

The Shining Star Above The Heaven

#Chapter 61:70

To Relieve His Irritation (R-18) - Read The Shining Star Above The Heaven Chapter 61: To Relieve His Irritation (R-18)

Chapter 61 - To Relieve His Irritation (R-18)

In the red light district of Dual Horns City, one of the most visited areas in the city, women and even some men dressed in revealing clothing can be seen throughout the district. Despite the sun shining brightly, this does not discourage pleasure seekers from stopping by.

In one of the three story buildings on the main street, many guests indulge in their own pleasures. Some casually drink while women accompany them, others watch a dance performed by a group of beautiful women in scanty clothing, and in some private rooms, the sounds of moaning and ecstasy fill the air.

On the top floor of the building, a man and a woman are engaged in worldly pleasures. Their bodies, slick with sweat, move in rhythm as the muscular man, with a red skull tattoo on his upper arm, pounds into the woman beneath him, sending her into waves of ultimate pleasure. The stained sheets bear witness to their carnal desires. The man continues his vigorous thrusts until he finally releases his seed into her cave of pleasure, sighing deeply.

The woman, having received her "reward," collapses to the side with a satisfied expression, her tired, naked body marked by their passionate battle. After a few breaths, she glances at the man, who is now sitting cross legged at the edge of the bed, his eyes closed as he meditates. After a few minutes, he opens his eyes, but a frown mars his face.

"What's wrong, my lord? Is something the matter?" the woman asks.

"Nothing, just a bad feeling," he replies, causing the woman to smile.

"You can forget about that bad feeling and just focus on this body of mine, my lord," she said, making a suggestive move with her naked body. The man, looking at her alluring form, felt excited again, and his 'stick' was already in position for the next round. They then changed positions to doggy style, with the man taking his place behind her.

With a powerful thrust, he anticipated the familiar pleasure of that tight little hole, but was stunned when he suddenly found himself in a completely different place, his motion

only pounding the air. His confusion grew as he took in his surroundings; there were many others like him, some naked, some clothed. He realized they were somehow transported to an alley 500 meters away from the building.

As he scanned the faces around him, he recognized them all, they were from the same group.

"What happened? Why are we suddenly here?" one of them asked, bewildered.

"I don't know! Fuck, I released my seed just as I was suddenly transported here, and now my precious liquid is sprayed all over his face," complained another man, pointing at a drunken man nearby, whose intoxicated face was smeared with white liquid.

The man with the red skull tattoo surveyed his entire group, now gathered in this alley, and his sense of unease grew stronger. He tried to run back to the building, but he and the others froze when they saw two men blocking the alley's exit.

He felt an odd sensation as he looked at them. One was shorter and appeared young, while the other wore a conical straw hat. The man in the straw hat had a white sword at his waist, and the younger one carried... a twig? They stood silently, observing the group. Then he heard the younger one speak to the older man.

"Don't kill the man with the red skull tattoo, he's their leader. As for the others, do as you wish," Aldrian said.

Xin Haotian simply nodded and, with blinding speed, dashed toward the unprepared group, who had just been enjoying their entertainment and pleasures. Without unsheathing his sword, he attacked the thugs one by one, using no special techniques, but every move was fatal, crushing bones and skulls with the blunt force of his scabbard. His movements were seamless and powerful, creating a deadly yet graceful dance.

Aldrian, not wanting to be left behind, also joined the fray, attacking the thugs with the twig held between his fingers. He enveloped the twig in golden energy and sword will, targeting fatal spots like the dantian, heart, neck, and forehead. He controlled his sword will carefully, ensuring it didn't trigger any visible phenomena.

His powerful strikes and agile movements made the unprepared thugs seem like lambs to the slaughter, awaiting their inevitable demise. Throughout the fight, both Aldrian and Xin Haotian relied solely on their martial arts, without using any of their cultivation techniques.

The naked man with the red skull tattoo watched in horror as these two unknown men slaughtered his comrades. He finally snapped out of his post nut clarity, realizing the gravity of the situation. The event unfolded so quickly that by the time he readied

himself for an attack, Aldrian and Xin Haotian had already killed more than twenty of his men.

"Stop, you bastards! How dare you!" he roared, launching himself at Aldrian with his technique. Aldrian frowned as he saw the naked man charging at him, the sight of the man's bare body and his dangling 'little brother' swinging like a bell only adding to his irritation. With a mocking and disgusted expression, Aldrian watched the incoming attack as the man's high marquess stage aura flared around him.

Earth energy surged, forming a spike that shot up from the ground beneath Aldrian. However, Aldrian easily dodged the spike and teleported in front of the man, catching him by surprise. The man hastily raised an earth barrier, but it was too late. Aldrian stabbed the man's dantian with his twig and touched his forehead with his other hand.

"I've changed my mind. I'll kill you now," Aldrian said coldly. Before ending the man's life, he quickly read his memories. Once finished, he pulled out the twig and slashed the man's neck, decapitating him in an instant. Aldrian glanced around at the decimated bodies and scattered body parts.

"Are you always like this? You sure do like slicing off body parts," Xin Haotian remarked.

Aldrian sighed. "I don't know. I've been feeling irritated for a while, and they happened to be here for me to release my stress. I'm somewhat relieved after doing this." Despite the slight relief, he could still feel a lingering irritation and rage inside him, ever since he heard Xin Haotian's stories.

He needed to vent this suffocating feeling, and fortunately, this group of thugs became his punching bag, or more precisely, his killing targets. This group, known as 'Skull of Dual Horns' was responsible for countless atrocities in Dual Horns City, human trafficking, kidnapping, theft, rape, and more. They were untouchable by the city's authorities because—

"They paid off the authorities," Aldrian thought. Xin Haotian glanced at Aldrian's eyes and then looked around.

"We'd better go before someone sees us. The guards will come soon, investigating the disturbance at the brothel," Xin Haotian suggested. They disappeared from the bloody scene, leaving it for any unfortunate onlooker who might pass by. They reappeared at a spot where Eleine and Sylphia were waiting beside the bustling street.

"I'm sorry for the wait, ladies. Let's get going, we're almost at the estimated time." They then began walking toward the teleportation station. As they walked, Aldrian reflected on what he had just done and what he had gained from it.

"Aha, this rage can finally be somewhat placated. It's really annoying, but that's okay, I'll uncover my secret during this journey. Also, as I suspected, the place where I meditated using those lines of code has become my domain. With my low Earl stage, I can create a 2 kilometer domain." Aldrian thought.

This is how he could easily cover the brothel with his domain and teleport all the thugs inside to one of the alleys he had prepared as a killing ground. He then tried to set his 'Eyes of the Heaven' to hide the name of his small domain so it wouldn't clutter his screen with domain names every time he created new small domains. Instead, only the important and main domains would be displayed.

They walked as if nothing had happened, but at various locations throughout the city, there was chaos and confusion due to the horrifying scenes of corpses and decimated body parts scattered in several alleys. The guards had been dispatched, and the scenes had been cordoned off, but that was not Aldrian and his group's concern. After some time, they finally arrived at the teleportation station, only to find it crowded with people and city guards interrogating many of them.

"They're quick to respond. That's commendable." Aldrian thought.

They remained calm since there was no evidence linking them to the scene, and Aldrian had already erased any traces of their actions at the killing ground. He and the others waited their turn at the teleportation station, observing the city guards as they questioned the people around them. After a while, they were finally called to enter the portal. But just as they were about to step through—

"Wait!"

Chapter 62 - Found Out?

"Wait!"

The voice of a man halted them from entering the portal. Aldrian turned around and saw a middle-aged man in a black robe. The man had a stern face and a sword strapped to his waist. When Aldrian noticed the insignia on the man's robe, he recognized that the man was a member of the city guards corps.

"I'm sorry to disturb you. My name is Dan, and I'm the leader of the 4th Squadron of the Dual Horns City guards," the man said, cupping his hands in a gesture of respect.

"How can I help you, Team Leader Dan?" Aldrian asked.

"We've discovered numerous corpses scattered around the city and have launched an investigation to find the culprits. I hope you and your group can cooperate with us. If we find nothing wrong, we will release you immediately, and your trip will not be canceled. I apologize for the inconvenience," Dan explained.

"Of course, we will cooperate as best as we can, Team Leader Dan," Aldrian replied.

"Thank you. Let's sit on that bench so we can discuss this more comfortably," Dan said, pointing to a nearby bench. They moved there immediately. Dan then take out an oval-shaped artifact with a crystal at its center.

"This is a lying detector artifact. It will monitor your heartbeat, energy fluctuations, and soul fluctuations. If someone is lying, the crystal will display a red color, if they are honest, it will show white. Please place your hand on it one at a time, and I will ask you questions," Dan instructed. Aldrian looked at the artifact for a moment before touching it without hesitation.

"Now then, I have a few simple questions for you. What have you been doing for the last two hours?" Team Leader Dan asked as they settled into their seats.

"We were walking on the eastern side of the city, just enjoying our time while waiting for our turn after coming out of the teleportation station. Then we moved to the southern side of the city," Aldrian replied. The artifact displayed a white color.

"Did you see any suspicious individuals wielding a sword on your way? They might have had bloodstains or exhibited killing intent that you could sense."

"No, I didn't see anyone matching that description, although I did encounter many sword cultivators. I'm not sure if they could be considered suspicious," Aldrian answered. The artifact displayed white again.

"One last question, Did you kill anyone in this city?" As Team Leader Dan asked the question, Aldrian's group remained expressionless, but inside, Eleine and Sylphia felt a tremor of panic, worried that they might be discovered. This question was psychological in nature, even if they had managed to evade the earlier questions, this one was designed to reveal the truth.

If they hadn't committed any killings, that would be fine. But Aldrian and Xin Haotian had indeed killed people earlier, and the artifact would reveal this no matter what their answers were. As the others waited for Aldrian's response, they watched his mouth move as he gave his answer,

"No, I have never killed anyone in this city," Aldrian said, and the artifact displayed a white color. The group was astonished. They looked at the artifact and then at Aldrian, puzzled. How could the artifact not detect his lie? Did the artifact was broken? They doubted it.

Xin Haotian was also perplexed. He had anticipated having to use verbal gymnastics to navigate this situation. Although he had never used this artifact before, he didn't believe the city authorities would employ a fragile artifact that was easily deceived.

One might be able to deceive an artifact that detects heartbeat or energy fluctuations, but concealing a lie from an artifact that reads the soul was much more challenging. When someone lies, their soul unconsciously reveals a fluctuation. Looking at the current situation, he began to suspect that Aldrian had a method to bypass it.

"Just answer the question like I do, and you'll be fine," a voice transmission suddenly reached the three of them. They were confused but trusted Aldrian. When it was their turn to answer, the artifact only displayed white. They were truly surprised and began to think that it wasn't Aldrian but rather the artifact that had a problem.

"Alright, thank you for your cooperation. Once again, I apologize for the inconvenience. You may continue your journey," Team Leader Dan said, cupping his hands in a gesture of respect.

"No problem, Team Leader. I'm glad we could assist with your investigation." Aldrian replied. His group then stood up and walked toward the teleportation portal.

"How did you do that?" Xin Haotian transmitted a voice message back to Aldrian.

"I altered the formation inside the artifact. Now, it's practically broken and will always show white, regardless of whether the answer is true or not." Aldrian replied.

The trio felt a sense of admiration for Aldrian's quick thinking. That's also why Aldrian had volunteered to be the first. When he touched the artifact, he scanned its formation and with his rapid comprehension, he understood the formation structure and laws, allowing him to send his energy to alter it.

"You're a formation master too?" Xin Haotian asked.

"Huh? Did I never mention that?"

Aldrian responded.

"No, you didn't. Then i'm really lucky to have met you. It will make things much easier."

As they were about to step into the portal, the portal suddenly vanished. They stopped and turned to see what had happened. To their surprise, the city guards were now watching them warily. Aldrian noticed the boy he had saved earlier trembling beside a man with a white beard. The boy was holding the lying detection artifact, looking scared.

"Are they the ones?" the man asked the boy.

"Ye... yes," the boy stammered.

"I'm sorry, ladies and gentlemen, but you are under arrest on suspicion of serial murder in the city. Please follow me for further investigation. If you do not comply, we will have to use force to bring you into custody," the man announced.

"It looks like your heroic act has backfired on us," Xin Haotian transmitted to Aldrian.

"Well, whatever, we'll need to adapt to the situation. For now, let's follow them if it comes to that," Aldrian replied and sent another transmission to the two women.

"I'm sorry it came to this. Because of me, we're in this situation, but don't worry, I'll handle it," Aldrian sent a sound transmission to Eleine and Sylphia.

"You don't need to apologize, little brother. Your actions were justified, and it's good to punish those scoundrels," Eleine replied.

"Yes, Aldrian, I believe your actions were justified, and I will always support you," Sylphia added.

Aldrian smiled and addressed the man, "What is this? We've already been checked, and the results were clear."

"That's for me to decide. You must follow me, or we will use whatever means necessary to drag you into custody," said the man with the white beard.

"And who are you?" Aldrian asked, while he quickly assessed the man's information. A smile crept across his face as he listened to the man speak.

"I'm Jin Tae-Yang, the commander of the city guard battalion. Now that you know who I am, please follow me!" Commander Jin declared. The surrounding city guards drew their swords, ready for battle. Xin Haotian rested his hand on the hilt of his sword, and the two women began circulating their energy, preparing their techniques. However, Aldrian raised a hand to signal them to hold off.

"Alright, we will follow you, Commander Jin. I don't know what the issue is, but perhaps there's been a misunderstanding," Aldrian said, his eyes showing no sign of fear. Commander Jin smiled upon hearing this.

"Wise choice. Guards, escort them!" Commander Jin ordered.

He also brought the boy along, while the guards handcuffed Aldrian's group with an artifact that blocked their energy flow, effectively incapacitating them. The onlookers parted to let them pass as news of the serial murders, with the victims being members of the local gang known as the 'Skull of Dual Horns' spread throughout the city.

Many gasped in shock. They had assumed this untouchable gang would remain in power indefinitely, as the authorities had previously ignored their crimes. Every

investigation ended with the gang members being declared innocent, leading many to believe the city's authorities were complicit. Thus, the deaths of the gang members brought a sense of relief and joy to the populace.

Aldrian and his group were taken to the city guard headquarters, located in a heavily fortified part of the city. The area was surrounded by high walls, and security was extremely tight, with numerous city guards, sentries, and defensive traps formation in place. This was also where the guards' dungeon for detaining prisoners was located.

Aldrian was separated from the rest of his group and escorted to a private interrogation room inside one of the main building. The room was dark and gloomy, containing only two chairs and a square table between them, illuminated dimly by a few candles. Aldrian took a seat, closed his eyes, and waited for someone to enter.

After a few minutes, the door to the room opened, and Commander Jin walked in, taking a seat in the chair opposite Aldrian. As Jin settled into his seat, Aldrian opened his eyes and fixed his gaze on the man in the black and white robe, while Jin assessed Aldrian in turn. The silence between them was thick with tension before Commander Jin finally spoke.

"I don't know what your issue is with those people. Why did you kill them?"

"Why? Aren't they a problem for this city? I'm merely enacting justice for the masses." Aldrian replied calmly.

"Even if they were in the wrong, they should have gone through a trial to determine their punishment!"

"I'm afraid that day will never come, Commander."

A vein bulged on Commander Jin's forehead. "Are you trying to challenge the authority of this city? I don't care if you're an orthodox cultivator or from some noble family, here, you're expected to obey our rules!" he shouted.

"Authority of this city, huh?" Aldrian said, his voice steady. "Then let me ask you something, Commander."

"What?" Commander Jin responded.

"Why is there a devil in this city? Is the authority aware of this?"

Chapter 63: Unexpected Discovery

"What are you talking about?" Commander Jin asked.

"What am I talking about? Why don't you guess?" Aldrian answered with a smile. He was quite astonished when he saw Commander Jin's information at the teleportation station.

Jin Tae-Yang

Age : 63.170 years

Race : Human

Cultivation : Middle Duke

Cultivation technique : The Curse of The Devil God

Attack techniques : Shadow garden, Shadow from abyss, black fire, blaze in the abyss

Defence technique : Devil form

Movement technique : None

Supporting techniques : The veil of darkness, Devil form, Shadow clones

He truly found the result unexpected and wondered how a devil could hold a position in this city. Had the devils infiltrated like they had in the Ivory Empire? Or was there a traitor among the demon cultivators? He needed to look into it. With a devil here in demon territory, it was another story altogether—he would uncover what the devils had in mind for this place.

Commander Jin looked at Aldrian without expression, but inside, his heart was in turmoil.

"He's not talking about me, right?" Jin was sure he had never shown any devil characteristics to anyone.

"Stop playing with words! If you don't answer seriously, I'll consider it opposition to authority and have you locked in the dungeon until your trial," Commander Jin said.

"Oh, then let me be more clear. Why is a devil at the Duke stage working as the commander of a battalion in demon—"

Before Aldrian could finish, a dagger covered in darkness shot toward his eyes. He tilted his head and caught the hand holding the dagger. He then inserted his energy into

Commander Jin's body to paralyze him, but he was surprised when Jin still managed to move and attempted to stab him with his other hand.

Aldrian flipped the battle and moved further, but because they were in a room with limited space, he only took a short distance. Commander Jin looked at Aldrian warily. From his attempt to kill the young man just now and having his hand grabbed, he could feel the powerful grip, something impossible for someone at the Earl stage. He also felt the energy that tried to block a few points in his meridian, making his movements slower. Thanks to his strong body, the energy needed time to incapacitate him, giving him another chance to attack Aldrian.

"Who are you? State your name!" Commander Jin shouted.

"Are you really an idiot? Why should I answer that?" Aldrian retorted.

Commander Jin attacked Aldrian again, this time using a technique that blanketed the entire room in darkness. The room turned into his domain of darkness, without a speck of light. Aldrian couldn't see anything, and his senses were slightly obstructed, though not much, because there was no way this domain of darkness could overwhelm his own domain.

Before Commander Jin even entered the room, Aldrian had already created a domain with a diameter of 2 kilometers. This entire headquarters was his playground! He could still sense Commander Jin behind the darkness.

"In this darkness, I am the ruler! I will make you spill every piece of information you have!" Commander Jin shouted.

"Is that so? But first, you have to resist my energy inside you," Aldrian replied calmly.

"What are y—" Commander Jin suddenly felt his body grow heavy, and his energy flow within his meridians became chaotic. He was shocked to sense the foreign energy wreaking havoc inside him. He tried to push the energy out, but his body felt weak. He dropped to the ground, gasping like an old man. Unable to maintain his technique, his domain of darkness unraveled, revealing Aldrian's feet already in front of his face.

"I have to say, your domain of darkness is quite good—it even slightly disturbed my senses, though it was just a tingling sensation," Aldrian said. Commander Jin struggled to look at Aldrian's face.

"Wh—at did you do to me?" he asked with difficulty.

"You've got a tough body, I'll give you that. But once my energy enters your body, it's already over. You see, I can transform my energy into many kinds of poisons," Aldrian explained.

During his time in the Ivory Empire, Aldrian occasionally visited the Forest of Despair to train and cultivate. He studied various spirits, beasts, and the wild elements like poisons. He theorized that if his energy could encompass all, then he could turn it into poison as well. Through sheer willpower, he managed to change the properties of his energy into different poisons, ranging from paralytic to deadly.

The results satisfied him, giving him another weapon in his arsenal and a trick up his sleeve. He smiled at Commander Jin, whose face was filled with panic and horror. Jin couldn't understand how an Earl stage cultivator could paralyze him. Even if the young man before him was a poison expert, the gap in their cultivation levels shouldn't be something an Earl-stage energy could bridge.

"You don't have to wonder how I achieved this. Now, let me see what your history is like." Aldrian then touched Commander Jin's forehead. As expected, there was a seal on his mind, and this one was more complex than any Aldrian had encountered before. But who was he? Aldrian wasn't one to back down. He worked to decipher the seal, he remains in that position until it finally broke, causing Commander Jin to tremble and gasp in shock.

Aldrian ignored him and tried to read his memories, but to his surprise, he found only darkness. He sensed a bizarre feeling lurking behind the darkness, he sensed that something approaching him with fast speed, so he quickly withdrew his technique and released Commander Jin's forehead.

He realized that if he had been a moment too late, he might have been detected by the entity behind the darkness. It was a strange sensation—it wasn't danger, but more like the feeling of being about to be discovered by someone. He frowned as he looked at Commander Jin.

"What is that?" he wondered.

In a dimly lit place, a burly man sat in a lotus position, his silhouette barely visible by the flickering torchlight. He opened his black eyes, revealing red irises, and his face took on a contemplative expression.

"I sensed someone breaking the seal on one of the Duke stage cultivators, but before I could trace them, they retracted their technique," he murmured to himself.

"So, one of my chess pieces has been caught? But they withdrew before my senses could pinpoint them." He closed his eyes again, and a smaller silhouette appeared behind him, kneeling.

"Your orders, my lord?" the smaller figure asked.

"Tell 'The Hunters' to observe the locations where we've stationed Duke stage cultivators. If there's any anomaly, report to me immediately."

"We receive your command," the smaller silhouette replied before disappearing into the darkness. The room returned to silence, with only the crackling of the torch breaking the stillness. The burly figure then closed his eyes once more.

Back at Aldrian's location, he pondered for a moment before coming to a realization.

"The Duke stage has another failsafe besides the seal," he thought, glancing at Commander Jin, who was staring at him in disbelief.

"Ah, I see, that was your lord's sense! Your lord is indeed very cautious, embedding his sense within the seal in case it's broken without killing you. But I didn't encounter anything like that when I looked into the memories of those devils before. So, my guess is he only places his sense within Duke-stage cultivators or above. Am I right?" Aldrian smiled at Commander Jin.

He had just read Jin's mind about what had happened, and it seemed that Commander Jin was aware of his lord's sense within the seal. Aldrian then considered how to extract more information from this devil, worried that if he delved into Jin's memories again, his lord's sense might track him, jeopardizing his journey.

Aldrian decided to try hypnotizing Commander Jin, just as he had done with Norman. Since he had already broken the seal, he wasn't concerned about the man in front of him dying from revealing secrets. He halted the poison in Commander Jin's body and locked eyes with him. The commander struggled to resist the hypnosis, but in his weakened state, he couldn't do much.

"This presence... is it the Devil Lord?" Aldrian began asking.

"Ye... n... Yes," Commander Jin responded, though he still tried to resist.

"As expected, he's still a Duke stage cultivator. His will is much stronger than that of a Marquess," Aldrian thought. It seemed he needed to upgrade his hypnotic technique if he wanted to subdue Duke stage opponents more effectively.

"Why are the devils in demon territory? What are you planning?" he pressed further.

"It's to... to..." Before Commander Jin could finish, he fainted, leaving Aldrian momentarily stunned.

"His weakened mind couldn't hold on."

Aldrian then placed Commander Jin on a chair and touched his forehead again. After hesitating for a moment, he decided to check Commander Jin's memories once more. Now that Jin was unconscious, Aldrian could only gain something by reading his memories. As he carefully entered Jin's mind, he could see the memories without the darkness, a sign that the 'lord's' sense had already dissipated.

"First, let's make him forget about our meeting," Aldrian thought. He meticulously erased the part of Jin's memory where they had encountered each other. It was much easier this time since he didn't need to delve deeply into the memories.

"Next, let's see what you've got for me."

Chapter 64: Another Discovery

In another room, Sylphia sat alone, her eyes wandering over the room's interior. She was quite anxious about what might have happened to the others, but after a few minutes, no one had yet come to see her. Each of them had been separated and placed in their own private interrogation room. Aldrian had told them to wait for his move, assuring them that they would not need to resort to violence.

She trusted Aldrian, so she waited. After all their time together, she had learned not to underestimate his judgment or assume his thinking was simple. Every time he spoke, it was as if everything was under his control. In her 150 years of life, a relatively short span for a cultivator, she found Aldrian's existence to be an anomaly, something beyond her ability to describe.

When she first met Aldrian, she had seen him as a young boy with incredible talent, performing miracles that no one else had ever achieved. She had considered him a little brother, seeing some similarities between them. But over time, she realized how wrong she had been in her thinking. His speech, wisdom, mannerisms, and gaze were not those of a typical 12-year-old boy.

Talking to Aldrian felt like conversing with a mature, experienced man, full of knowledge, making it impossible for her to see him as just a child or little brother. The only thing that reminded her of his youth was his height, still shorter than hers, but even that would not last much longer, given his rapid development and cultivation.

Despite all the oddities surrounding Aldrian, she found herself intrigued by his origins. Who were his parents? Where did he come from? What was his secret? She felt irresistibly drawn to the mysteries surrounding him. As she reminisced about the past, she heard a sound from outside the room. Moments later, the door opened, revealing the young man who kept her so captivated. He smiled at her.

"Let's go, we need to pick up the others."

Sylphia returned his smile and walked outside, only to see the guards already lying on the ground. They didn't seem to have any external injuries and appeared to have simply fainted.

"I just put them to sleep. When they wake up, they'll have forgotten all about us," Aldrian said.

Sylphia nodded and followed Aldrian to the other rooms. As they walked, she occasionally glanced at his back. He had grown much taller since the first time she met him, and the confident, relaxed way he moved made her feel more at ease, dispelling her anxiety.

"Hey, who are—ugh." A guard bumped into them on their way, but with lightning-fast reflexes, Aldrian slapped them, causing them to faint instantly. He reached another room where two guards were stationed in front of the door, which he swiftly dealt with. After he opened the door, Eleine stepped out, and they headed towards Xin Haotian's room when they finally were all able to regroup.

"So, what's your plan now? Once they wake up, we'll be fugitives if we just leave them like this," Xin Haotian said.

"Don't worry, that's not going to happen. They'll forget about us when they wake up. Also, we need to change our plan, there's a devil in this city," Aldrian replied.

"What? How do you know? Even I couldn't sense any devils since we arrived," Xin Haotian asked, puzzled.

"He's wearing some kind of artifact to hide his devil energy, which is why you couldn't detect even the slightest trace of devils characteristics, even though we've already met him."

"Already met him? Don't tell me it's one of the people we killed?"

"No, he's still alive—and he's the one who brought us here."

Xin Haotian and the others were stunned.

"He's the battalion commander—Commander Jin Tae-Yang."

When they heard that, they gasped.

"Are you sure? It would be big news and could cause chaos if a devil holds a strategic position here," Xin Haotian asked.

"100% sure, and it seems the devils' plan isn't so simple. Some of the demon cultivators are already on their side."

"If what you're saying is true, we need to warn the city's authorities, or even higher!" Sylphia said.

Aldrian sighed. "If only we could depend on those demon authorities, but the ones we need to be wary of are those very authorities."

"So, are you saying the demons of the demonic cult have already betrayed the continent?" Xin Haotian asked.

"I don't have a definite answer, and I'm not entirely sure, but some of the authorities in this city have already defected to the devils."

"Is that so? How did you find this out?" Xin Haotian asked.

"From Commander Jin himself, of course," Aldrian replied.

The other three were puzzled but decided to trust Aldrian. They realized that the commander must have met Aldrian first, but the encounter didn't end well for him.

"So, why are we heading deeper into the building?" Eleine asked.

"To save some people."

They arrived at the front of a long aisle lined with cells on either side. Inside those cells were several occupants, all of them children. Bruises and wounds marred their small bodies. Eleine and Sylphia gasped at the sight, struggling to comprehend how so many children could be kept in such a pitiful condition.

"These are children from unfortunate circumstances. They were desperate and needed shelter, and the Skull of Dual Horns exploited that for their own purposes," Aldrian explained as he walked. He then controlled the surrounding energy, unlocking all the seals on the cells. As the cell doors swung open, Eleine and Sylphia rushed to help the children, using potions and healing techniques to tend to their wounds.

Aldrian walked towards one of the cells and noticed a boy who looked at him with a terrified expression.

"No, I'm sorry! I didn't mean to sell you out," the boy said, backing away as Aldrian entered his cell. He feared Aldrian had been imprisoned with him and was now seeking revenge. The boy covered his head with his arms, but what he saw next stunned him. Aldrian stretched out his hand, and a blanket of golden energy enveloped him. The warm sensation made him feel comfortable, and he watched in amazement as his wounds healed rapidly.

"You don't have to worry anymore. Come with me; you're free now." Aldrian said.

"Wh...What do you mean?" the boy asked, confused. Wasn't Aldrian supposed to be a prisoner like him? But then he noticed the other man standing casually behind Aldrian, with no guards in sight. He heard noises from the surrounding cells, cries, then sounds of rejoicing. Suddenly, the boy felt himself being lifted off using energy without his consent, and before he knew it, he was standing in front of Aldrian.

"Let's go now. We don't need to stay here any longer." Aldrian said, leading the way out of the cell. The boy followed and looking around at the other children who had also been freed. A total of 20 children had gathered, and Aldrian addressed them.

"I'm going to teleport all of you outside the headquarters. You can follow these older sisters and brother here. Don't worry about any repercussions from the authorities," Aldrian assured them. They were confused, but before they knew it, they were outside the headquarters' walls.

Eleine, Sylphia, and Xin Haotian were also confused by what Aldrian had just said. What did he mean by letting the kids follow them first? However, seeing the lost expressions on the children's faces, they felt the need to move them to safety first and wait for Aldrian, so they quietly led the children away from the area.

Meanwhile, Aldrian remained inside the building, searching for something in Commander Jin's room. He followed a strange flow of energy emanating from one part of the room and eventually discovered a secret door hidden behind a giant painting. Without hesitation, he opened it. Inside, he found an illusion formation and another formation designed to block energy from escaping the room.

After deactivating the formations, what he found no longer surprised him.

"The devils' teleportation artifact," he murmured as he looked at a circular artifact placed on the floor. It was the same type of artifact he had seen many times in the Ivory Empire. Now, in the Ivory Empire, only Balin City and Evergreen City were free from these artifacts. With this discovery, he confirmed that the devils had infiltrated demon territory in the same way they had in the Ivory Empire, and worse, they had even joined the demons' ranks.

He contemplated for a moment but decided to leave the situation as it was for now. He knew he would need a more detailed plan to uncover just how deeply the devils had infiltrated the demon cult.

"Some of the guards have already seen our faces. Well, let's make sure they forget us."

Aldrian exited the secret room, restoring it to its original state before disappearing from the commander's quarters. Shortly after, a series of thuds echoed through various parts of the headquarters. Not long after that, Aldrian reappeared outside the city guard headquarters, casually brushing off his hands.

Eleine, Sylphia, and Xin Haotian had already moved further away to find a place where the children could rest. Aldrian knew that some people would find it strange to see them with so many children in their group, and the guards would likely notice too. But that was okay, he had already prepared for it.

Chapter 65: The boy's circumstance

In an abandoned house in Dual Horns Peak city, Eleine, Sylphia, Xin Haotian, and all the children they freed from the prison had gathered. This house was one of their meeting places with the Skull of Dual Horns group, making it a discreet location far from public attention. Situated in a seldom-traveled alley, it served as an ideal spot for hiding and secret meetings.

After waiting for 20 minutes, Aldrian arrived at the house where 20 of the children were taking shelter for the time being.

"What are we going to do with these children?" Sylphia asked.

"We just need to free them," Aldrian replied. "Some of them still have family they can return to. As for those who don't, we can only leave their future to fate. We'll provide them with some energy stones to help them survive. At the very least, we shouldn't feel morally burdened after everything they've been through."

"I'm still worried about the consequences of our prison break," Sylphia said. "Will they be alright?"

"The Skull of Dual Horns was just a tool used by the city authorities, specifically Commander Jin," Aldrian explained. "He maintained the Skull of Dual Horns as a thug group to do their dirty work. As far as I know, there's no other group like them in this city. With them gone, we've already crippled their operations here. Only those thugs knew the details and controlled these children, the authorities didn't involve themselves directly in this matter but some of them knew what they did."

Aldrian looked at the children, focusing on the boy he had saved earlier. The boy sat in a corner, holding a cup of water, staring down into it. He gazed at his own reflection on the water's surface until he felt other person presence standing in front of him, he looked up to see who cast the shadow. Aldrian looked into the boy's trembling eyes before sitting on the floor beside him.

Yu Fenglian

Age : 9 years

Race : Human

Cultivation : None

Cultivation technique : None

Attack techniques : None

Defense technique : None

Movement technique : None

Supporting technique : None

Aldrian reviewed the boy's information for a moment before he asked,

"What is your name?"

"Yu Fenglian."

"So, Yu Fenglian, I have some questions for you. I apologize in advance if my questions bring up unpleasant memories, but I need some information."

Yu Fenglian just nodded. He wasn't as afraid now as he had been when he first met Aldrian. He could sense that the man before him was no ordinary person, someone capable of killing all the members of the Skull of Dual Horns and escaping the city guard headquarters unscathed. If Aldrian wanted him dead, it would have happened long before Yu Fenglian even realized it.

"Please ask, young master," Yu Fenglian said.

"Is your mother the only family you have left?"

Yu Fenglian trembled for a moment but still answered,

"Yes, I only have my mother left."

"What happened to the rest of your family?" Aldrian asked again.

"They... they died."

"How?"

"I don't know. One night, three years ago, our clan was raided by an unidentified group. They were strong, and our clan couldn't resist. We were destroyed overnight," Yu Fenglian said.

"Did your family have many enemies?"

"I don't know. I never really knew about that kind of thing. Father and Mother never told me anything regarding their problems."

Aldrian nodded, thinking it made sense. Yu Fenglian was still a young boy, even back then. Most of the families typically wouldn't burden a child of his age with such matters.

"Where is your mother?" Aldrian asked.

"She is at home, 2 kilometers from here."

"Can I meet your mother?"

"You can, but my mother is really sick, so I don't know if she can receive you properly."

"It's okay. I just want to see how she's doing."

Aldrian then spoke with Eleine, Sylphia, and Xin Haotian, asking them to stay with the other children while he visited Yu Fenglian's mother. After that, he walked with Yu Fenglian to his home, located in a slum area of the city.

"So, why did you become a pickpocket? How did you meet those thugs?" Aldrian asked as they walked.

"After my clan was destroyed and my mother's condition got worse, I desperately needed energy stones to pay for her treatment. One day, those men came to me and promised to help with my situation. But I didn't know then that it would become my nightmare. Somehow, they knew about my circumstances and even threatened me with my mother," Yu Fenglian answered.

Aldrian listened to the boy's story while also observing his surroundings.

As they walked through the slum area, Aldrian noticed many people in poor condition, a stark contrast to other parts of the city. Most of them appeared to be ordinary mortals without any cultivation. They soon arrived in front of a small, shabby wooden house. The house was surrounded by a small yard and a decaying wooden fence overgrown with weeds, it was far from a decent place to live.

"I'm sorry, young master, that my house is not good enough to receive someone like you," Yu Fenglian said, blushing with embarrassment.

Aldrian just smiled and gently stroked Yu Fenglian's head.

"It's okay. I just want to see how you and your family are living," Aldrian replied.

"Then let me check if Mother is already awake. She sometimes sleeps a lot because of her condition." Yu Fenglian slowly opened the door, careful not to disturb his mother. Aldrian followed closely behind and finally saw a bedridden woman lying on a wooden bed.

Her condition was pitiful, her body was malnourished, her face pale, and sweat continuously rolled down her cheeks. Even though she appeared to be sleeping, her breathing was heavy, as if she had difficulty drawing breath.

"I'm sorry, young master, but it looks like Mother can't speak to you right now. Once she falls asleep, it's hard for her to wake up." Yu Fenglian said.

"Can I check your mother's condition?" Aldrian asked.

"Are you a physician, young master? Since misfortune befell my family, I haven't been able to take my mother to a physician because I don't have any energy stones to pay. I'm afraid I can't offer you anything."

"No, I'm not a physician, but I can examine your mother's condition, and maybe we can find a cure."

Aldrian gently touched Yu Fenglian's mother's wrist to check her pulse. Under Yu Fenglian's hopeful gaze, Aldrian focused his senses and directed his energy into the woman's body.

"Her meridians are blocked by foreign energy, and her middle dantian has been dried up for a long time. She's already in critical condition and it's a miracle she's held on this long." Aldrian thought to himself.

"When one of the attackers tried to kill me, my mother blocked the attack, but she was still injured," Yu Fenglian said, his face clouded with sadness as he looked at his mother. "My father used his remaining strength to help my mother and me escape to one of our family's hideouts."

Aldrian nodded, continuing to focus his energy to examine her entire body. After a moment, he reached a conclusion.

"Your mother has been poisoned, and the poison is quite potent. It has already taken root deeply in her body and spread throughout. Based on my estimation, she can survive for another year if there are no sudden changes. You would need a physician at the duke stage to cure her. I have to say, your mother is fortunate to have survived this long."

Yu Fenglian gasped at Aldrian's words, another year? A physician at the duke stage? Forget about a duke stage physician, he couldn't even afford the lowest ranking one.

His eyes trembled, and tears began to well up as he looked at the bleak situation of his only family. Without hesitation, he kowtowed to Aldrian.

"Do you have a way, young master? Please, I beg you to cure my mother. I have nothing of value to repay you, but if you can save her, I will do everything I can to repay this debt!" he pleaded, his head still bowed.

Aldrian looked at Yu Fenglian for a moment before turning his gaze back to the woman.

"Due to the severity of your mother's condition, treating her will require careful effort. After examining her body, I have a way to cure her, but the chances of success are only fifty-fifty. If it fails, your mother will no longer be able to withstand the poison, which will eventually lead to her death. Are you sure you want to proceed?" Aldrian asked.

"Is there no other option with a higher success rate?" Yu Fenglian asked, his voice filled with worry.

"There may be other methods, but the longer you wait for treatment, the more her condition will deteriorate. I can only offer my suggestion, but the decision is yours to make." Aldrian said.

Yu Fenglian pondered his options, his face showing the internal struggle he felt about deciding his mother's fate. After a moment, he gritted his teeth and looked at Aldrian with determination in his eyes.

"Please, save my mother. If I do nothing, she will suffer more. I'd rather take any chance to save her. If she leaves me because of this, then I'll bear the guilt." Yu Fenglian said, his voice resolute.

Aldrian smiled at Yu Fenglian's determination and ruffled the boy's hair.

"Don't worry, I will do my best to cure your mother. Now, can you step outside so I can begin?"

Yu Fenglian's face brightened with hope, but he glanced at his mother with worry before stepping outside the house. Left alone, Aldrian pulled a small wooden chair next to the bed and sat down.

"You can open your eyes now; your son is outside." Aldrian said softly to the woman who appeared to be sleeping. Her eyelids fluttered for a moment before slowly opening, revealing her beautiful lavender eyes.

Chapter 66: His Only Family

Aldrian looked at the woman who had just opened her eyes. Earlier, while checking her body's condition, he had also injected his own energy to improve her physical state and

alleviate her pain. She began to wake up due to the warm sensation traveling through her body, something Aldrian was well aware of.

She seemed reluctant to open her eyes, so he thought it best to have Yu Fenglian leave the room first. Her clear lavender eyes, in stark contrast to her pale complexion, gave Aldrian the impression that she was merely pretending to be sick, but he knew that wasn't the case. She looked at Aldrian without any expression, but he could sense her worry for her son and a feeling of guilt.

Yu Ruomei

Age : 365 years

Race : Human

Cultivation : Middle Marquess

Cultivation technique : Demon of the night wind.

Attack techniques : Wind slash, Shadow bullet, Wind blade, Nightmare of the shadow

Defense technique : Veil of Darkness

Movement technique : Night Wind's step

Supporting technique : Shadow blanket

With her cultivation at the Marquess stage, it had to be a poison potent enough to affect someone at that level. From the strength of the poison he could sense, he detected traces of Duke-stage energy within her. That's why they needed a physician with at least Duke-stage cultivation to cure her.

"You can keep lying down. Don't make any unnecessary movements that might cause discomfort," Aldrian said.

"I'm sorry to have to speak in this condition, but who are you, and why have you come to this place? I don't think we have anything that would attract someone here," the woman replied.

"I understand your concerns, Mrs. Yu, but don't worry. I mean no harm to you or your son. Fate simply brought your son to me, and I hope you'll listen to what I have to say."

Aldrian then explained to the mother how he met Yu Fenglian and became involved with the group of thugs.

When Yu Ruomei heard what had happened to her son, she gasped as her body trembled. Seeing this, Aldrian quickly grabbed her hands and injected his energy to calm her down. After a few moments, she managed to regain her composure, but tears began to well up in her eyes, which she tried to hide with her arms.

"My poor child, how could I not have known about all of this?" Tears rolled down her cheeks, unable to be contained by her arms. Aldrian allowed her to cry and release her grief, thinking that Yu Fenglian must have kept his situation a secret to avoid worrying his mother. She couldn't leave the house or check on him herself.

After a few minutes of crying, Yu Ruomei finally stopped, though she was still sniffing, her eyes swollen. Her once clear eyes were now clouded, replaced by sadness and a hollow expression.

"It's my fault. I've already failed as his mother. I feel like I'm not worthy to see my son anymore." Aldrian was silent for a moment before he replied,

"You have a good child. Everything he does is for your well-being. Every time he tells his story, he finds a way to mention you, his mother, and how he does everything he can to make you better. For that, I commend his character and the way you've raised him."

She managed a small, bitter smile, but the guilt within her only intensified after hearing Aldrian's words.

"Do you want to live?" Aldrian suddenly asked her. She was stunned but lowered her gaze.

"Do you want to leave your son and let him go on without your presence?" Aldrian continued, "Do you want to know why your family ended up in misfortune?" At this, Yu Ruomei's head snapped up, slowly her face filled with hatred and rage.

"You're still indignant about that fateful night when your family was destroyed by an unknown group. You still can't accept that this was your family's fate. You need to know the truth. You need to fulfill your revenge," Aldrian added.

Yu Ruomei gritted her teeth, as she tried to sit up with her frail body the effort itself causing her pain. Aldrian watched without offering help, but in that moment, he confirmed something.

"Her desire for revenge is strong, stronger than any of her other feelings. I forgot that demon cultivators are more extreme than orthodox ones," he thought.

Demonic cultivators tend to never forget past grudges. The difference lies in whether they choose to pursue revenge or not, and from the looks of it, Yu Ruomei wanted to take that path but was powerless due to her current condition. Seeing the determination still burning deep inside her, Aldrian was now certain he could involve her in his next plan.

With a pained expression, she finally managed to lift her upper body into a sitting position on the bed. Her eyes, now filled with determination, met Aldrian's.

"From the way you speak, young master, it seems you have some kind of purpose in coming here. Does it have something to do with my family?" she asked.

"You could say that. Although I haven't given you all the details yet, there's a possibility that the demon territory has already been compromised by the devils. They may have even infiltrated the demon authorities here and had a hand in the attack on the Yu family that night."

Yu Ruomei was shocked by this revelation. Could it really have something to do with the devils? Her heart pounded heavily as she recalled something. In truth, Aldrian was only speculating based on what he had seen in the memories of those dead bodies. There had been something strange about how the Skull of Dual Horns treated Yu Fenglian compared to the other children.

He had also found some interesting details, there was a particular family, the Yu family, that sometimes coming up in their conversations from their memories. When he tried to guess the boy's connection to this Yu family, he was surprised to learn that the boy's name was Yu Fenglian.

The fact that they paid special attention to him, coupled with the stories Yu Fenglian had shared on their way here, made it clear to Aldrian what kind of status the boy held within the Yu family. Now, it all made sense. Aldrian realized this could be his starting point for hunting down those devils in the demon territory.

"Now, Mrs. Yu, it seems like fate that you crossed paths with me. I also have my own reasons for getting involved in this matter. So, do you believe in me to help you?" Aldrian asked.

Yu Ruomei looked at Aldrian with determination and, without hesitation, nodded her head. What was there to fear? The only thing she had left was her son, and in her current state, she was nothing but a burden to him. She needed to do something, at the very least, she could uncover what had happened to her family and why.

Even though she didn't know this young man well, it seemed there was a common ground between them, a reason to work together on this matter.

"Good. First, let me introduce myself. You can call me Aldrian. As for my origins, I can't share them with you just yet, but you'll learn more in the future. Can you tell me about yourself? And about your family? What is your family's status in this city, and what do they do here?"

"My name is Yu Ruomei. I'm the wife of the late patriarch of the Yu family. The Yu family is a local noble family in Dual Horns Peak City. We are involved in many businesses here, but our main business is an escort agency."

Aldrian wasn't surprised by her status, he had already learned this from Yu Fenglian on their way here.

"Do you have any suspects in mind for who might have attacked your family that night?"

"I don't know. As a noble family, we naturally have many enemies and rivals. Any one of them could be the perpetrator, so I really can't pinpoint anyone."

Aldrian thought for a moment before asking again, "Was your family involved in any suspicious activities with your clients? Or did anything strange happen before the incident?"

Yu Ruomei pondered for a moment, but as she tried to recall the past, the pain started to return. Aldrian quickly grabbed her hand and channeled his energy to soothe her discomfort. She was still surprised by the warmth of his energy, but she composed herself and continued to remember.

"There weren't any suspicious activities on our side, but the last mission our escort agency took on was escorting the Golden Swan Commerce to Vermillion City, which is within the Piercing Heaven Sect's territory."

Aldrian was stunned. Golden Swan Commerce? Could this be a coincidence? No, he didn't think so. If he had to guess, there had to be a connection.

"What were they escorting?" Aldrian asked.

"We didn't know, and it's one of our rules not to probe into the client's goods. But what we do know is that the items were inside wooden boxes with some kind of seals and were very heavy. Oh, and I heard something happened to the caravan, apparently, all of our men from the agency were killed on the way. We thought we had failed the mission, the attack on our family happened just a few hours later," she explained.

Aldrian placed his hand on his mouth, deep in thought.

"What did the patriarch think at the time?" he asked.

"He also found that something wrong. And just before the attack, his behavior became odd. He told me and Yu Fenglian to be ready to leave the manor. He also mentioned something about 'those bastards betraying us' or something like that," Yu Ruomei said.

Suddenly, something clicked in Aldrian's mind, and he smiled.

"I think I've found the bigger picture here."

Chapter 67: Never Have Peace Journey

Yu Ruomei looked puzzled by Aldrian's words. *What bigger picture?* They were only talking about that night, yet he had already grasped something more? She thought he must know something she didn't.

"Do you want to see this through to the end?" Aldrian asked.

"What do you mean?" she replied, but then the meaning behind his question dawned on her, making her tremble.

"I can cure your condition. The poison inside your body is potent, but it's still within my capabilities. Actually, it's quite easy for me. I just didn't tell the whole truth to Yu Fenglian," Aldrian explained. He wasn't lying when he said they needed a Duke stage physician to cure the poison. After all, the typical method to expel both Duke stage energy and the poison is by using energy at the Duke level or higher.

But Aldrian knew his golden energy was unique, able to encompass everything. His energy could change according to his will, it could be the most potent healing substance or the deadliest poison. It sounded almost ridiculous, like a cheat ability, and he had been surprised when he first discovered it. But it had since become one of his trump cards. The fewer people who knew about this, the better—not that he cared much if word about his golden energy eventually got out.

"Are you serious, young master?" Yu Ruomei's voice trembled. Could her condition, could be solved with the appearance of this young man?

"It's not a complete lost cause. Your body must be strong to have withstood the poison for so long. You have a special constitution, I assume?"

Yu Ruomei sighed. "Yes, I have the Demonic Night Constitution. Among demon cultivators, this constitution grants the possessor a resilient body and compatibility with wind and darkness elements."

"No wonder," Aldrian said, "your dantian and meridian system are quite unusual. Even though the poison has already dried out your middle dantian and all your meridians, your body is still trying to repel it on its own. But without your energy, it's not enough, because the poison is consuming both your energy and your cultivation network."

Upon hearing this, Yu Ruomei immediately bowed to Aldrian, her upper body bent forward.

"Please, cure me. I want to be of help to you if necessary, but for selfish reasons, I want to see with my own eyes the end of those who destroyed my family," she said.

Aldrian smiled. "It's good that you have that kind of spirit. Even if it's driven by revenge or a desire for justice, you don't have to let your self-hatred consume you." He then focused his energy, directing it into her body. His hand, still holding hers, began to glow with a golden hue, a sight that mesmerized Yu Ruomei.

Aldrian's energy spread throughout her body, without exception. Every cell, every microorganism was enveloped by his energy, and with his will, he altered its properties to become a healing force. The effects were immediate, as her pale body slowly began to regain color. Although still malnourished, her skin appeared much healthier, no longer dry but smoother with each passing moment.

The poison, deeply embedded in her middle dantian, was swiftly purified. When the golden energy enveloped the poison, it dissolved, leaving behind only pure energy that Yu Ruomei's body could absorb. Her broken meridians followed suit, many were rotting, but within seconds, they were restored to their original healthy state, even growing stronger than before. Next, her muscles and tendons were rejuvenated. Having been bedridden for so long, they had become stiff, but now they were revitalized.

Once her body was fully healed and Aldrian sensed no lingering problems, he withdrew his hand. In his palm was a black blob, the extracted poison. Yu Ruomei was astonished by Aldrian's ability to remove the some of the poison so seamlessly. She had only felt comfort throughout the process, not a single moment of pain. And to think he said he wasn't a physician!

Aldrian then handed Yu Ruomei a pill containing enough energy to replenish a Marquess stage cultivator. As for the black blob, he condensed it into a pill like form and stored it in his storage ring.

He watched as Yu Ruomei circulated the energy after consuming the pill. Placing both hands on her back, he helped her guide the energy through her body, aiding her in adjusting to her newly restored state. With the combination of the pill and his golden energy, her previously malnourished body began to show signs of vitality.

A few minutes later, the transformation was complete. The sickly woman, who had once been confined to her deathbed, now stood like a new person—with a beautiful face, a curvaceous figure, and a healthy complexion. Yu Ruomei, testing her newfound strength, stood up without difficulty. In the past, even standing had caused unbearable pain.

She walked slowly around the room, marveling at the absence of pain. After a moment, she stopped and looked down at herself, astonished at the transformation. A single tear rolled down her cheek, unbidden.

She wiped her eyes and turned toward Aldrian, before kowtowing in gratitude.

"Thank you for your generosity. I, Yu Ruomei, will never forget your help, young master. I will do my best to repay this kindness," she said.

"Stand up," Aldrian replied. "You're healthy now, and I've also strengthened your cultivation foundation. From here on, you can cultivate like any other cultivator. I hope you'll assist me in my journey through the demon territory."

Yu Ruomei stood, smiling—a genuine smile, the first in three years of pain and despair. Just then, the door swung open, and Yu Fenglian stood frozen, stunned by the sight of his mother, healthy and standing with ease. Aldrian had already granted the boy permission to enter via sound transmission.

"Mother!" he cried, rushing to embrace her. Yu Ruomei smiled, her tears returning as she hugged her son tightly.

Aldrian smiled as he watched the mother and son. It gave him a sense of satisfaction to see them experience happiness, even if only for this moment.

"I'm sorry to interrupt, but I think we should leave this place," Aldrian said to the mother and son.

Yu Ruomei and her son looked at him in confusion, but she soon understood what he meant when she sensed several people outside her home. There were three of them, and from Aldrian's perception, they were all at the Marquess stage. Quite a grand presence, considering this area.

"You two stay here. I'll handle this," Aldrian said before stepping outside. As he exited, he was greeted by three men dressed in red-black robes, each bearing the symbol of twin peaks on their garments.

"What do we owe the honor of a visit from the city lord's manor?" Aldrian asked. "If you don't mind, let's speak outside. The house is too small to accommodate us."

"We are here as envoys of the city lord's manor," said the man in front. "We demand an explanation for your association with two criminals who have conspired with devils."

Aldrian was silent for a moment, studying the men.

"What nonsense. The city lord's manor must have been keeping an eye on Yu Ruomei. They must know her son was released from the city guard's headquarters. This visit is just to test me," he thought.

"What criminals?" Aldrian finally said. "I don't see any criminals conspiring with devils."

"Don't feign ignorance," the envoy snapped. "The two inside are the criminals who conspired with the devils. You'd best explain yourself, or we'll assume you're in league with them."

"How about this," Aldrian replied calmly. "Let me speak with the city lord personally. I'll explain everything to him."

"Who do you think you are?!" one of the men shouted. "This matter doesn't require the involvement of the city lord."

"Is that so? Too bad, then. You can come find me when your city lord is willing to meet," Aldrian said. He turned to head back into the house when, suddenly, a throwing knife imbued with energy shot toward him at high speed. He dodged effortlessly, catching the blade between two fingers before throwing it back at its sender.

In that moment, more than four figures dressed in black robes and masks appeared, surrounding Aldrian from above. The knife, now flying even faster, caught one of them off guard. It pierced the forehead of one of the masked men, killing him instantly.

The remaining attackers were stunned. How could an Earl-stage cultivator kill a High Marquess with such ease? That was more than an entire realm's difference in power!

"Really, I never have a peaceful journey wherever I go. Is this a curse or a blessing?" Aldrian muttered.

His words, and the fact that he seemed more annoyed than frightened, unnerved them. They could see in his expression that he wasn't the least bit afraid of them. If anything, he seemed stronger than they had anticipated. Aldrian's gaze swept over each of them before he spoke again.

"Come. You'd better make your move quickly, and after this, I'll personally pay a visit to the city lord's manor."

Chapter 68: City Lord's Manor

Aldrian dodged another flying knife, but his opponent followed up with a strike of the blade, bringing the fight into close combat. The three envoys from the city lord manor joined in, supporting the assassins who had been sent to ambush Aldrian.

To their surprise and growing anxiety, this young man's cultivation was not consistent with his combat power. His strikes were deadly, making the whole situation feel like a dream due to the sheer absurdity. They had expected to easily suppress an Earl stage cultivator like him and even thought it was excessive for their superiors to send Marquess level fighters like them.

"He must be concealing his true cultivation with some technique!" they thought. But at this point, it didn't matter. What had started as a simple apprehension, with orders to kill if he didn't comply, had escalated into a fight for their lives.

Aldrian deflected the incoming blade with ease, stretching his other hand toward one of the masked men in the back. In his palm, he formed a spear of wind and launched it like a dart. The spear flew at an unbelievable speed, too fast for even the Marquess-level fighters to react. It struck one masked man in the head, dissipating immediately after killing him.

With his free hand, Aldrian summoned a sword of fire and slashed at the two remaining masked men. They weren't just waiting to die, though, and dodged with the nimble movements of trained assassins. One of them tossed a small ball at Aldrian. When it hit the ground, it released a cloud of poisonous purple gas that instantly engulfed him.

The masked men regrouped with the three envoys, all of them staring at the smoke where Aldrian had disappeared.

"Even if he's strong, there's no way he survives after inhaling the Black Venom from Death Valley," one of the envoys said.

"Let's move. We don't want that woman to breathe in the poison. Let's bring her and the child here."

They swallowed antidote pills from their storage rings and approached the house. The purple smoke was still too thick to see through, but it completely blocked the door. As they neared, their bodies suddenly felt heavy—so heavy they couldn't move their limbs. Then, a hand emerged from the smoke, choking one of the masked men.

And with a swift movement, Aldrian decapitated the other masked man with a slash of his fire sword. He then paralyzed the last assassin by unleashing his energy, following it up by dashing towards two of the envoys. All of them, having let their guard down, were caught completely off guard and were unprepared for the incoming assault.

Aldrian grabbed the heads of two envoys and smashed them into the ground with a hard hit, rendering them unconscious. As for the last one, he seized him by the neck and injected his energy, sealing his meridians and dantian, effectively ending the brief battle.

In less than 30 seconds, Aldrian had captured four of his opponents. He needed their information.

With a wave of his hand, Aldrian dispersed the poisonous gas. Shortly after, the door to the house creaked open, revealing Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian peeking from behind her. Yu Ruomei cautiously stepped forward, surveying the aftermath. Upon recognizing the clothes of the fallen enemies, she clenched her teeth in frustration.

"Why are the people from the City Lord's Manor here?" she asked.

"Does your family have any grudges with them?" Aldrian inquired.

"No, but the City Lord's Manor is one of the main suspects I've been thinking about, no they might be the true main suspect. I don't have concrete evidence, but if someone could wipe out the Yu family, they would be among the top suspects."

"Was your family's relationship with the City Lord's Manor bad?"

"No, it was actually quite good. But ever since that night and the series of events that followed, I've been reflecting on what happened and wondering what wrong we could have committed. At some point, I remembered the City Lord's Manor acting suspiciously. They constantly asked about our hidden treasure, and on several occasions, they would bring it up."

Aldrian's ears perked up at the mention of a treasure, his curiosity piqued.

"This could be the missing piece of the puzzle," he thought.

The little thing from the massacre of the Yu family still puzzled him. If they knew about the existence of Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian, why had they kept them alive? What was their purpose? This hidden treasure might hold the answer.

"What treasure?" Aldrian asked.

"It's our legacy treasure—some kind of strange material that our ancestor discovered near the Everlasting Silent Forest millions of years ago. No matter what we tried, we couldn't break it, but the material has given us tremendous comprehension of laws and has been a symbol of fortune for our family, we call it the 'Heavenly Rock' because of its appearance. It's kept in one of the secret underground chambers of the Yu family manor."

"Can we visit your family's manor now?" Aldrian asked.

Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian fell silent at his question, their expressions filled with sadness.

"Our manor has already been sealed by the city guards," Yu Ruomei replied after a pause. "It's been abandoned for a long time, and no one has used it...at least, that's what I've heard."

"It's alright," Aldrian reassured her. "We can go there first and decide our next steps afterward. But before that, let me deal with the corpses and check the memories of the survivors." He gestured toward the unconscious men from the City Lord's Manor.

With a wave of his hand, the remains of the corpses floated into the house, and Aldrian followed, bringing the survivors inside with him.

The once blood-soaked ground was now clean, leaving only a few peeled patches and cracks in the ground. Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian waited outside, they are waiting for a few minutes, when he emerged alone, his face calm and smiling as though nothing had happened.

"I'm sorry, but it looks like you can't stay here anymore," Aldrian said gently. "The City Lord's Manor will likely send more people soon. Do you have anything you need to bring with you?"

"No," Yu Ruomei replied. "There's nothing precious here. We're ready to follow your lead."

"Mother, are we leaving this place?" Yu Fenglian asked.

"Yes," Yu Ruomei answered softly. "From today onward, we'll follow Young Master Aldrian."

"Let's go," Aldrian said, turning to them with a reassuring nod. "It's time to visit where your family used to live."

Together, they walked away from the place that had sheltered the mother and son for the past three years.

The most notable feature of the City of Peak of Dual Horns is, without a doubt, the two towering peaks shaped like horns, visible from every corner of the city. These twin peaks, standing side by side, are the city's symbol and the location of its center of authority.

Atop the twin peaks sit two mansions. The west peak houses the city lord's residence, while the east peak is the sacred cultivation ground of the City Lord's Manor.

Inside the west mansion's grand hall, all the elders from the manor had gathered. Seated in the center, on the leader's throne, was the city lord—the Peak Sovereign of

this city. His mere presence was intimidating, with a demonic aura so thick it filled the room and even spilled out beyond its walls. He was a middle-aged man with a small, black mustache and beard, dressed in a red and gold robe.

"Is there still no word from the envoys I sent?" the city lord asked, his tone sharp.

"No, my lord," replied one of the elders. "It's odd, given that they were only dealing with an Earl-stage cultivator. The envoys, along with the group from the Shadow Blade, should have been more than enough to capture or kill him."

The city lord brought his hand to his chin, deep in thought.

"There's something strange about that young man, an Earl stage cultivator was able to take all those kids from the city guards headquarters, and there's still no word from them. I have a bad feeling about this. We can't let them find out about that 'thing'!"

He then gave his next order, "Send more people. I need to know what those devil collaborators are planning, and I want results as soon as possible!"

"Yes, my lord!" the elder responded.

The city lord sighed and glanced to his right, where a man holding a fan sat quietly.

"Once again, you've proven most helpful to me. Thanks to you, we've been able to detect the devils trying to infiltrate our territory," the city lord said, his tone softening slightly.

The man smiled, fanning his face as he bowed. "Thank you, my lord. I'm only doing my duty as your advisor. I don't deserve such praise."

"Hahaha, no need to be so humble! I'll make sure you receive a generous bonus after this."

The elders exchanged dissatisfied glances but remained silent, not daring to voice their opinions. Unbeknownst to them, the advisor was grinning menacingly while still bowing.

Chapter 69: Return to Their Home

In an area far from the slums, where wealthier families and nobles reside, Aldrian, along with the mother and son, passed through. Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian covered their heads with black robes that Aldrian had given them, ensuring they remained unrecognizable.

They walked until they arrived at the gate of a manor. The eastern style gate and the wall beside it looked dirty and dilapidated, signs of long neglect. The gate was also

sealed with some kind of formation, and a sign warned passersby that this manor was under the city's authority.

"There are no guards here, did they just leave your manor like this?" Aldrian asked.

"I'm not sure of the exact reason, but after a while, they simply abandoned it. Maybe they're confident that no one would dare to enter," Yu Ruomei replied.

"Excuse me, but who are you?" a passerby suddenly asked Aldrian and Yu Ruomei. Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian tried to hide their faces by pulling their hoods lower.

"We're just business partners of the family that used to live here. What happened to them? Why does it look so neglected and sealed off by the city guards?"

"What? You don't know what happened to the Yu family? Listen, you'd best forget about them. They were accused of being involved with devils. They were massacred overnight, and nothing remains of the Yu family," the passerby lamented. "What was once a great family with great influence has been reduced to nothing."

Upon hearing this, Aldrian feigned shock, but Yu Ruomei's body trembled as she tightened her grip on her son's hand. Yu Fenglian, also feeling terrible, wanted to scream that it was all lies, but he held back with all his strength. Aldrian then said to the man.

"How can that be? The Yu family is an honorable family, there's no way they were in cahoots with devils!" Aldrian exclaimed.

"Right? I didn't believe it either! The Yu family was one of the few noble families that upheld chivalrous and honest principles. There's no way they would be involved in something like that! But the city lord's manor made an official announcement, claiming that the Yu family was massacred by a group of devils because of a dispute."

"That sounds like a made-up excuse. Ridiculous, don't you think?" Aldrian asked, eyeing the man carefully.

The man glanced to his left and right before leaning in closer and whispering, "Most of us think the same. Some even believe that the city lord's manor was behind the massacre that night."

Straightening up, the man added, "Now that you know, you'd best leave this place. If the city lord's manor sees you here, they might accuse you of being in cahoots with the Yu family too." After delivering his warning, the man walked away.

Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian watched him for a moment. Aldrian, meanwhile, moved closer to gate. It didn't take him long to decipher the formation and unlock the gate, he then opened the gate which created creaking sound.

As they entered, a large yard greeted them, surrounded by buildings. Each building had numerous rooms, but all of them had the look of typical abandoned structures—decayed, neglected, and empty.

Aldrian followed the mother and son as they walked through the manor, passing neglected yards, overgrown gardens, a dirty pond, and rooms in disarray. Yu Ruomei's face displayed a range of emotions as they moved, recalling memories of her past with her family.

They continued until they reached a pavilion in the middle of the pond. Though the scenery was still somewhat beautiful and refreshing, the pavilion itself was covered in dirt and dust. In the center of the pavilion stood a table, thick with dust. With a wave of his hand, Aldrian summoned a gust of wind, cleaning the entire pavilion.

He sat comfortably on one side of the table, while Yu Ruomei and Yu Fenglian took their seats on the opposite side. Their faces showed peace, though tinged with sadness.

"Sometimes my husband and I would sit here, drinking tea while enjoying the view of the pond," Yu Ruomei said softly.

"This child loved to come here and play. Those were some of the most beautiful moments of my life," she added, gently stroking Yu Fenglian's head.

She then turned to her son. "Do you want to play? You can explore, but stay inside the manor. I need to speak with the young master alone," Yu Ruomei said tenderly.

Yu Fenglian looked at his mother, then glanced at Aldrian, who smiled and nodded in reassurance.

"I've already checked the manor and made sure there are no dangers," Aldrian added.

Yu Fenglian stood up, bowed to Aldrian, and then walked away. Silence filled the air until Yu Ruomei finally spoke.

"Do you not believe what they said about the Yu family?" she asked.

"About the devils? No, not at the moment."

"At the moment?" she echoed.

"What I'm certain of is that you and Yu Fenglian aren't involved with the devils. As for the rest of your family, I can't say for sure. But from my observations and some educated guesses, it seems your family was just a victim. Would you like to hear my theory?" Aldrian asked.

Yu Ruomei nodded in response.

"Alright. You mentioned earlier that your family got involved with the Golden Swan Commerce, correct?"

"Yes," she answered.

"The Golden Swan Commerce has betrayed both the orthodox and unorthodox by allying themselves with the devils."

Yu Ruomei's eyes widened in shock.

"I don't know their exact reasons," Aldrian continued, "but the Golden Swan Commerce is working with the devils, helping them infiltrate the territories of both orthodox and unorthodox factions. I'm afraid we're already behind. The devils have likely integrated into our society, waiting for the right time to execute their plans."

"I know you have many questions—not only about this but also about me. However, I'm just a wandering cultivator who has been recognized as a high guest by the Elven nobles, especially Emperor Ladwin of the Ivory Empire. So, you can set aside any doubts you might have."

Yu Ruomei trembled. How many surprises did this young man hold? He kept revealing extraordinary information as if it were nothing. Recognized by the nobles and the emperor of the Ivory Empire? The elves, famous for their conservatism, had accepted a human as a high guest. He must be remarkable!

"Let's return to the matter of your family. You said the Golden Swan Commerce was the last client for your escort agency, correct? That was actually one of the ways they aided the devils."

Aldrian then explained how the Golden Swan Commerce smuggled teleportation artifacts for the devils and the chaos they caused in the Ivory Empire. He also shared his findings about the city's involvement in the devil infiltration.

Yu Ruomei, who had spent most of her recent years bedridden, was shocked by these revelations.

"Isn't this terrible? My family also heard about the prophecy from the Heavenly Direction Church. Are they connected?"

"I'm afraid so," Aldrian replied. "Now, regarding your family's involvement, when they escorted the Golden Swan caravan, whatever the reason, they were killed, and you never heard any news about the caravan afterward. There was only one purpose for that: to eliminate witnesses."

"Witnesses?" Yu Ruomei echoed, her voice trembling. "Are you saying that the escort group somehow learned what was in the caravan? And they were killed because of it?"

Aldrian nodded. "Yes. The moment their operation was compromised, they alerted their connections here in the city. Do you know who their conspirators are?"

He smiled as he looked at her.

Yu Ruomei thought for a moment, then her eyes widened in realization. "The City Lord's Manor!"

"Bingo," Aldrian confirmed. "The City Lord's Manor is already deeply involved with the devils, and I'm afraid the connection runs deep. The destruction of your family was a coordinated effort between the devils and the City Lord's Manor," he said, his expression turning solemn.

Yu Ruomei's face tensed as they reached this conclusion.

"But I think the City Lord's Manor is merely trying to take advantage of the devils. Why? Because of the treasure they want from your family."

"My family's treasure? So, they're just using each other?" Yu Ruomei asked, her voice filled with disbelief.

"Yes," Aldrian replied. "You and Yu Fenglian still alive is the proof and I suspect the City Lord's Manor accepted whatever the devils offered them, but in return, they wanted the treasure. And what better way to seize it than by destroying your family?"

Yu Ruomei fell silent, clenching her fists. Anger and a deep sense of betrayal washed over her.

"Why would they do this to us?" she asked, her voice trembling. "Our relationship with them has been good for so long. Ever since our ancestors discovered that treasure, the City Lord's Manor, always supported us. But why now? Even they slander us by accusing us of colluding with devils and tarnishing the Yu family's name?"

"I'm afraid only the city lord himself can answer that," Aldrian said.

Yu Ruomei took a deep breath, releasing it slowly. From the situation, it looks like she would have to face the city lord and confront him herself, to ask for the reason.

"Why don't we just pay a visit to the City Lord's Manor?" Aldrian suggested casually. "It would be easier to speak with him directly."

Yu Ruomei was stunned. The way he spoke made it sound as though they were simply visiting an old acquaintance. She looked at Aldrian, trying to gauge if he was serious.

Seeing his calm expression, with no hint of concern, she realized he was entirely serious.

Suddenly, Aldrian pulled out a device she recognized, a long communication artifact.

"Hey, I think we've got visitors on our side," Xin Haotian's voice resounded from the artifact, a sound only Aldrian could hear.

Chapter 70: The Divine Iron

"Hey, I think we've got some visitors on our side," Xin Haotian's voice reached Aldrian.

"Who are they?" Aldrian asked.

"I'm not sure, but it looks like they're not here to face us directly. They've surrounded this place, but judging from their cultivation levels, this isn't just a simple recon mission. They must be here for another reason, not because of our jailbreak. What are you doing over there?" Xin Haotian questioned with some doubt.

"Nothing grand, just eliminating traitors to humanity," Aldrian replied casually.

"And who are these traitors?"

"The people from the City Lord's manor."

"..."

"..."

"You really enjoy causing trouble, don't you?"

"Can't help it. Trouble always finds its way to me."

"The City Lord's manor of Dual Peak Horns City has thousands of cultivators ranging from earls to marquesses. Some of them even reach the level of dukes. If I recall correctly, the City Lord himself is a low Grand Duke—at least that was the case a hundred years ago. You expect us to take on that kind of power directly? With that scale, the Piercing Heaven Sect will hear about it if anything happens."

"Is the mighty Xin Haotian worried about such things? You're already at the Emperor stage."

"I'm being serious here!"

"We don't have to face all of them. Just deal with the root of the problem in the City Lord's manor, and we can leave once it's resolved."

"Do you have a plan?"

"I predict they're only keeping watch on you and the others for now. If things get out of hand, you'll need to protect our group there. I'll contact you after I finish what I'm doing here."

"Alright, but you realize it could turn into a bloodbath if they recklessly decide to make a move here."

"Do what you must. I'm out."

Aldrian then stored the communication artifact in his ring and turned his gaze to meet Yu Ruomei's eyes.

"It seems the City Lord's manor has already made their move. Let's go check out your family's treasure first. I want to see what makes it so special that they'd target your family over it."

Yu Ruomei nodded and led the way toward the secret vault. It was located in the deeper part of the manor complex, behind a large three-story building situated beyond the central hall, where the elders and patriarch of the family used to gather.

Inside the grand building was a massive hall, its floor scattered with framed names and pictures. At a glance, it was clear the place had been ransacked. Aldrian guessed the City Lord's manor had turned everything upside down in their search for the treasure.

"This is the Hall of Honor of the Yu family," Yu Ruomei explained. "A place where the names of all the patriarchs are displayed, along with the family's achievements across generations, meant to remind the next generation of our glorious past."

Aldrian took in the state of the hall. It was a mess, with some of the patriarchs' pictures broken. The names engraved on white stone plaques, framed in red wood, had also been damaged.

Yu Ruomei could only sigh as she led the way to the end of the hall, where an altar stood on platform. The altar had four pillars on each of the cardinal points, with a symbol in the center. The symbol resembled light surrounded by an ambigram. When Aldrian looked at it, a strange familiarity stirred within him, as though he had known the symbol for a very long time.

The altar, surprisingly, was untouched and clean—an odd that made Aldrian wonder why.

"This is the Altar of the Heavenly Demon," Yu Ruomei said. "As you may know, demonic cultivators revere and even worship the Heavenly Demon. We hold this belief so deeply that orthodox cultivators call us a demonic cult. It seems the City Lord's

manor still regards the Heavenly Demon as their god. Hypocrites! They've already allied themselves with devils, yet they still claim to revere the Heavenly Demon."

Her face twisted in disgust as she spoke.

Aldrian gazed intently at the altar. His unconscious reaction to the symbol told him there was a deeper connection. Activating the laws of karma, he focused on the Heavenly Demon's symbol, and soon, he confirmed there was indeed a link between him and the symbol.

Unaware of Aldrian's thoughts, Yu Ruomei stepped forward, kneeling beside the altar. She pricked her finger and let a drop of blood fall onto the floor beneath it. Suddenly, a formation lit up, illuminating the area around the altar. The floor split open, revealing a narrow staircase leading underground, just wide enough for one person at a time.

"This underground chamber can only be opened by the blood of the Patriarch and his wife. Even if the City Lord's manor discovered there was a secret passage here, they wouldn't be able to open it. The fact that they haven't found this passage and tried to destroy it, is a stroke of luck."

With Yu Ruomei leading the way, Aldrian followed her down the winding stairwell. The only light guiding them came from crystals embedded along the walls, glowing faintly as they descended deeper into the hidden passage. At the bottom, they entered a chamber, and on the opposite side stood massive double doors, engraved with intricate formations.

Yu Ruomei stepped up to the door and placed her hands upon it. Her right hand held firm while she channeled her energy and aura into the formations, and with her left hand, she performed a twisting motion in a clockwise direction. Slowly, the heavy doors creaked open, revealing a vast hall.

In the center of the hall stood a massive, rock like material, radiating a subtle yet profound presence. As Aldrian gazed at it, a memory stirred, he recalled seeing the very same material in one of the visions he had experienced.

Divine Iron

Description: This iron originates from the Upper Heaven, a rare material capable of being crafted into anything and is the primary component in forging God armaments. It can alter its weight according to the wielder's will.

The Divine Iron has a unique property—it can establish a bond with individuals who share compatibility, creating a resonance that enhances control and brings many additional benefits. Any armament crafted from Divine Iron doubles the power output of

its wielder, can form impenetrable defensive artifacts, and even forge an indestructible body.

Level: God.

Aldrian stood stunned. *God level?* Was this the first time he'd heard that level, or not? Confusion swirled in his mind for a moment but one thing was certain, this iron could greatly benefit his future. Maybe he could upgrade his own weapon using this material, and this strange energy that he sensed from the rock? His eyes widened slightly.

"This is our family's legacy treasure, passed down through generations," Yu Ruomei explained. "Anyone who cultivates in the presence of this 'Heavenly Rock' experiences immense comprehension, aiding their cultivation. If you'd like, young master, you can cultivate here."

She glanced at Aldrian, only to see him transfixed, staring at the rock.

"The energy in this iron, it's compatible with me... it even resonates. It's like when I try to establish my domain, but different. What is this?" Aldrian thought.

He stepped closer to the Divine Iron and touched its surface. Though it felt like ordinary rock, beneath the surface he sensed an amalgamation of countless laws and energies. It was the purest form of energy, almost like his golden energy, but shaped into iron. No wonder anyone cultivating here could increase their comprehension so drastically.

No wonder the City Lord's manor wanted this iron. But something didn't add up, why now? From the memories he had read, the City Lord was the source of this trouble. Why wait until recent years to act? If he desired this iron so much, he could have seized it long ago.

Aldrian remained by the Divine Iron, focusing on the connection forming between him and the material. At the same time, he extended his domain, encompassing the entire Yu family manor. Yu Ruomei watched, puzzled by Aldrian's actions, though she chose not to interrupt him.

After a few moments, she suddenly felt the energy surrounding the rock flowing toward Aldrian. There was a pure, unfamiliar golden energy radiating from him, an energy she had never known existed. The power it exuded was incomprehensible to her, and what she witnessed next left her mind reeling.

The massive rock, which would normally require the power of tens of Emperor stage cultivators to lift, floated for several seconds before gently settling back down.

Yu Ruomei was speechless. Aldrian had just established a connection with the 'Heavenly Rock,' something the Yu family had failed to do since their ancestors first discovered it.

The rock had always resisted any attempt to sense or penetrate it with energy, making it useful only as a site for comprehension. Still, that alone had been enough to elevate her family to one of the great houses in the region. Now, watching the rock establish a connection with this young man, Yu Ruomei realized the rock had found its destined place—and its rightful owner.

Considering that this very treasure had led to her family's downfall, she felt no hesitation in giving it to Aldrian. He was far more worthy to possess it than to let it sit here, forgotten. She bowed to Aldrian, cupping her hands in respect.

"Congratulations, young master, for making the Heavenly Rock yours," she said.

"I had intended to discuss it, but I wish for you to take this treasure. In return, I ask only one thing, help me bring justice to the Yu family. I hope the Heavenly Rock serves you well in the future."

Aldrian nodded. "Yes, this will be incredibly useful to me. To be honest, I feel a bit guilty taking your family's legacy treasure, which has been in your lineage for millions of years. But with this treasure in my hands, I'll make sure to offer something in return."

Yu Ruomei tilted her head, confused. "You don't have to—"

Before she could finish, Aldrian cut her off. "I will help you rebuild the Yu family."

"!"