

Resonance 741

Chapter 0741: Zhao Xuanming

Gold Light Hall Master Zhao Xuanming's voice echoed throughout the ancestral hall, causing the atmosphere within to change.

"Hall Master Zhao, Respected Father is the Lineage Chief of the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Who are you to question his decisions?" This was instantly met with a rebuke from Li Luo's Second Uncle, who had a cold smile and a rude tone. It seemed as though he possessed a bad relationship with Zhao Xuanming.

Zhao Xuanming had not been promoted to the position of Hall Master by the old man, but was a recommendation from the Mountain Ruling Lineage. Simply put, it was a nail inserted by them.

Although he could not do much with the old man in charge, Zhao Xuanming still acted respectfully and did not dare to go overboard. But in the end, it still elicited feelings of discomfort amongst the group.

Additionally, Zhao Xuanming was also quite capable. Ever since he joined the Dragon's Fang Lineage, he continuously nurtured and promoted individuals from the outside, and a large majority of the individuals in the current Gold Light Hall were outsiders. Those that were from the Li clan were a minority.

However, it had to be said that the Gold Light Hall had developed immensely in the past few years. Originally, the Green Nether Hall was the strongest, but it had suffered immensely with Li Taixuan's departure. The Gold Light Hall took the opportunity to arise, becoming the leader amongst the four halls. Li Qingpeng was not combative by nature and did not wish to clash with Zhao Xuanming headfirst. Li Jinpan, on the other hand, was fiery and aggressive. Thus, he had constantly struggled against Zhao Xuanming but was often bested. Li Taixuan was the most impressive of Li Jingzhe's three sons, and the first and second sons were far behind in comparison.

Of course, no matter how capable Zhao Xuanming was, none of it mattered if he did not step into the King Stage. Ultimately, the old man was the sovereign of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, and everything was ruled by his iron fist, easily suppressing any discontent.

However, most importantly, the old man was stern and upright. He would not act with bias just because Li Jinpan was his son. On the contrary, he allowed Zhao Xuanming to continue to compete against him, and it allowed the limelight to shine upon Zhao Xuanming and his Gold Light Hall for all these years, causing their momentum to strengthen.

Zhao Xuanming was unfazed when faced with Li Jinpan's retort. He only slowly and respectfully said to the old man, "If the Lineage Chief wishes to do so, then I will gladly obey. However, the Lineage Chief has always put the rules first, and this is something that is a little out of the norm. Li Luo is the Third Master's son and his return to the clan is worth celebrating. Being entered into the clan records is also expected. However, directly entering the upper records would break the rules of meritocracy which the Dragon's Fang Lineage has always been known for. There are numerous clan members who have gone through numerous trials and demonstrated their strength and results to take this step. If Li Luo has not had these experiences and directly ascended, I'm afraid the youths of the Dragon's Fang Lineage might be discouraged and feel that things are unfair once they hear about it. Thus, it would not be beneficial to

Li Luo in the future either." Zhao Xuanming's words were rigorous and watertight; no one could pick any fault with them.

Even Li Jinpan could only stare furiously as he could do nothing to refute it.

The elders of the Dragon's Fang Lineage were silent. Some even sided with Zhao Xuanming as his words were quite reasonable.

Li Jingzhe looked ambivalent as he turned towards Li Luo. "Little Luo, what do you think?"

"I'll respect Respected Grandfather's will," Li Luo replied calmly.

Li Jingzhe then smiled. "What Zhao Xuanming says is indeed sensible. The people of the Dragon's Fang Lineage have always followed the rules, and if they were broken because of Li Luo, it would only invite resentment and unhappiness."

"Father!" Li Jinpan frowned. His old man did not have to respect Zhao Xuanming's words. His will was the way, and no one could change that. If he had decided it to be the case, Zhao Xuanming would not dare to cause any trouble, even though he had the Dragon's Blood Lineage's support. Did anyone really think that they would not give his old man any face?

Li Jingzhe waved his hand. "However, there is one more way to enter the upper records."

Everyone was slightly taken aback by these words.

Some of the elders murmured, "Is the Lineage Chief referring to..."

Li Jingzhe nodded. "The Dragon Bell."

This caused surprise amongst the group as no one had thought about it.

The Dragon Bell was something the Ancestor had personally refined. Each of the lineages possessed one, and he had once decreed that all members of the bloodline, regardless whether they were a direct descendant or not, were eligible to ring the bell if they possessed confidence in their own talents. If they were successful, they would enter the upper records directly.

However, those who were capable of this feat were a small group. One had to possess exceedingly extraordinary talent to succeed, and only a handful were capable throughout the years.

"Li Luo, do you possess a dragon resonance? What grade is it?" Li Qingpeng hurriedly asked. This was the most basic requirement.

Li Luo honestly replied. "My dragon resonance is at the sixth-grade."

The atmosphere in the hall turned cold at that moment.

The smile on Li Qingpeng's face froze, whereas Li Jinpan looked confused. Li Luo was Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan's son. With both of them having been blessed with exceptional talent, their child should not have fallen too far from the tree. By their estimates, shouldn't Li Luo possess a dragon resonance of at least the eighth-grade?

How did it turn out to be a sixth-grade?

Even Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi were a little taken aback as they glanced at each other, unsure of what to say.

A sixth-grade dragon resonance was just average in the clan.

Although one's resonance grade did not represent all of one's ability, those that had reached the Duke Stage with a sixth-grade only managed to do so with great difficulty.

Even Zhao Xuanming felt like this response was out of his expectations, and a look of regret appeared on his face. However, Li Jingzhe remained calm, and it did not seem like Li Luo's answer had any effect on him. Instead, he continued, "Do you have the confidence and courage to ring the Dragon Bell?"

Li Luo took a good, hard look at Li Jingzhe, whose abstruse eyes were full of wisdom. Clearly, his grandfather had already noticed his triple resonances, and his words demonstrated his hope that Li Luo would take on the challenge. Li Luo pondered over the situation before finally understanding his grandfather's hidden meaning in the question he had posed. He wanted him to reveal his talent, and it would quell all doubts. After all, he was Li Taixuan's son, and many individuals would naturally look down upon him for coming from the outer divine continent, having been raised in a barren land devoid of resources. There was this stigma he had to wash away and overcome; otherwise, it would only invite further ridicule and doubt.

Thus, Li Luo could ring the Dragon Bell and receive the resources he so required. And no one would doubt him any longer after that.

Coincidentally, this was just what Li Luo wanted.

He had never planned to hide in the shadows and bide his time. He was confident in his triple resonances, and now that he was in the inner divine continent, where the truly talented were as plentiful as the clouds, he would demonstrate that he was no weaker than any of them. There was no need to hide. Instead, he would reveal his brilliance and bask in the light, taking all of the resources he required to push to the Duke Stage.

Thus, he flashed a self-assured smile, nodding in response.

"Respected Grandfather, I am willing to try."

Li Luo's answer caused his Eldest Uncle to feel a pang of anxiety. He sighed and glanced at Li Jinpan. If Li Luo had confidence in himself, that was great. However, he was most afraid of the foolhardiness of youth, unwilling to admit defeat even when the odds were against them. If it came to be that Li Luo was unable to ring the Dragon Bell, would he not become the butt of everyone's jokes?

Although numerous individuals were unable to ring the bell, Li Luo was still Li Taixuan's son.

Li Taixuan was simply an incandescent sun with incomparable influence within the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Even after all these years, people were still unwilling to say that he had already left. In their eyes, he was still an expert amongst the peak of those in the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent, his graceful bearing suppressing all the other professed geniuses of his generation.

"Father, perhaps you might want to reconsider," Li Qingpeng cautioned.

He was ignored. Li Jingzhe directly stood up and walked to the back of the ancestral hall. With that, the group followed behind.

Li Luo similarly followed. Before long, he noticed that Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao had caught up and were right beside him.

"Little Brother! You're too impulsive! You dare to ring the Dragon Bell with just a sixth-grade resonance?" Li Jingtao bitterly smiled.

"Hmph! You're no longer young and yet you're still so easily provoked into action? What's the point of showing off? If you fail here, you'll invite endless humiliation!" Li Fengyi lectured with a frosty expression.

When faced with the two's good-natured advice, Li Luo smiled but did not say much, only quietly listening.

The group passed through the ancestral hall to a location overlooking a steep cliff. The area was shrouded in clouds and there was a massive, bluestone boulder in front of them with a single large, mottled bell sitting atop it. Ancient patterns of dragons were engraved upon the bell, giving off a mysterious and heavy atmosphere.

"Go ahead, Little Luo," Li Jingzhe said as he looked at the giant bell.

Li Luo nodded as he flashed a smile at Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi. With that, he calmly ascended the gigantic, bluestone boulder under everyone's attentive gazes before casually picking up a stone hammer by the side.

Chapter 0742: Dragon Bell

Atop the cliff, many eyes were focused upon the young man standing beside the mottled, ancient Dragon Bell.

Some rays of sunlight had pierced through the clouds, blanketing Li Luo in warmth. The youth's grayish-white hair reflected the sun, and his face that had inherited the best features from his father was the very picture of a handsome young man in the peak of his youth.

Li Fengyi greatly admired her little brother's appearance and hence commented to Li Jingtao. "If ringing the Dragon Bell did not require talent but was dependent on one's looks, our Little Brother wouldn't even have to lift a pinky. Merely standing by the bell would cause it to ring by itself."

Li Jingtao bitterly smiled as he said with all earnestness, "Fengyi... you should not be fixated on looks. That's simply too shallow. What seems precious might very well be ruined inside if all you focus upon is one's external facade. Looks cannot compare to a higher grade resonance."

Li Fengyi glared at him before slowly replying, "Li Jingtao, you simply have never experienced what it's like to have good looks. Since you can't attain it, then you shouldn't speculate on how useful another's appearance might be. That's quite shallow of you."

"Please! I'm not that ugly," Li Jingtao protested.

"Depends on who you're comparing yourself to," Li Fengyi casually replied.

Li Jingtao felt like there was no more point in continuing this conversation, so he immediately changed the topic.

"Do you think Little Brother will succeed?"

Li Fengyi's willow leaf-like eyebrows turned into a frown and she shook her head. "I don't know... If he really only possesses a sixth-grade dragon resonance, then I'm afraid not.

"However, I don't think he's an idiot. The moment I met him, I knew that he was intelligent," Li Jintao stated.

"Are you saying he's hidden his strength?" Li Fengyi asked in surprise.

"Well, he said he has a sixth-grade resonance, and I don't think he's lying. There's not much point in doing so." Li Jingtao shook his head, indicating his doubts.

"We just have to look and see." As the two younger generation youths conversed, Li Qingpeng grabbed hold of Li Jinpan and asked with a hint of concern, "Have any sixth-grade resonances been capable of ringing the Dragon Bell in the past hundred years?"

Li Jinpan shook his head and sneered. "What are you talking about? How could someone with a sixth-grade resonance even be eligible to do so?"

Although the rules dictated that anyone in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li could attempt to ring the bell, if a sixth-grade clan member wished to take on this challenge, they would have to convince the clan elders. If someone like this so much as informed just their superiors, they might very well have the idea beaten back into them.

It would simply be a waste of everyone's time.

Li Qingpeng sighed helplessly as he shot a quick glance at Li Jingzhe, whose hands were folded behind his back. The old man seemed very calm and his presence soothed his anxious heart. He knew how the old man felt towards his Third Brother, and Li Luo was his brother's son. Naturally, Li Jingzhe's affection would extend to Taixuan's offspring as well, and he clearly had already demonstrated his love for Li Luo. Since the old man was the one who had added fuel to the fire, there was no need for him to worry excessively.

With that in mind, he finally managed to reassure himself.

Perhaps his brother's son had not revealed his talent as of yet.

Meanwhile, Li Luo was standing before the massive bell, his hand tightly clutching the stone hammer as he focused upon the ancient dragon engravings on the bell's surface. He could distinctly feel that just revealing dual resonance power was sufficient to ring the bell. However, there was no need to hold back.

Since he was going to show off, it was time to go all out.

With that thought in mind, he roused all three resonant palaces within him, and a deluge of resonant power surged forth, circulating around his body.

Two thousand strands of abstruse fiend light shot out from the waterlight resonant palace and entered the three resonant powers.

With their support, his resonant power became much more dense and forceful.

Li Luo did not hesitate to turn the three streams of resonant power into three massive pythons. They entangled themselves into one and then entered the stone hammer in his hand.

At the same time, a gorgeous bloom of light spread from the originally dull, gray, stone hammer.

The moment the resonant power was revealed, the gazes of everyone present changed and looks of surprise surfaced.

Li Luo, on the other hand, continued undeterred, raising the stone hammer before smashing downwards with all his strength.

The sheer force of the hammer shattered the air and created a sonic boom.

A breath later, it struck the mottled bell squarely before everyone's attentive looks.

At this moment, even the atmosphere seemed to have frozen over.

The surrounding Dukes could see three different types of resonant power flow out upon collision.

The engraving of the dragon upon the bell seemed to have come alive, directly blooming with a faint light as it began to swim across the bell's surface.

At that very moment, the dragon's mouth opened.

Dong!

The thunderous sound of a bell ringing resounded throughout Dragon's Fang Mountain. The sound was loud and clear, as if it could penetrate any and all obstacles. Additionally, the sound of a dragon's roar could faintly be heard mixed into that ring.

The melodious ringing of the ancient bell very quickly resounded throughout the entirety of the mountain and even continued to disperse throughout the Dragon's Fang Mountain Range like the blowing wind. This caused countless individuals from the area to raise their heads and look inquisitively in the direction of Dragon's Fang Mountain.

"This ringing... it's the Dragon Bell!"

"Did someone manage to ring it?"

"Who is it?"

Endless shocked voices turned into a furor throughout the area.

Just as everyone got excited, the elders of the Dragon's Fang Lineage had fallen silent. Their eyes were like saucers as looks of awe surfaced on their faces.

Li Luo had actually managed to ring the Dragon Bell!

Of course, the truly mind-boggling thing was that Li Luo was no longer able to hide his resonant power when the bell rang out, so three different kinds of resonant power had spilled forth.

Three resonant powers with completely different properties.

Everyone was clearly able to discern the difference.

The stream of shimmering, azure light that flowed fluidly and unbroken should have come from a water resonance.

The stream of green light that was filled with vigorous vitality was from a wood resonance.

The last one that had manifested a dragon's illusion was the most easily recognized as it was a common resonance in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, a dragon resonance.

Three different sorts of resonant powers with the water resonance being the strongest, followed by the wood and then the dragon resonances!

Was this the triple resonances possessed by a King?

No!

The elders quickly regained their composure. It was simply three different resonant powers and not the fusion of triple resonances that Kings possessed.

What in the world was this?

Their thoughts churned before the realization hit them.

This was a triple resonance user!

Li Luo was born with triple resonances!

A triple resonance user was a genius that was rarely seen on the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent. It was no less outstanding even when compared to a ninth-grade resonance.

This sort of talent should not have any difficulty ringing the Dragon Bell.

On the side, Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi were staring dumbfounded at the three resonant powers circulating above Li Luo's head. They glanced at each other before realizing how naive they were. Did they truly believe that their Little Brother would dare to do such a thing without anything backing him up?

Indeed, Li Luo had not lied. His dragon resonance was only at the sixth-grade.

However, he didn't mention anything about his two other resonances!

As the two were left reeling from the shock, Li Qingpeng started to clap. He looked elated and laughed heartily. "Good boy. You really are Third Brother's son!"

It was no wonder Li Luo looked unworried. He had the substance to back his claims.

If he had failed to ring the bell with such talent, then the bell had to be broken in some way!

On the other side, Zhao Xuanming was similarly lost in a daze.

He then felt Li Jingzhe's gaze upon him, and the usually stern Lineage Chief began to grin.

"Good enough? Can we make an exception for my family's little hidden dragon now?"

Chapter 0743: Five Guardian Armies and the Twenty Banners

Listening to Li Jingzhe's elated words, Zhao Xuanming similarly smiled as he respectfully said, "The Lineage Chief has sharp eyes. Li Luo's talent is extraordinary and uncanny. As a triple resonance wielder, he would be a peak level genius anywhere in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

"Li Luo, you truly are the son of the Third Master."

The rest had similarly been roused from their daze, but their faces were still full of surprise as they looked at the youth beside the Dragon Bell.

No one had ever expected the boy who had returned from the outer divine continent to possess such outstanding talent. He had three resonances despite only being at the Fiend Palace Tier, which was as big of a deal as a ninth-grade resonance.

Li Qingpeng was full of smiles as he looked on appreciatively. This nephew of his reminded him of his brother.

Li Jinpan nodded. "His resonance talent isn't bad at all. However, I wonder how his understanding of resonance arts fares in comparison. He should still be in the lesser Fiend Palace Tier, right? His tier is a bit low, but it should be due to the lack of resources available in the outer divine continents. So long as we provide him with what he needs, catching up to Jingtao and Fengyi should not be difficult."

Li Jingzhe's usually stern face was also beaming as he turned to the rest of the lineage elders. "Now that Little Luo has rung the Dragon Bell, he will directly enter the upper records."

At this point, there was no longer any disagreement. Li Luo had followed the rules to the letter, and anyone who dared to speak against this was clearly just out to cause trouble.

Li Luo hopped down from atop the massive, bluestone boulder with a face full of calm. He did not reveal even the slightest hint of arrogance despite accomplishing such a feat. Then he clasped his hands towards Li Jingzhe and the rest.

Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi walked over as they curiously studied Li Luo. "Little Brother, you are truly capable! You hid your strength so well!"

This was met with a veiled smile. "I had thought that the entire inner divine continent was full of eighth and ninth-grade resonances, thus I felt it was better to have a lower profile."

The two rolled their eyes. Although the inner divine continent was endowed with more resources, eighth-grade and ninth-grade were not as common as cabbages!

"Now that you've directly vaulted into the upper records, you've saved quite a significant amount of time and can obtain a good amount of cultivation resources every month. Most importantly, there are upper-grade Fiend Origin Pills and liquids and lights. The value of these items is close to several hundred thousand Skygold," Li Fengyi explained.

An excited glint flashed through Li Luo's eyes. "Upper-grade Fiend Origin Pills? Spirit Liquids and Purifying Lights?"

These were the cultivation materials he most needed, and they could accelerate his refinement of abstruse fiend lights and strengthen his resonances.

"Cultivation resources worth hundreds of thousands a month?" Li Luo secretly wet his lips. This was the foundation of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li! Just entering the upper records would give him more cultivation resources than any power in the Xia Kingdom could possibly sustain.

Of course, this impossibility was only if they wanted to sustain a large number of individuals. If it was limited to just a few, the royal court might very likely be able to.

Still, this was not sufficient for Li Luo.

This was a bountiful amount to most individuals, but Li Luo understood his own problems. He required a sea of spirit liquids and purifying lights as there was no limit to how much he could use. As long as he had them on hand, he could keep using them.

His waterlight resonance had reached the upper seventh-grade, and Li Luo planned to quickly advance it to the eighth-grade.

Just as he was pondering how to obtain even more resources, Li Qingpeng suddenly opened his mouth. "Father, Little Luo has entered the clan records, so he should also enter a hall."

"Why don't you have him enter the Crimson Cloud Hall as one of the hall's Crimson Cloud Bannermen? I will definitely spare no expense in nurturing him." Li Jinpan took the opportunity to pipe up. Li Luo had demonstrated unquestionable talent, and he would definitely reveal his radiance to the world if he could maintain the position of a Crimson Cloud Bannerman for just a year.

After hearing Li Jinpan's suggestion, Li Fengyi's eyes lit up and she patted Li Luo's shoulder. "My father's recommendation is a great idea. With your age, you should enter the ranks of the bannermen. Once you become a Crimson Cloud Bannerman, no one will dare to cause you any trouble with me by your side."

"Crimson Cloud Bannerman?" Li Luo asked curiously.

"It looks like Aunt Yun did not explain everything to you. It does make sense. Becoming a bannerman is one of the most important things for those of the bloodline. Perhaps she wanted you to make your own decision when it came to it." Li Jingtao smiled.

"Then I would like to beseech Eldest Brother to explain more," Li Luo said pleadingly.

"As you might already know, the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li is split into the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages. Each lineage has four halls and each hall has a single banner. The banner is named after our hall, and thus the Violet Spirit Hall possesses the Violet Spirit Banner and the Crimson Cloud Hall has the Crimson Cloud Banner. The Five Lineages thus have twenty banners. They consist of the most elite youths of our bloodline in the Dragon's Fang Domain. Countless exceptional youths seek to enter their ranks. It is the greatest honor, and once you enter their ranks, you are able to enjoy much more cultivation resources than the rest."

At this point, Li Luo gained some understanding of the Twenty Banners. It was a way for the clan to pick and selectively nurture the best of the best. It was similar to what the college had done, but once chosen, it was equivalent to becoming an official force under the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. Thus, one would naturally no longer possess as much freedom compared to being, say, a Seven Astral Pillar of the college he used to be in.

"You have to know that the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li rules over hundreds of millions of individuals. Each banner has over eight thousand individuals under it, and so the twenty banners mean that there are over one hundred and sixty thousand individuals. Everyone is constantly fighting for the honor to join them every year, willing to bleed and die for it."

"This is something the Ancestor determined, and the vast majority of the Dukes that now belong to the clan were once part of the Twenty Banners at some point in their lives."

Li Luo felt shocked by this. Twenty banners and one hundred and sixty thousand individuals was a veritable army!

Seeing Li Luo's expression change, Li Fengyi grinned. "Do you think that the Twenty Banners are the only force that our clan possesses?"

Li Jingtao similarly smiled. "Although the Twenty Banners are constantly discovering fresh talent for the clan, the true protectors are the Five Guardian Armies. They are the true defenders of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages."

"What are the Five Guardian Armies, then?" Li Luo asked as he sighed.

"Each lineage has a Guardian Army. The Dragon's Fang Lineage is protected by the Dragon's Fang Guardians."

"Being able to enter the Five Guardian Armies is the dream of every youth. In order to even qualify to step into their gates, one has to be at the Heavenly Dipper General Stage. Fengyi and I plan to join it next year," Li Jingtao explained.

Li Luo felt his head spin. Only Heavenly Dipper Generals could join the Dragon's Fang Guardians? This was a frightening thought. In the Xia Kingdom, every single Heavenly Dipper General was considered a supreme expert able to lead an army, but they would only be an elite foot soldier here.

If the Dragon's Fang Guardians were to band together, just what sort of explosive strength could they demonstrate?

Li Fengyi seemed to read Li Luo's thoughts, and she proudly said, "The Heavenly Dragon's Five Guardian Armies, when combined, can form the Heavenly Dragon Formation, which is able to slaughter Kings!"

This tyrannical declaration caused Li Luo to turn numb.

An army of experts that were able to kill a King? The only thing that could summarize his thoughts of a Heavenly Emperor power was a single word.

Terrifying.

Chapter 0744: Choosing a Banner

Li Luo's shock seemed like a normal reaction to Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao. Additionally, the Five Guardian Armies were renowned throughout the Heavenly Origin Divine Continent as the most stalwart and absolute defenders of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li.

The guardians might not be that impressive when scattered, but once they gathered to form the terrifying Heavenly Dragon Formation, even an ordinary King Stage cultivator would have to avoid its might.

Additionally, this was just one of the trump cards the clan possessed to deal with invaders.

"The Dragon's Fang Guardians might be an aim a little far for you. However, the Twenty Banners should be appropriate. Once you enter a Banner, you will be provided additional resources on top of what is allocated to you based on your current status." Li Jingtao smiled.

At this point, he lowered his voice. "Everyone wants cultivation resources, and one must demonstrate their personal might to obtain them. Third Uncle was like that as well. He entered the Green Nether Banner and carved a path of his own to stand out amongst the rabble, eventually becoming the head of the Four Banners of the Dragon's Fang Lineage."

Li Luo nodded. The Twenty Banners was one of the foundational pillars of the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li, and only the continuous emergence of fresh blood could guarantee its survival.

He was also excited over the extra resources he could obtain after entering a banner.

"As of today, I am the Violet Spirit Banner's Banner Leader, and Fengyi is the Crimson Cloud Banner's Banner Leader. You might be a little weaker now, Little Brother, but your talent isn't bad. I'm sure you'll have an opportunity to rise in the future," Li Jingtao continued.

"Is the Banner Leader the head of a Banner?" Li Luo asked.

"Mhm. Every Banner is led by a Banner Leader. Below them are also countless other subleaders that assist with commanding," Li Fengyi explained.

"Wow, I've been too disrespectful to the two of you. It turns out I'm in the company of two great generals who command eight thousand men each!" Li Luo sighed.

This sigh was genuine. From a certain point of view, each of them commanded a Banner that held eight thousand individuals. Furthermore, they were the most talented youths from the Dragon's Fang Domain. If such a force were placed in the Xia Kingdom, they would crush all opposition without exception.

This sort of strength was something House Luolan simply could not produce.

When Jingtao heard his words, he sighed once again and weakly commented. "My biggest regret is taking on the position of the Violet Spirit's Banner Leader."

Li Luo was a little confused, while Li Fengyi coldly snorted. "Ignore this fool. He's just lazy and wants to slack around all day. He has no desire to advance. Because he's the eldest grandson, he actually allowed the Gold Light Banner to vault over all of us and become the strongest hall in the Dragon's Fang Lineage. Now the members of the other lineages have been making fun of us for letting the reins get snatched

away by outsiders. In the future, the Dragon's Fang Lineage might deteriorate to the point where we have to follow them."

Li Jingtao looked a little awkward at this point. "Fengyi, the Gold Light Banner also represents the Dragon's Fang Lineage. The stronger they are, the more potential the Dragon's Fang Lineage possesses."

"You can quibble over the details, but do you know just how many clan members from our generation have been cursing at you behind your back?" Li Fengyi coldly smiled.

Jingtao bitterly smiled as he lamented, "I've never let them see the good side of me either. If not for my father threatening to beat me, I would never have chosen to compete for the position of Banner Leader."

He then scratched his face as he looked at Li Luo. "Little Brother, why don't you join the Violet Spirit Banner? Once you become stronger, I'll cede the position to you! The pressure at the top is just too much for me to handle."

Li Luo was completely dumbfounded by this Eldest Brother of his. It was no wonder he gave off such a leisurely and lackadaisical aura. He simply did not have much fighting spirit.

"You shouldn't be called 'Li Jingtao.' Your name should be 'Li Gui,'" Li Fengyi chastised.[1]

Li Jingtao did not become mad when faced with Li Fengyi's mockery. Instead, he revealed an amiable smile to reassure her.

Li Luo shook his head. His Eldest Brother was not that old, yet he was so mild-tempered. In terms of personality, he really was like an old tortoise. Still, he had a great temper and much patience, which gave Li Luo a good impression of him.

His Second Sister, Li Fengyi, was ferocious and intense, her tongue as sharp as her sword. However, she did not have bad intentions and was just frustrated when things were not as she had expected.

"So the Gold Light Banner is the strongest at the moment, huh?" Li Luo asked. The Gold Light Banner belonged to the Gold Light Hall, and Zhao Xuanming, who had previously raised objections, was their Hall Master.

Li Fengyi nodded. "Ten years ago, the strongest banner was the Green Nether Banner. You probably understand why. Third Uncle was the Hall Master, and he was the most outstanding individual of his generation—he even received the Ancestor's recognition. Naturally, all sorts of geniuses and talents, not just from the Dragon's Fang Domain, but those from the other four domains, similarly wanted to join the Green Nether Hall. Green Nether's admissions was the most rambunctious event amongst all of the lineages' halls whenever it happened." From her words, it was clear that she idolized Li Taixuan.

But immediately after, her expression turned gloomy. "However, ever since Third Uncle left, the situation has been getting worse each year. There has been no Hall Master and the internal situation turned chaotic, losing much of its previous prestige and power. As a result, the Green Nether Banner gradually weakened. Let's not even talk about how it used to be the best amongst the Twenty Banners, it's now ranked last in the whole Dragon's Fang Lineage!"

Li Luo nodded. This was no surprise to him. Li Taixuan was the core of the Green Nether Hall, and with him being gone for countless years, the Green Nether Hall had obviously deteriorated to its current state.

As the three youths continued to stealthily whisper amongst themselves, a debate had broken out between the elders.

Li Jinpan and Li Qingpeng both wanted Li Luo. At the same time, even Zhao Xuanming had thrown his hat into the ring, wishing to contest for Li Luo to join his hall. Of course, no one really knew what he was truly thinking, but this very action was testament to Li Luo's potential.

In the end, the Lineage Chief waved his hand, indicating he had come to a decision.

"Stop fighting over him. Li Luo is of Taixuan's blood. He's been away from the Green Nether Hall for years, yet you still want to dig up what little is left?"

Li Jingzhe smiled. "Then we should let Little Luo join the Green Nether Hall, entering the Green Nether Banner. I'll arrange a position for him within."

He then turned towards Li Luo and smiled. "What do you think, Little Luo?"

Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi felt a little disappointed upon hearing these words, and Fengyi piped up.

"Respected Grandfather, the Green Nether Banner has become the most chaotic group amongst all of the Twenty Banners. The competition for the Banner Leader has also raged fiercely for so many years that it has been left empty. It is a thorny location where everyone shuns, and yet you actually want Little Brother, who has barely entered the Fiend Palace Tier, to take over? How can he keep anyone under control? Additionally, by giving him a position of importance within the Banner, are you not pushing him into the fire? Based on the rules, even the sub leaders are required to possess Fiend Body Tier strength."

This outburst was not because she did not believe in Li Luo's strength, but because she was all too clear of the Green Nether Hall's internal situation. If Li Luo was not strong enough, it would only incite endless trouble! Li Luo might be special, but endless tides of blood had been shed in the Green Nether Banner in recent years.

"Fengyi, how can you speak to your grandfather like that?" Li Jinpan lectured.

A smile rose on Li Jingzhe's face. "Fengyi speaks the truth, but I believe that what's most important is Little Luo's opinion."

Everyone then turned towards Li Luo, who gave a slight grin. "The Green Nether Hall is where my father led in the past. He was previously the one who brought the Green Nether Banner to prominence, and now that he's temporarily not around, I'll have to give him a hand as his son. That is what I hope to achieve."

In short, he was willing to join the Green Nether Banner as he could also feel that his grandfather similarly wished for that.

Li Jingzhe smiled broadly. "Commendable courage."

The group knew that the decision had been made and that it could not be changed. There would now be a new sub leader with a special identity in the Green Nether Banner.

The Gold Light Hall's Zhao Xuanming similarly smiled and nodded before turning to look at a specific individual. At this point, a thin man dressed in white with a sharp face sensed that this was the right moment, so he stood up.

"Lineage Chief, there is one more matter which I hope you can make a decision on today."

The gazes of the audience turned towards the white-robed man.

Li Fengyi then whispered into Li Luo's ear, "This is the Green Nether Hall's Vice Hall Master, Zhong Yushi. I feel that he is going to raise the subject of ascending to the Hall Master's position yet again. It is well known that he has always coveted Third Uncle's position as the Hall Master."

At this point, the old man indifferently replied, "Oh, it's you, Zhong Yushi. What is it about?"

Zhong Yushi immediately bowed and respectfully greeted the Lineage Chief before proceeding to speak.

"The Green Nether Hall's Hall Master position has been vacant for many years now. As a result, the internal situation is fragmented and chaotic. This has lasted for almost ten years, and it has significantly affected the Green Nether Hall. For the sake of ensuring that the Dragon's Fang Lineage continues to improve, I beseech you, Lineage Chief, to... decide upon a new Hall Master!"

Chapter 0745: Results

Zhong Yushi's words stifled the air. The people present were all elders of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, and some were extremely senior. The other Hall Masters were also present, and everyone knew what he meant. It was about obtaining the Green Nether Hall's Hall Master position.

After all, Zhong Yushi had spent many years cooped up in the Green Nether Hall and remained as the Second Hall Master. Although he had accumulated significant power over the years, whenever anyone mentioned the Hall Master, they would naturally think of Li Taixuan, which made him feel extremely unreconciled.

As for the issue of the empty Hall Master seat of the Green Nether Hall, even the Mountain Ruling Dragon's Blood Lineage had asked about it. In fact, they had shown signs of wishing to intervene directly. However, this was only met with the same answer. This was an internal affair of the Dragon's Fang Lineage and not for outsiders to get involved. As the Mountain Ruling Lineage, the Dragon's Blood Lineage had the right to supervise the other four lineages, but the old man had always adamantly held on and blocked the issue completely.

Although the Dragon's Blood Lineage was unhappy with the Lineage Chief's stubborn refusal, the root of the problem was the fact that they had indirectly forced Li Taixuan away. As such, they could only restrain themselves and not interfere.

Thus, the position of the Hall Master had remained vacant for ten-odd years, turning into the only hall without a Hall Master.

However, Zhong Yushi had once again raised the issue, clearly unable to help himself.

Li Qingpeng frowned as he replied unhappily, "Second Hall Master Zhong, the matter has been oft repeated by my Respected Father many times. Why do you wish to stir up trouble once again?"

"Hm. The Green Nether Hall has been losing prestige day after day under Second Hall Master Zhong's supervision. You dare to covet the Hall Master's seat when you're so incapable? Don't you think that's laughable?" Li Jinpan impolitely replied, directly mocking him.

Zhong Yushi remained calm. "The Green Nether Hall's descent is a fact. However, everyone should also understand that without an official Hall Master to rally everyone's hearts, they will only continue to struggle internally. Thus, I would like to beseech the Lineage Chief to re-elect a new Hall Master. I'm not raising this subject out of a desire for personal power! No, it is because I don't wish to see the reputation which was painstakingly built up be tarnished. The Lineage Chief is just and wise, he should be clear of the situation and how it cannot be allowed to fester any longer! Thus, I would be so bold as to raise this topic once again. Please reconsider the situation of the Hall Master!"

Everyone looked at the determined Zhong Yushi. It seemed as though he was committed to seeing this issue come to an end.

A few elders glanced at each other and began to murmur amongst themselves. They had discussed the issue of the vacant Hall Master position before, and not having an actual Hall Master to make decisions on important matters had led to endless internal strife in the Green Nether Hall as everyone struggled to gain power.

This was the truth of the matter. The current Green Nether Hall was the most chaotic of the Twenty Halls as none of the Vice Hall Masters could agree to cooperate with one another, leading to a fractured organization.

"Lineage Chief, the issue in the Green Nether Hall should not drag on any further."

At this point in time, the Gold Light Hall's Zhao Xuanming spoke up sincerely. "We all know you miss the Third Master and don't want to remove the last position he had before he left. But you must understand that he has already been gone for over ten years. The previously strongest hall has now fallen into dire chaos. The Third Master spent much effort on it and was also the one who pulled it up to the peak. I don't think that he would like to see the situation deteriorate any further."

Li Jinpan smiled coldly. "Hall Master Zhao, your honeyed words are nice to hear, but one of the key reasons for the hall's decline has to do with you. The Gold Light Hall has poached away the Green Nether Hall's resources. Do you think we aren't aware?"

Zhao Xuanming smirked. "Second Master, you must be joking. I am the Gold Light Hall's Hall Master, and I must do everything to win resources and strengthen my hall! Is this not what I ought to do? Are you saying that our strength doesn't matter and we don't belong to the Dragon's Fang lineage?"

"Hmph! Twisting words to fit your needs. You damn outsiders-" Li Jinpan burst into a rage and was about to fly into a tirade.

However, he saw Li Jingzhe's expression turn dark, and a mysterious, suppressive power forced his mouth shut.

Li Jinpan could only obediently keep quiet.

"The Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li does not only belong to those who are born with the surname Li. Whether one is a direct descendant or someone who joined from the outside, once they are part of the

clan, their previous status no longer matters. Only results do! These are the absolute teachings of the Ancestor," Li Jingzhe indifferently stated before sternly glaring at Li Jinpan.

"The next time I hear you say those words again, you will be heavily punished!"

When everyone heard these words, they bowed their heads and responded respectfully.

Li Jingzhe then turned towards Zhong Yushi. "The Green Nether Hall's Hall Master seat has been vacant for countless years, and the truth is that I have left the position open for Li Taixuan."

The group turned quiet, but no one expressed too much shock at this. They all knew of this. Why else would the position have been left empty for so long? However, what took them by surprise was how the Lineage Chief had openly confirmed their suspicions.

"However, keeping the position empty is also selfishness on my part. It is as I said, only results matter." Li Jingzhe spoke steadily, but a majestic aura flowed from him.

"The Green Nether Hall was brought up by Taixuan and was the result of his hard work. Thus, I was willing to leave the position vacant for him for the past ten years as I believed that the day he returned, he would easily take back what belonged to him."

Everyone fell into deep thought, including Zhong Yushi. No one refuted this statement despite the man himself having left numerous years ago. The indelible mark he had left upon the Green Nether Hall was something no one here could forget.

No one doubted his personal capabilities and charisma.

It was only in Li Taixuan's hands that the Green Nether Hall had become the leader of the twenty halls. Even the four halls under the Dragon's Blood Lineage were firmly suppressed despite having profound reserves and heritage.

If he ever returned, there would inevitably be a cleansing as the gloom would be blown away, replaced with iridescence radiance.

After a while, Zhao Xuanming then opened his mouth and said lightly, "The Third Master's merits are undeniable, but the hall has simply declined too much in his absence. I feel that no matter how outstanding his previous achievements were, there should be a time where we ought to call it quits. Additionally, we cannot let the hall continue to languish. It is still a hall of the Dragon's Fang Lineage."

Zhao Xuanming's words caused a flicker of rage to appear within Li Jinpan's eyes. However Li Jingzhe merely smiled and nodded. "Your words are logical. In fact, the grace that was provided for the exceptional results obtained by Taixuan has long been exhausted."

When Zhong Yushi heard these words, his heart burst into joy. Could it be that the Lineage Chief finally had a change of heart?

"I had originally planned to remove Taixuan from his position in two years. However, it looks like the situation has once again transformed." Li Jingzhe smiled slightly.

As he swept his gaze across the group, his eyes finally settled on Li Luo, and the smile became even more intense.

"Taixuan might not have returned, but his son has. If his results were not enough, then what if his son were to achieve more merits on his behalf?"

Chapter 0746: Defending Father's Seat

Li Jingzhe's words caused a disturbance to erupt in the group, and they glanced at each other before turning towards Li Luo.

The son would represent the father to obtain results? How?

Even the person involved, Li Luo, was at a loss. He had never expected Li Jingzhe to lead the conversation onto him. He was as confused as the rest. What was a mere Fiend Palace Tier cultivator supposed to do? How was he going to achieve results on behalf of his father?

Li Jingzhe smiled as he looked at Li Luo. "You will join the Green Nether Banner, attain the position of Banner Leader with our own strength, and lead it to its previous heights. If you're able to achieve this, the position of the Green Nether Hall's Hall Master will be left for your father. What do you think?"

Li Luo blinked when he heard this. Knowing his father, that man wouldn't care whether or not he possessed this position anyway!

"If you're able to achieve this, not only will the position of Hall Master be protected, but I will give you my word that a portion of the Hall Master's cultivation resources will be allocated to you directly. After all, you would have also played a part in achieving the results."

A look of amusement could be seen in Li Jingzhe's deep gaze as he continued to grin. "The cultivation resources allocated to a Hall Master are no trifling matter. Just a portion of it would be an unimaginable amount to you. I'm sure you will be pleased.

"So, what do you think? Are you willing to give it a shot?"

"Holy shit." Li Luo's eyes enlarged and blood rushed to his head. A Hall Master was the highest position someone could hold in the Dragon's Fang Lineage with the exception of the Lineage Chief. The resources they could enjoy had to be enough to even move a Duke. Even if he only obtained a portion, would he ever need to worry about having insufficient amounts ever again?

His grandfather was the best! He was basically trying to hand him resources!

Li Luo's heart was moved, and he quickly gave the most radiant smile he could before impassionately announcing his intention. "My father's kindness towards me has always been as heavy and immense as a mountain. As a filial son, I will go through even seas of fires and mountains of blades just to fight for him!"

Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi glanced at him with peculiar looks on their faces. Didn't he look like he was planning to reject all of this a moment ago? Why had he suddenly changed his mind in a flash?

Li Jingzhe nodded and praised, "Having such a heart is truly commendable."

At this point, the rest seemed to have snapped out of their stupor, especially the Second Hall Master, Zhong Yushi. The man's face was as stiff as a rock before he blurted out his uncontrollable thoughts.

"Lineage Chief, this... are you planning to leave the Hall Master's position vacant yet again? For how long? It's not beneficial to the Green Nether Hall!"

"It won't be long, just two more years. If Little Luo is unable to restore the glory of the Green Nether Banner, then I will immediately revoke Taixuan's position as Hall Master," Li Jingzhe replied.

Zhong Yushi's lips twitched as he glanced vaguely towards Zhao Xuanming. The latter imperceptibly shook his head. Today's meeting would soon come to an end and the Lineage Chief had already demonstrated his intentions. Pushing the matter further would only be detrimental.

Zhong Yushi could only retract his gaze and nod bitterly. However, when his eyes lowered, a gloominess exuded from deep within.

Just how could the Green Nether Banner reach new heights in just two years? With just the Fiend Palace Tier Li Luo? His current strength couldn't even qualify him to reliably maintain a position as a sub leader. And obtaining the Banner Leader's position?

Although triple resonances were powerful, the resources of the outer divine continents were sparse. Li Luo was not considered weak when compared against the average individual in his age group, but when measured against the elites of the banner? The gap was massive.

The way Zhong Yushi saw it, Li Jingzhe was merely using Li Luo as an excuse to buy another two years of time.

So be it. He would just wait a little more, and if Li Luo was unable to achieve anything by then, even the Lineage Chief would have no other choice.

With this in mind, he felt reassured and calmly retreated to his seat.

The rest naturally had no further questions and the situation was resolved.

"Little Luo, you should rest for the next two days before reporting to the Green Nether Banner. The two of you can help him arrange things." Li Jingzhe glanced at Zhong Yushi and Li Rouyun as the Second and Third Hall Masters.

"We will."

"We will adjourn today's meeting." After all things had been settled, Li Jingzhe waved his hand, signifying the end. Then the crowd dispersed.

"Little Luo, you, Jingtao, and Fengyi will stay behind and have a meal with me. We can speak more."

Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi glanced at each other and knew that their grandfather mainly wanted to speak with Li Luo. The two of them were merely accompanying him, but they could only obediently nod in agreement.

"Father, I can accompany you as well." Li Qingpeng smiled.

"Mind your own business. I have nothing to say to you, only the younger generation." Li Jingzhe shook his head and waved his hand as though shooing away a fly. Li Jinpan and Li Qingpeng looked at each other but could only helplessly nod and leave with the crowd.

Before she left, Li Rouyun informed Li Luo that she would take Ox Biaobiao to the Green Nether Hall and make arrangements.

After everyone had left, Li Jingzhe's stern expression turned warm and he revealed a warm smile towards his grandchildren. He then led the trio to his lodgings in the middle of the mountain. It was a simple courtyard and cabin in the midst of a bamboo forest that was filled with serenity and peace.

Li Jingzhe personally dug up some fresh and tender bamboo shoots which he then used to cook some simple and light meals.

He also retrieved carefully brewed wine from bamboo's core.

"This bamboo core wine is made by pouring wine into growing spirit bamboo. Ten years of aging will only produce a bitter taste, fifty years for astringency, and a hundred years for a sweetness to develop. In the past, that brat Taixuan hacked down half of my bamboo garden, all just to find a hundred-year bamboo core wine. For a period of time, I was so angry that I prohibited him from entering this place." Li Jingzhe's wizened face had a trace of a smile despite talking about a frustrating memory. Clearly, he was in good spirits today.

Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao had complicated expressions. From their grandfather's words, they could distinctly feel his deep affection towards their Third Uncle, which was much reduced when dealing with their fathers, Li Jinpan and Li Qingpeng.

Perhaps this was just how a normal family was like. Li Qingpeng was originally the oldest son and had the highest probability of receiving this sort of favor, but alas, he was not very talented. As a result, Li Jingzhe's appreciation towards him gradually tapered off.

The second son, Li Jinpan, was the most pitiful. Although his talent was better than Li Qingpeng's, it was still limited, and he might have been neglected as the middle child.

Li Taixuan was the third and the youngest with supreme talent and became the most adored one in the family. With such a position, even the usually stern Li Jingzhe couldn't help but pamper him. Clearly, Li Taixuan was the one who the old man wanted to make the successor of the Dragon's Fang Lineage.

Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao also knew that their Third Uncle's temperament and talent was amazing, far surpassing their own fathers. It was only a pity that such a thing had happened that year.

The four sat around a small table, and the atmosphere turned cozy.

However, the two were still a little cautious. Instead, it was Li Luo who was most relaxed. He drank with his grandfather and happily told him the things that happened when he was young in House Luolan. Everytime he did so, the old man would listen attentively.

The difference was because the two had experienced their grandfather's sternness as they grew up, respecting him from the bottom of their hearts, so it was inevitable that they felt like they were walking on thin ice.

On the other hand, it was Li Luo's first time meeting Li Jingzhe, and he simply did not know his personality. He had never experienced his grandfather's strictness and just treated him as a slightly special old man with perhaps an even more special position.

It was thanks to Li Luo's presence that this small gathering did not turn too dull in the end.

Still, Li Fengyi and Li Jingtao could not stay for long. After finishing their light meal, they hurriedly came up with reasons to take their leave.

As they left the small courtyard, even Li Luo could feel that the tension in their bodies had eased.

Li Jingzhe similarly watched the two young ones take their leave, and the expression on his old face eased a little. He gulped down a cup of wine before saying to Li Luo self-deprecatingly, "These old bones of mine are only good for attracting resentment and fear."

"You have accumulated years of prestige, and even Eldest Uncle and Second Uncle tremble before you, much less Eldest Brother and Second Sister. I've only just returned and have no inkling of how amazing you are, Respected Grandfather. I'm sure I will also feel like I'm under a lot of pressure once I get used to your presence and awe." Li Luo smiled.

Li Jingzhe fell silent. "Then I hope you don't get used to it either. It's rare to find anyone to keep me company. Feel free to come here whenever you have spare time."

Li Luo smiled and nodded.

Li Jingzhe then studied Li Luo's youthful and handsome face as he smiled. "You really resemble your father."

"I've also inherited Respected Grandfather's elegant bearing," Li Luo continued.

Li Jingzhe's smile deepened, and he poured yet another glass of wine for himself. "There are no outsiders here, so stop calling me that."

Li Luo felt a little surprised. He could see the look of hope within the old man's eyes. The current Li Jingzhe was no longer a King Stage expert or the idolized Dragon's Fang Lineage Chief. He was just an old man dreaming, hoping for his son to just come home.

His own father's face surfaced in Li Luo's mind, and he then raised his own wine cup and clinked it against his grandfather's.

"Grandson Li Luo greets his grandfather."

Li Jingzhe finally laughed heartily, as though set free from some of the burdens of his heart. The wrinkles on his aged face bloomed and his laughter echoed throughout the courtyard.

It echoed throughout the bamboo forest, and even Li Jingtao and Li Fengyi could hear it. They lightly sighed and even envied Li Luo's bravery. It's not that they did not want to take things easy, but Li Jingzhe's strict visage had been indelibly branded upon them since young, leaving behind a shadow in their hearts. "Forget it. With Little Brother accompanying grandfather, things will get easier for us." The two looked at each other once more before leaving with utmost haste.

Since Li Luo was so likable, they would leave him to carry their grandfather's heavy expectations. At least that way, their own fathers might not force them to live up to expectations they could not achieve.

Chapter 0747: Grandfather's Chat

The atmosphere had turned jovial in the small courtyard.

Anyone could see that Li Jingzhe's mood was excellent. Although his most doted son had not returned, Li Luo had been sent back to the Dragon's Fang Lineage, and that gesture demonstrated his son's intentions. He no longer resented the Dragon's Fang Lineage for what happened in the past.

Li Luo's personality was also to his liking.

This grandson had talent that was not inferior to Li Taixuan's and had a determined and unswerving personality. At the same time, he was able to bide his time and hide his radiance when needed. This was one area which he surpassed his father in. Perhaps it was because his own experiences growing up were different. Li Taixuan had enjoyed an unfettered life, and with the Dragon's Fang Lineage's protection, he became a proud figure that trampled over all others without too much hardship.

Perhaps it was because his life was too easy-going that he lacked forbearance during certain critical moments.

It was important to stride forth confidently, but being too rigid also meant that they could snap.

Li Jingzhe placed his wine cup down and earnestly said, "Little Luo, you have no need to hide your brilliance in the Dragon's Fang Lineage. This is not the same place as the Xia Kingdom. There is no need to worry about people plotting against you in the dark, and even if there are little ghosts that haunt you, sweep past them with your incandescence. So long as you follow the rules, no one can touch you."

Li Luo was moved by these words. He nodded and asked directly, "Grandfather, it looks like things are not that peaceful in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, am I right?"

"Are you referring to Hall Master Zhao Xuanming?" Li Jingzhe asked.

Li Luo nodded. Judging from the previous atmosphere when his Eldest Uncle and Second Uncle had clashed with him, it seemed that a deep rift existed between them.

"He was recommended by the Dragon's Blood Lineage. As they are the Mountain Ruling Lineage, they have the right to do so. Of course, their aim is just to cause the Dragon's Fang Lineage a little bit of trouble, there's nothing too strange about this," Li Jingzhe indifferently replied.

"Grandfather, you should have been able to reject this, no?" Li Luo asked curiously. Li Jingzhe was the Dragon's Fang Lineage's Lineage Chief, and all decisions would ultimately be made by him.

"If your dad was around, I would definitely have chosen to do so." Li Jingzhe smiled.

Li Luo was even more puzzled. If his dad were around, then Zhao Xuanming would have been an even less of a problem, no?

"When your dad was around, the four halls were like obedient sheep and were able to work together to display an even more intimidating strength, suppressing the other four lineages. At that point in time, I would naturally not allow for any outsider to break up the balance and unity we had. However, our four halls have weakened with him gone, and neither your Eldest Uncle nor Second Uncle were able to pick up the mantle he left behind. At this rate, our four halls would only progressively weaken. I allowed Zhao Xuanming to join because I knew it would provide a sense of pressure for your uncles to continue to improve," Li Jingzhe explained.

"So you're borrowing him to temper my uncles?" Li Luo felt a little shocked, and he hesitated a bit before saying, "Well, it looks like the results were not that great."

In the end, the Gold Light Hall had become the strongest, and it only amplified Zhao Xuanming's reputation. His uncles were unable to do anything to hamper him.

Li Jingzhe helplessly nodded in response. "My eldest son has always been ordinary and mild; he lacks the will to fight. My second son, on the other hand, is combative, but he lacks ability. The two are indeed not Taixuan's equal. Alas, if they truly cannot suppress Zhao Xuanming, then the Gold Light Hall will have the opportunity to take the lead. It's as Xuanming had previously said. The Gold Light Hall is part of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, and its performance reflects well upon us. With your father's departure, the Green Nether Hall has been full of strife, and a new bellwether is needed. Whether Zhao Xuanming was truly planted to be a nail in our foot or not is unimportant as I am still around." Li Jingzhe smiled at Li Luo.

A domineering aura radiated from his wizened expression, one that demonstrated his confidence to have the power to control everything. "So long as I remain as the chief of the Dragon's Fang Lineage, no matter how amazing Zhao Xuanming is, he will only be a poster boy for our lineage. Of course, when the day comes that I'm no longer around and there is no one to continue shouldering the lineage, then there will naturally be a change. At that point, our lineage will abdicate and we will let the best take over."

Li Luo was a little shocked as he had never expected Li Jingzhe to be so open-minded. If their lineage truly did not produce any talented individuals, he was willing to hand over the reins?

"There is nothing eternal in this world, and this applies to the Dragon's Fang Lineage. This is also applicable to the entire Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li and the other Heavenly Emperor Bloodlines. Over the passing of time, who knows just how many have disappeared into dust?"

Li Jingzhe casually waved his hand before his tone changed. "However, the Dragon's Fang Lineage has decent luck. First came Li Taixuan, then you. Haha. I really do await the day when Taixuan returns and when you finally mature. Although having the two of you around would not guarantee that we will prosper forever, at the very least, things will be extremely interesting in the future."

Li Luo dryly smiled. "Grandfather, this meat pie of yours is just too heavy, I can't take it!"

"You sly little brat," Li Jingzhe berated him with a smile.

"Also, Grandfather, I have two important things I need your help with." Li Luo's expression suddenly turned serious.

"Speak."

"The first is regarding my parents' good friend. His name is Ox Biaobao, and on that day..."

Before Li Luo could finish speaking, Li Jingzhe nodded and continued for him. "I know him. When your parents were being chased, many fair weather friends had chosen to avoid them with the exception of one, who accompanied them the whole way. Although he had a fearsome reputation, he was an individual that heavily valued loyalty and righteousness, which was extremely admirable."

"Uncle Biao's Duke Bergfrieds were all shattered that year, and I'm looking for a way to restore them. Our family owes him too much, so I wish to help him, no matter how difficult it is. I feel that my parents would agree as well." Li Luo sighed deeply.

"You are a good child, able to recognize and treasure relationships," Li Jingzhe praised. No one wished for their offspring to be thankless and cold individuals—Li Luo was quite similar to his father in this aspect.

"I will look for a way to restore his Duke Bergfrieds." Li Jingzhe did not hesitate to make this promise. Ox Biaobiao had protected Li Taixuan and Tan Tailan the whole time that year, and from a certain point of view, the Dragon's Fang Lineage owed him as well.

"Well then, what's the other matter? Hurry and speak."

Li Luo first thanked his grandfather happily before his expression turned heavy once again. "The other reason I returned to the clan is because I wish to obtain a treasure from the clan's treasure pavilion. It's known as the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus, and it's extremely important to me. Do you know how I can obtain it?"

"Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus?" Li Jingzhe's gaze concentrated upon Li Luo. "You little brat, you really know how to aim high. It is a mystical treasure that the Ancestor had obtained from the World Border. It now sits in the treasury controlled by the Dragon's Blood Lineage. Do you still want this item?"

Li Luo nodded furiously.

Li Jingzhe sighed. "The average individual would have great difficulty just obtaining the opportunity to obtain such a treasure. Even if it were me, I would have to have a valid reason to negotiate for it with the other four lineages. Additionally, that item is eyed by numerous Hall Masters in the clan as refining it could possibly allow them to reach a new level in strength."

Li Luo's heart sank. Li Rouyun had said such a treasure existed, but she had not mentioned anything about its desirability. If even Hall Masters wanted the item, weren't his chances of obtaining it really low?"

"There is no need for you to worry about it. I will help you block and ensure that no one else redeems it. I will also help you think of a way to obtain it legitimately," Li Jingzhe stated.

"Thank you, Grandfather!" Li Luo was elated to no end. He would only have the opportunity to obtain this treasure through the assistance of his grandfather. Otherwise it was futile.

Li Jingzhe then waved his hand. "Your current focus will be setting a foothold in the Green Nether Banner. Otherwise, Zhong Yushi will continue to stir trouble and snatch away your father's position. In fact, your return has attracted the gazes of countless elders in the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. I hope that—"

Li Luo nodded and directly answered, "You can rest assured, Grandfather, that I will do my best to dazzle their blinded eyes."

Li Jingzhe was taken aback by his abrupt reply before he burst into laughter. This grandson of his held no taboos, but his self-confidence was truly reminiscent of his father.

"Good. The Green Nether Banner Leader's position is empty right now. As a sub leader, you have the authority to issue challenges. If you are able to obtain the position of Banner Leader, I will give you an answer on how you can possibly obtain the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus."

Li Luo raised his wine cup and downed it in a single go.

Banner Leader?

He would go through any ordeal just to obtain it. All for the Nine Marks Sacred Heart Lotus, for Sister Qing'e.

Chapter 0748: Monthly Stipend

When Li Luo opened his eyes on the second day, a strange but luxurious ceiling came to view. After bidding farewell to Li Jingzhe last night, someone had arranged for him to stay in his current location, which was in the Green Nether Hall's district.

Li Luo got up from his bed and lazily stretched. After traveling for such a long period of time, this was the first time he could finally rest comfortably and at ease.

At this point, several serving maids heard movement coming from his room and respectfully made their way in to assist Li Luo with his clothes. He did not reject their assistance as he did not sense the least bit of ill will, and he was more than happy to accept it.

The young and pretty serving maids continued to attend to his needs, all the while stealthily observing him. His handsome face coupled with his tall and slender figure and unique, grayish-white hair made him seem unearthly, and they couldn't help but slightly blush in his presence. The news of the Third Master's son returning had spread throughout the Dragon's Fang Lineage in just a day.

Everyone knew that the Third Young Master had managed to ring the Dragon Bell and directly entered the upper records.

Li Taixuan's reputation was resounding in the Dragon's Fang Lineage, and despite his departure over ten years ago, everyone still vividly remembered his majestic presence. With his son's return, they were naturally curious and much attention was paid to him.

"Third Young Master, this jade building is located in the inner mountain district, and there is a cultivation chamber within. It contains a fifth-grade energy formation that is able to condense the worldly natural energy more effectively. If you wish, you can cultivate within it daily. Additionally, the Third Hall Master has dispatched someone to provide you with certain goods, saying that it is your monthly stipend. She has also said that you should rest today and wait for the matters regarding you joining the banner to be settled. You can then head towards the Green Nether Banner tomorrow," one of the serving maids softly informed Li Luo. At the same time, she passed a jade box over before respectfully standing to the side.

Li Luo nodded and revealed a joyful and carefree smile, causing the group of beautiful maids to bow and retreat with blushing faces.

"This ostentatious treatment of being the Dragon's Fang Lineage's Third Young Master seems to be much better than being the young lord of House Luolan." Li Luo grinned before excitedly opening the jade box. Was this the stipend he could enjoy as a member of the clan?

Inside were numerous exquisite glass bottles that were neatly arranged.

Li Luo immediately homed in on one of the glass bottles that contained a mysterious light. He picked it up and opened the cap, causing pristine and pure light to flow out from within.

"Seventh-grade purifying lights!"

Li Luo's eyebrows jumped as he sighed in admiration. The items within the glass bottles were all seventh-grade purifying lights, and as a professional, he could tell that the quality of the items before him was extremely high.

"How luxurious."

Li Luo sighed as he swept his gaze across the jade box. There were eight such bottles within. If they were placed in the Xia Kingdom, they would fetch over two million Skygold.

Li Luo then placed the purifying lights down and his attention shifted to a jade bottle. He picked it up and poured out a pill that emanated an immense medicinal fragrance that would cause anyone who sniffed it to feel refreshed.

"Is this an upper-grade Fiend Origin Pill?"

He could feel that just inhaling the pill's fragrance caused the circulation of resonant power within his resonant palaces to accelerate. His gaze burned and his thoughts went back to the time when he was in the Astral Sage College. The Fiend Origin Pill he had received was completely inferior when compared to this one.

The object in his hand was simply of superior quality.

These were all cultivation materials he sorely required right at this moment.

"I am able to obtain such wondrous cultivation resources every month just by being in the upper records. A Heavenly Emperor Bloodline is just extraordinary." Li Luo sighed. In the Xia Kingdom, even as House Luolan's esteemed young lord, the resources he received would not necessarily be any better than this.

Additionally, this was just one part of the resources he would be provided. Once he entered the Green Nether Banner, he would receive yet another portion.

If this was coupled with good results, the amount of cultivation resources he could possibly receive was frightening.

With the assistance of these materials, the gap between him and the top talents of the inner divine continents would naturally shrink.

This was simply a demonstration of how large the disparity was between the inner and outer divine continents.

"I'll first test out how effective these upper-grade Fiend Origin Pills are."

Li Luo stored the items back in the jade box before excitedly hurrying out of his bedroom into the cultivation chamber.

The cultivation chamber was located at the top of the building, and a tall, green jade platform could be seen in the middle. If one raised their head, they could see the sky outside. When Li Luo stepped into the area, he felt moved by the sight before him. Worldly natural energy had condensed into a thick mist that permeated the entire area.

The concentration of worldly natural energy was even denser than the Astral Sage College's high-grade Tree of Resonant Power.

Even House Luolan's Skygold room could not compare.

"Fifth-grade energy formation?"

Li Luo's gaze fell upon the stone platform's vicinity. There seemed to be countless complicated runes flowing through the void. They were the basis of the formation. This formation was connected with the outside world and served as a conduit that continuously absorbed endless amounts of worldly natural energy into this cultivation chamber.

An energy formation sounded simple in name, but its creation was complicated. Only a significant power with sufficient foundation could afford to construct one.

Li Luo clambered atop the stone platform and sat down cross-legged. He retrieved an upper-grade Fiend Origin Pill and swallowed it without hesitation before instantly utilizing the Three Revolutions Draconic Breath and absorbing worldly natural energy in order to refine abstruse fiend light.

The refinement process lasted for a full hour.

As the Three Revolutions Draconic Breath circulated, the pill began to be refined within his body.

After which, Li Luo noticed that not only had the resonant power in his waterlight resonance palace become slightly stronger, there were now eleven new strands of abstruse fiend light.

Out of these eleven, five had been refined from worldly natural energy with the aid of the Three Revolutions Draconic Breath, whereas the other six had been the result of the Fiend Origin Pill.

"Six strands far surpasses the pills provided by the Astral Sage College. Theirs was only able to refine three strands of abstruse fiend light." Li Luo was a little taken aback. These pills were literally twice as effective.

Based on what he had counted, he had been given thirty upper-grade Fiend Origin Pills. When fully refined, he would have gained one hundred and eighty extra strands of abstruse fiend light.

This was an incomparably large boost to his cultivation speed.

Based on his calculations, his waterlight resonance palace contained around two thousand strands of abstruse fiend light with an upper limit of five thousand. Judging by his current cultivation pace, he

would be able to refine seven to eight hundred strands of abstruse fiend light in a month when activating his Fiend Arts in tandem with the pill.

More importantly, he could still utilize his Fiend Arts more than once a day, further adding to the amount he refined.

In this case, he would probably take about three months to fill up his waterlight resonance palace.

This was considered fast, but it was not sufficient for Li Luo.

If he wanted to further boost the speed at which he refined abstruse fiend light, he had two choices: either obtain an even higher grade Fiend Art or much more Fiend Origin Pills.

Li Luo fell into deep thought. He would have to enter the Green Nether Banner and see if there was a way to resolve his current predicament.

With this in mind, he closed his eyes and continued to cultivate.

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While Li Luo was in the midst of his cultivation, something was stirring in the main mountain of the Green Nether Hall.

Inside the Discussion Hall

Zhong Yushi, Li Rouyun, and the rest of the Vice Hall Masters of the Green Nether were present. They were currently discussing Li Luo's entrance into the Green Nether Banner.

Zhong Yushi was sitting in the central seat. He looked at the other Vice Hall Masters and indifferently said, "The Green Nether Banner has five divisions, and four already have sub leaders. This leaves only the fifth division, which has yet to choose one. In accordance with the Lineage Chief's words, Li Luo will take on the position of sub leader of the fifth division."

There were a total of four of them.

The other two Vice Hall Masters had no comments towards this decision, but a glint flashed through their eyes.

When Li Rouyun heard this, she squinted and coldly said, "If I recall correctly, neither the third nor the fifth division had not chosen a sub leader just yesterday. How is it that only the fifth division is left today?"

She had a good understanding of the problematic fifth division in the Green Nether Hall. It was no weaker than the other four, but it was the most chaotic as all of the most troublesome and thorny individuals had been thrown into it.

She had originally planned for Li Luo to take over the third division, but Zhong Yushi had openly stated that only the fifth division remained leaderless. There was something fishy going about.

Zhong Yushi smiled indifferently. "Yesterday's situation is what it was—yesterday. Did the Third Hall Master not know that the third division chose a new sub leader this morning? Thus, only the fifth division is left. Does the Third Hall Master plan to personally take action and choose a new leader? If you

wish to do so, I won't stop you." Li Rouyun frowned. If she truly chose to uproot the new sub leader, Li Luo would inevitably face much criticism and enmity if he was supplanted there.

Zhong Yushi was probably even anticipating this course of action.

"Second Hall Master, the Respected Elder looks upon Li Luo with much favor. You don't want to get on his bad side," Li Rouyun warned.

Zhong Yushi revealed a smile. "Third Hall Master, you should not idly accuse me of things. Have I not done as the Lineage Chief ordered? This is completely within the rules, and I have not done anything wrong."

Li Rouyun's gaze turned frosty, but she could no longer be bothered to speak further, only turning to leave.

Zhong Yushi grinned as he watched her go.

The fifth division was simply the most chaotic and divided amongst the Green Nether Hall. Numerous members were thorny individuals, and although they were strong individually, they were also exceptionally rebellious. Li Luo being parachuted in would inevitably stir up a show. If he was unable to even overcome these troublemakers and such news spread to the Lineage Chief, it would inevitably cause doubt to fester in his heart.

When that happened, trying to obtain results on behalf of his father would only become a big joke in the eyes of everyone.

Chapter 0749: Fifth Division

Evening had come, and the setting sun lit up the horizon like a waning flame.

Li Luo had spent the entire day cultivating and had reaped excellent results.

He had utilized three bottles of seventh-grade spirit liquids and purifying lights to temper his resonance. He had also used five upper-grade Fiend Origin Pills and in addition to utilizing his Fiend Art, so the number of strands of abstruse fiend light had increased.

The speed at which he had advanced today was superior in every way compared to the time he was in the Xia Kingdom.

This was the benefit of having adequate resources.

Immediately after Li Luo left his cultivation, the serving maids in his jade abode prepared him a sumptuous feast full of nutritious food.

As he ate, a serving maid reported that Third Hall Master Li Rouyun had arrived.

With that, he wolfed down what was left of the food and immediately went outside his abode to greet her.

"Little Luo, are you getting used to the place?" Li Rouyun asked with a smile.

"Thank you, Aunt Yun, for helping to arrange all this."

Li Rouyun nodded. "The reason I came over was to inform you about your entry into the Banner."

As the two walked side by side outside the jade abode, Li Luo attentively listened to Li Rouyun's explanation of events today.

"So the fifth division of the Green Nether Banner is a bad place?" Li Luo didn't seem very surprised as he asked the critical question.

"The Green Nether Banner has eight thousand individuals, and they are all chosen from the most talented youths in the Dragon's Fang Domain. They would be considered exceptional elites anywhere else. Precisely because of this, there are some that possess unbridled arrogance and are unwilling to cooperate with others. In the past, all of these troublemakers were thrown into the fifth division to temper their unwanted behavior. Simply speaking, the fifth division is a place full of turmoil. However, these rebellious individuals do have some unique strengths. As a whole, the first division is no weaker than the fifth division," Li Rouyun explained.

"That's not too bad. If I'm able to unite the fifth division, then I will have a solid footing in the Green Nether Banner," Li Luo said.

"You're a courageous one." Li Rouyun smiled. Li Luo did not seem to be worried at all and was instead focused on the positives.

"If you can accomplish this, it will demonstrate your capability. Still, it will be no walk in the park."

She removed a little booklet from her robes, which she then passed to Li Luo. "This is information on the fifth division's fifteen hundred individuals. The top three are the most important as they are the strongest and have countless followers."

Li Luo hurriedly received the booklet and started flipping through it. Mu Bi, Eighth-grade metal resonance, Silver Fiend. Zhao Yanzhi, Eighth-grade Flower Dragonfish resonance, Silver Fiend. Li Shi, Eighth-grade Golden Horned Python resonance, Silver Fiend. The Fiend Body Tier had three parts to it, Silver, Gold, and Glass. The Silver Fiend was thus the first tier.

"Three Fiend Body Tier cultivators?" When Li Luo saw this, his eyebrows jumped.

"Normally speaking, Silver Fiend Body strength would allow one to compete for the Banner Leader position. As the three have been thrown into the fifth division with relatively similar levels of strength, a sub leader has not been elected," Li Rouyun explained.

"It's no wonder they are rebellious and refuse to listen to each other. They are all decently strong." Li Luo nodded before continuing to scan down the list. Other than these three, the rest were mostly at the Lesser Fiend Palace Stage and comparable to him.

"If you wish to turn the fifth division into your foundation, you will have to rely on your own strength to subdue this trio," Li Rouyun continued.

"It's not going to be easy. They are an entire large tier above me." Li Luo smiled. He was still only at the Lesser Fiend Palace Tier.

"It might be difficult, but if you feel you're not up to the task, I can talk to the Respected Elder. I suspect Zhong Yushi meddled with the situation, and if he's reprimanded, he will act more honestly," Li Rouyun said.

But Li Luo shook his head. "If I have to pester Grandfather with such a tiny matter, it would not be helpful in allowing me to better gain a foothold in the Dragon's Fang Lineage."

He had returned to the Dragon's Fang Lineage because of his father's machinations. There were countless eyes observing him from the dark, and if he randomly sought assistance from his grandfather, it would reflect badly upon him.

He was new here, and what he needed to do was assert his presence. Thus, he could only rely upon himself.

"So you've made your decision?"

Li Luo lightly patted the booklet as he sighed and asked, "Have any of the three cultivated a Duke Art?"

Li Rouyun's smile faded as she replied, "How can that be possible? Using a real Duke Art requires one to enter the Heavenly Dipper General Stage. Even then, it is no easy feat. And in the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages, only a handful have actually managed to cultivate one."

This caused Li Luo to feel a sense of relief in his heart. His current strength might be in the Lesser Fiend Palace Tier, but with the assistance of his triple resonances, he should not be any weaker than a Greater Fiend Palace Tier cultivator.

In addition to the fusion of dual resonances and the Underworld River's Black Dragon Banner as a killing move, he should be able to clash evenly against the Silver Fiend Body fellows.

"Aunt Yun, I'll go to the fifth division. There is no need to change anything. My eventual goal is to become the Green Nether Banner Leader after all," Li Luo stated.

Based on what his grandfather had said, he had to bring the Green Nether Banner to greater heights, and the first step would be to carve out his own foundation and control the entire banner. Thus, the Banner Leader position was critical in his aspirations.

"Banner Leader." Li Rouyun frowned. "The next Banner Leader selection is in three months. The strongest contender is actually the first division's Zhong Ling. He is Zhong Yushi's nephew and has reached the Gold Fiend Body Tier."

"Gold Fiend Tier? What...?"

Li Luo's eyes shrank. The gap in strength was considerable, so he might not be his opponent even with his Duke Art and triple resonance power. However, three months was enough to change a lot of things.

"Aunt Yun, does the Dragon's Fang Lineage have a stronger Fiend Art?" Li Luo asked.

The most important thing was to refine abstruse fiend lights, and he could cultivate even more quickly with a higher grade Fiend Art.

"I assume you're currently practicing the Five Fiends Three Revolutions Draconic Breath?" Li Rouyun asked.

He nodded.

Li Rouyun smiled. "That Fiend Art is unique to the Bloodline of Heavenly Emperor Li. However, what you've learned is just the most basic amongst the Fiend Arts. In the Twenty Banners, the majority cultivate with the Three Revolutions Draconic Breath."

Li Luo's heart stirred. "The most basic? You're saying there is a higher grade one?"

"The Draconic Breath Fiend Art can be separated into three grades: Three Revolutions, Six Revolutions, and Nine Revolutions. They are Five Fiends, Seven Fiends, and Ten Fiends respectively."

Li Luo sucked in a breath of cold air. A Five Fiends Art was already the best in the Xia Kingdom, while here it was just an introductory Fiend Art? How frighteningly powerful could a Ten Fiends Art be?

If he cultivated it, could the pace at which he improved multiply?

Li Luo felt his head spinning at the possibilities.

"Why did my father just leave me a crappy, basic art, then?" Li Luo griped. If he was not so petty and left behind the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath Fiend Arts, he might already have stepped into the Greater Fiend Palace Tier! He was basically trying to kill him!

"Honestly, it was not that Taixuan didn't want to leave you something better. It's simply because he couldn't. Neither the Six Revolutions nor the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath can be transmitted physically. One has to gain enlightenment of them through the Banner's Dragon Stele, enduring the trial to obtain it. The Six Revolutions Draconic Breath Fiend Arts has been perceived by several geniuses amongst the banner. However, when it comes to the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath..."

Li Rouyun shook her head. "Your father successfully managed to pass the Dragon Stele's Trail and obtained the Nine Revolutions Draconic Breath. However, no one has managed to do so in the current generation of the Dragon's Fang Lineage's Banners."

"Aunt Yun, there is no need to rush. There will be someone in the Dragon's Fang Lineage that will be able to do so very soon."

Li Rouyun was slightly taken aback as she understood what he was hinting at. She inadvertently rolled her eyes. This brat had thicker skin than she had expected.

"Alright, alright, you're very capable. However, I think you should be focusing on how you plan to deal with the unruly members of the fifth division. This will be the first time you're showing your capabilities within the Dragon's Fang Lineage. If you're unable to solve this cleanly, it will be hard to avoid rumors and doubts from spreading."

Li Luo raised his head and wistfully looked towards the setting sun before smiling and nodding.

How could he, as the son, lose out in terms of prestige when compared to his crappy father?

Chapter 0750: Green Nether Drill Grounds

The Dragon's Fang Mountain Range consisted of a group of imposing mountains with sharp peaks that pierced the skies, much like the fangs of a dragon. A sharp aura seemed to exude from each and every one of them, seemingly able to slice through the heavens.

Green Nether Peak was one of them.

Within Green Nether Peak were countless drill grounds where the banner was stationed.

Li Rouyun led Li Luo there in the morning. As they approached the drill grounds, they saw countless bluestone camps, sentry towers, and training grounds. Fierce shouts could be heard as the people within trained, and resonant power surges could be felt throughout the area. The drill grounds they were headed to seemed to be filled with immense killing intent that almost seemed palpable as it spilled forth into the surroundings.

"It feels so turbulent here. The heavy atmosphere seems to have congealed," Li Luo said with a hint of shock as he stared at the roiling killing intent within the drill grounds. It was as though the murderous aura had fused together and become a living mass of dragons and pythons, waiting for an opportunity to erupt with monstrous intent.

"When the eight thousand members of the Green Nether Banner gather and cultivate with the Draconic Breath Fiend Arts, they become one. From what we can see, there is no leader amongst this group of dragons. If a Banner Leader were present and he used a Golden Tiger Seal, that individual could gather the strength of all eight thousand in his body, and this strength would cause Dukes with weaker foundations to scurry away in fear," Li Rouyun explained.

A flicker ran through Li Luo's eyes. This was awe-inspiring. One could channel the strength of eight thousand and even fend off Dukes? He was once again reminded of a Heavenly Emperor Bloodline's terrifying capabilities. Those of the same hall in his previous college could never achieve such an effect. They would have to battle alone, and it was difficult to join as one.

"Let's go. The Green Nether Banner has gathered, and I will present you with the sub leader's seal. It would symbolize your official acceptance as one of the banner's sub leaders."

Li Rouyun waved her hand while Li Luo was still gawking in surprise, and a stream of resonant power enveloped him. The sound of whistling wind filled his ears right after, and a few breaths of time later, the light dissipated, leaving him atop an elevated platform. Before him was a massive training ground where flags fluttered under the howling wind. Most importantly, there were countless black shadows standing there silently and at attention.

When Li Luo appeared, he could distinctly feel thousands of sharp gazes cast upon him.

There were hints of curiosity, scrutiny, and dissatisfaction. Their looks seemed to have transformed into a raging wave of pressure that bore down upon him.

If one was not resolute under such scrutiny, they might very well reveal a hint of weakness. Li Luo's expression immediately turned calm after experiencing that initial bout of surprise, treating the gazes of these members like a blowing breeze.

A steadfast will would not be affected by external influences.

At the same time, Li Luo took the opportunity to size up the group. What he focused upon were those standing at the front. There were four individuals that were most outstanding, and they had an uncanny aura to them.

Within the group of four was a dark-green-robed youth who was particularly outstanding. He had a tall and straight figure with his hair falling loosely behind his back. He seemed to be someone who acted freely and easily, but at this moment, he was intently studying Li Luo.

Li Luo had seen the information on the Green Nether Banner yesterday, so he instantly recognized the individual as the first division's sub leader, Zhong Ling.

This was Zhong Yushi's nephew and the strongest contender for the position of Banner Leader.

The other three should also be the sub leaders of the remaining divisions.

These three sub leaders seemed to be looking at Li Luo with looks of curiosity. Li Luo's position was too unique, being the son of Li Taixuan, who was a legend in the banner.

Li Luo's gaze then turned towards a part of the banner that was quieter, and there were three individuals standing at the fore.

The one on the far right was a female. She had a lithe body and a head of wavy, purple, long hair that fell loosely and grazed her buttocks. She seemed charming and her peach blossom-like eyes seemed to contain a seductive charm. Coupled with her ample breasts and thin waist, she had an enchanting appearance that could beguile the hearts of men with every expression she made.

This was none other than Zhao Yanzhi of the fifth division.

The one in the middle was a short-haired youth. He possessed an ordinary appearance, but his gaze was pointed, as though his entire being was a sword.

This was Li Shi, a genius from the side branch of the clan.

Finally, on the left was a burly male. His very presence was like a metal structure, immovable and exuding a sense of pressure.

Mu Bi, the third Silver Fiend of the division.

If Li Luo had not appeared, one of the trio would have been chosen as the sub leader.

It was a pity that Li Luo's arrival had ruined their chances.

The three understood this point, and looks of undisguised enmity were shot towards him. The rest of the fifth division similarly turned towards him with looks of hostility.

Although they knew of his position, having him supplanted into the division as their sub leader after returning from an outer divine continent where he spent his entire life was not a pleasant thought to most of these elites.

The outer divine continents were poor and destitute lands, so they doubted him even though he had inherited the Hall Master's amazing genetics.

"Everyone, you should all know what's going to happen today. Thus, I will not speak more. From today onwards, Li Luo will be the Green Nether Banner's fifth division sub leader." Li Rouyun's gaze swept across the entire field, calmly announcing her words with an aura of majesty.

Before the vast might of a Duke, even the rebellious youths of the Green Nether Hall couldn't help but bow their heads obediently.

Li Rouyun's interactions with Li Luo had always been as a close kin. It might have caused him to forget that she was the Green Nether's Third Hall Master, and one that should not be underestimated. She exuded a suppressive and indomitable presence.

The Green Nether Hall not only governed the Green Nether Banner, but also a wide swathe of land. They were in charge of two realms in the Dragon's Fang Domain, and the territory far surpassed even the size of the Xia Kingdom. The population under their jurisdiction was in the hundreds of millions, and amongst them were countless forces as powerful as House Luolan.

As the Green Nether Hall's Third Hall Master, Li Rouyun's every word could drastically affect the lives of the people who lived in their realms.

Even if Li Rouyun was originally a warm and gentle individual, being placed in a position where one could control the lives and deaths of millions would naturally cause her demeanor to change over time.

After Li Rouyun made her announcement, she stretched out her hand and a flash of light could be seen coming from her palm. A silver stone seal appeared within her grasp.

"Li Luo, receive the seal," she continued.

Li Luo respectfully stretched out both hands and retrieved the silver seal from her palm.

Countless individuals looked at the scene with complicated expressions.

The silver seal was the symbol of a sub leader. By receiving it, he would officially become the fifth division's sub leader and lead fifteen hundred soldiers who had to listen to his every command.

This also represented a form of strength.

After receiving the dragon engraved silver seal, Li Luo's gaze turned towards the training grounds and he calmly said, "The new fifth division sub leader, Li Luo, greets his comrades."

The field was a plain of silence as not a single individual responded.

This was especially obvious from the area where the fifth division stood. In fact, there were numerous incensed gazes.

After Li Rouyun announced the succession, she did not seem to have noticed the churning atmosphere, only directly turning towards Li Luo. "You will train in the Green Nether drill grounds. If you have any issues, you can find me at the main mountain. Everything's up to you now," she reminded him.

Li Luo nodded as he understood the meaning behind her words. Although he possessed the position of sub leader, if he wanted to turn the fifth division into his loyal followers, it would be up to him.

If he was unable to rein them in, such news would naturally spread and he would eventually be the butt of the joke for every member of the Heavenly Dragon's Five Lineages.

Perhaps they would not be laughing at him specifically. He was merely someone from the younger generation and was not qualified to receive such attention. The one they would truly mock would be Li Taixuan for producing such a weak son despite his own radiance.

Li Rouyun did not say anything else, disappearing in a flash of light.

The moment she left, the originally silent training grounds had turned boisterous as numerous individuals relaxed.

At the same time, countless pondering expressions turned towards Li Luo.