clan is shaping up well now and they seem to have a lot of money.

However, the larger the clan, the higher the expenses, such as feeding the clan members various Spirit Pills and Spirit Foods which are huge expenses. But if these expenses were saved, how could the Wang family catch up with those families who have been developing for hundreds to thousands of years, based on its current foundation?

Therefore, even though the Wang Clan's earning capacity is strong, they still lack money severely.

What if?

Wang Shouzhe's heart was slightly moved...

But this thought only flashed by, and he immediately became firm again in his resolve.

Wang Shouzhe, Wang Shouzhe, you must hold your baseline and don't be tempted by money...

"I'll add another fifty thousand, a total of one hundred thousand Qian Gold." Lady Bilian immediately increased the bid when she saw Wang Shouzhe wavering, with a flauntingly generous air, "I know the Changning Wang Clan is rich. But the opportunity to earn an extra one hundred thousand Qian Gold without any hassle is not frequent, don't you want to consider it, Master Shouzhe?"

Without any hassle?

Wang Shouzhe glanced at her deeply.

Lady Bilian, aren't you underestimating me? However, to avoid being beaten to death by my wife, I'd better not earn that one hundred thousand Qian Gold.

"Lady Biliand, please stop talking nonsense." He stood up immediately, with righteous and stern words, "I am already married, and such inappropriate thoughts... Lady, don't mention them again."

"Uh... Master Shouzhe, did you misunderstand?" Lady Bilian was slightly stiff in her expression, a touch of surprise flashed in her seductive eyes, "One hundred thousand Qian Gold, what are you

thinking? If I really have such inappropriate intentions, this money would be enough... Pooh, Pooh~ Wang Shouzhe, I am not that kind of person."

Could it be that I really misunderstood?

Wang Shouzhe was stunned, and then frowned immediately, "Or does some improper young master have his eyes on you, and you need me to stand as a shield?"

"Master Shouzhe, don't think too much." Lady Bilian couldn't help but roll her eyes at him, "You also think about it, with the status of yours truly, who dares to force me to do things I don't want to do? If someone really didn't know any better, yours truly would have sent dozens of heads of households to chop him into minced meat."

Okay~ It is indeed true that Lady Bilian's background is not small.

It is said that she is the legitimate daughter of a certain Purple Abode Prominent Family, and her current husband's family, the Yuwen Clan, although it has fallen from the Purple Abode Prominent Family, is still a very strong Rank Six Prominent Family, and not just anyone would want to provoke them.

"If it's not this and not that, what exactly does Lady Bilian want to do?"

Wang Shouzhe was helpless.

You can't blame him for thinking too much, he simply couldn't imagine what kind of situation would need a handsome and outstanding man to solve.

Lady Bilian frowned slightly, "This matter is related to some secrets of our Yuwen Clan. If I say it out, even if Master Shouzhe does not want to help, please keep it a secret."

Wang Shouzhe pondered for a bit, "I can keep a secret. But whether or not I can help will need my thorough consideration."

"Based on the status of your Changning Wang Clan and your own reputation, Wang Shouzhe, I'll trust you this time." Lady Bilian hesitated slightly, but finally spoke, "This matter is about the Old Ancestor of our Yuwen Clan. He once adopted a Spirit Beast—a Three-tailed Fire Spirit Fox."

"As you know, multiple-tailed Spirit Foxes are ancient Spirit breeds with strong Bloodlines, and thus the Yuwen Clan has always been taking good care of it. Now that a thousand years have passed, she has reached the peak of Six Tails and is about to grow a seventh tail. By then, she will have greatly opened her Spiritual Intelligence and her strength will be comparable to the Purple Abode.

Our Yuwen Clan can also greatly increase our strength with this Seven-Tailed Spirit Fox, even if it is not a Purple Abode Prominent Family, we can deter all villains, and deter many covetous hearts."

Wang Shouzhe was slightly surprised, "This is good news, isn't there any problem with it?"

He secretly wondered, the Yuwen Clan truly deserved to be a powerful Rank Six Prominent Family that had fallen from the Purple Abode Prominent Family, their foundation was indeed profound. Just that Six-tailed Fox at its peak alone could wipe out many Seventh-Rank Aristocratic Families.

"The problem is that this Six-Tailed Flame Demon Fox has a rather quirky temperament." Lady Bilian said helplessly, "She likes young and outstanding men who are handsome and feed her Heaven and Earth treasures. She particularly despises women and dislikes most ordinary men. Now that she is about to reach the breakthrough period, her requirements have become higher.

All those young and handsome men I used to make friends with, she doesn't care about them, and lazily refuses to advance."

Wang Shouzhe broke out into a cold sweat, so there is such a tricky Clan Guardian Spirit Beast?

For instance, the Spirit Tortoise at his home is so docile it's unbelievable.

However, with this, he understood why Lady Bilian liked to make friends with young and handsome men, and the reason was probably mostly here.

"You don't have to do anything else, just chat with her, as long as you can coax her into eating the Heaven and Earth Treasure for advancement, it's enough." Lady Bilian said, "Our Yuwen Clan's Six-Tailed Fire Demon Fox has a gentle temperament and other than this one problem, everything else is great.

As long as Master Shouzhe can fulfill the task, I will deliver the one hundred thousand Qian Gold on demand."

Although the Yuwen Clan is not as strong as it was at its peak, they still hold many resources. In the eyes of some ambitious people, they're like a large cake, and everyone wants to have a slice of the Yuwen Clan's wealth.

Chapter 4 Shou Zhe! It's actually Shou Zhe who's come_2

Now, the entire Yuwen Clan was feeling a strong sense of urgency, desiring to acquire the fighting power of the Purple Abode Realm as soon as possible.

"If it's just that, Shouzhe could perhaps give it a try," Wang Shouzhe proposed after some thought, "but I can't guarantee this undertaking. If I fail, I hope Madam will not blame me."

Upon hearing this, Lady Bilian's face lit up with joy, "Very good, as long as you're willing to help. In all of Longzuo County, it would be hard to find a candidate more suitable than Master Shouzhe. Regardless of success or failure, our Yuwen Clan will owe you a favor."

Learning this, Wang Shouzhe also felt delighted.

The strength of the Yuwen Clan, even among the top prominent families of Grade Six, was considered one of the strongest. Having the opportunity to put the Yuwen Clan in his debt was an absolute advantage for the Wang family, and no harm could come of it.

Besides, Lady Bilian from the Yuwen Clan was a direct descendant of a Purple Abode family. There was a chance they could return to the Purple Abode status in the future.

For the development of the entire Changning Wang Clan, having more friends always meant more options.

After that, Wang Shouzhe and Lady Bilian made some arrangements. Once he had taken care of his current affairs, he agreed to visit the Yuwen Clan.

...

A few days later.

More than two hundred miles west of the County Town in Longzuo County.

This area was densely populated with various villages, farms, and manors.

The closer one was to the County Town, the safer it was. Fierce beasts had long become extinct in these places. Generations of people had propagated here, forming towns.

Once upon a time, when the Longzuo Wang Clan was still of the Purple Abode, they owned countless manors. The tenant farmers and ordinary people under their rule numbered in hundreds of thousands.

Even without other income sources, the grain harvested every year alone was enough to bring continuous wealth to the Longzuo Wang Clan.

Unfortunately, times changed.

The Longzuo Wang Clan now only had a few medium-sized manors and tens of thousands of fertile acres. The number of tenant farmers they had was only a fraction of what it once was.

No matter how much wealth they inherited from their ancestors, after several failed attempts to ascend to Purple Abode status, they had gradually depleted it all.

It wasn't until this generation that Old Ancestor Zhubo discarded the facade of an old prominent family, established the Purple Abode Palace, and saw an increase in income. Only then did he consider reclaiming some of the family's ancestral farmland, hoping to build prosperity for future generations.

At this moment, a standoff was occurring next to a Longzuo Wang Manor.

On one side was a group from the Longzuo Wang Clan, led by Old Ancestor Zhubo. The Clan Head, Wang Xiaorui, Elder Wang Yuchen, and several other Elders of the Spirit Platform Realm from the "Chen", "Qiong", and "Xiao" generations trailed closely behind him.

Even judging from the number of Spirit Platform Realm Elders they had, the Longzuo Wang Clan's family foundation was not something the Changning Wang Clan could compare to.

From the "Yu" generation onwards, Elders survived in every generation.

Meanwhile, all the Elders of the "Chen" and "Qiong" generations of the Changning Wang Clan had already perished. There were only three left from the "Xiao" generation.

It was not until the "Shou" generation of Wang Shouzhe that the populace began to flourish.

The "Ding" and "Shou" generations of the Longzuo Wang Clan were also quite prosperous. Just the young men of the "Shou" generation alone seemed to number twenty or thirty. Wang Shouxin and Wang Shouyue, who Wang Shouzhe was familiar with, were impressive young men of the "Shou" generation.

The total number of Spirit Platform Realm cultivators in the Longzuo Wang Clan had now reached twenty-one.

The oldest among them was Elder Wang Yuchen, who was nearing one hundred and seventy years old. Looking at his aged and frail appearance, it was clear that the end of his life was near.

The youngest Spirit Platform Realm cultivator was now the direct descendant of the Clan Head Wang Xiaorui, Wang Shouyue.

Compared to more than ten years ago, he had matured considerably, and with the great development of the family, he had smoothly advanced to the Spirit Platform Realm.

According to Old Ancestor Zhubo, the family had plans to cultivate him into a Celestial-Type.

The large population of the Longzuo Wang Clan was quite understandable.

After all, when Old Ancestor Zhou Xuan went to Changning to make his fortune, he only took two sons with him. After more than a hundred years of reproduction, even with many having been lost to beast calamities, the population had grown to more than fifty.

For a Celestial family with hundreds of years of heritage, having hundreds of clansmen was to be expected.

The Longzuo Wang Clan had even more profound heritage. If it weren't for their extreme poverty, the clan's population might have been even bigger.

On the other side of the standoff with the Longzuo Wang Clan was the Zhang family, who were noticeably more prosperous than the Longzuo Wang Clan, with abundant manpower among old and young. Just the Elders of the Spirit Platform Realm, surpassed twenty individuals.

The muscular, white-bearded elderly man leading them exuded an aura as deep and intimidating as a bottomless cold lake.

This man was the number one Celestial Elder of the Longzuo Zhang Clan, Zhang Hongqing.

Everyone referred to him as "Old Ancestor Hongqing".

Old Ancestor Hongqing, nearing three hundred years old, had already reached the mid-stage of the Heavenly Human Realm. Seeing that there was no hope for advancing to the Purple Abode in his lifetime, he gave up on further cultivation and maintained his cultivation base with minimal consumption. He left the majority of the resources to his descendants.

"Wang Zhubo, the contract you've brought is three hundred years old," Old Ancestor Hongqing's voice boomed, "Those involved are no longer here. How am I supposed to believe this contract is real? Since I was born, those manors have belonged to our Zhang Clan. Now you claim that they belong to your Wang Clan - this is outrageous.

Don't think that because our Zhang Clan seems weak, we can be easily bullied."

Chapter 4 Shou Zhe! It's actually Shou Zhe who's come_3

Elder Zhubo Wang was trembling with anger, "Zhang Hongqing, this contract was made from a Level Five Fierce Beast's skin; be it in terms of age or the various ways to determine its authenticity, it's an item from over three hundred years ago. Are you planning to default on it now?"

"What a joke! What use is age verification?" A man around thirty from the Zhang family jumped out and retorted. "If we fabricated a contract now and brought it out centuries later claiming the main residence of the Ping'an Wang family belonged to us, would you accept it?"

"Zhang Guanwen! It's the elders' turn to speak, when is it your place to interrupt?" Seeing that it was him, Wang Shouyue's face changed and he angrily scolded, "If you have a problem, I, Wang Shouyue, will keep you company."

"Enough!" Elder Zhubo Wang's face grew grim, "Zhang Hongqing, the authenticity of it is apparent to you. Moreover, when this contract was signed, we made three copies, one for each of our clans and the other kept in the Prefecture Mansion. Surely you can't deny your obligations just because you want to?"

Upon finishing his speech, he turned to a scholarly middle-aged man standing beside him, and respectfully said, "Master Accountant Cui, we have asked for your presence today to request you to certify this matter."

The middle-aged man nodded slightly, then spoke with his hands behind his back, "I have already examined the relevant certified documents in the Prefecture Mansion, there indeed exists this fair contract."

Upon hearing this, the faces of the members of the Ping'an Wang family lit up and they all breathed a sigh of relief.

This way, let's see how the Zhang family can deny it.

However, Master Accountant Cui's words weren't over yet: "However... a hundred years ago, the storeroom where the certified documents were kept was affected by a fire, and this document happened to be among them, many of the words have already become blurred and unrecognizable."

"What?"

Old Ancestor Zhubo Wang's face suddenly turned pale.

The Zhang family deny it so, it only made the conflict between the two sides rise. Original hope was in the Prefecture Mansion's certificate in suppressing the Zhang family.

But now...

Expectedly.

Zhang Hongqing scoffed coldly, "Without a clear certifying document, how can there be proof? Wang Zhubo, I advise you not to struggle relentlessly."

"Humph!" Elder Zhubo's face was extremely serious, "Our unworthy descendants squandered ninety-nine percent of our ancestors' estate. Yet, if we can't even recapture assets that rightfully belong to our clan, what face will I, Wang Zhubo, have in meeting our forefathers in the underworld?"

"In that case," said Accountant Cui, "The authenticity of this matter can no longer be verified. Since both your clans are endlessly disputing over this, why not settle it according to the traditional rules with a challenge, winner takes all. As the representative of the Prefecture Mansion, I can certify it.

After this matter, both sides ought to continue to live peacefully, they should not provoke conflicts over this matter again."

"I, Zhang Hongqing, am willing to accept the mediation from the prefectural governor office." After making this remark, Zhang Hongqing added, with narrowed eyes, while looking towards Ancestor Zhubo Wang, "Wang Zhubo, since things have come this far, any further dispute would be pointless. How about a duel between us to determine the victory or defeat?"

"Elder, you must not do this." Clan Leader Wang Xiaorui urgently discouraged him in a low voice, "Zhang Hongqing has been in the Mid-Stage of the Heavenly Human Realm for a long time now, we stand no chance of winning this battle."

The other clan elders also appeared extremely worried, actively trying to dissuade him.

Even if they couldn't reclaim the ancestral property this time, as long as they continued to operate the lavish and high-end bar "Purple Abode Palace", the Wang family of Longzuo would rise eventually.

Elder Zhubo Wang realized that the so-called Cui Master Accountant had likely sided with Zhang Hongqing long ago. As for how that so-called fire had occurred, there was still a chance for the truth to be told later~

As the saying goes, circumstances dictate. There's nothing they could do if the Wang's foundation and connections couldn't compete with theirs.

But!

Elder Zhubo Wang's eyes shrunk, and he suddenly exuded a fierce aura: "That is our ancestral property left by our ancestors, how can it just be swallowed up by someone without repercussions? I, Wang Zhubo, even if I have to stake my life on it, I won't let them have their way easily."

As he said that, he glanced at the Wang Xiaorui standing behind him: "If I die, please invite Shouzhe over to take the place as the Family Head for the next fifty years."

Upon hearing these words, Wang Xiaorui was startled and hurriedly tried to dissuade him again, but Elder Zhubo Wang pushed him away.

"Zhang Hongqing, I admit that your strength is greater. But if you're thinking of using this to bully the Wang family, I'm afraid you're not qualified enough." Elder Zhubo Wang stared at Zhang Hongqing with cold laughter.

As his words fell, he shook all over, and an immense and powerful Aura of Celestial Beings burst forth all at once.

The aura was as deep as a ravine or a prison, just like a cornered beast being pushed to the edge, counterattacking desperately. There was a kind of resolute and sharp aura of a do-or-die struggle without retreat.

Such being the case.

It was Zhang Hongqing's turn to change face now.

He looked somewhat indecisive. He hadn't anticipated that Wang Zhubo would stake his life over just twenty thousand mu of fertile fields.

Indeed!

Zhang Hongqing's strength was indeed superior to Wang Zhubo, but if they were both risking their lives, Wang Zhubo might not have no chance to take his life.

Even if it resulted in a mutual loss, it was not what Zhang Hongqing wanted to see.

The value of each Celestial Ancestor was far beyond these twenty thousand mu of fertile fields.

"Have you gone mad, Wang Zhubo?" Zhang Hongqing shouted angrily, "You need to think clearly, there's only one Celestial Ancestor in your family, if you die, who will protect the Wang family of Longzuo?"

Elder Zhubo Wang was about to speak.

Suddenly.

A calm and composed voice came from behind him, "Elder Zhubo Wang is right. If we can't even show concern when our ancestral property is being infringed upon, wouldn't our Wang family's backbone be broken?"

"We, the Wang family, although we will not pick fights without reason, we will also not let others trample on our heads."

"Not only should we fight this battle, we should display the spirit of the Wang family."

With the resonating words filling the air, a few silhouettes gradually walked out of the crowd, appearing in front of the confrontational mob.

The elders and young people of the Wang family's eyes brightened and joy started casting on their faces simultaneously.

"Shouzhe, it turns out it's Shouzhe who's here."

Chapter 5: Longyan shows its power! Suppressing the Mid Stage Celestial Being_1

...

Over the years, as the relationship between the two clans improved, the understanding of the Changning Wang Clan by the Longzuo Wang family became increasingly deep. The marvel of Wang Shouzhe also gradually embedded in people's hearts through various incidents, as if there were no issues he couldn't resolve as long as he was present.

Especially among the younger generation of the "Shou" and "Zong" generations, they admired Wang Shouzhe greatly, seeing him as their idol.

At this moment, as Wang Shouzhe came over, everyone felt a sense of relief and immediately greeted him.

"Greetings to Senior Zhou Bo, Clan Leader Xiao Rui, and all the clan elders," Wang Shouzhe greeted each of them politely and proportionately, leaving those from the Zhang family unheeded on the side.

The Changning Wang Clan sent not many people for support this time.

Other than Wang Shouzhe and Old Ancestor Longyan, there were only the siblings Wang Zong'an and Wang Liyao. Wang Shouzhe brought them along for the sake of letting them see more of the world.

After Wang Shouzhe greeted everyone, he let Wang Zong'an and Wang Liyao meet the elders. The atmosphere between the two sides was lively, like a large-scale family reunion.

The members of the Zhang family were so annoyed that their blood boiled, their facial expressions becoming extremely unfriendly.

"I was wondering who was so audacious," a middle-aged man from the Zhang family, robe clad with silk and face bearing a cold smile, said, "Turns out it's the newly risen Changning Wang Clan.

Humph, it's fine for your Changning Wang Clan to claim dominion in the country, but now that you've just ascended to the 7th rank, you think you're invincible and want to interfere in the affairs of the county town?"

The one speaking was Zhang Daoyong, the current head of the Zhang family.

The Changning Wang Clan's name may echo throughout the Southern Six Guards, but the Southern Six Guards are located remotely, and the county town is the capital of Longzuo County, crowded with prestigious families. It could be said that the most powerful prominent families in the entire Longzuo county are here.

A 7th-rank aristocratic family doesn't amount to much here, and a newly-promoted 7th-rank family like the Changning Wang Clan from a remote area naturally doesn't attract much attention from other prominent families.

Only related families or those paying attention to the Changning Wang Clan would have a slight understanding of this news.

The reason for the Longzuo Zhang family's focus on the Changning Wang Clan stems from the rift with the Longzuo Wang family in recent years, which prompted them to conduct a rudimentary investigation into the Changning Wang Clan.

In the eyes of the Zhang family, the Changning Wang Clan is just a newly promoted 7th-rank family in the rural areas, although slightly threatening, they didn't need to be overly guarded against them.

"The Zhang family?" Wang Shouzhe looked at Zhang Daoyong, with a smile that wasn't really a smile, "Our Wang family has always been kind to people, but we also do not fear any provocation. Since your Zhang family disregards face, reason, let's use fists to talk instead."

"Look to your fists for reasoning?" Zhang Daoyong glanced at the Wang family crowd, especially stopped on Old Ancestor Longyan for a while, his lips curling up in disdain, "Your clan's Wang Longyan may have some strength, but she is only newly ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm, wanting to compete with our Zhang family, she needs to polish her skills for another hundred years."

The Zhang family had a populous lineage, with two Heavenly Human Old Ancestors, so naturally, they spoke confidently.

But as soon as their words fell, an odd look flashed across Wang Shouzhe's face. Both Wang Liyao and Wang Zong'an twitched the corners of their mouth and turned their faces.

"Such a young lad, daring to boast, utterly ignorant of life and death!"

Wang Longyan sneered, a sweep of her eyes and an intense coldness suddenly erupted from her gaze.

In an instant, a terrifying aura rose from her, like a tsunami, rushing towards Zhang Daoyong.

The surrounding air seemed to freeze at this moment.

Zhang Daoyong's face turned pale, he was forced to step backwards by this terrifying aura.

He was drenched in cold sweat in an instant as he struggled to hold himself up, but was still shaking all over. His knees became weak, nearly kneeling down.

How could it be? How could she be so strong?!

Zhang Daoyong's eyes widened in disbelief, an instinctual sense of dread welling up in his heart.

He had a feeling that this woman, no, this Old Ancestor, really wanted to kill him!

"Enough!"

Seeing this, the expression on Old Ancestor Hongqing's face finally changed slightly.

He abruptly stepped forward, standing in front of Zhang Daoyong, and then flicked his sleeve.

The imposing force that was rushing towards him like a tsunami was scattered by the energy he cast, dispersing all around.

A surge of mysterious energy surrounded him, like a copper wall or iron barrier, blocking Zhang Daoyong.

Zhang Daoyong, who had a narrow escape from death, loosened his tense nerves and nearly tripped over, only managing to steady himself with the help of others.

Even now, his face was still filled with palpable shock.

"Wang Longyan, as an Old Ancestor of the Heavenly Human stage, why must you argue with a youngster?" Old Ancestor Hongqing coldly glared at Wang Longyan, anger simmering in his aged eyes.

"You're right. Arguing with a youngster is indeed meaningless." Old Ancestor Longyan glanced at him, a trace of coldness flashing in her eyes, "Then, I'll have a word with you."

Before her words fell, her hand was already resting on the hilt of the sword at her waist.

With a "clang," the Purple Thunder Sword suddenly sprung out of its sheath. The golden sunlight reflected on the blade, casting a chilling brilliance.

Longyan Old Ancestor had always lived a reclusive life, protecting the Wang family tirelessly for years on end, carrying the burden of being an old ancestor, and being exceedingly caring towards the younger generations.

However, in reality, she was formerly a spoiled young lady, and her temper was not necessarily good.

Chapter 5: Longyan shows its power! Suppressing the Mid Stage Celestial Being_2

Back in her youth, when she was cultivating at the Academic Palace, she was known for her explosive temper, often drawing sword against others at the slightest disagreement. The number of fellow disciples she had beaten was countless. To this day, many of her senior and junior brothers turn pale at the mention of the name "Wang Longyan".

Had it not been for the continuation of her family, and the protection of her young generation, why would she have endured in silence for so many years?

But now, the Wang family is not what it used to be, she no longer needs to suppress herself.

When it's time to fight, fight she will.

With a sword in her hand, she lifts it and with one stroke, aims the sharp tip straight at Ancestor Zhang Hongqing!

Sword energy fills the air.

A crisp call of a phoenix suddenly echoes through the sky.

Behind her, a massive Ice Phoenix illusion suddenly unfurls its wings. Its huge wings seem like clouds hanging from the sky, enveloping Ancestor Longyan's entire body.

In an instant, the heavens and earth seem to change color.

A dense wave of frosty and Evil Qi radiates from Old Ancestor Longyan, instantly freezing the surrounding ground with a thick layer of frost.

From the sky, snowflakes began to fall.

At that moment, the entire world seemed to turn into deep winter. Green grass covered in snow, blooming spring flowers frost-covered, and the breeze from the east drifts aimlessly, bringing not a trace of warmth, only a bone-chilling frost.

"Dharma Shadow!"

Ancestor Hongqing is taken aback.

Although he possesses the strength of the Mid Stage in the Heavenly Human Realm, and has only awakened the threefold Bloodline, even at his full strength, the Dharma Shadow he stimulates might not be very potent.

But the Dharma Shadow of Wang Longyan in front of him is overly powerful.

Is this a Spiritual Body?!

Did they not say that Wang Longyan has just ascended to the Heavenly Human Realm? How can she possess such a powerful Dharma Shadow? What is her background?!

Sadly, by the time he realizes something is wrong, it's too late for regrets.

At the moment he was stunned, Old Ancestor Longyan's sword was already within a foot of him.

In her hand, the Purple Thunder Sword is a Medium Grade Magical Weapon. At this moment, under the infusion of Mysterious Energy, the entire sword is surrounded by blue-purple lightning.

The lightning is like a chain, and the sword energy is like ice.

Its dreadful power is as cold as the ice at the pinnacle of a snow-capped mountain, and as sudden as a thunderbolt from high heaven, carrying with it the frightening destructive force that can destroy everything.

Without the sword even near, the terrible coldness and the paralysis caused by the power of thunder is enough to make Old Ancestor Hongqing's skin tremble slightly.

His face turns grave, and he immediately brings out his Magical Artifact LongSaber.

It's a dark gold-edged long saber, with runes around the surface, shining with a cold glare under the sunlight.

Although the Zhang family is a Strong Grade Seven Prominent Family, it was still unwilling to spend a fortune purchasing a middle-ranked Magical Weapon. Therefore, the Gengjin Saber in his hand is a low-grade Magical Weapon.

However, even a low-grade magical treasure in the hands of a cultivator at the mid-stage of the Heavenly Human Realm is not to be underestimated.

As he lays the saber to block, a surge of potent Mysterious Energy pours wildly into it. The dark gold Magical long saber instantly glows with streaks of light from the runes, giving the hefty Saber as if a layer of gold has been plated on it, making it glitter brightly.

Old Ancestor Hongqing possesses the three-layer Gengjin Bloodline and is not weak in combat experience. At this moment, he puts his full strength into the action, his ample long Saber transforms into a golden shield, blocking in front of him in the blink of an eye.

This series of movements are quick and steady, fully showcasing Old Ancestor Hongqing as a powerful force in the mid-stage of the Heavenly Human Realm.

So what if it's a Spiritual Body?

Wang Longyan has just ascended, and she lags behind by a complete small realm, does he have any reason to fear her?!

In the next moment.

The snowy sword light fiercely collides with the back of the saber.

The sword energy shatters, and the terrifying force explodes instantly.

Ancestor Hongqing trembles, shockwaves coursing through him as he staggers back a step before dissipating the force and stabilizing himself.

How is this possible?

Old Ancestor Hongqing trembles with shock.

He didn't expect Wang Longyan's strength to be even stronger than he imagined. She just ascended, how could she have such an imposing vigor?

Moreover, he feels a faint numbness in his wrist.

That's the lightning from the Purple Thunder Sword combined with Sword Energy, transmitted through the magical long saber to his body, affecting him.

Although the impact from the lightning is not large, in a match between masters, any minor gap may result in a big difference, and any little influence cannot be ignored.

Moreover, it undeniably reveals that the quality of the magical long sword in Wang Longyan's hand is absolutely better than his magical long saber.

This discovery shocked Old Ancestor Hongqing even more.

The others from the Zhang Family also never expected such an outcome, everyone was wide-eyed, unable to react in time.

"Hmph! At the mid-stage of the Heavenly Human Realm, and nothing more."

Old Ancestor Longyan did not plan to let Zhang Hongqing off easily, she sneered, and lifted her hand, sending another sword flying out.

In an instant, the surrounding frosty air grew thicker, even the frost on the grass leaves thickened.

Compared to before, this time, her Mysterious Ice sword energy carried a trace of a chilling Evil Qi.

The dense Evil Qi seemed to wrap the Mysterious Ice in a black frost coat, removing a bit of its coolness and otherworldliness, but adding a few degrees of coldness and sternness.

Behind her, the Dharma Shadow soared upward, giving off bursts of lofty phoenix cries.

Amid the sounds of the phoenix, Old Ancestor Longyan steps into the air, hair billowing, appearing like the soaring Nine Heavens Ice Phoenix, filled with an untold domineering prestige.

Chapter 5: Longyan shows its power! Suppressing the Mid Stage Celestial Being_3

Dense sword energy rained down, icy and jade-like, accompanied by the sound of thunder, as if it could tear the sky apart.

"Boom!"

"Boom!"

"Boom, boom, boom!"

One sword, another sword, and yet another sword...

The sword light of Ancestor Longyan was powerful and dense, hardly giving Ancestor Hongqing a chance to counterattack. Even when he managed to seize an opportunity to fight back, he was forced to defend himself by her dense sword energy.

Ancestor Hongqing had no choice but to face it head-on, only to be forced to retreat step by step under her terrifying swordsmanship.

After more than a dozen continuous strikes, his chest heaved, and he finally couldn't suppress it any longer and spat out a mouthful of blood.

Ancestor Longyan sneered, and put away her sword.

She returned to her original position with light steps, like a victorious general triumphant in battle.

Well done!

Both Longzuo of the Wang family and the Zhang family fell silent.

They were all shocked by the outcome, which neither side had expected.

Only Wang Shouzhe was not surprised by the result.

Ancestor Longyan had fought life and death battles for the rise of her clan. Compared to Zhang Hongqing of the Zhang clan in Longzuo, Ancestor Longyan had richer combat experience.

In addition, Ancestor Longyan had awakened the fifth level of bloodline. Anyone who could awaken the fourth blood vessel in the Heavenly Human Realm was considered a Sky Pride. Her fifth-layer bloodline was extraordinary.

Otherwise, why would Yin Yuzhe, the Sky Pride of Yinsha Sect, risk his life for the Wedding Blood Gu Emperor?

Today was just the beginning of her might, yet it fully demonstrated the style of Ancestor Longyan as a Great Sky Pride.

"Ancestor Hongqing." Wang Shouzhe pronounced with his hands folded behind his back, "Your Zhang Clan of Longzuo is also a distinguished family. As to who is right and who is wrong in this matter, we both know very well. If you really want to push it too far, our Changning Wang Clan will not stand by and see the main line of our family being humiliated."

"If you refuse to accept, our Ancestor Longyan can return to the ancestral line and recognize her ancestors and return to her clan. After all, our Changning Wang Clan and Longzuo Wang Clan are of the same ancestors, so it's not a big deal. But don't blame our Wang Clan for targeting your Zhang Clan in Longzuo."

These words from Wang Shouzhe made the Zhang Clan silent.

It's not uncommon for a family to split into branches. And it's not rare for a branch to honor its ancestors and return to its origins after many years.

Zhang Hongqing's cheek twitched a few times, as if he wanted to say something.

Ancestor Longyan sneered, "If you don't accept it, I don't mind continuing to fight until you surrender."

The words Zhang Hongqing was about to say were choked back, feeling incredibly frustrated.

However, he is after all very experienced and knows how to measure the situation.

After taking a deep breath, he revealed a smirk and said, "Master Shouzhe is joking. Our disagreement with Longzuo Wang Clan is merely a minor friction, not a life-and-death conflict. I've just thought it over carefully. I did hear from our ancestors that we had leased a large piece of farmland from the Longzuo Wang Clan. Our ancestors had a pretty good relationship back then.

It's just recently that there has been a rift."

The members of the Zhang Clan remained silent, full of frustration, but they were helpless before the powerful Changning Wang Clan.

"Since Ancestor Hongqing has remembered, can we process the paperwork to return the farmland of our Longzuo Wang Clan?" Ancestor Zhou Bo asked coldly, "In addition, the overdue rent for the past thirty years, we also request to be returned in full."

"Of course, of course."

Since Zhang Hongqing had decided to admit defeat, he naturally couldn't drag on this matter any longer.

As a result, he instructed the head of the family, Zhang Daoyong, to handle the matter and carry out the handover procedures with the Longzuo Wang Clan.

Afterwards, people of the Longzuo Wang Clan were overjoyed.

After many years, the foundation laid by the Longzuo Wang Clan's ancestors had been constantly lost. This was the first time that they had regained their ancestral heritage.

This was a good start.

As long as the Longzuo Wang Clan continued to develop, sooner or later it would be able to restore the glory of their old ancestors.

The Zhang Clan, on the other hand, were discouraged, their morale apparently dampened quite a bit.

However, the most embarrassed at the scene was Chief Accountant Cui.

He never expected that the insignificant Changning Wang Clan would be so domineering, and that the Zhang Clan would yield so quickly. As a result, the benefits previously agreed upon in secret, who should he ask for now?

The more he thought about it, the more upset he became, snorting coldly, "The Changning Wang Clan is really quite domineering. Chief Accountant Cui has learned his lesson. We will meet again someday, goodbye."

With that, Chief Accountant Cui was about to take off.

Wang Shouzhe's brow furrowed.

The role that Chief Accountant Cui played in this matter was obvious to anyone. He hadn't brought it up earlier only because he didn't want to offend a government official and was not interested in arguing with him.

However, seeing his current attitude, it seemed that not only was he greedy by nature, but he also seemed to harbor resentment after his plot failed. He acted as if he were not the one at fault, but rather the Changning Wang Clan and Longzuo Wang Clan.

With such a twisted worldview, it's hard to guarantee he wouldn't secretly sabotage and cause trouble for the Wang Clan.

With this in mind, Wang Shouzhe called out to him: "Wait! Chief Accountant Cui."

Chief Accountant Cui stopped and turned back, saying unhappily, "Master Shouzhe, what more do you have to teach? Could it be that you intend to instruct your family's ancestor to give me a beating?"

While he was speaking, he smirked at the corners of his mouth as if certain that Wang Shouzhe wouldn't dare to mess with him.

"Shouzhe," Wang Xiaorui quietly pulled Wang Shouzhe's sleeve, "This Chief Accountant Cui has quite a background, we mustn't offend him rashly."

"Clan Leader Xiaorui." Wang Shouzhe said loudly without hiding anything, "Today we have already offended him, and given his temperament, I'm afraid he won't easily let it go. If so, we might as well offend him more thoroughly."

Who is Wang Shouzhe? He has always been a very cautious man.

Unlike the Zhang Clan of Longzuo, who are a large and prosperous family with a lot of considerations, for people like Chief Accountant Cui, if they really want to harm us, I'm afraid it's hard to guard against.

Since he has already shown hostility, Wang Shouzhe naturally wouldn't let him get away easily.

Chapter 6: Stand up for our own! Master Binglan_1

...

"You..." Cui Chief Accountant's sarcastic face suddenly stiffened, laughing furiously, "Wang Shouzhe, you, a mere 7th rank family in the region dares to speak with such audacity. I, as the Chief Accountant, would love to see how you intend to thoroughly offend me."

"The fair document you mentioned was burned in a fire more than a hundred years ago. The writing has blurred by now." Wang Shouzhe sneered, "If this is true, you're lucky. If there's even a hint of forgery, Cui Chief Accountant, if you can still stay in this position, I will change my surname to yours."

Wang Shouzhe was extremely irritated by this.

A grand county town chief accountant perverting the truth, tampering in secret, shameless, and narrow-minded. If such a person remains in the position of the chief accountant of the county town, the morals of Longzuo County will be skewed by him.

Cui Chief Accountant's face grew cold, and blustered: "You Wang brat, are you prepared to stand against me? You should know..."

"Don't tell me about your status." Wang Shouzhe said coldly, "There is no Cui surname in the Purple Abode prominent families in the whole of Longzuo County. Even if you were from Purple Abode, with such perversion of truth and forgery, I can't allow you to remain in this position."

"Hiss~"

Upon hearing this, both the Zhang and Wang families gasped sharply.

The tone of Master Shouzhe, was indeed domineering. He is planning to take down Cui Chief Accountant, isn't he?

"Master Longyan, as direct disciples of the Academic Palace, we have the responsibility to stabilize the country, bring peace to the people, and monitor injustices in the world." Wang Shouzhe turned around and said, "This man is suspected of perverting the truth, destroying public documents, and showing signs of undermining the basis of the national public certification.

We should first capture him and send him to the Prefecture Mansion for the Prefectural Governor to personally interrogate. To prevent his colleagues from covering for him in secret, I suggest sending a message to the Academic Palace immediately and request a few Masters to preside over the situation."

The Direct Disciples of the Academic Palace? Capturing Cui Chief Accountant? Request the Masters from the Academic Palace to preside over the situation?

The information delivered by Wang Shouzhe's continuous speech was too much, causing the faces of the people from Longzuo Zhang Clan and Cui Chief Accountant to turn extremely interesting.

Were Wang Shouzhe's words true or false? It couldn't be a joke, could it?

Old Ancestor Longyan also frowned: "Shouzhe, what you said makes sense. This person is suspected of perverting the truth, he should be captured and sent to the Prefecture Mansion for interrogation."

After saying this, she took out the command of the direct disciple of the Mysterious Ice Palace of the Purple Abode Academic Palace: "Cui Chief Accountant, although you also have the cultivation base of the Heavenly Human Realm, I suggest you surrender obediently. This matter, the Academic Palace of the Purple Abode will launch a thorough investigation.

If you are innocent, you will not be mistreated. However, if you have indeed committed a serious crime, no one can save you."

The Academic Palace of the Purple Abode holds an extraordinary status in Great Qian Land, nominally under the rule of Great Qian, but in actuality, it is a neutral organization with a great deal of autonomy.

Due to the neutrality of the Purple Abode Academic Palace, its scholars have the power to supervise the whole bureaucratic system.

This is the reason why Fang Youan and other disciples of the Academy could preside over the disaster relief in Changning and even the City Guard Mansion had to be under his control and supervision.

"Impossible! This is impossible!!" Cui Chief Accountant's face became extremely unsightly, "You can't be the Direct Disciples of the Academic Palace! The Direct Disciples of the Academic Palace are to serve the palace forever, maintain neutrality as their duty, and strive to save the lives of the world."

"I said you wouldn't understand," Wang Shouzhe sneered, "Old Ancestor, don't bother with him, just capture him first."

"Alright!"

Old Ancestor Longyan sneered and drew her Purple Thunder Sword again.

The frost on the grass had not had a chance to melt before a new layer had already formed.

The Chief Accountant was just in the early stage of the Heavenly Human Realm, had less combat experience than Old Ancestor Hongqing, and had just seen Longyan Old Ancestor exert her power. He didn't even have the courage to resist and surrendered easily in a few moves.

Afterwards, Wang Shouzhe and Longyan Old Ancestor took him directly to the Prefecture Mansion.

...

One has to admit, this Cui Chief Accountant does have some connections and relationships. He is the relative of a 5th-rank Purple Abode Prominent Family, acting as one of the representatives of that family in the Government Office.

No wonder he dares to act so brazenly, committing such a huge crime and still speaking so arrogantly.

What a pity.

He doesn't know Wang Shouzhe at all.

As long as Wang Shouzhe is prepared to take action against him, he will not give him a chance to turn the tables.

After receiving the message from Wang Shouzhe and Longyan Old Ancestor, both Master Changchun and Master Binglan arrived at the Prefecture Mansion together, supporting their named direct disciples.

If it's just a dispute between prominent families, they would not be able to intervene.

But this matter involves the City Guard Mansion's chief accountant tampering with public evidence and perverting the truth. In Wang Shouzhe's exaggerated words, this act undermines the credibility of the whole Government Office of the Great Qian Land, and ruins the foundation of the entire Great Qian.

In such a big matter of right and wrong, stepping up to support their own disciples makes perfect sense.

With the appearance of the two scholars from the Academic Palace, there is no doubt about the resolution of this matter. Even that Purple Abode Prominent Family and Prefectural Governor dare not cover up for Cui Chief Accountant casually, and naturally, they can judge and verify the case as needed.

The case was handled swiftly.

As expected, the Chief Accountant Cui had indeed committed perjury, and this was not his first offense of the like. Some of the families victimized by him were hesitant to retaliate due to his powerful connections, swallowing their indignation silently.

Next, they enforced the law of the Great Qian Land, detained him for questioning, confiscated all his property, and then banished him to guard the uncivilized frontier.

After stepping out from the Prefecture Mansion -

Under the arrangements of Wang Shouzhe, everyone temporarily settled in the "Purple Abode Palace" within the main residence of the Wang family in Longzuo.

"Purple Abode Palace?"

The two masters found such a 'title' both amusing and irritating. It was clear that this was an attempt to make use of the prestige of the "Purple Abode Academic Palace," likely another idea conceived by Wang Shouzhe.

This child is generally good, it's only his thoughts that often flit about wildly, making it hard for others to follow them.

Fortunately, the Wang family of Longzuo was once a prominent family in the Purple Abode, and the legacy left by the ancestors being referred to as "Purple Abode Palace" was acceptable. Back in the day when the famous Master Wang Hongtian wielded power, even Master Changchun was a mere youngster.

Obviously, Master Changchun and Master Binglan would not cause a fuss over this.

Under the reception of the old ancestor Wang Zhubo and the Family Head Wang Xiaorui, the two masters were accommodated in the best suite. This suite was ingeniously designed, furnished with ancient antiques handed down by the Wang family ancestors of Longzuo - the shortest being a thousand years old, and the oldest having millennia of time and history.

In this way, even the two masters couldn't find any fault with it, secretly contemplating that although the Wang family of Longzuo had declined, it originated from an illustrious lineage. Its accumulated heritage was not comparable to some families that had only a few hundred years of history.

Moreover, when the great Master Hongtian moved the entire family to Longzuo County, they obtained a great deal from the Great Qian Land's Wang Clan. Some of the family's possessions might have even been brought over from the Great Qian Wang Clan.

After the two masters had had a brief rest, they were invited to attend a banquet.

Having the rare opportunity to host the Celestial Masters from the Purple Abode, the Wang family of Longzuo naturally went all out. Things like century-old, precious spiritual wine, Level Five

Fierce Beast meat, and various spirit fruits and spirit rice that can only be produced in top-grade spirit fields, were served.

Family Head Wang Xiaorui showed such audacity, which secretly earned him Wang Shouzhe's admiration. Certainly, such an opportunity to curry favor must not be missed. However, Wang Xiaorui's subsequent series of showy actions caused Wang Shouzhe to feel somewhat embarrassed.

The news of the two masters' stay at the luxury resort "Purple Abode Palace" spread throughout the town of Longzuo County in less than half a day. As a result, the Purple Abode Palace was bound to gain a lot of fame, and business would once again boom.

Such an operation caught Wang Shouzhe by surprise.

The previously down-to-earth Clan Leader Wang Xiaorui seemed to have had an epiphany after receiving some advice from Wang Shouzhe, showing a rapid development in his business acumen.

It was very apparent that the Wang family from Longzuo, who had tasted success with the Purple Abode Palace, had now made it their lifeline.

At the night banquet -

Master Binglan, who had come to support her disciple Wang Longyan, still showed her usual indifference towards Wang Shouzhe, but her caring attitude towards her old disciple was mostly apparent. It seemed as if she was extra concerned about the disciple she had regained.

"Longyan, the core members of the Purple Abode Academy are from various prominent families. Therefore, the academy has always adhered to the principle of not getting involved in conflicts and disputes between different families. It focuses primarily on the welfare of the common people. This is the fundamental ideology of the academy," said Master Binglan.

"However, if you encounter government inaction or abuse of power, you need not be polite. Act decisively and the academy will back you up."

"Yes, Master," Longyan respectfully and gratefully responded.

"Once you return to the academy, you should stay in the Mysterious Ice Palace for a while. If there is anything you do not understand in cultivation, I can help you clarify your doubts," Binglan said with a mixture of emotions.

In the beginning, she favored this disciple because Longyan's background and temperament were quite similar to her own. They were both intolerant of the smallest injustice and were stubbornly perseverant.

After the accident that made Longyan unique, Binglan, as her master, was unable to help much, which made her feel guilty. Luckily, Longyan not only pulled through but also jumped up in both bloodline and cultivation base.

A great Heavenly Proud, who awakened the fifth-level bloodline, was quite rare even in the Purple Abode Academy of Longzuo County, let alone in the bustling National Capital or Lingyun Sacred Land, where she would be among the topmost existences.

It was a pity that she just wanted to be an orthodox direct disciple. Otherwise, she could have potentially become a pillar of the human court.

"Yes, Master," Longyan obediently responded.

While the two masters and their disciples were in conversation, Wang Shouzhe and Master Changchun's eyes met.

"Master, don't you have anything to say to me?" asked Wang Shouzhe, with a hint of expectation.

"No," Master Changchun reluctantly replied after some deliberation. "You are cautious in actions and thorough in thoughts. I don't see anything of concern."

Could you be any more detached?

Wang Shouzhe was a bit alarmed. Look at how the other masters behave - they're constantly presenting spiritual artifacts and magical treasures out of concern and protection.

No wonder, the lot of the Changchun Valley are all uninhibited and slack, lacking any ambitions.

Chapter 7 Two beauties! Gradually Rising _1

...

"By the way, do you know Master Danding, master?" Wang Shouzhe diverted the conversation.

"Yes, but we don't really get along." Master Changchun said, "Because Master Danding comes from Independent Cultivator background, it is said that he was once rejected by the Academic Palace in his youth, hence, he used to disrespect them. I had verbal clashes with him a couple of times."

"Uh...." Wang Shouzhe looked helplessly at Master Changchun, thinking that since they are both 'masters', there should be some networking. Now it seems like it is negative networking.

The Academic Palace does have a system for learning alchemy, but as Wang Shouye is currently being nurtured as an alchemist for their family, it is inappropriate to take the path of the Academic Palace.

"I've heard that the old bloke can't wait anymore and is preparing to take in disciples?" Master Changchun said with a grin, "Shouzhe, do you want someone from your clan to become his disciple? Apart from anything else, the alchemy system of Master Danding originates from a legendary alchemist and has some unique aspects. But Master Danding has always had a weird temper, not so easy to please.

And if you use my name, he will probably drive you out immediately."

"Actually, it may not be the case." Wang Shouzhe contemplated for a while, "The reason Master Danding has grievances against Academic Palace is due to his independent cultivator background paired with the discrimination which led to a resentful reaction. If I, a named direct disciple of Changchun, make my clan member become his disciple, won't that boost his ego?

Making him feel that he is superior to us from Academic Palace."

"This..." Master Changchun's smiled hesitated, that was indeed possible. In order to avoid this named direct disciple from compromising Academic Palace to please Master Danding, Master Changchun reluctantly took out a token, "This is my identity token, you can take it and meet with His Highness Lord Zhenzuo from the Longzuo Royal Mansion.

His Highness has a wide network of friends and had favors with Danding. If he is willing to speak for you, Danding will definitely give face."

That's how a master should work, Wang Shouzhe was delighted as he received the token and gave a solemn thank you to Master Changchun.

If he was to base on his original status as a 7th-rank Aristocratic Family and pay a visit to Longzuo Royal Mansion, a warm reception from a Great Steward would be the best he could expect. It would be nearly impossible to get acquainted with the famous Lord Zhenzuo.

However, with the connections and the identity token from Master Changchun, Wang Shouzhe felt confident that he could get close to Lord Zhenzuo.

"This token can only be used for this purpose, no waving it around carelessly." Master Changchun quickly added, "Return it to me immediately after use. Also, do not belittle me in front of Danding."

"Yes, master." Wang Shouzhe obediently replied. It was already quite unexpected that Master Changchun agreed to use his connections this time, Wang Shouzhe is not an insatiable person.

"Also, don't get too involved with the royal mansion." Master Changchun furrowed his brows and warned again, "In recent years, the situation in the national capital has been like a mist, unpredictable. You, a small clan, better not get involved."

Mist?

After a brief moment of contemplation, Wang Shouzhe's heart chilled, "Is master hinting at ..."

"If you understand, then don't say it." Master Changchun raised his hands to stop him.

"Disciple understands." Wang Shouzhe responded solemnly, "Us, the Changning Wang Clan, are just a small 7th-rank Aristocratic Family. We definitely wouldn't be foolish enough to fall into these great affairs. Luckily, our Changning territory is far and remote, all we need to do is to focus on farming well our territory and not resort to any shortcuts."

Master Changchun nodded in satisfaction. His disciple understands how to keep his feet on the ground and does not have unrealistic aims. He is very methodical and makes him worry-free. No wonder even Green Fern likes him a lot and often stays in Changning for a while.

...

During Wang Shouzhe's time conducting business in the county town.

Others from the clan each have their own life paths.

There's a Ding Dong Guard at the eastern part of Longzuo. This guard is located along the mountains, close to the sea, which is a prosperous transport junction, hence it is bustling with a mix of people.

There's a Lian Hua Floor located in a nearby town.

It was late at night, but the busiest time of the day has just started in Lian Hua Floor.

The entrance was dazzlingly beautiful and bustling with excitement. The red lanterns brightly lit up the surroundings. A group of women in their prime, dressed in gorgeous clothes, greeted the wealthy guests into the premises with beautiful smiles on their faces.

From inside, accompanied with the sound of music, one could feel the lively atmosphere from half a street away.

This is the largest pleasure house in Lang Ping Town. Usually welcoming the richest in town, traveling merchants, and occasionally even aristocratic family members.

This happened because a beauty named Chun Ying had recently arrived.

Chun Ying has a graceful figure and a voice like the melodious nightingale. Men are rarely able to resist her charm.

It is said that she was originally from a wealthy family, but was deceived by a man who led her into unfortunate circumstances.

Her old place was unable to continue due to an unfortunate incident with a person of considerable influence, which led the old madam to spend a large sum of money to have her come over, thus she became the new star of Lian Hua Floor.

At this moment.

On the second floor.

In Chun Ying's room, there can be heard a series of gasping and moaning, broken words accompanying in short intervals.

Chapter 7 Two beauties! Gradually Rising _2

"My lord, lord... please... spare... spare me... I really... can't...

take anymore..."

The beautiful woman on the bed had her hair in disarray and was panting heavily.

A robust cultivator in the advanced stage of Qi Refinement was engrossed in his 'tasks', sweat dripped down his muscular back, soaking the sheets beneath him.

However, at that same moment.

Outside the window and several yards away, two figures were tucked in the shadows, closely watching from the eaves.

Under the obscure night sky, their forms were fuzzy, but the slender silhouettes of the two women were still discernible.

Both women wore cloaks that blended well with the night. One of them was slightly taller, and the other one carried a large cage with her. Judging by its composition and shape, it was clearly an insect box carried by an Insect Master.

At this moment, the insect master was holding a jade-green worm flute.

The worm flute was half the size of a regular flute, with a slight mysterious energy twining around her fingertips. It was blowing the flute gently, producing an intangible sound difficult for human ears to detect.

A plethora of insect bells were crawling out of the cage and disappearing into the night with a rustling sound.

Simultaneously, several purple butterflies gracefully flew out of the cage, gradually disappearing into the night.

"What's the situation?"

The female beside her inquired.

"What's the rush?" The Insect Master glanced at her, "The insects have to disperse for a while~ The Flower Scorpion is full of tricks. We can't be too careful, or things will go awry."

"You're always so cautious."

That woman frowned but said nothing else, merely patiently waiting.

The two motionless women were none other than Wang Luo Jing and Wang Luo Qiu.

Years had passed, both of them were over thirty years old and their cultivation base had improved tremendously, both of them having reached the fourth level of the Spirit Platform Realm, stepping into the Mid-Stage Spirit Platform Realm.

The abundant resources and numerous opportunities for experience in the Academic Palace resulted in rapid growth for the sisters over the years. Their temperament underwent a continuous transformation, morphing into a remarkable metamorphosis.

Unlike the Profound Martial cultivators, who were confined to the family's cultivation, they possessed an aura of determination and fortitude. Their brows and eyes also embodied an edge, just like a drawn longsword, emanating a cold and intimidating aura.

At this moment, they both were on a mission from the Academic Palace to apprehend a notorious criminal cultivator.

This cultivator, known as the "Flower Scorpion", was alleged to have gone rogue due to a cultivation mishap, became temperamentally violent, addicted to killing, and caused several crimes across many locations. This led to the extermination of several prominent families of Rank 9. He is nineteenth on the blacklist of the Governor's Mansion of Longzuo County, worth five thousand study points.

However, the "Flower Scorpion" is elusive, cunning, and skilled in hiding. Previous disciples of the Academic Palace who accepted this mission either couldn't find him or let him escape after finding him.

Due to this, the study points for the "Flower Scorpion" mission have been repeatedly increased, surpassing any other mid-stage Spirit Platform Realm fugitive by sixty to seventy percent.

The sisters searched for a long time and finally discovered some clues which led them to this brothel.

Now it was finally time to close the net.

After a while, Wang Luo Jing put away the worm flute and turned to Wang Luoqiu, "I've confirmed it, there are no Spirit Platform realm Profound Martial cultivators or any formations or traps within several miles, there should be no ambush.

However, the Flower Scorpion managed to survive multiple pursuits from other Academic Palace disciples, he must have other tricks up his sleeve. Be careful not to fall into any traps."

"Do I need your reminder?"

Wang Luoqiu glanced at her.

She was not a naive and innocent person like Lici. Over the years, numerous wanted criminals have died at her hands. She had seen countless tricks and deceptions. It's not so easy to trick her.

Tired of the verbal poses, she leaped from the roof and instantly charged out like a lightning bolt.

"Off I go!"

In an instant, the wind roared and a meteor seemed to streak across the night sky. In the blink of an eye, it crossed several yards, crashed through the window, and entered directly into the second floor boudoir belonging to Chun Ying.

The window shattered, and the wood chips scattered.

Wang Luoqiu passed through the wood chips as agile as a swift, landing with grace and agility. Not a single wood chip touched her body.

"Who is it?!"

The man and woman on the bed were startled; they hurriedly pulled up the sheets to cover their bodies, and both their faces appeared terrified.

"Disciple of the Purple Abode Academy, tasked with arresting the wanted felon." Wang Luoqiu glanced, and her cold eyes fell on one of them, "Flower Scorpion, if you surrender now, I might spare your life."

After stating this, she didn't wait for them to react. She reached and unsheathed her low-grade spirit longsword, slashing towards the two of them.

The sword energy was vast and imposing, like a hanging river in the sky, unmatched in might.

The fierce and surging slaying intent quickly filled the entire room.

"Flower scorpion? What Flower Scorpion? You must be mistaken,"

The man turned pale with fright, rolled and crawled under the cover of his sheets, hiding within the bed.

However, Wang Luoqiu's energy was not directed at him.

Just as he was rolling and crawling to escape, the seemingly boneless "Chun Ying" suddenly lunged forward, reached under the pillow, and swiftly drew out a short sword. She promptly blocked the sword energy coming from Wang Luoqiu.

Chapter 7 Two beauties! Gradually Rising _3

The shock wave of blade energy exploded, lifting the falling hair strands of "Chun Ying", revealing her flower-like beautiful face.

However, at this moment, there was no trace of tender sentiment in her charming eyes, only ruthless hostility dyed with blood and distortion.

It turns out, this courtesan "Chun Ying", is the real "Flower Scorpion"!

However, how easily could Wang Luoqiu's knife be blocked?

Having already awakened her Double Bloodline during the Qi Refinement Realm, after advancing to the Spirit Platform Realm, she had a threefold bloodline. Her bloodline power surged, and coupled with the fact that she had awakened a War Body bloodline, her strength far surpassed that of an ordinary mid-stage cultivator in the Spirit Platform Realm.

Seeing that the Flower Scorpion actually blocked her blade energy, Wang Luoqiu's eyes narrowed, her hand strength instantly increased tenfold.

"Bang!"

With a dull thud, "Chun Ying" was instantly repelled by the massive force and flew backwards, her back violently crashing into the wall on the other side of the bed.

"Rumble". The wall instantly cracked.

However, Flower Scorpion, after all, was a cultivator at the mid-stage of the Spirit Platform Realm with abundant combat experience. She had already quickly adjusted her posture while being repelled and used Mysterious Energy to lessen the impact, thus she wasn't seriously injured.

However, even so, she still felt her right hand, which was holding the sword, tingling slightly. Her blood welled up inside her, her throat tasted bloody sweet, and even the circulation of the Mysterious Energy within her body was somewhat impeded.

She knew that this was due to the large discrepancy in strength, and her face instantly turned ugly.

She had anticipated that disciples from the Academic Palace would be sent to kill her, but she hadn't expected that the one who found her this time would be this strong. This girl's displayed power didn't seem like an ordinary disciple of the Academic Palace, perhaps...

Flower Scorpion's thoughts turned quickly, and she suddenly let out a cold laugh, "I didn't expect that I, 'Flower Scorpion', could actually draw out an Direct Disciple from the Academic Palace to personally pursue and hunt me. What an honour."

Wang Luoqiu sneered, "My name is Wang Luoqiu, the Direct Disciple under Master Xuanyao. When you arrive in the netherworld for judgment, don't report the wrong name."

Flower Scorpion's heart jolted.

Her initial intention was merely to bluff to figure out the identity of the other party, who could have thought that this young woman was indeed a direct disciple?

Even though she was only a Spirit Platform Realm Direct Disciple.

Every person who had the chance to become a direct disciple of the Academic Palace, wasn't every one of them a proud child of heaven with outstanding bloodline, mental aptitude, and strength? How was she, the flower scorpion, able to handle such an opponent?

However, before she could react, Wang Luoqiu had already launched another attack with her knife.

"Die."

The fierce blade energy traversed outwards, directly attacked flower scorpion's face, seeming as if it would slit her in half instantly.

Flower Scorpion's face changed drastically. Without thinking, she retreated hastily and simultaneously grabbed the man beside the bed, her short sword against his neck.

The man's face immediately turned white from fright, his body trembling.

Flower Scorpion let out a cold laugh, glanced at Wang Luoqiu threateningly, "If you move again, I'll kill him."

However, there was no change in Wang Luoqiu's expression, even the radiating blade energy didn't falter, she didn't show any intention of stopping, as if she didn't care about the man's life in her hands at all.

The knife light swept across the air, and in an instant, it was right in front of her.

Flower Scorpion's face changed dramatically.

She couldn't believe that this young woman didn't even hesitate, not giving her any chance to take advantage of any opening.

Left with no choice, she had to mobilize her mysterious energy, her sword held horizontally, using all her energy to confront this attack.

But her move in defense was even more rushed than last time, neither her strength nor her Mysterious Energy had been marshalled properly. Just as her sword light met the knife light, she was shocked to spit out a mouthful of blood.

She was again repelled, flying backwards, she even smashed the wall behind her, and the man in her hands was thrown to the side.

Numerous loose stones fell with a "rumble".

Flower Scorpion was quick to react, she sprung up from the ground, fending off the falling stones with a hand behind her, but was still splashed with scattered dust.

Her pretty face was smeared with mud and dust, but it still couldn't hide the shock and disbelief on her face. "Have you gone mad?" she cried. "You're a disciple of the Academic Palace, and yet you disregard the lives of innocent cultivators?!"

Wang Luoqiu sneered, "Why don't you take another look at what you're holding?"

The Flower Scorpion reflexively turned her head, only to find that what had fallen to the ground next to her was not a man at all. It was clearly a wooden puppet covered in runes!

Her face drained of color: "How is this possible?!"

Wang Luoqiu's lips curled into a secretive smile.

What else could it be? Of course, this was Wang Luo Jing's scheme.

Both of them had been influenced by Wang Shouzhe since childhood, and they deeply understood the necessity of being well-prepared when facing enemies. As soon as they discovered the whereabouts of the Flower Scorpion, they had already anticipated her possible reactions and would not have left such an obvious weakness unaddressed.

The puppet was a specialty of the Valley of Ten Thousand Butterflies. When used in conjunction with the illusion techniques of the valley, it could create convincing deceptions.

She had not killed outright but instead gave the Flower Scorpion a chance to respond, naturally to buy time for Luo Jing to move the people far enough and clear the other people in the Lian Hua Floor too.

After all, even if she had no regard for the man, as a direct disciple of the Academic Palace, she still needed to consider the Palace's reputation and not leave room for others to criticize.

And at this point, without any bystanders, it was naturally the Flower Scorpion's time to die.

By this time, the Flower Scorpion had also finally abandoned any hope of luck.

With a sudden raise of her hand, she used her Mysterious Energy to lift the surrounding debris and fiercely threw it at Wang Luoqiu. Then, under the cover of the flying debris, she attempted to escape.

However, before she could escape out the window, a purple butterfly suddenly flitted past her face.

Powder, almost impossible to observe with the naked eye, fell, and she felt a wave of dizziness. She lost consciousness and fell out of the sky.

At the same time, a clear bell rang out from outside the window.

The Flower Scorpion instinctively looked up, only to see a charming shadow of deep purple flying across the night sky.

In one hand, she held a worm flute, with purple butterflies surrounding her. She seemed to traverse the sky effortlessly and was at the eaves of the window in the blink of an eye.

It was Wang Luo Jing.

As she landed, numerous large Purple Crystal Spirit Peaks burst from the crate on her back, roaring towards the Flower Scorpion like an engine in full throttle.

Almost simultaneously, Wang Luoqiu's sword light had also arrived behind the Flower Scorpion.

The Flower Scorpion's face changed dramatically, and her heart was as cold as if it had fallen into an ice cave.

Where could the Flower Scorpion escape when faced with the combined forces of Luo Jing and Luo Qiu? Not even half a moment had passed before the Flower Scorpion became a corpse.

The lonely night wind made her body look particularly bleak.

"No wonder no one could ever find the Flower Scorpion. Who would have thought she was acting as a courtesan in a brothel? That's a unique hobby," Wang Luoqiu couldn't help but comment as she looked at the scene before her.

"It's not necessarily a hobby," Wang Luo Jing said casually, "I heard there's a special dual cultivation method that can enhance one's cultivation through this method. Perhaps she was just practicing."

Wang Luoqiu looked puzzled, "Where did you hear about this? How come I don't know?"

Wang Luo Jing: "..."

Could she say that she had heard it when she was "accidentally" passing by Water Moon Pavilion?

Forget it. Better to save some face for Fourth Brother. Such embarrassing words, she really can't muster to say them out loud.

Regardless, they were both very pleased to have defeated the Flower Scorpion, who was ranked 19th on the blacklist. Although they both had family subsidies and direct disciple subsidies, the resources consumed for accelerating their cultivation were significant.

The five thousand study points split between them could exchange for quite a few precious Dan medicines.

Chapter 8 Commandery Prince! Wu Dianshan_1

...

In Longzuo County Town.

It has always been a motley exhibition, with a mix of low-strength Independent Cultivators coming to try their luck, and the high-and-mighty prominent families with thousands of years of heritage.

However, amongst the countless living beings, the one who is most revered is the Hereditary Lord Zhenzuo of Longzuo County - Wu Dianshan.

As far as the name implies, the line of Lord Zhenzuo is a duke, replacing the king to guard Longzuo County. However, since the establishment of the Da Qian, the true implementation has been a prefectural system.

The Prefecture Mansion is the actual institution regulating all matters of a county under control from the National Capital.

The line of Lord Zhenzuo has always been nominal dukes, without much real authority. The current Lord Zhenzuo, Wu Dianshan, never showed much of talent or promise from a young age. His preferences leaned more towards various amusements and pastimes, at most associating himself with skilled independent cultivators, limiting his connections to casual acquaintanceships.

If a prominent family encountered difficulties and approached the Commandery Prince's Residence for help, they would often lend it. Therefore, the reputation of the Commandery Prince's lineage was fairly good overall.

The Commandery Prince's Residence is not far from Longzuo Wang Clan, it's located in the core of the county town. This shows how powerful the Longzuo Wang Clan was during its prime era.

However, the Commandery Prince's Residence is much grander, with the main residence alone being several times the size of the Longzuo Wang family.

Wang Shouzhe and Ancestor Longyan had the courtesy to follow the formula by sending a name card. The stated identities included those from Changning Wang clan, and the registered direct disciples of Master Changchun and Master Binglan, also attached with the identity token of Master Changchun.

They were immediately received with utmost reverence by the door-managing steward and were invited into the side hall. Attendants served delicious pastries, fruits, and spiritual tea, all made from spiritual objects.

As expected of the Commandery Prince's Residence, their foundation is truly extraordinary.

Even the maids and attendants are young cultivators who have achieved some success in the realm of Qi Refinement, and they all possess fairly decent appearances. The door-managing steward is a cultivator of the Spirit Platform Realm.

Wang Shouzhe and Ancestor Longyan looked calm as they sipped on the spiritual tea. After all, the income of the Changning Wang Clan is much greater than that of the average celestial being's house, they are used to such high society.

In a short while.

A great steward in a brocade robe stepped into the side hall, laughed heartily and said, "Today, the Spirit Sparrows in the residence's Sparrow Garden are chirping happily, a sign of distinguished guests. Unexpectedly, it's the Changning Wang Clan that has recently gained fame. I am Wu Zhong, the Great Steward of the Prince's Residence. Nice to meet Master Shouzhe and Ancestor Longyan."

A wave of enthusiasm and hearty energy filled the room, which made Wang Shouzhe feel his warmth. And he did not mention the two masters at all, as if it were genuinely out of consideration for the Changning Wang Clan that he was so enthusiastic.

However, Wang Shouzhe knew that in a short span of time, this Great Steward Wu Zhong had apparently read up on the Changning Wang Clan's information and responded swiftly.

As the topmost prominent family in Longzuo County - the Commandery Prince's Residence, it was reasonable for them to gather and summarize information on every clan in the city. The Changning Wang Clan of current times was not the same small Rank 8 or 9 prominent family of yore.

"Shouzhe salutes Great Steward Wu." Wang Shouzhe stood up and responded with a courteous salute, showing perfect manners, and took many gifts from his storage ring, "A little token of good will."

Great Steward Wu Zhong was quite a worldly man, he didn't even look at the list of gifts but just glanced over them and approximated the value of the gifts to be no less than 30,000 Qian Gold.

While Wu Zhong was secretly shocked, he was quick to resist, "Master Shouzhe, there was no need for such lavish gifts just for a visit. Please take them back, please."

"It's just a ceremonial gift, Great Steward shouldn't take it to heart." Wang Shouzhe said with a smile, "I do have a favor to ask of the Commandery Prince. I hope he can introduce us to Master Danding, for the sake of Master Changchun."

Wu Zhong understood the situation immediately and chuckled, "So, Master Shouzhe, you're here about the matter of Master Danding taking on disciples. To be honest, many families have previously asked the Commandery Prince to mediate an introduction with Master Danding. However, the Commandery Prince has refused all such requests."

Without waiting for Wang Shouzhe to speak, Wu Zhong continued, "But if it's for the sake of Master Changchun, the Commandery Prince would be happy to see it."

Just as expected.

Having Master Changchun's token changed the situation.

This was how social interactions worked in the Profound Martial World. The Commandery Prince agreed to this matter mainly for the favor from Master Changchun, in case he needed help from Master Changchun in future, it would then be time to return the favor.

"However, the final decision still rests with the Commandery Prince himself." After bowing, Great Steward Wu Zhong said, "The two of you can rest for a while, I will go and report to the Prince."

After the brief exchange.

Wu Zhong quickly departed. In less than an hour, he returned to the side hall, "Congratulations Master Shouzhe, Ancestor Longyan. The Commandery Prince happens to be free today and has decided to personally host a meal for both of you. Please follow me."

Soon afterwards.

Under the arrangement of Wu Zhong, Wang Shouzhe and Ancestor Longyan met Lord Zhenzuo, Wu Dianshan, in an elegant courtyard.

This courtyard is filled with a plethora of unusual and exotic flowers and plants, vying to outdo the other in splendor. The crisscrossed pavilions and terraces within the courtyard evoke a sense of charm and whimsy. Within the courtyard, there's a lake of several acres in size, which houses a number of Spirit Fish.

A middle-aged man, dressed in a royal python-patterned robe with a purple-gold crown, is intently engaged in fishing with a purple bamboo rod. He does not possess an intimidating demeanor, rather, he exudes a sense of leisure and contentment.

Upon seeing Wang Shouzhe, the man greeted jovially, not needing Wu Zhong to make the introduction. "These two young talents must be the proud disciples of Master Changchun and

Master Binglan — Wang Shouzhe and Wang Longyan, am I right? Come, sit down and have some tea," he said.

Key details about Wang Shouzhe and Wang Longyan had clearly been gathered preliminarily in a short span.

While sky prides of the Purple Abode Academic Palace are revered and flattered wherever they go, the treatment is not the same within the Commandery Prince's Residence.

Lord Zhenzuo, after all, is a revered Purple Abode Realm Cultivator - a Duke of Da Qian and a figure of great prestige. The lineal disciples of the Academic Palace, although exceptional, do not quite match up to him.

The reason the Commandery Prince extends such honors is likely due to the extraordinary personalities of Shouzhe and Longyan, and also out of respect to the two Masters. Especially since Wang Shouzhe had arrived with Master Changchun's token, implying that Changchun had requested a favor.

However, even when the Commandery Prince exhibited a down-to-earth demeanor, Wang Shouzhe, and Longyan maintained an attitude of respect, reverently greeting the Commandery Prince.

While Commandery Prince Wu Dianshan may appear a middle-aged man, his actual age is well over five hundred years. His cultivation base is unfathomably profound - a figure that demands respect.

After observing the formalities.

The Commandery Prince then arranged a modest banquet by the lakeside of the courtyard.

The feast wasn't extravagant; it merely consisted of some ordinary material spirit delicacies. The culinary craftsmanship, however, was so exquisite that it tantalized the enticing taste buds.

Wu Dianshan had meant to show respect to Master Changchun, however, upon conversing with Wang Shouzhe, he discovered a remarkably quick-witted, knowledgeable mind. Shouzhe's unique perspectives often left Wu Dianshan inspired.

"Intriguing! Young friend, your perspectives on worldly matters are truly sharp and insightful." Commandery Prince Wu Dianshan broke into hearty laughter.

As the banquet progressed, Wu Dianshan's admiration for Wang Shouzhe deepened. No wonder the reports noted that the Wang Clan ascended from the 9th rank to 7th rank within a short span of twenty years.

"Your Highness, do you enjoy fishing?" Wang Shouzhe noticed that the Commandery Prince Wu Dianshan seemed fond of fishing, as it had been referenced many times in his conversations.

"It's merely a recreational hobby. You're too young to understand, Shouzhe. When one lives over five hundred years, they tend to lose interest in most things," said Commandery Prince Wu Dianshan, "I have to ration my enjoyment, fearing that once I grow bored, I may struggle to find amusement. Do you also enjoy fishing, Shouzhe?"

Wang Shouzhe was fond of fishing in his previous life, but he hadn't indulged in it much in this life.

"It's not so much that I enjoy it. Our Wang Clan resides by the Peace River, and we have an annual fish harvest," Wang Shouzhe produced an unusual seven-foot-long fishing rod from his storage ring, "This rod is my creation during my leisure time. I would be honored if you could give it a try, Your Highness."

"Such a short rod, and those strangely meticulous iron loops; what's the purpose of the reel at the bottom?" An excited Wu Dianshan curiously examined the rod, marveling at the unique design, "I've lived all these years and have never seen such an unusual fishing rod. Shouzhe, what's the story here?"

"This rod is called Luya," explained Wang Shouzhe truthfully, "It's specifically designed to catch aggressive, predatory Spirit Fish. The rod is made from 5,000-year-old purple sandalwood bamboo, and the line is spun from strings of silk from a level six spiritual insect - the Nine Nether Ice Spirit Silkworm. It's strong enough to withstand any Spirit Fish up to Level Four.

You see, the bait for a Luya rod is different from regular fishing rods..."

"It's a false bait..."

"Correct. The essence of bait-fishing is different. While traditional bait fishing is passive, Luya fishing requires a direct..."

This left Wu Dianshan in wonder, praising the innovation, and eagerly attempting to give it a try.

In another corner, Longyan felt speechless. It seemed Shouzhe could charm just about anyone.

...

Time swiftly passed, and several days later.

Since Master Danding was as carefree as a wild cloud, he didn't have a residence in the County Town. Thus, his disciple recruitment ceremony was held in the largest alchemy workshop in the area, the Tian Yuan Workshop.

On the day of selection, endless hopefuls enrolled, each rushing to seize the opportunity presented.

The participants included children from prominent families, children from lowly ninth-rank clans, and countless cultivators from insignificant families or independent cultivators. It seemed as if everyone was convinced that being taken as a disciple by Master Danding would catapult them right to the top.

Outside Tian Yuan Workshop, it was a sea of people.

Seventh son of the Wang family, Wang Shouye, along with a beautiful woman, jostled in the crowd. After much struggle, they finally registered and received a number for the test - number 396. With so many competitors, it seemed unlikely that they would even make it past the preliminary round.

Chapter 9: Secrets! Attracting Bees and Butterflies_1

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"My Lord, in my eyes, you are the best." A woman with an outstanding appearance and decent quality snuggled up to Wang Shouye, revealing a bird-like demeanor of reliance. Her tone was filled with pride and encouragement, "You will definitely win the competition and become a disciple of Master Danding. I believe that, in the future, you will certainly become an Alchemy Grandmaster."

This woman is none other than Lei Lingyun, the legitimate daughter of the Lei family.

From her girlhood, she had set her heart on Wang Shouye and after overcoming numerous obstacles and defeating many competitors, they finally ended up together.

Right before leaving Changning, Wang Shouye and Lei Lingyun had a grand wedding, becoming the talk of the town for all the prominent families in Changning.

"My wife, I am, after all, an alchemist from a small place." Wang Shouye wasn't very confident, "When compared with the entire Longzuo County, how strong can I be?"

"This gentleman speaks well. These days, not many people have such self-awareness as yours."

Upon hearing Wang Shouye's words, a moderately built, ordinary-looking man in brocade clothes sitting next to them suddenly interrupted.

His eyes gleefully swept over Wang Shouye and Lei Lingyun, and he said with a sour tone: "A young man like you should be dedicating himself to the art of alchemy. But now, you are immersed in pleasures. I'm afraid it will be difficult for you to achieve anything in the future."

"Fatso! Mind your own business!" Lei Lingyun was not an easy target, hence why she stood out among other pursuers, she immediately retorted, "With your portly physique, isn't it that you don't indulge in pleasures because you can't find any attractive sights?"

"This..." The fat man was visibly stunned, as if she had struck a sore spot, he blustered, "I, Qian Xuefu, am devoted to the Dao of Alchemy in this life, how could I be delayed by sensual pleasures? Women, hmph, they only slow down the progress of my alchemy."

Qian Xuefu?

A chill ran down Wang Shouye's spine: "This gentleman, aren't you a member of the 'Xue' generation of the Qian family?"

He knew one person from the 'Xue' generation of the Qian family, the store manager, Qian Xuean, who presently handles the business of the Southern Six Guards of the Qian family.

"You have a keen eye." Qian Xuefu lifted his chin slightly, a proud look on his face, "I am a direct descendant of the Qian family, my ancestor is one of the celestial elders of the Heavenly Human Realm of the Qian family."

The Qian family, famously known as Purple Qian for their businesses spread across Longzuo, is not only a vintage Purple lineage prominent family but also a wealthy family with good relations with the Purple Academic Palace.

However, the Qian family is extremely large, with countless family members.

Most of the members of the Qian family are mere employees in their various businesses, only individuals like Qian Xuefu, who has a celestial elder in his lineage, hold a slightly higher status.

With his status, he has even firmer ground to stand on than the legitimate children of most celestial families.

"So, it's Brother Qian. My apologies for my lack of manners." Wang Shouye elegantly raised his hand in a salute, "I am Wang Shouye, a direct descendant of the Changning Wang family."

"Changning Wang family? I do not think I have heard of it...." Qian Xuefu pondered for a moment, brow slightly furrowed, "but it doesn't matter. Since you seem courteous, from now on you are my younger brother. Once I become a disciple of Master Danding, the family will hand over the management of the Danfang in the county town to me.

At that time, you can join me in Danfang, I'll save you a good position."

"Ah this...." Wang Shouye admired him, "Brother Qian must be extraordinarily talented in the art of alchemy to be so confident about passing the examination, I admire you. When the opportunity arises, I must learn from Brother Qian."

Wang Shouye was generally good-natured and didn't like to dispute with others over trivial matters.

Especially since he was understanding of the hardships his older brother faced in managing the family affairs, he naturally didn't want to cause unnecessary trouble for the family. Now, having

encountered someone he could potentially befriend, he decided to take the opportunity to make some new connections that could prove beneficial for the Changning Wang family.

"Well said."

Qian Xuefu greatly enjoyed the flattery and his impression of Wang Shouye improved. He grabbed hold of him and began to showcase his "worldliness" incessantly.

"Younger brother, do you know, in our Longzuo County Town there are 'Three Must-Visit Places for Men'?" Qian Xuefu was excitedly explaining, "The first one is the famous 'Liuxian Pavilion'. Let me tell you, the ladies in the Liuxian Pavilion are all charming and talented, proficient in all forms of the performing arts.

Especially the popular headliner 'Luo Hongyin', who is especially good at playing the Xiao, her version of 'Immortal's Heavenly Abode' is so dreamy that it feels like you are in an immortal realm. The most amazing thing is, this Luo Hongyin is actually a cultivator in the advanced stage of the Spiritual Platform Realm... "

As he continued, Qian Xuefu became increasingly animated, his face shiny with excitement.

Wang Shouye was dumbfounded.

This... Liuxian Pavilion? This place doesn't sound like it's a reputable place. What kind of person is this new friend of mine?

Lei Lingyun on the side was quite resentful of Qian Xuefu and glowered at him, but she ultimately kept her mouth shut.

Qian's family was big and influential, they couldn't afford to upset such a large entity and Lei couldn't bring hatred upon the Lei and Wang families for no reason.

"Hmph~" Lei Lingyun snorted coldly and turned her head, "My Lord, I'll go and investigate some information about the other competitors."

With that, she turned around and left.

She really couldn't stand it anymore. If she had to continue listening, she feared that she might lose her temper and commit a violent act.

After eyeing Lei Lingyun's retreating figure, Qian Xuefu was quite envious, "Speaking of which, younger brother, you are indeed lucky. Your wife arranged by your family is truly among the top in terms of appearance and temperament."

He himself was already in his thirties and still unmarried. Exceptional women of equal social status didn't like him, and ordinary women of equal social status... well, they didn't like him, either. Helplessly, his marriage matter had been delayed up to this point.

"It wasn't arranged by the family." Wang Shouye shook his head honestly, "Lingyun has faithfully waited for me for over ten years. I was moved by her sincerity, which is why I married her."

"What?" Qian Xuefu's eyes bulged out, "You and your younger sister chose each other freely? And she pursued you?"

"Yes, Lingyun had a hard time." Wang Shouye continued to reply honestly, "She defeated many rivals. Actually, I really admire her determination and earnestness."

This...this...

Qian Xuefu staggered back two steps, his face full of disbelief.

How is this Wang guy living his life? Not only was his wife the one who pursued him, but she also emerged from a group of competitors, taking over ten years to stand out.

"Brother, beg you to tell me, do you have any secrets?" Qian Xuefu's attitude changed instantly, he began to flatter eagerly, "No, no, no, as long as you're willing to teach me, you'll be the elder brother from now on."

"There are secrets." After pondering for a while, Wang Shouye said.

"Big brother Wang, you're my elder brother from now on. If anyone dares to provoke you, they're provoking me, Qian Xuefu." Qian Xuefu said with excitement, "Quick, quick, quick, give me your secrets so that I can also enjoy the taste of the pinnacle of life."

"Just be really diligent in studying alchemy." Wang Shouye honestly said, "Those girls all say, 'Shou Ye is so earnest and handsome when concocting pills. I really like him.' Even some girls say, 'I want to quietly watch Shou Ye concocting pills for the rest of my life, it's so charming.' But it's pretty troublesome - there are too many girls staring at you every day, it's quite annoying."

"Ah, this... is that simple?"

"Mmm, it's that simple." Wang Shouye nodded earnestly.

Qian Xuefu looked dumbfounded.

It sounds reasonable. But something seems a bit off. Qian Xuefu is also very serious when concocting pills, so why aren't any girls saying these kinds of things to him?

Forget about girls, he can't even see a single female fly.

"This gentleman is also an alchemist, here to participate in Master Danding's disciple selection meeting?"

At this moment, a lively voice suddenly sounded from the side.

The two turned their heads, only to see a prettily dressed girl from a prominent family blushing slightly as she looked at Wang Shouye, initiating a conversation, "Can I ask, do you know the topics for the preliminary selection later?"

"This...I'm sorry, but I don't." Wang Shouye replied helplessly, "Master Danding's disciple selection is such a serious matter, how could there be..."

"I have some insider topics on my hand." The girl blushed slightly, her eyes hopeful, "If the gentleman does not mind, I could share them with you."

"This..."

Wang Shouye was shocked beyond belief. There were leaked topics for the grand event of Master's disciple selection?

"Yuwen Nianjing, it's you?" At this point, Qian Xuefu caught on and yelled in anger, "Relying on your family background, showing off a few topics, you're trying to please men. Aren't you ashamed?"

"So it's you, Qian Xuefu." After taking a few looks, Yuwen Nianjing recognized Qian Xuefu and her face darkened, "Who I try to please is none of your business. I heard you were rejected by several girls in recent blind dates. Could it be jealousy burning in your heart, twisting your nature?"

Despite being just a rank six prominent family, Yuwen's family had indeed recently fallen from the Purple Abode and their foundation remained very heavy, so naturally, she didn't fear offending Qian Xuefu.

Moreover, both of them were representatives of the younger generation in the alchemy world of their county town, and had naturally interacted before.

"Heh, I just didn't think those girls were worthy. Let me warn you, my brother already has a family. Don't try to steal him away." Qian Xuefu said indignantly.

Oh? Already has a family?

Yuwen Nianjing could not hide her disappointment.

Being a girl from a prominent family, she would not do anything as shameful as stealing someone else's husband. Seeing Wang Shouye admit it, she could only leave dejectedly.

Watching Yuwen Nianjing's retreating figure, Qian Xuefu "tsked" and said, "I heard that she refused several young men when she was on a spring outing because she wanted to focus on alchemy, and I thought she was serious. Turns out...humph, she's a sly fox at heart."

"Ah, women are just trouble." Wang Shouye shook his head helplessly, "Wherever you go, they always revolve around you. There's just no peace."

"Yes, women are just trouble."

Qian Xuefu gritted his teeth, trying hard to control his facial expression.

God knows, as he was saying this, his tears of jealousy were about to fall.

He couldn't help screaming in his heart: God, please save me~ I really want to experience what it's like to be followed around and never have a moment of peace!!!

Chapter 10: Fourth Brother! I can only "do my best"_1

...

Exactly during Qian Xuefu's time of lamenting the unfairness of life, another two or three girls ran over to flirt with Wang Shou Ye, but they were all also politely rejected by him.

Why is the gap between people so vast?

Moaning in despair, Qian Xuefu was also trying to rally his spirits. Remember, Qian Xuefu, you do have outstanding alchemy skills. When you finally become a Great Alchemist in the future, the same "troubles" will surely come your way too.

With this thought, his competitive spirit was suddenly rekindled, and he began to look forward to his future life anew.

At this moment.

There was a sudden commotion in the crowd, and exclamations arose: "Master Dongfang is here... Wow, he certainly lives up to be the pillar of the young generation in the alchemy world. He is so handsome!"

"What does being handsome have to do with being a pillar of alchemy? That being said, Dongfang Yuxi's strength is indeed formidable. He is said to be the hot favourite to win this time."

"That's right, he possesses the Lihuo Bloodline with a dual high segment rank. If not for inheriting and supporting the declining Tianjin Port Dongfang Clan, he would have already become a core

disciple at the Academic Palace. With his top-notch accomplishment in alchemy, he could even become a direct disciple."

"Alas~ What a pity~ The Dongfang Clan used to be a well-established Celestial-being Prominent Family. Now they're barely able to maintain their Celestial-being status. Master Dongfang has to mass produce pills to support the family's expenses. Ah~ He has sacrificed so much for the family..."

With all these discussions, many people's attention was drawn over.

Even Wang Shouye could not help but cast a curious glance over.

As expected, from the direction of the entrance, a young man was slowly walking in.

This man was dressed in white, with a handsome face. He indeed had the appearance of a refined young gentleman.

However, even though he was handsome, his face was emotionless, and his aura was aloof and cold, as if someone owed him ten thousand pieces of Qian Gold.

Even so, there were still many girls around him screaming and lost in fascination.

Wherever he went, the crowd quickly parted, making way for him.

"Brother Qian, is this Dongfang Yuxi's alchemy technique really that powerful?" Wang Shouye asked curiously.

Changning City is quite remote, and doesn't get news as quickly as County Town. Plus, he always concentrates on his alchemy and doesn't care about other matters, so he really has never heard of Dongfang Yuxi's fame.

"Hmph, he's just a direct descendant from a declining 7th-rank Aristocratic Family. He enters so grandiosely, people who don't know any better might think he's from a Fifth Grade Prominent Family's main lineage." Qian Xuefu snorted coldly. His tone was full of jealousy. "However, when it comes to talent in cultivation and alchemy, he does have some. He's about as good as me."

"Is he really that powerful? This Master Dan Ding's disciple recruitment event really attracts a lot of geniuses." Wang Shouye couldn't help but be amazed, and at the same time, his expression became somewhat desolate. "This time, I really have seen what it means to say, 'there are always more talented people out there'."

"Brother Wang, don't think too much. There are all sorts of people among the registrants this time, and there are at least a thousand of them, but Master Danding only chooses three in the end." Qian Xuefu said, comforting him by patting his shoulder, "Think about it, apart from your good looks, which of your family, background, and alchemy skills could make it into the top three?"

Moreover, I've already secured a place. That Dongfang Yuxi might also take a spot...Just be content to come and see the world, to gain some experience."

As soon as he talked about this, Qian Xuefu was suddenly filled with a sense of superiority.

"Ah, I'm afraid I'm going to disappoint my fourth brother this time." Wang Shouye was filled with bitterness.

He was still too young after all. He hadn't expected the competition to be a disciple of Master Danding to be so fierce.

With time passing, more and more people poured in, and one after another, popular candidates appeared.

Most of these people were from Rank Six Prominent Families and were the alchemy elites trained by their families since young. Although they were still not very old, they all had outstanding reputations.

Other than these, there was also an independent cultivator who was attracting a lot of attention.

This independent cultivator was named "Si Xinghai". Once he came in, he didn't socialize with anyone. He simply leaned against the wall and closed his eyes to rest, presenting a demeanor that was completely different from the lively atmosphere around him.

However, seeing this person, Qian Xuefu's expression immediately became serious: "Brother Wang, don't underestimate this Si Xinghai. Even though he is an independent cultivator, he is very popular among the younger generation and his alchemy skills are extremely remarkable."

"Maybe in terms of sheer strength, he's not as good as Dongfang Yuxi, but he comes from an independent cultivator background. You must know, Master Dan Ding himself is from an independent cultivator background and will surely pay special attention to independent cultivators.

As long as this young man's performance isn't too bad, there's more than a fifty percent chance that Master Danding will take a liking to him. Before today, I had heard some rumours that Master Danding appreciates him a lot."

Wang Shouye was left speechless.

Even an independent cultivator is so powerful? Given there are only three spots, how could he, Wang Shouye, fight for them?

Forget it, forget it~ He's already here, he might as well give it a go~ At least, he needs to live up to the unconditional support that his family has given him over the years.

At this point.

Lei Lingyun had also returned after collecting information.

Her face did not look good either. She pursed her lips slightly and said, "Husband, I didn't expect there to be so many young experts at this disciple recruitment event of Master Danding. I'm afraid the difficulty of being selected is not low. But Lingyun believes, husband, you are definitely the strongest..."

Chapter 10: Fourth Brother! I can only "do my best"_2

By this time, even she, who had peculiar confidence in Shouye, could not maintain her confidence.

While speaking, the closed doors of the Danfang were suddenly pushed open from the inside, and a figure leisurely walked out.

In an instant, the bustling Danfang fell silent.

Everyone knew that Master Danding was resting inside the Danfang. The person who could come out at this time must be a trusted person of Master Danding.

Everyone looked closely and saw that the figure was a woman.

She wore a light blue gauze skirt, moved with graceful steps, her body was slender, and she appeared fresh and beautiful like a lotus, emanating an elegant and tranquil atmosphere that comforted everyone.

Especially those pair of eyes, clearer and purer than autumn waters, they made people forget their worldly troubles.

"Gu Hanyu! It's Gu Hanyu, the Pill Doctor Par Excellence!"

Someone recognized her and cried out in surprise.

The crowd immediately erupted in astonishment.

No one had thought that the renowned Pill Doctor Par Excellence of recent years had any connection with Master Danding.

Could it be possible that she was Master Danding's disciple since she appeared on behalf of him at this moment?

The crowd was filled with confusion and buzzing with whispers.

"Everyone, be quiet."

Gu Hanyu's cultivation base had already reached the advanced stage of the Spirit Platform Realm. As soon as she spoke, her voice thundered and all the noises around her were instantly suppressed.

She calmly said, "I am Gu Hanyu, a disciple of Master Danding, I will preside over this discipleship examination on behalf of him. Now I will announce the first rule..."

Wang Shouye was also extremely surprised, he couldn't help but mutter in a low voice, "I didn't expect Sister Hanyu to be a disciple of Master Danding, no wonder she is so powerful."

As it turns out, Gu Hanyu was also well-known in Changning, and had connections with the Wang family. Even Wang Shouzhe had paid some price and asked Gu Hanyu to teach him some alchemy experience.

However, Gu Hanyu had left Changning to travel around the world for the past two years. Unexpectedly, they would meet here.

"Eh? Brother Wang, you actually know this beautiful senior sister? When you have time, tell me more about her." Qian Xuefu looked straight ahead, whispering with a smirk, "I didn't expect there was already a secret disciple of Master, and she is such a beautiful senior sister. Qian Xuefu, your spring is coming."

"Brother Qian, be careful with your words. Sister Hanyu is very powerful." Wang Shouye hurriedly whispered a warning.

"Of course, the more powerful the senior sister is, the better... Ah~" Before Qian Xuefu could finish his words, several silver flashes flashed and landed on his body.

Immediately, Qian Xuefu fell to the ground and began to scream in pain.

In his chest was several shiny silver needles, obviously the work of Gu Hanyu.

"Whoever makes noise again will end up like him." Gu Hanyu said coldly, "If anyone dares to break the rules again, they will be expelled directly."

Her eyes swept across the field, where everyone was as quiet as a cicada in winter.

When her gaze swept over Wang Shouye, she paused for a moment, revealing a bit of goodwill. Her inherent temperament was not domineering, it was only for the smooth running of the Master's disciple selection meeting that she had to suppress everyone.

As expected.

Under Gu Hanyu's strong suppression, the order at the scene improved a lot. All the applicants were arranged into the backyard of Tian Yuan Danfang for a unified exam.

It was said that Master Danding was observing the examination with his spiritual sense, so naturally no one dared to cheat. Wang Shouye was also arranged at a test site and began to focus and study earnestly.

...

Meanwhile.

In the VIP room in Tian Yuan Danfang, representatives of various prominent families had gathered. The discipleship meeting of Master Danding was extremely important to many families.

If a child of a family is taken as a disciple by Master Danding, it not only establishes a high-quality network, but also cultivates an excellent alchemist for their family. Especially for the 7th-rank Aristocratic Family, this opportunity was even more precious.

As a representative of the Wang family, Wang Shou Zhe had been waiting in the VIP room for a long time, casually chatting with some familiar family heads.

Time passed little by little.

After several hours, the lengthy examination finally ended.

Gu Hanyu arranged for all the exam papers to be collected and had everyone sent out to wait. Then, carrying the exam papers, she returned to the depths of the Danfang to have them marked.

It took a half-hour more before all the papers were finally corrected.

Then she took the exam papers that had passed the preliminary round to a tightly closed room deep within the Tianyuan Danfang.

On entering the room, it was laden with a simple, unadorned decor.

A old man sat in a meditation pose on a Luohantai against the wall.

The old man was dressed in plain grey robes. He had an ordinary appearance and a restrained aura. He emitted a rustic flavour from head to toe.

At first glance, he seemed no different from an old farmer selling vegetables on the street. Only his deep and concealed eyes, like a profound pool, involuntarily commanded respect and awe.

This elder was none other than the renowned Master Danding.

Gu Hanyu held a stack of exam papers and said to master Danding, "Master, there were thirteen young alchemists who passed our test. Here are their names and papers."

"Among them, Dongfang Yuxi scored first, Wang Shouye from the Ping'an Wang family came second, Independent Cultivator Si Xinghai, who Master is fond of, got eleventh, and Qian Xuefu from the Qian family was thirteenth."

Master Danding took the papers and casually flip through them. However, instead of looking at them in detail, he quickly put them down.

"Hanyu, you know, I didn't really want to take any disciples at first, but now I'm reluctantly holding a public examination. Do you know why I'm doing this?" he asked, gazed serenely at Gu Hanyu as if testing her.

Gu Hanyu blinked her autumnal-clear eyes. "Master, you're well-renowned as an independent cultivator. The powerful forces in the Longzuo County have jointly 'encouraged' you, hoping that you will pass on your alchemy skills."

"Exactly. Although I'm a cultivator in the Purple Abode Realm, I'm still an ordinary independent cultivator. I can't avoid interacting with the prominent families." Master Danding sighed. "In order to cope with the incessant chatter of those families and the City Guard Mansion, I have to accept a few disciples to share some of the 'cake'.

Therefore, the selection of disciples cannot solely depend on the quality of performance."

"So, Master, what you mean is..." Gu Hanyu's eyes quivered, showing signs of worry.

"Firstly, as an independent cultivator, I should take care of independent cultivators. Regardless of how much the prominent families oppose, I am determined to accept Si Xinghai." said Master Danding in a firm voice. "That boy Si Xinghai has excellent aptitude and comprehension.

If his background was not so low and had not received systematic learning, he would be definitely ranked higher than eleventh."

Gu Hanyu nodded and circled Si Xinghai's name. "Master, who's the second one to be chosen?"

"Among the remaining examinees, the best-born is Qian Xuefu." Master Danding contemplated for a bit. "Although he only ranked thirteenth, who could deny his Purple Abode Family background? Old Qian has personally made a greeting, I guess I can't ignore his face."

The one referred to as Old Qian by Master Danding naturally was Qian family's old ancestor in the Purple Abode Realm.

Pretty brows of Gu Hanyu wrinkled slightly.

Although she didn't have a good impression of Qian Xuefu, just like Master had said, who had the gall to ignore Old Qian's prestige? If he hadn't passed the test that'd be one thing, but now...

Her brows furrowed, she reluctantly and unwillingly circled the name Qian Xuefu.

There was only one spot left now.

Gu Hanyu was getting increasingly worried in her heart.

Wang Shouye was practically her half-disciple. For him to score second would not be an easy feat. Forget it, forget it. She'd rather put in a good word for him and see if she could bump Dongfang Yuxi off.

She knew that on normal days, Master had a pretty good assessment of Dongfang Yuxi, and if nothing went wrong, he was most likely to choose him.

Just as she was about to speak, suddenly...

Master Danding sighed, "Dongfang Yuxi is naturally the first one owing to his solid basic skills. It's just such a shame, such a pity that he doesn't share a fate with Dan Ding. He is not meant to be."

"Ah?" Gu Hanyu was shocked.

"As for the second-ranked Wang Shouye..." Master Danding's brows slightly furrowed, "The Changning Wang Family is indeed a small family, but their clan leader unexpectedly is a disciple of Master Changchun. Hmph! Never mind, never mind, it's just that the mediation he brought was too compelling."

After a pause, he sighed. "The last person should be Wang Shouye. After all, his basic skills are not bad, and I definitely can't deny the face of the Commandery Prince."

Wang Shouye?

The Commandery Prince?

Gu Hanyu swallowed the words on the tips of her lips, and her pretty eyes welled with disbelief.

When did Wang Shouye get connected with the Commandery Prince?