

Refining 1331

Chapter 1331 – One Cannot be too Flamboyant

Amongst the interlaced Sun Moon light rays, the mouth of the woman curled as she sneered. Her eyes were still filled with annoyance. The expression on her face...more or less said, isn't my appearance enough? Very good, excellent!

The blood red flame continued to burn but did not emit any heat. It was like a ball of color that fell into the sea water.

Buzz –

A vibration emitted from within the iron lump. The restrictive force in the sea water disappeared. It was like a huge mouth as it swallowed the flame.

Very soon, it was like it could not bear the power contained in the flame. Its black color disappeared like ice melting under a scorching sun. No, more accurately, it was in the midst of disappearing. Not a single impurity was left behind as it vanished completely.

A uniformly circular crystal cylinder about as thick as an arm appeared in front of Qin Yu. Compared to the coarse and black iron lump, it was like heaven and earth.

He suddenly staggered as if he had been pushed roughly. Qin Yu rushed forwards to grab this crystal cylinder.

Then...the crystal melted.

The moment it touched Qin Yu, it became liquid and numerous illusions immediately appeared in Qin Yu's mind.

Sword, spear, halberd, arm shield, armor...and more. Images of these rapidly flashed through his mind and Qin Yu had a realization – this crystal would turn into whatever shape he wanted.

A sword!

The liquified crystal flowed and continuously grew longer. A long sword, exactly like what he had pictured in his mind, appeared.

The sword was slightly wide and smooth with nothing fancy. The surface looked slightly grey as if dust had settled after not being touched for a long time.

From the outside, it did not look at all impressive. And the word 'ordinary' would describe it perfectly.

When his gaze fell, the sound of a sword immediately rang in Qin Yu's mind. It was clear and melodious as if it surpassed all beings. A horrifying tearing suddenly occurred in his mind.

Even though he was the owner of the sword, he could still sense the murderous intent from it.

The word 'horrifying' was not enough to describe the feeling it gave Qin Yu. He could not help but swallow. At this moment, the thought in his mind was – it might kill him before he could kill anyone else.

Damn!

What kind of situation was this? It was nothing like what he imagined. Qin Yu felt as if his entire body had gone stiff.

“Hmph! At least you are somewhat smart.” The woman in the Sun Moon illusion snorted at him, her eyes still filled with dissatisfaction. “I am warning you. Before you complete your Great Dao, you had better not use it. If you don’t listen and you die, don’t blame anyone for it.”

She paused before continuing, “Anyway, let me also warn you. Don’t call for me or I will really whack you!”

She turned and took a big step, her illusion disappearing with a ‘poof’.

Sealing of memory...it was not that she did not want to but she could no longer do it. Just the fact that Qin Yu had a semi-finished True Saint Great Dao was enough to reject the seal on his memory.

Keke...this smelly brat was improving at a much faster rate than she expected. She had yet to think of how to use him.

This time, when she got back, she would not sleep first. She had to think about this. She had spent so much effort on him. She could not just leave him be and not order him around.

The long sword slanted its pointed end as if to assess Qin Yu. It then realized that this owner of its was in a ‘dried out and powerless’ state.

With his semi-finished Great Dao, it was not enough for it to even take a sip. If not for...hehe, how could you have met our expectations? Forget it. At a place like this, it would just tolerate.

Whoosh –

The sword did not hesitate as it turned its sword tip to Qin Yu’s head and flew towards him. The hairs on his back stood up. His first thought was that this thing was rebelling.

The second thought was, I am doomed!

It was as fast as lightning and did not give Qin Yu any chance to dodge. The sword pierced into his chest.

Thankfully, his chest did not burst open and spout blood. It was just like an illusion as it disappeared immediately...this sword had merged into Qin Yu’s body!

He quickly closed his eyes and sensed his body.

Hooo –

After a few moments, Qin Yu let out a long breath. He was panting as he lifted his hand to wipe his sweat. He could not help but laugh bitterly.

What was this? He had spent so much effort yet he was not even qualified to use it.

Not only that, he had suffered a rude and horrifying shock.

That’s right. The sword merely scared him. If Qin Yu could not even sense this, he would not be qualified to do anything.

This was embarrassing. Very embarrassing!

Think about it, he was being looked down upon by his own item. This was a feeling...lifting his hand to rub his face, he looked around. Not noticing anything different, he then turned and walked out.

The sea water was the same as before yet it was completely different. Because the power that it had contained had disappeared completely.

Success!

The Spring Master smiled.

With a 'plop', the Dragon Saint fell onto the floor. His entire expression was pale as he curled up pathetically.

His eyes were empty as he looked at the gap in the mountain range that Qin Yu was walking out from. Qin Yu's silhouette was reflected clearly in his eyes yet it looked slightly blurry...as if in a dream.

Ah ah ah ah!

How the Dragon Saint wished that this was really a dream. Qin Yu had actually succeeded in retrieving the thing in the mountain.

The Dragon Saint was utterly heartbroken. Not only because he had lost something precious but because his entire confidence had been trampled on.

How many years had it been since he found the thing in the mountain? He had served it carefully and even tried all sorts of ways to curry favor with it. After so much effort, he finally managed to take a few steps.

Although success was still far for him, the Dragon Saint had confidence. As a True Saint, as long as he was not killed, he could keep trying until he eventually succeeded.

He had thought this way and had done so.

When he first met Qin Yu he was just a slightly more outstanding junior who moved the Dragon Saint.

Yet in just a short time, he had become Mister Ninth of Peach Garden and possessed a position that the Dragon Saint had to treat with respect.

He entered the mountain and when he came out, he was holding the thing from the mountain...why?

Why?!

I am the Dragon Saint and I put in so much effort for so many years, yet I cannot compare to a junior. With just a bit of effort, he had done it.

The Dragon Saint's pride was utterly crushed! If his emotional control was not strong, he would have gone crazy.

Qin Yu waved, "Master, I was lucky." Turning, he nodded at the Dragon Saint. "Thank you Dragon Saint."

He was not mocking him at all.

Although Qin Yu had definitely been embarrassed by the long sword, he was still able to clearly consider other things. This showed that he was in such a good mood he could not be bothered by this trivial matter.

Of course, he was feeling good. He was feeling so happy he could fly!

He needed a completed True Saint Great Dao in order to attempt to wield this sword. Just this fact alone showed how scary it could be.

However, he could not be too flamboyant...moreover, the Dragon Saint was looking extremely devastated. Qin Yu felt that he was doing well by hiding the joy he was feeling.

Hehe, one cannot be too flamboyant.

He had already reaped the benefits. He did not have to do something stupid like letting everyone know what he successfully got and making people jealous of him. Was there any benefit to that?

Chapter 1332 – The Spring Master Threw the Furnace into the Sea

Bidding goodbye to the dazed Dragon Saint, the Peach Garden master and disciple returned through the teleportation portal.

Everything was very smooth except that in the portal, Qin Yu could vaguely sense some unusual movements in the Spring Master's aura.

It happened in a flash and Qin Yu could not determine if he had sensed wrongly. He looked at the Spring Master's back as he thought but did not say anything.

He had gone to the East Sea to save someone, but it was also to hide his movements. So other than the Spring Master, no one else knew that Qin Yu was gone and had created such a big event in the East Sea.

To outsiders, Qin Yu was merely isolating to cultivate and required peace.

But on the third day after he returned to the Peach Garden, something big happened. The third disciple of the Peach Garden, White Phoenix, transcended the boundary and entered the Sea of Bitterness to become a Half-Saint.

It was the day that the accumulated Saint aura descended and the Peach Garden was filled with laughter and happiness. Everyone was happy to associate themselves with more power, and they quickly gave their congratulations as well as presents.

As subordinates of the Peach Garden, their benefits were associated with the Peach Garden. Although the Spring Master was extremely strong and he alone was sufficient to scare everyone, with White Phoenix becoming a Half-Saint, the Peach Garden grew stronger. It naturally gave all of the subordinates a greater guarantee.

Qin Yu...his speed of emergence was too quick. He was like the midday sun, shining so bright; it made it difficult for others to look at him.

No one was able to form connections with Mister Ninth fast enough and of course they felt reverence, apprehension, and insecurities at the same time. After all, with Mister Ninth's current abilities, he was able to leave the Peach Garden and become independent.

Thankfully, he was known to be lovers with Peachy. Everyone knew this and all that was missing was the official process.

As for this, everyone secretly sighed and praised Spring Master for having a keen eye and being able to accurately pinpoint him. When the news of their engagement was first known, there were some who were dissatisfied. Now, they no longer dared to utter a single word against them.

With this engagement, even if Mister Ninth chose to leave and set up his own place, the Peach Garden was still untouchable.

With White Phoenix becoming a Half-Saint, the Peach Garden's various disciples came to congratulate him. When Qin Yu gave him a blood-colored glass fragment, the whole atmosphere quietened slightly.

Back then, outside the Lost Garden, Qin Yu had joined hands with the Spring Master to massacre Saints and killed the Nether Saint. His Great Dao broke into fragments and was given to the Saint circle as compensation.

What Qin Yu took out today, although it was not the entire Great Dao fragment, it was at least thirty percent of it. It was extremely valuable.

To put into perspective, back then during the East Sea Banquet, some Half-Saints had actually tried to take the risk to kill Peachy just for a bit of the Scholartree Saint's Great Dao.

There was nothing much to say in comparison.

White Phoenix was solemn as he took a deep breath, "I understand your intentions but junior brother, this gift is too much. I cannot accept it."

Qin Yu waved, "It is not a secret what kind of situation I am in. Third apprentice brother, I am sure you know that the True Saint Great Dao does not have much use to me. When I took this, I intended to give it to the various senior brothers and sisters. Third apprentice brother, it was just a coincidence that you were the first to transcend."

As he said this, he smiled and looked at the crowd, "Since I already said this, I will continue and say that I have two more True Saint Great Dao fragments. Let's see which senior brother or sister will be the first."

He sounded extremely impressive and generous. Elder apprentice brother smiled and spoke, "Junior-apprentice brother, after hearing you say this, I feel like I should isolate as well. Everyone wants such a good thing and it does not seem like it will wait!"

Everyone laughed and elder apprentice brother looked at White Phoenix, "You are lucky and you should not decline. Junior-apprentice brother is telling the truth. The True Saint Great Dao is collecting dust in his hands."

Slightly hesitating, White Phoenix extended both hands to receive the gift. "Thank you junior-apprentice brother!" As the blood jade landed in his hands, his breath quickened as his face flushed.

Was there anything better to Half-Saints than receiving such a big True Saint Great Dao fragment? Moreover, to a Half-Saint who had just transcended.

With his own personal experience, White Phoenix would tell you that there was nothing better! If not, why would the third disciple of the Peach Garden express such happiness in front of everyone?

He recalled how he had isolated himself and refused to participate in anything due to his initial thoughts. Now, as he looked at Qin Yu, who was smiling slightly, he felt guilty and that guilt soon turned into warmth and gratitude.

Second apprentice brother was moved, "Becoming a Half-Saint and getting a True Saint Great Dao fragment...if others hear about this, they will be extremely jealous." He coughed lightly, "Junior-apprentice brother, with my current cultivation, I am afraid that I will not be able to break through again anytime soon. So I believe I won't make it in time to receive another of these Great Dao fragments. I ask that you continue and get us more such good things. If not, when I break through and my gift differs too much, I won't accept it."

A burst of laughter erupted as everyone agreed with second apprentice brother. Seventh apprentice sister, who had a handsome face today, looked over with an expression that seemed to say she believed Qin Yu would satisfy all of them.

Qin Yu laughed bitterly saying they were too cruel and asking if he could take back his gift.

White Phoenix coughed lightly and put the Great Dao fragment away. With a serious face, he said that a gift that had been given was like water that had been poured. How could Mister Ninth of the Peach Garden do something like that?

They started a feast with everyone around one table.

The disciples of the Peach Garden chatted and drank merrily through the night.

As Qin Yu left third apprentice brother's small residence with Lei Xiaoyu, she bugged Qin Yu and said that he had to give her something more precious than a True Saint Great Dao fragment when she entered the Sea of Bitterness. She nagged at him so much and only left when Qin Yu nodded.

Hoo –

Qin Yu let out a breath as he turned to look at White Phoenix's residence. He smiled. He could tell that they were all joking. This close and comforting atmosphere made him feel comfortable.

The reason why Qin Yu was able to get along with the Peach Garden so quickly and why they acknowledged his position was probably because the Peach Garden was different.

But the truth was, there was someone missing today.

Peachy had instructed someone to give her gift, but she did not attend the banquet. Qin Yu could not help but worry about how she was.

Saying their hearts beat as one would not be appropriate but when Qin Yu reached his residence, there was a female servant waiting for him.

Peachy was asking him over.

This was just the second time they met after the East Sea banquet. Qin Yu felt somewhat assured that the situation with Peachy was stable. With his current cultivation, eye power and knowledge, Qin Yu was able to notice a lot of things when he met with Peachy.

Putting his hands together respectfully, he said, "Greetings fourth apprentice sister."

Peachy nodded, "Junior-apprentice brother, please have a seat." Alienated and indifferent, she gave off a cool feeling that seemed as if she held herself above others.

Qin Yu thanked her and sat down, "Fourth apprentice sister, is everything okay?"

Peachy replied, "Yes." She was silent for a moment, "I asked you over today for a favor."

Qin Yu continued, "Please continue."

This time, her silence was longer. She looked slightly pained as she said slowly, "Father's body is having some issues."

Qin Yu's heart clenched as he frowned, "Is it serious?"

Peachy nodded.

Alas, his feeling when they were teleporting was right. And when he was connecting with the Spring Master in the Red Peak Straits, he gave Qin Yu a sense of being in poor health.

He frowned harder.

The realm of True Saint lords was the highest realm just below Rulers and there were only a handful of them in the Vast Brightness World. They were immortal and lived forever.

With a realm like that, it was not a small issue if there was something wrong with their body.

Qin Yu was serious, "Fourth apprentice sister, don't worry. If there is any chance, I will do my best to help Master recover." He called the power of the innate spirit. It could do something magical and reverse life and death...maybe it would work.

He stood up and cupped his hands respectfully, "Since this is the case, I will go and visit Master."

Peachy looked grateful as she bowed, "Thank you, junior-apprentice brother."

Qin Yu arrived at the Spring Master's residence. He did not need to wait and was immediately let in. This was the natural treatment he should receive with his cultivation realm now.

"Greetings, Master."

The Spring Master was sitting at a round table and sipping tea. He waved his hand, "Please rise, come and have some tea." The tea aroma wafted from the cup he freshly poured out.

Qin Yu sat. Hesitating slightly, he decided to be straightforward, "Master, I am here to present some of the power of the innate spirit to place in the Peach Garden's storage. We don't have to exchange

anything. As it is precious, please use it in critical moments. I will have to trouble you with arranging for this.”

He then raised a hand and light shone from his palm. Little balls of energy from the innate spirit appeared and rushed to his five fingertips.

The Spring Master’s eyes flashed as he looked at Qin Yu before falling silent. He then spoke, “You just came from Peachy’s residence?”

Qin Yu nodded.

The Spring Master smiled and looked heartened. Warmth shone from his face. He looked at Qin Yu and shook his head, “This little girl never listens to me. I bet she has already told you. I had intended to tell you all after a while. Oh well...”

He lifted his hand to point, “Keep it. In the Vast Brightness World, only you possess the power of the innate spirit. It is an offense to give it freely. It is a pity that it is not able to help me.”

Qin Yu frowned, “Master, why don’t you try, maybe...”

The Spring Master cut him off, “With the innate spirit energy that you gave me previously, I already tried.” He did not say more, but the outcome was obvious.

Although he already had a bad feeling, hearing it made Qin Yu’s heart clench with a sense of sourness and heaviness. He frowned even more.

“Master...”

The Spring Master smiled, “Keep it, let me tell you something.” He waved his sleeve and there was a shift in the air, closing them off from the outside world.

After Qin Yu put away the power from the innate spirit, Spring Master narrowed his eyes, “My problem is an old debt. So I have to properly think about it. Let’s talk about your problem first.”

He looked at Qin Yu. “You are on the True Saint Path and the reason why you have a semi-finished Great Dao is because of the furnace right.” It was not a question but just a narration of facts. It was obvious he already had his answer.

Qin Yu nodded, “Yes, thank you Master for helping me hide this.”

The Spring Master laughed, “I bet when you found out the truth about the furnace you must have doubted how a True Saint could be so shameless and lie without blinking.”

Qin Yu wanted to smile but his heart felt heavy and he could only nod, expressing that this thought did indeed cross his mind.

The Spring Master shook his head as he lifted his hand to tap Qin Yu, “Your cultivation increased and I am sure you became less tactful. You actually admitted outright. But I can definitely accept your thanks. Not only for helping you hide the truth about the furnace but more importantly...I was the one who threw this furnace into the Endless Sea.”

Chapter 1333 – Peachy is the Cause

Qin Yu's head jerked upwards and his eyes widened as his expression turned to shock.

The Spring Master smiled, "Do you believe it?"

He got up and paced back and forth a few steps. A reminiscent look crossed his face and he sighed, "I have never suffered much in my life. Among those who offended me, the majority got their unlucky outcome on the spot. The rest were taught a lesson later on. As such, I had many enemies.

"The only exception is a friend of mine from many years ago. The two of us fought often and our friendship developed from there. Do you believe it? That guy is only a Half-Saint in the Sea of Bitterness. I always beat him up mercilessly. However, he has never actually lost and he managed to stand his ground against me."

The Spring Master paused, "I do not often admire others. This friend changed his name many times to avoid being killed, but most people know him as 'the Furnace Saint'."

The Furnace Saint!

Qin Yu's heart jumped and he had to breathe in deeply to regain his composure, "I see..."

The Spring Master explained, "The Furnace Saint was trapped in the Sea of Bitterness and he could not cross it for a long time despite many failures. He was angry and he decided to pursue a cultivation path of Casting Furnace. This went against the rules of the Vast Brightness World and it can also be seen as a challenge against the world.

"In the end, the Furnace Saint died after a catastrophe. The furnace in your hands was casted from the powers of the heavens' catastrophe that day. It was thrown into the sea and it was his dying wish to choose a suitable inheritor. However, the changes after that were something that I did not anticipate."

He looked at Qin Yu, "The Endless Sea had no spirit to begin with. When the great furnace fell into it, due to a stroke of fate it absorbed a trace of the great furnace's heavenly tribulation aura, leading to a spirit being born and the great furnace being hidden away. For all that time, no one had been able to find it. After countless years passed, you entered the Endless Sea seeking fame and cut down the sea spirit, obtaining the great furnace. Then, you were accepted into the Peach Garden....so Qin Yu, you share a fate with the Peach Garden, and this fate was laid down long ago."

Qin Yu nodded, "Master, you are right!"

The Furnace Saint, the furnace, Sea Spirit, Peachy...this was deeply fated!

The Spring Master continued, "Saying this is useless but I have to explain why I knew about the furnace. The reason your cultivation is unable to be fully refined is because the flame in the furnace is not brilliant enough. The Fire of Eternal Night is unable to sustain the Furnace Dao. Simply put, the furnace needs to be replenished with energy for the flame inside to become stronger."

Qin Yu's eyes lit up. This meant that the furnace could still undergo transformation and evolve. After devouring the Fire of Eternal Night, he could refine it into a Great Dao. If he could absorb another flame, wouldn't it be easier for him to cultivate?

However, it was obvious that the grade of the flame must be very high for it to be absorbed by the furnace. It must be difficult to source such a flame.

The Fire of Eternal Night was a great example!

“There is another thing that I must remind you of.” The Spring Master shook his head and his expression turned strange, “Although the furnace is sturdy, it is not a defensive item. In the future, your enemies will be stronger. You must never use it as a shield. If the furnace breaks one day, you will never be able to repair it. Crying would be of no use.”

Qin Yu bowed, “This furnace was refined from the Furnace Saint’s life and it is the final outcome from his challenge to the world. I was reckless before and I will not use it so wastefully in the future. Master, please rest assured.”

His words were flattering but he promised the Spring Master and also expressed his gratitude and admiration to the Furnace Saint.

The Spring Master smiled. Qin Yu was smart and he could guess the Spring Master’s intentions. He said, “Alright, I have given you a brief outline. If you are interested, I can tell you a story.”

Qin Yu breathed in deeply, “I am all ears.”

The Spring Master paced back and forth. When he spoke just now, he had chosen his words carefully but now he did not hold back, “This is not the beginning of the story. It was a time so long ago I only have a vague impression of it. I am not sure which generation this occurred in.

“This was a period where I had my fondest memories in my long life. In that time, I did not need to think much and I only listened to my master every day. Although I did not understand everything, I was learning each day.”

He looked at Qin Yu and his expression turned serious, “I think you know this already. I created the Peach Garden and am known as the Spring Master because I was originally a peach tree. My strange cultivation way was hard but once I succeeded, I was stronger than the average True Saint. Furthermore, I encountered another opportunity when I went through my cultivation.

“The Scholartree Saint of the Western Mountain was a locust wood and he was my best friend a long time ago. We lived together for a long time and I thought that my life would continue like this. However, a calamity struck. My master was strong and he was regarded as a top Ruler in the world. Yet, he could not defend against the catastrophe and he died in a pool of blood. Afterwards, the small world broke apart and an awful turmoil struck.”

The Spring Master’s expression turned solemn, “At that time, with mine and the Scholartree Saint’s strength, we were destined to die. However, our master’s corpse landed beside us coincidentally and we absorbed it and refined ourselves. From there, we managed to obtain a strong base to break through to become True Saints.”

Qin Yu’s heart jerked. He never imagined that the Spring Master would have such a past. A plant under the Ruler absorbed his corpse and became a Saint. This proved how terrifying a Ruler was. His mere corpse created two True Saints. They were the Spring Master and the Scholartree Saint, two unique and strong True Saints!

However, since the Spring Master and the Scholartree Saint had the same origins and were each others’ friends, what happened to their relationship?

The Spring Master fell silent and he suddenly shook his head, "Aren't you curious how we turned out like this? The reason is simple. We became Saints and were no longer tiny spiritual plants like back then. Our views became different and our hearts changed.

"We were both strange spiritual creatures who absorbed our master's strength from his corpse. This meant that our existence came about simultaneously. If we could kill each other, we could easily refine and absorb the other's strength. In fact, I had this desire but I suppressed it. However, the Scholartree Saint was different. After the great battle, we left the small world and entered the Vast Brightness World. Time passed and now we are here today.

"We did not settle our anger with each other in the past and this made the Scholartree Saint hateful. After many years of careful thinking, I thought through many things. Perhaps the Scholartree Saint did not want this either but the temptation was too strong, and bit by bit, it eroded his mind until he deviated from his original nature. Despite my understanding, I cannot change the past and return to the beginning."

The Spring Master spat, "Maybe this scenario is what I am happy with...because we see each other as enemies, I am willing to kill him, absorb him, and have a chance for the Ruler seat. However, it is a pity that we were never able to kill each other despite so many years of fighting. In the end, I believe the Scholartree Saint has won. There is something wrong with me now. When I die, I will be absorbed by the Scholartree Saint. This was a destiny that was written when the two of us absorbed our master's corpse. No one can change this.

"Sometimes I would wonder. Perhaps this is our crime for absorbing our master's body and being disloyal. However, if that did not happen, we would have died. As such, even if time rewound, I would make similar choices...I do not regret it."

Qin Yu sighed deeply, "Master, can your condition be fixed? What is the issue?"

If he could find the cause of the problem, it would make things easier.

A look of pain flashed in the Spring Master's eyes, "I was tricked by the Scholartree Saint back then and my Great Dao was injured. I have been trying to recover ever since I escaped into the Vast Brightness World. It was then that I met my lover. She was the only woman I ever loved and I swore to live the rest of my life loving her. However, she was killed by someone else and I personally sought out every method but failed to save her. I was left with Peachy.

"I swore that I would protect Peachy and never let her be harmed. However, I failed...Peachy was poisoned by an ancient carp during training. Despite trying my best to eliminate the poison, her soul was scattered. Without any choice, I used my Great Dao, sacrificing it to seal her soul together for her to continue living.

"At the same time, I tried the Path of Ten Thousand Souls to help Peachy's cultivation and I turned the broken parts of her soul into seeds and scattered them all over the world. I did this in the hope that these scattered souls would grow stronger and would seek out the main soul in the future. From there, the scattered souls would merge with the main soul and prolong her life." I see!

After understanding everything, Qin Yu's first thought was that Scholartree Saint was involved in this. He lifted his head and a questioning look crossed his eyes.

The Spring Master could sense Qin Yu's intentions. He shook his head, "I investigated this carefully but this is not related to the Scholartree Saint...the Scholartree Saint also lost his wife and child and he was in a more pitiful situation compared to me. However, he was ruthless and he did not do anything after their deaths. He was not like me; he only saved himself.

"I mentioned our hatred for each other before. My suspicions can be considered as karma on the two of us...we were disloyal and we disrespected our master's body. Despite our strange origins, we continued cultivating...this violated the will of the Vast Brightness World severely."

A cold wave washed over Qin Yu's heart and he shivered. If what the Spring Master said was true, he had been suffering punishments from the will of the Vast Brightness World for all these years.

His wife died and his daughter's soul was scattered...with these thoughts, Qin Yu looked at the Spring Master's calm expression. He could only imagine the suffering the Spring Master went through over all these years. If the Spring Master did not have such strong determination, he would have gone mad a long time ago!

Hm? Wait!

Qin Yu's head jerked up and he captured the essence in the Spring Master's words. Did the cause of his suffering stem from Peachy?

Chapter 1334 – Bounded Zero Place

With this thought, the entire situation came to light!

He should have known this earlier. A True Saint was a powerful existence and it was not easy for a problem to happen to them.

The only possibility was that he was under constant torment that ate his roots. This was something that could not be reversed.

Peachy was a heavy mountain on the back of the Spring Master!

The splitting of one's soul meant certain death. Yet, the Spring Master sustained Peachy's life till this day and he had to pay a price with his own cultivation.

Qin Yu guessed this much earlier, but he did not think that it would be this severe. No wonder the Peach Garden changed its demeanor in recent years. The calm resulted in many people forgetting how vicious the Spring Master could be.

The Spring Master must have sensed that something was wrong many years ago and so he cut down on the frequency of his battles...Qin Yu thought about it further. The reason why the Spring Master suddenly showed himself and appeared at the Lost Garden was probably related to the killing of the Nether Saint.

He knew about his condition...the Spring Master must have predicted something and he purposely showcased his might then to ensure peace for the Peach Garden in the future.

The Spring Master wore a calm look but he noticed Qin Yu's complicated expression. He said, "Don't tell Peachy."

With these words, Qin Yu knew that he did not need to ask further.

The Spring Master knew the reason why Qin Yu entered the Peach Garden in the beginning. As such, it was useless to try to persuade him. Qin Yu sighed deeply as he bowed, "Master, you are an incredible father!"

"Not really." The Spring Master waved his hand, "At the beginning, I thought that I would be able to handle it and I even wanted to fill in the position of Ruler. In the end, I devoted myself to saving Peachy. However, I was wrong. The empty Ruler seat continued to stare at me. If I knew that I would die trying to save her, I might have chosen differently."

He raised his head and looked at the sky above the Peach Garden. Wearing a calm expression, he said, "Perhaps my life might seem glorious to others, but I am actually a failure. Master died during the heavens' catastrophe back then and I swore to find out the truth once I became a Saint. However, I did not achieve anything.

"My wife was the only woman I ever loved in my life and I swore to take care of her until we were both old. But in the end, she died because of me. When she was dying, she told me that she did not resent me. I knew that those words came from her heart but I could not forgive myself.

"My only daughter's life is at risk because of her split soul. As her father, I swore to her mother that I would protect her for life. In the end, I made her live a life of suffering. She is constantly being tormented."

The Spring Master lowered his head and looked at Qin Yu with solemn eyes, "I did not find the reason why my master died and I am afraid that it would be very hard to do so. Perhaps I could turn back time to change things as a Ruler, but it is impossible to revive the dead. My wife is already dead. My life is full of failures and Peachy is the last thing that I want to protect...Nothing can happen to her! Qin Yu, promise me that you will protect her no matter what happens in the future. I don't desire anything else. I just wish that she can live!"

Qin Yu bowed, "I swear that no matter what happens, I will give my all to protect Senior Peachy."

He was wholehearted and sincere with his words.

At this time, Qin Yu was full of respect and gratitude for the Spring Master.

If he had not sacrificed himself to save Peachy, Ning Ling and You Qi would never have existed. Although this was another story, Qin Yu would not be the person he was today.

These were all set!

With the Spring Master's experience and wisdom, he could sense all these thoughts. He smiled, "I believe you. As a token of appreciation, I will tell you a secret. The furnace is a treasure that can constantly transform and evolve. Its most valuable aspect is that it can refine Great Dao.

"You already know that the furnace needs to absorb flame in order to constantly evolve. Coincidentally, I know somewhere in this world where there is a flame that can help the furnace transform. It is Bounded Zero Place."

The Spring Master paused and then continued, "Actually, it is the place where I became a Saint!" He noticed Qin Yu's calm expression but the Spring Master knew that Qin Yu was very pleased. "After the heavens' catastrophe back then, the small world that Master created broke but it did not completely destruct. It turned into a very unstable land in the world and it is known as Bounded Zero Place. It is where the world withers."

Qin Yu cupped his hands together, "Please explain further, Master."

The furnace was something Qin Yu was interested in cultivating. Since he knew of the existence of Bounded Zero Place, he knew he would go there one day.

The Spring Master must have withheld this information because he wanted to observe Qin Yu's attitude. If Qin Yu had hesitated, he might not have revealed the information.

If the Spring Master told him this, he was obviously trying to remind Qin Yu to keep his promise.

Qin Yu knew this but he was not angry. If he angered the Spring Master, the Spring Master would take more drastic measures.

The Spring Master retrieved a jade slip and said, "I placed information about Bounded Zero Place in this. If there is anything you are not sure of, you can ask me at any time."

Qin Yu took the jade slip and stood up straight. He had obtained a lot of information today and he needed time to think it through.

He returned to his living quarters and sat down to think about the Spring Master's words for a long time. After he carefully went through the new information, he took the jade slip and channeled his divine sense into it.

After a while, he placed the jade slip on the table. All of a sudden, a cracking sound appeared as numerous cracks formed on the surface of the jade slip. The entire jade slip turned into dust.

The Ruler is dead in Bounded Zero Place!

Time and space was a mess. The numerous fragments of the small world were like a boiling pot of water. Because of the chaos in space time, they appeared and disappeared constantly. At some point, they would collide against each other and then bounce far away.

Because the Ruler died here, his aura was absorbed by many spirits on the fragments of the small world. As such, like the Lost Garden, there were many powerful creatures there. However, the creatures were much more powerful than in the Lost Garden and they could compare to Saints.

They were on par with True Saints from the shore and not Half-Saints struggling in the Sea of Bitterness. Rules in the Bounded Zero Place were broken and it was in a chaotic state. If a True Saint entered it, his Great Dao would suffer. In the worst case, it would completely be destroyed!

As such, True Saints would not go to Bounded Zero Place easily. Half-Saints were the strongest individuals who entered.

However, this did not mean that Bounded Zero Place was a terrifying area that no one dared to enter. Throwing everything aside, a place where a Ruler perished attracted many cultivators. Despite knowing they might die, these cultivators were still lured over.

The reason was simple, there was no Ruler!

If they could obtain treasures from Bounded Zero Place, their powers might leap.

The flame that the Spring Master spoke about was in the depths of Bounded Zero Place. It was a flame that burnt for eternity since the Ruler died back then.

This flame could burn through till the end of time and there had never been signs of it extinguishing. The space around it shrunk and had an illusionary feeling.

Qin Yu's lips twitched and his eyes shone brightly. There was an inextinguishable flame in Bounded Zero Place. It was also the place where a Ruler died. As a person with the goal of becoming a Ruler, how could he miss out on such an opportunity?

Chapter 1335 – Return to the East Zhou Family

The space shifted and Qin Yu stepped out from within. This entire process was so smooth; no one noticed anything amiss.

He raised his head and looked ahead at the numerous buildings in front of him. There were buildings all the way to the edge and they stood tall and majestic.

This was where the East Zhou Family lived.

When he came here the first time years ago, he had felt shocked and impressed by the city without a city wall.

He no longer had this feeling when he looked at the city again today. His gaze fell upon the hidden objects and he noticed the inexplicable but fearful aura that shot into the sky.

Closing his eyes, he sensed the aura from Snowside. She seemed to be in a good condition; her cultivation was much better than before.

That was good.

He smiled slightly and walked towards the city without a wall. He was like a shadow as he slipped into the city unnoticed by all the secret guards of the East Zhou Family.

Qin Yu was not familiar with this city and he did not have many people that he wanted to see. Furthermore, he did not have much time and he didn't need to reminisce on his past. He headed straight for Snowside.

She did not live with the East Zhou Family.

Qin Yu did not seem fast but he quickly reached the end of the long street. This scene was supposed to be surprising to others but cultivators did not blink an eye when they saw Qin Yu. Strictly speaking, it was difficult to attain such speed.

Hm? He recognized this street, he must have been here before. Qin Yu suddenly stopped and he looked ahead. His gaze locked onto a particular window of a three-story wine tavern. He was shocked and found it a little strange.

Unexpectedly, Snowside, that lady was so well-received...if he greeted her now, would he scare everyone off?

At that point, Snowside was very bored. She saw the smile from him and wanted to hop out of her seat and dash to him. However, she knew that she was being hit upon now. It was not because she was attractive but because she had certain statuses tied to her.

For instance, it was rumored that she was a close slave of that famous Mister Ninth of the Peach Garden. Additionally, she was also a close friend of East Zhou Duly, the new head of the East Zhou Family. Lastly, she was helping to tend to East Zhou Family matters now and she had a lot of power.

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Snowside knew the reason for all of this. It started from when she was a slave and she slowly worked her way up.

Mister Ninth of the Peach Garden!

She did not know the specifics of what cultivation rank he was. However, she could guess from East Zhou Duly's words that he was already one of the most powerful individuals in this world.

Although Snowside guessed a long time ago that Qin Yu's future would be bright, she did not imagine that he would rise so quickly.

The thoughts of getting pregnant were long gone and Snowside knew very well that she was now very different from Qin Yu. There was no chance for that.

It might even be possible that Mister Ninth of the Peach Garden had long forgotten the slave he left at the East Zhou Family.

Maybe the thought of her crossed his mind before. It would only be a flash and he would not think twice about it. After all, she was a mere slave and Qin Yu did not owe her anything. Strictly speaking, she had to be extremely thankful to Qin Yu right now.

If the people in front of her knew that Qin Yu had long forgotten her, what would they say? The majority of them would leave, curse at her, and mock her. If she was just a slave of Mister Ninth, who would want her hand?

Therefore, despite her impatience and annoyance, Snowside bore everything and did not react much. She knew that she did not have the leeway to act brazenly. In the short run there would be no problem, but in the future when the halo label faded away, she would have to rely on herself to live.

As such, when East Zhou Duly asked Snowside whether she wanted to take over the internal matters of the East Zhou Family, she did not need to think twice before agreeing. It was not that she liked power. She just hoped that when the halo label disappeared, she would not be too badly affected.

Every time she was hesitant, tired, or dejected, Snowside loved to come to the wine tavern and sit here. Perhaps it was because Qin Yu used to bring her here often. Even if she did nothing, she would feel at ease here and she would be in a better mood.

However, now that people had found out about this, she could not come here in the future...as she thought about this, Snowside grew sad. She knew that she could not stay here for long. Otherwise, she would not be able to suppress her feelings and she would do something she would regret.

Her eyes scanned the streets and she looked into the far corner. She recalled a few images. Back then, Qin Yu was not the ninth disciple of the Peach Garden yet and he was not that strong. However, he was already someone Snowside knew she could rely on.

It was a pity that this support was far away from her now.

Her eyes turned wet and her vision blurred. Suddenly, she widened her eyes. She seemed to have spotted a figure but when she looked again, she could not find him.

She was starting to hallucinate...Snowside sighed deeply. She turned around and looked at the surprised gazes of the cultivators beside her. She smiled, "I have a few matters to attend to. I will leave you guys early today. Goodbye."

There was redness in her eyes. Despite her smile, people spotted the sadness and reluctance in her eyes. For these cultivators to be here, they might have average talents but they wanted a shot at a woman.

"Miss Snowside, you must be tired. You should go and rest."

"You can never finish attending to your matters. Take care of yourself."

"Miss Snowside, I have settled the bill. You can go."

"Oh so Brother Xu was the one. I was too late so I told the counter staff that I would settle the next bill."

Such sweet words could not touch Snowside's heart. Instead, she found them fake. She nodded her head and smiled reluctantly as she turned and left.

The crowd left and suddenly, a voice rang, "Why didn't you eat this food? Are you in a hurry to leave? Although you are wealthy now, it is always bad to be frivolous. Miss Snowside, you have changed!"

At this point, the same thought popped up into everyone's mind. This man was so stupid, was he trying another method to win over her heart? Hehe, with her mood now, this move was so dumb and stupid.

No one would pity him and some even rejoiced at his stupidity. They knew that every other person here was a competitor. One more eliminated competitor would translate to a lower pressure for them. As such, the crowd slowly started to back off, revealing the origin of the voice.

Snowside turned as she frowned. The next instant, her hand flew to cover her mouth and her tears flowed down. She had thought of this moment many times before and she even dreamed about it, but she never thought it would be a reality.

“Young master, you can’t stay that...” A kind-hearted man spoke out to correct him. The moment he did, he was pushed aside as Snowside rushed forward like a prancing deer. Everyone was stunned when they saw her jump into his embrace. Silence filled the tavern in the next second.

Snowside had always been calm and she kept to herself. Yet she actually jumped into a stranger’s embrace from these words.

Gosh. If I knew this earlier, I would have done this too!

Who was this man? How was it that we achieved nothing despite putting in so much but you were hugged so easily?

Who could tolerate this?

Young lad, you better have a good background that will shock us speechless. Otherwise, you are in deep trouble!

The kind-hearted cultivator had been pushed aside. His face stiffened.

She was a mere slave and she should have been forgotten much earlier on. Even if she was related to the East Zhou Family, so what? They did not live by the East Zhou Family!

Taking a step back, even if Snowside was related to Mister Ninth of the Peach Garden, this hug with a stranger ended everything.

In other words, the most important label that Snowside had was extinguished! Among the crowd, many people’s expressions changed and they started to wonder whether they should continue pursuing her.

The cultivator who fell to the ground scoffed, “What a lowly slave...”

Slap!

A solid slap was delivered to his face and the cultivator was thrown off and collapsed onto a table.

His ears rung and his vision grew blurry as he was slapped. When his composure returned, he shouted, “Zhou Chen, how dare you slap me!”

The man known as Zhou Chen had a pale face. However, he had not been stunned by the words. He did not look at the victim at all and he bowed, “I did not know Mister Ninth was here. We have been rude, please excuse us!”

These words brought silence from the crowd.

There was only Snowside’s soft cries as she sobbed emotionally. Everyone else was stunned and they stood rooted to their spots.

Mister Ninth, who was Mister Ninth? The person who Snowside voluntarily embraced and cried was who?

Qin Yu, it was Qin Yu from the Peach Garden! He had personally come to the East Zhou Family!

The opinion that Snowside was an ordinary slave was a misjudgment. How could an average slave have this kind of a treatment...think about it, if your own lowly slave was harassed by a group of men, who would bother about it? On second thought, they might have something going on...this was frightening!

However, the most fearful individual was the person who was slapped. Like a criminal on death row, he salivated on the floor in fear.

Two other cultivators walked over and kneeled to the ground. Their faces were pale as they pleaded, "Mister Ninth, please don't be angry. My master did not have bad intentions...we...we will make sure to give you a proper explanation. Please be merciful!"

They were with the man and they wanted to help their young master stand out from the competitors. However, they did not imagine that this would happen.

Right now, these two men kneeled before him and pleaded. Their limbs were limp and they were cursing him. You idiot, you dragged us in to die!

Chapter 1336 – One Must Know Their Place

Mister Ninth of the Peach Garden, it really was him. He was famous among the Saint circle and it would not be an exaggeration to say that his name boomed like thunder among cultivators.

Firstly, Qin Yu's achievements were too brilliant. As a cultivator of the young generation, he was a powerful individual in the Vast Brightness World, killing a few Half-Saints and even killing the Nether Saint. This was unimaginable!

Secondly, Qin Yu had risen to fame in such a short amount of time. Not many people had seen him ever since he became famous and many superpowers in the Saint circle were spreading news about him. The reason why was simple. They wanted everyone to know about him and memorize his face. If they met him in the future, they ought to run as far away as they could. No one should provoke him.

However, it was obvious that they were already in deep trouble!

The two kneeling cultivators sweat buckets and their faces turned ashen. Their hearts beat furiously thinking about Qin Yu's current status and power. With a single word, he could sentence their entire family to death!

His eyes swept across the two people and the one who salivated on the ground. Qin Yu patted Snowside's shoulder and said, "You have been wronged. I came here personally for you. What do you want to do with this person and his foul mouth?"

He was giving the deciding power to Snowside.

The two cultivators turned hurriedly and bowed profusely, "Miss Snowside, please help us. My master spoke out of rashness and he was not trying to offend you!"

Snowside wiped her eyes, feeling grateful. Of course she knew why Qin Yu said this. Especially the 'I came here personally for you'.

Qin Yu did not forget her, he remembered her!

She took a deep breath in and glanced at them. In a soft voice, she said, "It isn't too severe. Forget about it."

Qin Yu frowned, "Forget about it?"

Snowside nodded.

Qin Yu uttered in a low voice, "You guys are lucky. Get lost!"

The two cultivators beamed with joy, having escaped death's door. They grabbed the salivating cultivator and dashed off as fast as they could. The limp cultivator hit his head on the top of the stairs and a 'bam' reverberated through the tavern. They disappeared in an instant.

Nonsense, if they did not go off now, would they wait for Mister Ninth to change his mind?

Although they ran fast, they needed to give an explanation at the end. Did they really think things would settle just like this?

Hehe, that is too ignorant! Taking the initiative instead of waiting for Qin Yu would result in a better outcome for them.

"I am a little hungry from my journey. Let's sit down and eat first before leaving." Qin Yu pulled a chair out for Snowside and sat beside her.

There was no need for instructions and everyone turned and left on their own. In the blink of an eye, everyone left the tavern.

At the same time, the news of Qin Yu coming to the East Zhou Family spread like wildfire.

Outside the tavern, a large number of cultivators stared at the young man by the window of the tavern with admiration.

Qin Yu's status today was massively different from back then. However, it had not been long. There were many people who saw his cultivation and quickly verified the authenticity of the news. As such, the city was shaken.

While they did not know Qin Yu's true strength, they could guess from the rumors that he was at least as strong as a True Saint. Most of the time, people did not have a chance to see top cultivators of the Vast Brightness World. With their status, it was hard for them to have a chance to meet.

The owner of the tavern was ecstatic. With what happened today, his tavern would be bustling. His business would boom.

He sent a servant to fetch some rare wine from the cellar. After carefully preparing the wine, he personally sent it over and said, "Mister Ninth, welcome to our shop. It is our pleasure to serve you today so everything is free. You can have a taste of this wine; I will take my leave now."

Qin Yu lifted up the wine and opened it. Taking a whiff, he smiled, "He is sucking up to me. Even with this, I will not do anything for him."

Snowside glanced at him and said, "Your appearance here is already a very valuable gift for the shop."

Qin Yu poured a full cup of wine for Snowside, "Long time no see, cheers."

She grabbed the wine with her two hands and said sincerely, "Qin Yu, thank you."

Then, she gulped down the wine.

Qin Yu smiled as he drank as well.

Footsteps could be heard from the stairs. East Zhou Duly walked in and bowed, "I did not know of your arrival, please excuse me."

Qin Yu looked at her and said, "Miss East Zhou, we are old friends. Please do not say that, come and sit with us."

She was calm and she laughed. She knew that after today, malicious rumors about her inheriting the seat of the family head would disappear. She was someone whom Mister Ninth invited to sit and eat with him. This was a convincing point!

"I am hungry so I will help myself." East Zhou Duly sat down and faced Qin Yu. She could not help sighing, "If I didn't see you personally, I would not believe it. We're all cultivators, and when we first met, you were weaker than me. Now, I am so far away from you. Snowside, how can someone so incredible exist? Us ordinary cultivators have such a difficult life."

Snowside blinked and answered helplessly, "Family Head, don't say that. If you are an ordinary cultivator, I do not deserve to live."

Qin Yu smiled and shook his head. He raised another cup, "Alright, today, us old friends meet again. We don't need to talk about this. Cheers."

East Zhou Duly and Snowside exchanged a look and raised their cups together with him.

The wine that the tavern staff gave was truly a treasure. The taste and aroma permeated their mouths with each cup they drank and it did not seem to end. The three did not stop drinking.

The girls did not use their cultivation to suppress the alcohol and East Zhou Duly and Snowside's faces grew red. They became more open when they talked and they became more bold when Qin Yu did not seem to mind them.

Snowside even confessed about her desire to get pregnant. East Zhou Duly's eyes widened and she looked at Qin Yu.

"Don't look at me. It is her wild imagination; my mind is clear and I am not going to become crazy. Nothing is going on."

East Zhou Duly laughed, "Even if there is nothing on, look at Snowside's expression. Although she isn't saying anything, she must be happy."

Qin Yu rubbed his forehead. This drunk woman was so bold, she dared to tease him.

He looked at Snowside. Not only did she not want to explain, she even raised her eyebrows at him, daring him to try.

When alcohol got to her, she was very bold.

Qin Yu put his cup down and looked at Snowside, "Have you really decided not to follow me?"

There were a few things that did not need to be explicitly said. From the start, Snowside chose not to say much but Qin Yu already understood.

Silence momentarily filled the air. East Zhou Duly looked at Snowside; her mouth twitched but she did not say anything. A look of worry crossed her face.

After a few moments, Snowside nodded, "Mm, I am not going."

Qin Yu did not say anything, his fingers drummed against the table and he muttered, "The Peach Garden is a good place and everyone there is nice. You can live..."

Snowside smiled and cut him off, "I really like this place. Every day is fulfilling and Family Head treats me very well...furthermore, your visit here today will mean a brighter future for me. Perhaps, I will choose a man someday and start a new life. This is good enough for me. I am satisfied."

Qin Yu nodded, "I respect your decision." He turned to East Zhou Duly, "East Zhou Family Head, I will leave her to you. If Snowside marries in the future, please send someone to the Peach Garden to announce the news. I will be there personally to congratulate her."

East Zhou Duly nodded, "Mister Ninth, don't worry. As long as I am here, Snowside will not suffer."

She changed the way she addressed him to signify her sincerity. She made a promise today and unless something troubled the entire East Zhou Family, she would not let Snowside suffer. This would be a reason for Qin Yu to be angry.

As such, this sentence was very important.

Qin Yu nodded. Looking at Snowside, he said, "Take care of yourself. If you change your mind anyday, the Peach Garden will always welcome you."

He stood up, "I will go now."

He stepped out and instantly disappeared.

Snowside stared blankly ahead and her eyes immediately reddened. She hurriedly lifted her hand and wiped her eyes, "This is so embarrassing for you to see me like this."

East Zhou Duly stretched her hands forward and hugged her, "You dummy, why did you reject Qin Yu? I can see that although he is famous now, his feelings for you did not change. He was truly sincere in inviting you over. Do you know how many people in the Vast Brightness World would wrack their heads now to think of a way to get close to him? These people will never stand a chance."

Snowside sighed and her tone grew solemn, "I know Qin Yu has not changed. Otherwise he would not have come here..." She paused and raised her head, "However, some people are just meant to be passing folks in our lives. He is too fast and I will never be able to catch up to him. Even if I forced myself to follow him, I would not be able to withstand the fame that comes with power. I would only be someone who he would always have to protect."

“Maybe Qin Yu is fine with that, but I don’t want to be his burden. Furthermore, Miss Peachy is a very good woman. If I go to the Peach Garden, she might get angry...one must know their place and hence I am willing to stay here. After today’s meal, and with Qin Yu’s promise, no one will dare to provoke me. I can live every day happily and I don’t have to be as cautious as in the past.”

A complicated look crossed East Zhou Duly’s face. If they changed places, she did not know if she would be able to do the same as Snowside. However, Snowside was right about one thing. Some people were meant to be passing folks in their lives. Perhaps he made an unforgettable memory for her. However, she did not have the qualifications to go with him.

She could not chase after him and could only desire...

East Zhou Duly’s eyes darkened. In the past when she was still a young lady, she had the same experience.

Chapter 1337 – Clashing Factions

Snowside turned down Qin Yu’s offer to leave together. This was not what Qin Yu expected but after carefully thinking about this, it matched her personality.

Snowside had always been clever and she was very determined. Otherwise, she would not make the decision to part ways and she would travel the world with him.

She chose to stay with the East Zhou Family not just because she really liked it, but because she believed that it was her best option.

Qin Yu did not want to force it upon her. Furthermore, with the Spring Master ill, the Peach Garden seeming stronger than it was with internal turmoil was dangerous. Before things settled down, it was not a good idea to bring Snowside back to the Peach Garden.

He breathed in deeply and suppressed his feelings. A bright light flashed across Qin Yu’s eyes as he gestured and opened a teleportation portal in space. He stepped through it. Since Snowside would not return to the Peach Garden, he did not need to rush back. Time was tight and he ought to head to Bounded Zero Place!

That’s right, Qin Yu had already decided to make this journey.

The Spring Master was ill but the root cause was Peachy. Although he did not know the exact details, Qin Yu guessed that the Spring Master had made preparations for the future, and Qin Yu was naturally worried.

Peachy was still alive today because of the Spring Master’s constant deprivation of his Great Dao to sustain her life. If anything happened to the Spring Master and his Great Dao was disrupted, Peachy would also lose her soul. This was something that Qin Yu could not allow to happen.

As such, he needed to find the inextinguishable flame as soon as possible and merge it into the furnace. Using its powers, he would refine his furnace successfully!

Even if the worst thing happened, Qin Yu could take over the Spring Master’s role and be the sacrifice to prolong her life.

Of course the best way was to find a way to save the Spring Master in Bounded Zero Place. This was a promise that Qin Yu made to Peachy before he left the Peach Garden.

He would do his best. But as for exactly what he would do and whether he would succeed, Qin Yu was not confident about that. He would go along with the flow.

For now, his objective was to obtain the inextinguishable flame from Bounded Zero Place!

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The existence of Bounded Zero Place was a secret. The number of True Saints who had the qualifications to know about it was small in the entire Vast Brightness World.

The reason why was simple. Although no one managed to obtain the treasure left from the death of the Ruler, the possibility was always there. The fewer people who knew about it, the easier the competition. Unless there were special circumstances, those cultivators who knew about its existence would keep it a secret.

Aside from that, the location of Bounded Zero Place was deeply hidden from the world. If it was out in the open, there would be no need for it to be a secret. If ten thousand people found the place and kept it a secret, other people would still find it.

Because the Spring Master came from here, he knew the location of Bounded Zero Place. He also gave Qin Yu a key to enter it. This was the third reason why not many people knew of Bounded Zero Place. The number of keys was limited and it was very difficult to find them nowadays.

Without a key, it was not possible to enter Bounded Zero Place. It was different from the Lost Garden which required a specific time to open the seal around the place and enter it. Bounded Zero Place was enclosed by a large door that could be opened at any time with a key.

Under normal circumstances, few would enter Bounded Zero Place because it was so dangerous. The majority of people who entered died there, and those who lived more than a day were either fearless or would not die.

It was tough provoking people who did not fear death. However, those who would not die were terrifying powers within Bounded Zero Place. As Qin Yu headed for Bounded Zero Place, he had many thoughts about it. For this trip, he would fight others for treasure and his objective was to obtain the inextinguishable flame. It would be best if he did not meet trouble.

However, men could not predict the future. Before Qin Yu could even take out the key to enter Bounded Zero Place, he met trouble.

In another place, Qin Yu might have chosen to run and hide in order to maintain peace. However, this was the entrance to Bounded Zero Place. Unless he left, there was no way for him to back off.

He breathed in deeply. Standing on a platform, he looked at the people behind him.

He wore a long green robe and his breath was restrained. A cold glare crossed his eyes as he stared down.

He should not be provoked!

Those who dared to come to Bounded Zero Place were unordinary men. Qin Yu's eyes flashed and he maintained his calm, "What are you guys trying to do?"

Someone stepped forward. His gaze was sharp and there was a pressure around him. "Please rest assured, we do not have any ill intentions. We want to verify if you have a Spirit Array on you."

Qin Yu nodded, "That's right."

Back when he saved White Phoenix in the Lost Garden, Qin Yu had taken the Spirit Array. He had promised to let it live in the world one day. However, he had been busy with many things lately and he had not had a chance to bother with it. Was he in trouble today because of it?

A flash crossed the man's eyes and he said in a low voice, "We coincidentally need a Spirit Array for some other reasons. If you are willing, we can pay a good price for it."

If it was something else, Qin Yu might have given it away. However, this Spirit Array...Qin Yu could not be generous with it.

He shook his head, "Sorry. This Spirit Array is very important to me. Please look somewhere else."

A cold voice rose as another person stepped forward, "I would hand over the Spirit Array if I were you. You don't want to be in trouble."

The person who first spoke frowned slightly but he did not stop the other man.

Qin Yu frowned. But before he rejected again, a loud laughter came from the door, "Aren't you guys too obnoxious? He should be allowed to do whatever he wants with his Spirit Array. Why are you trying to force him to sell it?"

Another group of men walked over.

Qin Yu's frown deepened and a serious look crossed his eyes. There was the aura of the World of Darkness. Although it was thin, as someone who killed a Darkness True Saint before, Qin Yu did not miss it. The two groups of men glared coldly at each other and they took a precautionary stance that showed they were ready to battle at any moment. The identity of this group of men before him became obvious then.

How did he bump into two clashing factions so quickly...his luck was too good.

He laughed bitterly to himself.

As mentioned before, cultivators who roamed Bounded Zero Place were either unafraid of death or would not die.

There were many people who were not afraid of death, but there were only two types of people who would not die.

One of them was people from the World of Darkness. They used a method that was similar to an avatar detached from their body. Even if they were killed, they would not be affected.

Because there had been many cases of cultivators reentering Bounded Zero Place after being killed, people deduced that there was a group of cultivators who could not die.

The other group had a mysterious energy. Until today, no one could find out accurate information about this energy.

These men seemed to belong to a powerful group and they had a special bloodline. Even if they were killed, they would be revived after some time.

This information was mentioned in the jade that the Spring Master gave him. Although it was not explicit, it was best to leave these men alone.

Qin Yu had witnessed how mysterious the World of Darkness was. And since the Mysterious Clan was capable, he ought to avoid them. With this thought in mind, Qin Yu could not help rubbing his temple. He felt like the Spring Master's words of caution in the jade slip were not useful anymore.

Chapter 1338 – Young And Enthusiastic

A giant city floated in the sky and long streets wound through the place. The city was known as Dark Hole City, and it was the most powerful trading city. Every day, many cultivators would come here to trade and the business allowed other industries to grow and thrive.

For instance, in order to prevent crime, Dark Hole City had a strict curfew system. Every night the city shut down for two hours and a large self-examination array would open. No one would be allowed to enter or exit.

This meant that every cultivator who entered Dark Hole City would have to find a place to stay. From there, their identity and background would be checked. This helped to reduce the risk of crime in the city.

Qin Yu was in Dark Hole City, on a certain street. He was right before a counter at an inn...no one would have known that the Bounded Zero Place entrance was situated right here.

Mysterious Clan men and the World of Darkness cultivators stared at each other fiercely. However, Qin Yu knew that they would not fight. At the very least, they would not dare to fight here.

The cultivators from the World of Darkness who arrived later smiled, "Why don't you give the Spirit Array to us. These people in front of you will not make trouble for you anymore then." He snapped his fingers, "We can definitely pay a price you will be satisfied with."

A low chuckle came from the green-robed cultivator, "We have never let anything we set our eyes upon go. Make your decision after considering this carefully. Don't be rash and lose your life. The Spirit Array...is ours!"

Stone Pagoda suddenly made a wave of communication with him.

Qin Yu was surprised by this.

His voice was soft and he said, "It is not entirely impossible to give the Spirit Array to them. It can live longer in that way."

Qin Yu always felt that Stone Pagoda kept many things to himself. That wave of communication had killing intent! However, since he did not say anything further, Qin Yu did not ask him about it after

second thought. Instead, he said, "How can I easily go back on my words? It is a small trouble, at the most, I will just change my identity."

Before coming here, he knew that the World of Darkness was one of the two leaders in Bounded Zero Place. As the person who ruined Black Turtle and killed Thousand Saint, Qin Yu would not tour Bounded Zero Place with his own identity.

He was already a fake and changing his appearance was nothing. Look at seventh apprentice sister. She changed her face every day but she could still live happily.

Stone Pagoda said, "Since that is the case, I will channel an illusion into your body. Place the Spirit Array in it and it will not be discovered."

"Great, let's do that!" If he was going to offend both parties, he needed an alternative method. Qin Yu did not want to waste time with them.

Ignoring the two camps of Mysterious Clan and World of Darkness cultivators, Qin Yu turned to the counter staff and said, "I want a room."

As he said that, he opened his palm. Light flashed and a token appeared.

A glimmer crossed the counter staff's eyes and he said, "A familiar customer! Please take room number three."

Another staff member smiled and bowed, "Please come with me. I will lead the way."

The moment he turned, he was stopped. The green-robed cultivator glared coldly, "Perhaps you do not know who you have offended."

He was interrupted before he could finish. Qin Yu expressionlessly said, "Although it is my first time here, my elder at home did not inform me that I could be threatened here. Is this a new rule?"

The staff member smiled, "No way. As an inn, we definitely will not allow such a thing. Please rest assured." As he said that, he turned around, "Please do not make things hard for me. If you cause trouble, we will also be dragged in."

The green-robed cultivator sighed deeply. He took a step back, "Good, very good! You better pray that you will not meet us in the future."

Qin Yu nodded, "I will."

The World of Darkness cultivators laughed together. This laughter was an irritation to Qin Yu's ears.

These people were mocking the Mysterious Clan and they were adding fuel to fire. They were not bothered about his position and they were using him as a chess piece from the start. For the Mysterious Clan, they did not care whether Qin Yu lived or died.

This made Qin Yu very unhappy. He suddenly stopped, cocked his head to one side and asked, "Sorry, what?"

Qin Yu lightly said, "Did no one tell you how disrespectful laughing out loud in a public setting is? Some random hooligans, how embarrassing."

His tone was neither loud nor soft, but everyone could hear it. The tired-looking counter staff's eye twitched as he looked at Qin Yu. This customer was unordinary. Hopefully, he had good luck and he would be able to save his life.

"You want to die?" The cultivator from the World of Darkness roared.

Qin Yu glanced at him, "So uncultured, what a bastard." He placed his final judgment on him.

The counter staff hurriedly tried to lead Qin Yu away as he broke out into cold sweat. After so many years, the number of people who had dared to provoke the group of cultivators was tiny.

He knew that not many people were daring, and after they died, there were even fewer left. After all, no one dared to provoke these people.

Turning back to look, he saw the stiffened expressions of the men from the World of Darkness. There was also a cold glare in the eyes of that cultivator from the other group. When he finally brought Qin Yu to his room, he said in a low voice, "You should try not to head out too soon, or you should leave tonight and abandon your plans this time."

Qin Yu cupped his hands, "Thank you for the reminder."

The staff member knew that Qin Yu did not take his words to heart. He shook his head and did not say anything else. Similar things had happened in the past and the staff had seen many people similar to him. If they did not listen to advice, they eventually paid the price.

After sending the staff away, Qin Yu entered the room. It was a regular inn and the room size was not large. As such, it felt stuffy.

If he had not verified his token, Qin Yu would still be doubtful over whether this was the entrance of Bounded Zero Place.

Stone Pagoda's voice rang, "Master, I will need roughly half an hour to prepare the illusion."

Qin Yu nodded, "Go ahead." He waved his hand and a ball of light appeared, "Spirit Array, you saw everything earlier. I will do what I promised you."

The light shadow shifted and a voice came, "Thank you Lord Qin Yu." After some hesitation, he continued, "I can sense a very strong array on the man you met previously. It was because of this array that he felt my existence. Although I am not sure of the use of it, it is very strong. Please be careful, Lord Qin Yu."

This was surprising news. The strong array on the group of cultivators from the Mysterious Clan was probably used to detect Bounded Zero Place.

He bumped into clashing factions before he even went in. This was not a good sign no matter how he looked at it.

His eyes flashed as he took in this news. It would be best if he never needed this information. However, it might also have implications he did not know now.

“I understand. When the illusion made by Stone Pagoda descends you can enter it temporarily.” Qin Yu reached forward and the Array Spirit shrunk into a small light dot that disappeared into his hand.

After half an hour, Stone Pagoda announced, “Alright!”

An illusion appeared before Qin Yu and the light dot of the Array Spirit entered from his hand.

Buzz –

The illusion faded.

Qin Yu stood up and walked towards the bed. Light flashed as the token that the Spring Master gave him appeared.

Closing his eyes, a burst of light suddenly exploded in the depth of his consciousness. A wide scene of the world seemed to open up in his mind.

Wreckage, wind howling, and clouds parting...a towering gate stood within.

Loud booms of thunder roared through his ears, “Do you wish to enter this world and walk under me?”

Qin Yu was alert as he replied, “Yes!”

The moment that he replied, the token in his hand suddenly burst out with light, enveloping his entire body within.

As the light dissipated, dazzling light flashed before his eyes. Within the glow of light, Qin Yu disappeared.

The light was not enough to cover the entire guesthouse. The space was not large and the ceiling was so close, it made people feel oppressed. Everything was different from before.

The staff member behind the counter frowned slightly. He glanced at the guestrooms area and shook his head silently. Which old guest was so blind to choose an ignorant youngster as his heir? The token would be useless.

A pity, what a pity!

Of course, the way he felt did not matter. He was just in charge of guarding the door and he would not interfere in things.

He had seen many things after so many years. Those who came here would be prepared to die.

Ding dong –

The door to the inn was pushed open. The ancient bell attached to the gate made a loud and clear sound.

The counter staff looked over and frowned. It was another new face. To meet two new people in one day was very rare.

Soaring Sky entered and walked towards the door. He paused before taking out a token, “I am here to stay the night.”

The counter staff was purely in charge of guarding the entrance. He would not ask questions to those who had keys. Simply put, he only acknowledged keys. Hence, even though he was surprised, he did not let this show. "Alright, please head over to...the guestrooms."

It was another token of an old face. However, this had not appeared for a long time. He thought that he had disappeared, but it was handed to a new person.

This was a good thing for the counter staff. If more people went in, there was a higher probability that...he could recover from the small incident that previous person caused.

The past events in recent years had proven that once tokens landed in the hands of that clan, they would not see the light of day again.

He estimated the time since the previous person went in...sigh, young and enthusiastic. He was truly young and enthusiastic!

Chapter 1339 – The Aura of a Ruler

Young and enthusiastic, Qin Yu had arrived.

The moment he stepped in, he could sense more than ten eyes concentrate on him. The ice-cold oppression was indifferent, stifling and absolutely unrestrained!

Whoosh –

Whoosh –

Two extremely powerful auras could be felt as two shadows flew through the air. They were sort of acquainted as they met at the platform before.

But of course, he could not express it. Instead he had to pretend to experience a mixture of shock, anger and fear. It tested his acting skills.

But with Qin Yu's current strength, it was not difficult to do this. He frowned slightly and kept his gaze neutral. His expression was indifferent and pale, not showing any advantage.

"What do the both of you want to do? I have nothing against you. Unless you are trying to go against the agreement?!"

The power in Bounded Zero Place could be split into three areas: the Mysterious Clan, people from the World of Darkness, and people from the Vast Brightness World. Or simply put, they could be split into two. Those that would die and those that wouldn't.

Those that would not die were from the Mysterious Clan and the World of Darkness. The rest that would die were the cultivators from the Vast Brightness World.

Because they came from different places, they still had grievances towards each other. Although the Vast Brightness World had the most people, they were the weakest in terms of power.

People were all scared of dying, especially strong cultivators. All the more they did not wish to have a miserable end.

Bounded Zero Place was where a Ruler had died. It was obvious that there were good things there and everyone from all three groups wanted them. At the start, they all fought intensely. The Mysterious Clan and the World of Darkness had initially joined forces to try and banish the cultivators from the Vast Brightness World.

No one knew exactly what happened but according to the Spring Master, a Ruler had stepped out and forced the Mysterious Clan and the World of Darkness to sign an agreement – in Bounded Zero Place, cultivators from both camps could not banish or kill cultivators from the Vast Brightness World.

Because, just the fact that they ‘could not die’ meant that the cultivators from the Vast Brightness World had no chance of winning.

Qin Yu hated the two people who had landed in front of him. His face was solemn and his eyes were like daggers.

“We are looking for someone. If you cooperate with us, there will be no problems. If not, don’t blame us!”

Qin Yu was shocked and angry, his emotions fluctuated. In the end, he ‘did not dare’ to go against them and chose to swallow and snort, “What do you want?”

The cultivators from the Mysterious Clan snarled, “Easy. Just stand here and don’t move.” One of them walked closer. Raising his hand, he gestured and began an array. He extended his fingers and a disk with numerous lines all over appeared in his hands.

With the Spirit Array to warn him, Qin Yu could guess that this disk was a part of the array.

There was no reaction!

Disappointment was clear in the eyes of the cultivators from the Mysterious Clan. They flipped their hands and put the disk away, turning to leave.

The cultivators from the World of Darkness eyed him from head to toe before waving impatiently, “Let’s go!”

Qin Yu took a deep breath as he pretended to be angry yet fearful. With a kick, he flew up.

“It is not him.”

Taking the array disk back, the cultivator in green shook his head.

On the opposite side, the array controller eyed the direction in which Qin Yu left and frowned slightly. He appeared slightly hesitant. This person looked extremely familiar. Unless he lost his Spirit Array, it was not possible that the array disk wouldn’t react.

His rejection earlier showed how much importance he placed on the Spirit Array. And even if he lost his Spirit Array, the cultivators from the World of Darkness had extremely sensitive noses. Even if someone had changed their entire appearance, they would not be fooled.

However, both parties had determined that he was not the one. Maybe he was too anxious...he had to be anxious! It had been such a long time since the array had been practiced, yet after so long, he could not find the perfect Spirit Array to merge in. He tried so many times but all attempts failed.

But this time, the aura of the Spirit Array from that person actually activated the array directly and this was something that had never happened before.

Because of this, at the inn previously, although Number 327 knew that it was not appropriate, he did not stop Number 418 from acting.

No matter what, they had to complete this array!

Swoosh –

Qin Yu flew quickly. After ensuring that he was far enough, a small mocking smile appeared on his pale face. So what if they were from the Mysterious Clan or the World of Darkness. He had still fooled them.

The entrance to Bounded Zero Place was probably where the shards were concentrated in this world, and this was the only safe place. This entire place had been raided and nothing was left behind.

Once he left this place, he would enter the danger zone and could meet with trouble at any time.

He was at the end!

Woosh –

Qin Yu did not hesitate as he stepped out. The moment he took the step, he could sense a berserk power of space pulling him away until all traces of him disappeared.

Although he had successfully hidden from the cultivators of the World of Darkness and the Mysterious Clan, this was still the best way to leave this place. After all, accidents could always happen. If these people realized what was going on, there would be trouble.

He was not scared of them. Even if they really fought and he had to kill them, it would not be a big issue to leave.

But the main reason why Qin Yu was here was for the Inextinguishable Flame. After that, it was to find something to help the Spring Master out of danger.

He would stay out of trouble as much as possible. If he was caught up in something, he would try not to waste any time.

Buzz –

Both his ears rang and made him dizzy. Although Qin Yu was prepared, he found that he started to despise the violent vibrations of the disordered space.

With his current cultivation level and the physical strength of the Rule System Body, he still found it challenging. If it were a normal cultivator, even if they were strong and near the Saint realm, they would have disintegrated in an instant.

From another angle, it was a good thing that Bounded Zero Place was a secret and that normal cultivators would never be able to know of it. If not, should any of them be attracted...okay, they had to first put aside the limit to the token. But there would definitely be a lot of deaths!

Hmm?

Qin Yu's expression shifted slightly as he adjusted himself. Taking a deep breath, his heart started to pound faster and his bones and flesh expanded.

Boom –

With a bellowing sound, Qin Yu was hit and fell hard on the ground, forming a deep crater.

The one that attacked him was something resembling a monkey and had grey fur. Its eyes were bright and it was obvious that it had some intelligence. It was currently staring at the crater. It then turned, preparing to leave.

“Hmph! You dare to hit me and leave?”

With a loud sound, Qin Yu dashed out of the crater and raised his fist. Just now, he did not have time to react and could only bear the attack with his Rule System Body. There was no reason for him to suffer.

The strange beast with grey fur looked at him mockingly before it disappeared like lightning.

But in the next moment, it suddenly let out a shriek. A ‘bam’ resounded as Qin Yu took back his hand. The strange beast had been smacked far into the air by Qin Yu...the way it looked was as if it had dashed into Qin Yu's fist!

It spat out several mouthfuls of blood but the strange beast did not die. It bounced up from the ground and ran away.

Qin Yu was surprised. Even Half-Saints could not take his fist, yet in this Bounded Zero Place, it could not even kill a random strange beast. This place seemed scarier than he had imagined.

It seemed like he had to be extra cautious.

As he thought of this, Qin Yu did not intend to let this strange beast go and he stepped forward and smacked its hand.

Rumble rumble –

An incredible force like a mountain fell on the strange beast with grey fur and the ground trembled.

This time, it finally stopped moving and the air was filled with the scent of blood.

Qin Yu walked to the corpse of the strange beast as he reached out and grasped the air. The fresh blood flowed out from the corpse and gathered into a large blood ball.

Using his divine sense, he could sense a frightening aura, albeit it was a bit weak. Back then, when the Ruler died, his body returned to the world and was absorbed by various creatures through the small world fragments, and that was how they obtained some power.

Even after so many years and through so many generations, it still remained until today. The reason why the strange beast in grey fur could withstand Qin Yu's punch and not die must be related to this aura!

And this was just a very small part of the Ruler's aura...Qin Yu took a deep breath as a reverent look appeared in his eyes.

He suddenly had a realization. Although it was true that beneath Rulers, True Saints who had reached the shore were the strongest...the difference between a True Saint and a Ruler was too stark.

As someone with plenty of experience killing Saints, Qin Yu knew his power very well. If he did not tap on the power of the innate spirit, he could at most kill Half-Saints. After drawing on the power of the innate spirit, he could kill True Saints without much pressure. However, if his opponents were peak True Saints like the Spring Master or Scholartree Saint, there was still some distance.

This was already considered strong, very strong. He was so strong that everyone in the Vast Brightness World had to pay attention to his existence. But even though he was powerful, he still could not help but feel his heart palpitate when he sensed the weak Ruler's aura from the blood of the strange beast.

He felt like a tiny ant facing the big world...Ruler, this was a Ruler!

The distance between True Saints and Rulers was like heaven and earth. Or a more relatable comparison was that an ordinary person standing in front of a True Saint was probably how a True Saint would feel standing in front of a Ruler.

This was not entirely accurate as a True Saint would probably be in a slightly better position, but the disparity in power was still very real.

People had to face their inner thoughts. After obtaining the power of the innate spirit in the Lost Garden, Qin Yu's cultivation shot up. Even his energy increased. Simply put, he felt extremely confident.

He thought that even though the realm of the Rulers was much higher, he was qualified to contest for it and he had high hopes.

The combination of his Light and Dark Body and space time energy, along with his Rule System Body, the Galaxy God Mark and even the semi-finished True Saint Great Dao from the furnace...with so many cards in his hands, how could he not aim for the Ruler seat?

But now as he faced a ball of blood, he felt as if a bucket of ice cold water had just been thrown over him on a freezing winter day and he was completely frozen.

Ruler, it was not so easy to reach. Even with his current cultivation level, he would at most have an opportunity to participate in the fight.

If he said he did not feel pressured or disheartened, he would be lying. He certainly felt down now.

Taking a deep breath, he waved his hand and stored the blood ball. Determination shone in his eyes. The mountain was not scary. What was scary was not being able to recognize the distance between oneself and the mountain.

This was Bounded Zero Place. The place where a Ruler died...such a strong Ruler could also be killed. The world was scarier than he imagined!

Become stronger. He could only become stronger, and getting the Inextinguishable Flame was the first step. Qin Yu believed that once he completed his True Saint Great Dao, his power would experience a transformation.

If one transformation was not enough, he would go through two. If two wasn't enough, then three.

Step by step, he would keep going higher. Until one day when he could reach the peak of the mountain and look down at this incredibly vast world!

Chapter 1340 – Familiar Sword Intent

His mind was wild and many emotions swept through him. After a long time, Qin Yu sighed and suppressed his feelings. He connected his consciousness and the furnace. Since it could absorb flames from the world and continuously evolve, it might be able to sense a few things. If he could determine where the inextinguishable flame was, his job would be much easier.

This was the optimal plan that Qin Yu thought of before he entered Bounded Zero Place. However, facts had proven that the perfect plan would not be realized. After a while, the furnace gave him an answer. It could not find where the inextinguishable flame was.

Although Qin Yu was prepared for this, after the clashing factions incident from before, he could not help rubbing his forehead in disappointment. Things were not going well for him...since the smartest plan did not succeed, he would try the dumb plan.

He prayed that his luck would turn for the better quickly. Otherwise, with the rules governing Bounded Zero Place, it would not be easy to find the inextinguishable flame here.

The fragment of the small world below his feet was small. Furthermore, Qin Yu intentionally held back his aura and avoided conflict with the creatures in the fragment. After half an hour of searching, he wasn't able to find the aura of the inextinguishable flame.

The reason why he did this was partially because he could not trust the sensing of the furnace completely. What if it made a mistake?

Only by carefully searching could he ensure that he did not miss out on it.

Shoosh –

Qin Yu flashed and he stepped out of the small world fragment. His body was covered by spatial fluctuations and he disappeared.

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Slam –

A rock fragment suddenly fell. The sleeping rainbow fox's eyes flung open and it scanned its surroundings warily. After sensing that things were alright, it calmed down and laid on the floor to rest again.

In front of it was the corpse of its prey; it had been feasted upon and its bones and leftover flesh was scattered in a heap.

The full rainbow fox did not realize that there was a piece of flesh on the prey from which blood was slowly seeping into the ground. It was sucked into a hole and it did not stain the ground.

Suddenly, a sharp sense of danger rushed from its heart like an erupting volcano. The rainbow fox sensed danger and its fur immediately stood up. Jumping up, it readied itself to flee.

The rainbow fox was fast but its predator was even faster. The ground broke apart and a dark hand that looked like it had been burnt reached forward at lightning speed and grabbed its neck.

Its eyes bulged wide as a horrified expression crossed its face. Despite its struggle, it could not escape.

Instead, its strength was sucked away like air from a punctured balloon. Growing weak, fear crossed its eyes and then finally it gave up.

The colorful fur of the rainbow fox seemed to have lost its shine after being scorched by the sun for many days. Although it was still colorful, it gave off a lifeless feeling.

At the same time, its body shriveled as its flesh was stripped away. There was only a thin layer of skin above its bones. The rainbow fox lay on the ground. Its prey from before, like it, was curled into a ball.

Slap –

The rainbow fox's corpse was pushed aside and the dark hand pressed on the ground to lift itself up. Rapid breathing could be heard and it was like a new life had been given to it after being hidden in the earth for many years.

It struggled to stand up. Its body, like its hand, was pitch black. It was a tall and burly man. Suddenly, his body trembled. 'Crack', 'crack', these sounds came from his body as his black skin cracked apart, revealing a crimson red layer beneath.

Perhaps because it was painful, the exposed flesh shivered violently and there was a rumbling sound from his mouth.

This bright red flesh suddenly gave off a pungent burning smell as though it was thrown into fire. Then, it quickly turned into a layer of black.

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The sixty-fourth small world fragment.

He calculated the time: it was the fifth day since he entered Bounded Zero Place. He had not stopped at all and he had continued searching. This process repeated. Every time, he would seek out the furnace to see if it sensed the inextinguishable flame. However, every time was a disappointment.

As mentioned before, the space time in Bounded Zero Place was messy and rules were broken. Everything was in a chaotic state.

This did not mean that Bounded Zero Place was terrifyingly big. The small world fragments totaled ten thousand. In such a disorganized state, trying to find the inextinguishable flame was like finding a needle in a haystack.

Five days of time may not seem short, but Qin Yu had not even searched through 0.1% of the territory in Bounded Zero Place. This fact alone made his head hurt.

There were still no results!

Standing on a tall mountain in one of the small world fragments, Qin Yu frowned as he looked at the endless sea of stars before him. That's right, using the sea of stars to describe Bounded Zero Place was a highly accurate saying. Every speck of light was a small world fragment.

Looking ahead at the landscape before him, these were all densely distributed. They were also moving quickly and they would flicker constantly and change their positions. There did not seem to be a pattern to this.

He had to find a way to locate the aura of the inextinguishable flame, otherwise he would be flying around Bounded Zero Place like a pesky fly. This was hopeless.

He suppressed his feelings. Although this was a very logical idea, there was no way to enact it. Qin Yu asked Stone Pagoda many questions but all his answers were useless.

He could only take it as it came. Things would not magically go his way if he did not do anything. Even if some luck eventually came, it would not be easy for him to see it through.

With a step forward, Qin Yu flew out of the small world fragment. A familiar wave of space came and instantly flooded his body.

Right at that moment, he suddenly thought of something. Even if he found a way to sense the inextinguishable flame, he might not be able to rush over quickly.

The entire Bounded Zero Place was filled with these turbulent space waves. His next destination was really up to fate.

Unless his luck was amazing and he directly stepped into the small world fragment where the inextinguishable flame was, it might be right before him but it would fly a few hundred kilometers away in an instant.

Gosh, his headache grew worse!

Strong bumps and a sharp tearing force accompanied Qin Yu as he traveled through the space waves. After many experiences, he could feel that the journey this time was long. Previously, he would still dream that the inextinguishable flame would appear when he opened his eyes.

However...hehe, he was immune to this.

After a while, there was a sudden feeling of weightlessness. Qin Yu calmly stabilized himself and he dropped down to the ground with a 'bam'.

The entire process felt like he was grabbed by the collar and thrown down hard...that was basically it.

He scanned his surroundings. Like before, there was no need for him to be too expectant. The only difference was that there was an easier welcome ceremony for him.

Roar –

The guy in front of him pounced over with sharp claws that ripped the air. Its growl came from the depth of its chest.

He quickly made a judgment in his heart. Qin Yu stepped back and dodged the attack. He spun on his feet swiftly and pressed his hand forward.

A loud boom sounded as the beast slipped and fell to the ground. Without wasting a second, Qin Yu stepped down, not giving it a chance to recover.

Crack –

Its neck twisted at an odd angle. The beast with needle-like black fur quivered then fell to the ground. It lost its life rapidly.

Through its wounds, Qin Yu extracted its blood and stored it in a ball.

The entire process was fast and smooth. He looked at the blood and the limp corpse. He then stomped and took off.

He did not have a perverted habit of violating corpses. But since he had already killed the beast, he should not waste its resources.

There was the aura of a Ruler in the beasts of Bounded Zero Place. This was in their blood. Although no one managed to extract the Ruler's aura, it was a well recognized treasure and it could fetch a high price in the Vast Brightness World.

The aura from a Ruler. Every True Saint would be interested in it!

With Qin Yu's current status and strength, he did not go through auctions to get money. Keeping it with him, he never knew when it would come in handy.

Perhaps the creatures in Bounded Zero Place grew much stronger from the Ruler aura, but they all took on weird forms. As such, Qin Yu was not sure what they were. This was not important; there was no need for these creatures to have names.

He sensed his surroundings and did not find anything strange. Qin Yu tested the furnace again and got the same answer. That's alright, he was used to it already. He would only be surprised on the day the furnace replied to him with an answer.

Qin Yu would proceed onwards. After choosing a direction, he would survey the entire small world fragment from it. He had done this many times now and he had improved his technique to make the process more efficient.

Nothing, nothing, nothing...

Hm?

Qin Yu suddenly stopped and he turned towards the right. He sensed...a sword intent! It was very thin and if not for his sharp senses, he might have missed it entirely.

Since entering Bounded Zero Place, Qin Yu had already met with many cultivators. He avoided them most of the time.

This was a place where many cultivators had come and gone. It was expected that there would be remnants of sword intent.

Qin Yu had encountered similar sword intents before and he would ignore most of them after a glance. However, this time it was different. This sword intent was very familiar to him.

Qin Yu carefully thought about cultivators he knew of who would be qualified to know about Bounded Zero Place, would risk entering here, and who used swords...but no one came to mind.

He was definitely familiar with this sword intent and a look of hesitation crossed his eyes. Just then, a sharp sword intent shot towards the sky. It sliced out, cutting through everything in its path...there was a blood intent.

“Ah!”

The scream that he gave right before his death was full of surprise, anger and devastation.