

## Star Gate 311

### Chapter 311: An Honest Li Hao (IV)

Everyone thought that Yuan Shuo was crippled and had reached the end of the road when he was heavily injured that year. His renewed rise is a shock to the entire world! So this is why... Yu Xiao mused. What a pity that you've ruined your disciple so thoroughly that he speaks of it himself!

Li Hao was caught in the grip of sorrowful memories. "Teacher was so good to me when he was here. He listened to me in everything other than martial training. I studied and trained hard over three years... Teacher treated me even better than my parents did! It's all that evil Red Moon! I hope Director Hou kills them all after he recovers!"

The young man ground his teeth with fury.

"Ah, yes," Yu Xiao recalled something. "Since your teacher is so good to you, how did he agree to you joining the Inspectorate?"

"Teacher said that it would be safer in the Inspectorate," Li Hao said shyly. "That there's more people who can take care of me..."

"So it was your teacher who discovered that Red Moon was killing people?"

"Yes!" Li Hao nodded with embarrassment. "Teacher let me present the report because he said that would make the Inspectorate value me more. I... I was too embarrassed to say so before. But it's fine now since teacher isn't here."

Yu Xiao laughed again. His smile softened as he thought for a bit longer. "Very well, I know everything now. Work hard, Li Hao. If you do, I'll take you to the central region. Once you're there, you'll see how tall the sky and vast the world is.

"Ah yes, you're a half step Dominator, aren't you?"

“I am, and I killed Sun Moxian!” The young man raised his head proudly. “I advanced then! Sir, I’m very strong in battle! Director Hou says I can even match some initial Sunflare supernaturals! My strength is already at the highest echelon in Silver Moon as there aren’t that many Sunflares among us...”

Yu Xiao chuckled. Yes yes, you’re something aren’t you. Oooh, initial Sunflare, so impressive! This little idiot speaks of everything he knows in such a complete and thorough way! He answers everything he’s asked, I almost like you!

But a pity, what a pity! Your crime is that you possess too many valuables. Your blood is too precious!

“Let’s stop here today. Remember, don’t say anything to anyone who comes to you—including the others from central headquarters. Speak of this only with me. I’m doing this for your own good. Not everyone is like me, understood?”

“Understood!” Li Hao nodded.

“Then go back for now and go home when you get off work. Don’t overwork yourself and tire yourself out.”

“Thank you for your concern, milord!” Li Hao said happily, joy blooming through his expression.

“Go on!”

“Then I’m off, sir!” Li Hao nearly skipped out of the room.

Yu Xiao continued sipping his tea, suddenly smiling with satisfaction. An origin weapon... Li Hao...

His imagination kicked into high gear as the man continued to enjoy his tea. Perhaps he'd be able to break the fifth supernatural lock if he drank all of the young fool's blood? It seemed highly likely!

Nova? And an origin weapon...

A keen light danced in Yu Xiao's eyes. This might be his greatest fortune and opportunity to surpass Hu Qingfeng. No, what was Hu Qingfeng worth? Those perverse geniuses in the central region were his goal, and he needed to accomplish this before Hou Xiaochen emerged from seclusion!

As for the secrets of the eight families and Red Moon's schemes, what does that have to do with me? Actually, this is perfect. Maybe I can dress it up like someone from Red Moon did it. I don't have a reason to attack Li Hao, but that organization does!

Who would believe that I'm behind it? No one!

Only Red Moon would take Li Hao's body. Everyone knows how much of a price they've historically paid to conduct their plan regarding the eight families. They even retrieve the bodies of their victims when possible.

"A perfect scapegoat..." Yu Xiao smirked. Red Moon was the perfect scapegoat after he was done! No one would suspect him!

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Li Hao returned to Night Watcher headquarters when he walked out of the tea house. He nodded smilingly at Hao Lianchuan when the deputy director glanced at him.

"Is he going to do it?" transmitted a surprised Hao Lianchuan.

The young man nodded again. Relax, he will! Not only will he do it, he might do it faster than you think. He might even pretend to be Red Moon. No one will look twice at us for killing him.

“Director Hao, it’s imperative that you attack as viciously as possible and kill him in one stroke. I’m not doing this next time if you don’t!” Li Hao muttered.

Taken aback, Hao Lianchuan nodded in return. Are you sure? Those guys from central headquarters can focus on their mission pretty well. They won’t attack you that easily since we’re still friendly on the surface. I just wanted to give it a try... but you look so certain. What did you say to hoodwink a central region mid Solar so thoroughly that he must kill you?

“He won’t come with the others, will he?” Hao Lianchuan suddenly thought of another possibility. That Nova better not be in attendance.

Li Hao shook his head. That would never happen, how would he tell others about this kind of treasure?

Hao Lianchuan considered the young man with increasing skepticism and wonder. Really? How come I’m having trouble believing you?

“It’ll probably happen tomorrow night!” said Li Hao. He would go back and make the drawing tonight, then come to work with Hao Lianchuan tomorrow morning. Nighttime was the only appropriate chance for Hu Qingfeng to make his move. He wouldn’t wait too long out of concern for Director Hou exiting seclusion.

Hao Lianchuan’s face slackened as he stared wordlessly. There’s even a time set? Are you really not having me on?

“Alright then, I need to go do things, Director Hao...”

What do you need to do? Hao Lianchuan wanted to ask further, yet Li Hao wasn't sparing further attention for him. The deputy director itched for some answers, but that itch had to remain unscratched. Then I'll be waiting! I'd like to see if Yu Xiao really will come to kill you tomorrow night. I don't believe you!

And if it's true, I'll have to hail you as a god or something! He couldn't make sense of the situation. How had Li Hao caused Yu Xiao to take the bait? The Breathing Method of the Five Styles? Or something else?

But the man was a supernatural, so he might not be tempted by anything else. And even if he was, he wouldn't need to kill for it.

Hao Lianchuan started speculating, theorizing, deducing, and gave up after a while. Damn it, I have no idea how the kid did it! I want to give it a try myself! This kid really has a few tricks up his sleeves, I've underestimated him.

.....

White Moon City was as bustling as ever. Li Hao ignored everything taking place outside the window when he returned to headquarters and busied himself in Hao Lianchuan's office. Since Hou Xiaochen was still in closed door cultivation, the young man wasn't assigned any missions. As he was here at Hou Xiaochen's request, no one else found it right to give him a mission.

Inside the office.

Hao Lianchuan's day was preoccupied with many affairs. Li Hao was not one to remain idle, so he took out the ten blood pearls.

Each individual pearl was just a little stronger than Sunflare. That was helpful for the current Li Hao, but not in significant terms. With how strong his organs were, he'd almost reached the Summoner level. As such, Sunflare level blood pearls were useless for him, so his consideration was whether he should take five or all ten at the same time?

All ten was the equivalent of Nova, but he was worried that he wouldn't be able to digest that amount of energy. Upon further thought, however, that might not be the case. Sword energy helped with digestion. If it wasn't for sword energy, he wouldn't be able to swiftly absorb thousands of cubes of mysterious power either.

"I'll take five for now then. If I don't blow up, I'll quickly take the others."

Countless people were eyeing him; it was approaching the point where Li Hao felt that Summoner of Spirit may not be the surefire protection that he thought. His aura wasn't as strong as his teacher's, which meant that he would try to raise his physique to the limits of martial master capability instead.

If he couldn't enhance his aura, he would fortify other areas. Blood transfusion was another route! That was what He Yong had done. Li Hao had held a conversation with a man—while Summoner was the key next step in the path of martial dao, strengthening the body, blood, and qi was also a type of enhancement.

It wouldn't lead to a breakthrough of cultivation level, but it would still result in undeniable improvements in strength. Dominator was the equivalent of Sunflare, yet the Dominator level He Yong could battle Solars. He wasn't any less than a Dominator level Yuan Shuo equipped with five auras!

When Li Hao asked about the key to blood transfusion, he received complete answers to his questions. There was also no need to hide anything about the process. It was simple—one just needed to continuously strengthen the body and internal force. When the body was fortified beyond belief and the organs were also of decent strength, it was time to bring the blood up to speed. This was a path that many martial masters chose when they continuously failed to locate the direction forward after Dominator.

Such were Li Hao's intentions as well. He needed to summon the spirits and nurture the auras. Currently, the young man only wielded the earth aura sword. Summoning or nurturing more wouldn't lead to great effect. He would have to further comprehend the earth sword aura to see a massive increase in strength.

Li Hao swallowed five blood pearls as such thoughts ran through his mind. Bursts of domineering scarlet shadow energy erupted in his body. His blood frothed!

He would likely see the diagram of the eight trigrams if he was in Silver City. Sadly, he was in White Moon and saw nothing when he looked up. Plainly, the diagram was only located in Silver City and didn't stretch to White Moon. Red Moon had constantly wished to eliminate Li Hao in Silver City, most probably due to the eight trigrams. They very likely knew about the diagram's existence.

A powerful force of blood and qi rushed into the young man's body, agitating his blood. Regular martial masters wouldn't be able to withstand it. Their most likely outcome would be what had happened to Li Hao the first time he tried to absorb a scarlet shadow—accumulation inside the body and blocked meridians.

Sword energy was still useful. It appeared as the Breathing Method of the Five Styles operated; Li Hao began breaking mysterious power stones again to supply the sword with sufficient energy. These stones were now the resources that he needed the most.

He smashed the one that Yu Xiao had just given him—energy seeped out and was swiftly absorbed by the little sword. The conversion rate was very low, but Li Hao was satisfied. It was fine if there was waste, so long as the effect was good.

#### Chapter 312: A Fierce Tiger In the Heart (I)

Blood frothed and churned inside Li Hao's body. Given his domineering organs, the young man felt no pain or searing sensations from the blood's activity. His five visceral organs were too strong and five blood pearls only amounted to a Solar's level of energy. He could withstand this degree of discomfort.

Since there wasn't much pressure being brought to bear, he swiftly swallowed a sixth, seventh, and eighth blood pearl until pressure mounted to significant levels.

Blood boiled within his veins and he could feel metamorphosis beginning within his body. It was as if a vast river rushed toward his organs. Li Hao could sense the existence of his supernatural locks. One, two, three...

Five locks appeared over his visceral organs—that was just the beginning. Four more appeared over his four limbs, making for nine that'd materialized in the blink of an eye. They were all incredibly thick and sturdy.

According to Wang Ming's explanations, the number of supernatural locks one sensed represented one's supernatural potential. But that was meaningless to Li Hao. Immense blood qi surged into the supernatural locks to make them even stronger. He believed only his teacher. The supernatural locks represented the depth of one's foundations. The stronger they were, the more foundation they secured.

If there came a day in which he broke through his locks with martial dao, it would be an unfathomable ascension to the other side. Therefore, despite the locks visibly growing stronger, Li Hao had no intention of stopping his intake of energy. Absorb it all! The stronger the better!

The stronger they were, the less likely that melding auras, summoning spirits, and spirits emerging from the organs would shatter his locks. He would not be forced into the crossover. In his current condition, Li Hao didn't have the slightest desire for the supernatural.

Hence, the stronger his locks were, the more confident he was. It didn't affect his strength at all.

Seeing that his supernatural locks were smoothly absorbing the blood qi, Li Hao popped the remaining two blood pearls into his mouth. When all ten sat in his stomach, the power of a Nova scarlet shadow erupted within.

Crack crack crack sounded from his bones! They were unable to endure the strain and a searing pain began spreading through his body.

A mysterious power stone rolled out of Li Hao's mouth as he opened it. It was a thunder attributed mysterious power; he wasn't using it to replenish the little sword this time. The thunder element tempered the bones, of that he was aware of, he just rarely came into possession of a thunder stone.



This was no time to consider how precious mysterious power stones were. He devoured the thunder energy inside and used sword energy to extract thunder elemental power. It was much more pure than mysterious power. The thunder energy burrowed into his bones the second it became one with him.

Rumble!!

Thunder roared inside him as Li Hao's bones were tinged with purple. This was the effect of thunder and lightning tempering the bones! His bones continued to crack and pop.

The young man shot to his feet and ran through a boxing routine from the tiger style of the Five Styles. It was easy to punch with sound, but incredibly difficult to punch silently. In order to avoid drawing attention from creating too much of a disturbance, Li Hao began practicing soundless punches. His teacher was much better than him in this regard. When his teacher swung, he did so without the slightest sound like he was going through a fitness routine for the elderly.

No matter how Li Hao restrained himself, he still created a bit of sound. Thankfully, it wasn't too apparent. Not to mention no one dared to make trouble for him since he was in Hao Lianchuan's office.

His fists darted forward like thunder and lightning!

So fast! But speed didn't mean silence. It was a contradictory notion that Li Hao wouldn't be able to attain unless he swiftly retracted his fist's force as soon as he punched out, condensing it on itself.

A very soft bam could be heard inside the room. Li Hao ignored it and continued practicing, facilitating the digestion of his new gains. He didn't care if the secret Nova powerhouse beneath him could hear; what he was demonstrating wasn't too strong. A Sunderer could indeed deploy this kind of attack. He also didn't particularly care about where he trained, so he didn't mind if others could see him.

Energy from a scarlet shadow continued to erupt in his body—the energy density of a Nova was far more than one could imagine. Supernatural locks continued to materialize and strengthen throughout his body.

Clatter!!

Chains seemed to drag through the room as locks appeared and secured Li Hao in place. There were even some locks that began appearing over his head.

Nine?

Far more than that!

The potential of the human body was unlimited. Not only did the five visceral organs and four limbs have supernatural locks, but so did other parts of the body. Li Hao could even sense a massive lock floating upward from his spine.

He was in a wonderful mood as he continued absorbing thunder energy to temper his bones. The scarlet shadow continued to strengthen his internal force, blood qi, body, and supernatural locks. He could sense his blood qi growing ever more colossal and abundant!

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Downstairs.

Manager Yu tilted her head upward for a look. Her eyes seemed to peer through the ceiling and capture the sight of Li Hao. She saw the young man practicing a boxing method from the Five Styles. It wasn't too fast as there weren't too many afterimages of the fist.

And yet... Manager Yu frowned slightly. Had he taken a blood pearl? How many did he take?

He wasn't displaying the aura or projecting his internal force, just practicing the boxing method. Under such circumstances, it was difficult to detect a martial master's strength. That was most often discerned in a fight.

But as a powerhouse, Manager Yu could still sense some clues. An eyebrow raised as she observed.

"Dominator?" She knew that the young man was a Dominator, but it was hard to tell what kind he was. There were many Dominators. The weakest was the type like Liu Long—a Dominator with one aura, untempered organs, and nondescript blood qi. Those slightly stronger had undergone changes in their blood, improvements to their bones, and were beginning to nurture their organs.

Those even stronger like He Yong entered Dominator with one aura, but had undergone numerous blood transfusions, were sound of bone and body, and had started tempering their organs. Dominators beyond that was Yuan Shuo's previous condition. He'd melded his five auras together and was incredibly domineering.

What level was Li Hao?

It was hard to judge as she didn't know how many blood pearls he'd taken. Three or five? It wouldn't be all ten as he wouldn't be able to endure the rush of energy. That was Nova level strength! Even regular Solars would be hard pressed to withstand it. It was only possible if Li Hao's physical body had reached a Solar level.

...was that possible? Manager Yu sank into deep contemplation and silently sensed the room above hers.

When it came to Li Hao, people only cared about his bloodline as an heir to the eight families and his status as Yuan Shuo's disciple. The rest was negligible. While he was strong in the eyes of mundanes, particularly as he'd killed Sun Moxian, he was just a martial master yet to reach Dominator to those who were truly strong.

No matter how capable this kind of martial master was, they were barely on par with Sunflare. There were so many powerhouses in White Moon these days that Sunflare was hardly worth attention.

Perhaps... he's stronger than what we think.

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Time passed bit by bit. Li Hao steadily punched again and again. A Nova's energy would not be consumed so quickly. Not to mention, he was also taking in energy from mysterious power stones at the same time. Instead of the five elements, he was focusing on thunder and wind. Thunder tempered the bones and wind made the body lighter.

If he couldn't raise his speed concurrently with his strength, all he would amount to was target practice for others. He'd been more concerned with physical strength before not because he didn't care for speed, but because he didn't have much wind energy. He possessed some wind attributed mysterious power stones now. Li Hao drew directly from them, not minding the consumption.

He only had twelve stones left now, including the one that Yu Xiao had given him. It wasn't much and the little sword continued to be depleted of energy.

After some more training, he exhausted the thunder and wind stones. He only had seven left, five of which were the five elements. Of the other two, one was pitch black and the other icy cool. He didn't dare brashly draw from them because they might be of the dark and ice attributes. There was a lot of energy contained within the stones; he would start with mysterious power first and draw from the stones only after he knew their effects.

He would feed the five elements to the little sword. Sword energy was the true heart of what he was.

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Hao Lianchuan was busy all morning. His schedule didn't clear up until noon, which was when he prepared to return to his office to rest. However, he frowned slightly when he approached the door—there were some noises coming from inside.

Li Hao?

Most likely!

The guy was done for the day. He could've gone home after the meeting or taken a walk around White Moon. And yet, Li Hao hadn't. He was a workaholic and didn't leave the office until the day was over!

But headquarters was small, so there was no place for the young man. He didn't have duties he needed to take care of either.

Is he training in my office then? Hao Lianchuan pushed the door open. The light immediately faded from Li Hao's eyes and he listlessly punched outward. All the same, Hao Lianchuan was a Solar, so he sensed something quite piercing when he stood near Li Hao.

The deputy director glanced at the young man; Li Hao was still going through a boxing routine.

"Director, I needed to borrow your office because I don't have any place to go. You don't mind, do you?"

Hao Lianchuan nodded indifferently and put down his briefcase. He sat down on the sofa to the side and poured a cup of tea, watching Li Hao as the young man continued to practice. The latter's bones reverberated faintly, sounding like the bones and meridians resonating with each other, as customary of the Slayer level.

The deputy director set that out of his mind, focusing on the traces left in the office air. They were very faint, but delivered a piercing pain whenever he drew near them. He didn't interrupt Li Hao, just continued watching silently.

The young man practiced as if no one was around him; there was still a third left of the scarlet shadow to digest. He'd made his way through only two thirds of it in the morning, but he was digesting at a faster rate as the energy decreased. His organs were much stronger than before, but that was only part of it. More importantly was that his bones felt much more formidable than before.

Blood roared through his veins and he almost had an impulse to punch Hao Lianchuan. Would he be able to fight a Solar without using his aura?

### Chapter 313: A Fierce Tiger In the Heart (II)

Li Hao suppressed the urge to throw himself at Hao Lianchuan. Patience was required for a better eruption of power. There was no one he could trust in White Moon. His teacher was still the person he trusted the most, with the chief possibly coming in second. Those of the Demon Hunters were much more trustworthy than anyone here.

Liu Yan was part of the Night Watchers, but Li Hao had stayed away from her all this time. In the same vein, she'd kept her distance as well. They were in White Moon City! Countless people were keeping an eye on Li Hao. If she came to him, that would only draw their attention and possibly bring danger to her.

The estrangement was a demonstration of her intelligence. While Hao Lianchuan might be a good man, who knew what he was really thinking in the depths of his heart?

A good man? Would a good man think of killing a superior who was a Solar?

Just how many people were worthy of his trust in this vast White Moon? Li Hao could only rely on himself, his fists, and the sword in his hand! How was he to survive if the sword wasn't sharp enough?

He continued punching as thoughts ran through his mind. They were weak, but killing intent lurked behind them. He wanted to smash a new world into being, like the killing fiend of that illusory realm had done! He would use one blade to silence the world and slaughter the enemy to a halt!

Red Moon, the Night Watchers...

Too complicated!

Li Hao had no desire to understand them in depth. There was no need. Even if I'm of the eight families, you should leave me alone. I was just an ordinary student, why drag me into your mess?

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Hao Lianchuan's expression turned solemn and he didn't take a second sip of tea. Li Hao's punches were coming increasingly fast and furious. What was the kid thinking about? Was he already a Dominator?

This boxing intent wasn't the aura, but it showed hints of converting into the aura. Could it be a second aura?

The deputy director frowned; he wasn't too familiar with martial masters. Why did Li Hao's boxing intent seem stronger than certain auras, yet wasn't an aura?

There was only one possibility.

He was a Dominator!

It was harder to comprehend the aura after breaking through and Li Hao already had one aura. The second one wouldn't come about that easily. If he was still a Sunderer, he might be able to convert this boxing intent into an aura.

What a scary kid. Everyone focused on him for his special identity and ignored his potential. Not just anyone could comprehend the aura, so it would seem the public was underestimating the kid.

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Li Hao ignored Hao Lianchuan and continued enjoying his boxing routine.

The tiger fist! Out of the Five Styles, the tiger style was the most ferocious and focused on killing. He'd once seen a tiger as a child, but just one in a cage. That seemed so similar to his current circumstances. No matter how infinitely big his cage was, he was still in a cage. He pulled his lips into hypocritical smiles and voiced words he didn't mean.

Everyone wanted to live a life more true to themselves, but could he do that?

He couldn't!

Breaking the cage would release his true self, but could he break the cage?

There was frustration in his heart that he could do nothing about. When Hou Xiaochen saved him, he revealed the earth sword aura because he needed to demonstrate his worth. Hou Xiaochen wanted him to come to White Moon City, so come he had despite wanting to stay in Silver City. Li Hao had no other choice.

His teacher had left because Red Moon wished to kill him, and that stemmed from the large numbers of Red Moon powerhouses than Yuan Shuo had killed before. That had been on Li Hao's behalf as well.

People were never masters of their own fate!



Li Hao thought through quite a great deal in this moment and put the tiger style on full display. It wasn't the delightful thrill of exulting as a ferocious tiger, but the burning desire of a highly aggrieved tiger who wished to break out of its cage!

I want to break this cage! But I can't!

Complex emotions melded into the Five Styles as he punched and retracted his fists.

Hao Lianchuan suddenly became incredibly uncomfortable after watching for a while. These were bottled up suffering of punches that could not be followed through to their fullest. They were stopped halfway through and forcefully retracted. It made him want to vomit blood.

What kind of boxing technique was this? The tiger style?

He'd witnessed the tiger style before and watched Yuan Shuo fight. It was very strong, a triumphant celebration of force, a towering surge of killing intent like a tiger descending from the mountain and terrorizing the forests.

Yet, Li Hao's tiger style was wholly different.

"Cough cough cough..." A coughing fit overtook Hao Lianchuan. He didn't mean to, it was just so painful to watch that he could barely breathe.

Li Hao abruptly stopped in the middle of his practice and frowned at the deputy director. He was thick in the middle of things, Director Hao should not have interrupted him.

"My apologies," panted Hao Lianchuan as he heaved a long breath. "It was just too awful to bear. Li Hao, was that the tiger style?"

Li Hao nodded faintly.

“Why... does it feel different from your teacher’s?” Hao Lianchuan asked hesitantly after gasping for a while. “And are you only punching halfway before retracting your fists?”

“The secret arts of martial masters will differ from person to person even if it’s the same one.” Li Hao smiled. “It may not be the exact same secret art being deployed each time. As for retracting my punch halfway, there’s no need for that. I simply haven’t found the direction and target for my punches.”

Hao Lianchuan nodded slowly with understanding—or did he really understand?

“Your punches lack dominance,” he breathed out. “They feel more... suffocating instead!”

Li Hao thought of his punches from moments ago. The Five Styles was the first art that he’d started learning and it was the one that he’d practiced the most. He’d felt just now that if he was still a Sunderer, he might be able to comprehend an aura from his practice. It wouldn’t be the tiger aura that his teacher commanded, but another one entirely.

Who said that tigers in cages lacked aura?

“Director, is there a zoo nearby?” Li Hao suddenly asked.

“Huh?” Hao Lianchuan was caught off guard by the sudden jump in thought process. “Um, yeah. Ask Wang Ming, he should know.”

“Okay!” Li Hao suddenly wanted to see a tiger. He didn’t want to see a typical tamed tiger, he wanted one that desperately wanted to break out of its cage. Those that had accepted and were

accustomed to their lot in life no longer wished to escape. They did not fit the meaning behind his fists.

“Then I’ll be heading downstairs, director.”

“Go on, be careful. Don’t wander around and don’t go too far. That might result in trouble.” Hao Lianchuan wanted to reel in Yu Xiao. It might make things too complicated if a group of martial masters clustered around the young man.

“I won’t go far.” Li Hao nodded. He wanted to stay close and would give up the idea if the zoo was too far away.

.....

Downstairs.

Li Hao waited for a while before Wang Ming arrived. The guy hadn’t been at headquarters—he might’ve gone out for a meal as he came back with grease around his lips. He laughed heartily at seeing Li Hao. “I wanted to grab you for food, but you disappeared!”

“Is there a zoo nearby? Or rather, is there any place with a freshly caught tiger? One with a wild nature still in them?”

Wang Ming blinked. A tiger?

“Ah... let me think about it. There’s a zoo, yes, but I don’t know if they have a freshly caught tiger. Let me ask around for you. The zoo may not have one, but some of my friends might.”

Li Hao looked skeptically at him.

“Some of my friends became supernaturals after the rise of the supernatural domain,” Wang Ming laughed. “They like to have fun and some like to hunt. There are some mountains with old forests nearby. They often go there to catch a tiger or something like that. The times are different now, having a pet tiger is more impressive than a dog!”

Li Hao said nothing. Wang Ming cut his explanation short and started contacting people through his communicator. His network was vast and he knew a lot of people. A smile spread across his face after six calls and he quickly hung up.

“Got one! One of my friends just caught a multicolored tiger two days ago. It’s super wild and has refused to eat or drink the past two days. My friend’s trying to break it in. Do you want to go take a look?” Wang Ming thought Li Hao was bored and wanted to look for excitement. Granted, there was the tiger style in the Five Styles. Maybe he wanted more enlightenment in that style?

Who cared!

It was just a tiger. That might’ve been something they all needed to stay away from back in the day, but now it was an animal that any Darkmoon or Sunderer could easily take care of. Only beasts that’d started becoming monster spirits were worthy of consideration. Anything else was no threat to humans.

“Is it far?”

“Nope.” Wang Ming grinned. “Are you afraid of danger? I can have my friend bring it over, it’s not a problem.”

“That’s fine. We can go take a look if it’s not far.”

“Alright!” A merry Wang Ming dragged Li Hao outside. He had a car to use when they were in White Moon City!

He quickly drove out a flashy red car that was particularly eye-catching. He beamed at Li Hao standing by the road. “Get in, what are you waiting for? This is mine—I have lots of cars in White Moon City. I couldn’t ship any to Silver City when I was there, so I went carless.”

Li Hao hopped in without a word. Wang Ming revved the engine and sped off into the streets. His reflexes were very fast as a supernatural; he wasn’t afraid of getting into an accident. He quickly zipped past one hundred yards and steadily accelerated.

Despite thinking that this wasn’t very good, Li Hao didn’t say anything. The inhabitants of White Moon seemed used to the sight, so there was no need for him to react.

“We’ll be there soon!” Wang Ming yelled as he drove. “My friend is a supernatural too, but a Darkmoon. He’s an individual supernatural who isn’t part of the Night Watchers or any organization. His dad’s highly placed at the provincial government. Top ten I think, but we don’t need to take that into consideration. We’re not any worse than him!”

Li Hao remained quiet. He didn’t care, he just wanted to see the tiger.

#### Chapter 314: A Fierce Tiger In the Heart (III)

Wang Ming’s sports car stopped in front of a mansion before ten minutes passed. They were indeed very close to the Inspectorate and were approaching the southern outskirts of the city. But even so, owning a mansion close to the outskirts of White Moon City was an uncommon feat.

A young man at the front gate roared with laughter when he saw the car pull up. “You came fast enough, Ole Wang! You’re finally back from that Silver City backwater! I thought you were being exiled for servitude on the frontier!”

“Pfft, you’ll be exiled before I am!” Wang Ming chuckled. He jumped off the car and waved Li Hao over. “Let’s get to it, Zhou Qin, where’s the tiger? My bro wants to see a fierce one...”

The young man looked at Li Hao and asked curiously, “Do you... want to introduce your friend?”

“He’s my senior brother!” Wang Ming offered no further details. “C’mon, what’s with the questions?”

“Alright!” The young man glanced at Li Hao a few more times. The latter inclined his head. Zhou Qin wanted to crack a few jokes, but suddenly felt a bit awkward. This newcomer... made him a bit uncomfortable. It was hard to describe, but the newcomer gave him a similar feeling to the tiger that he’d caught two days ago.

He was reminded of the animal for some reason. It stayed unmoving in its cage, but exploded with a fury whenever anyone approached. It inflicted harm at the tiniest opening and was stubbornly unyielding. He’d trained it for a few days without seeing any results. The tiger refused to eat or drink and was proving impossible to tame.

Zhou Qin was going to give it another few days, then throw it away or cook it if he still got nowhere. He was an efficient sort who didn’t waste time, so when Wang Ming wanted to take a look, he led the way without hesitation. They walked past a man made mountain to where a massive cage was kept. Inside the metal cage, a multicolored tiger crouched unmoving on the ground.

“Don’t be fooled by its stillness,” said Zhou Qin. “It rears up as soon as you get close. I was almost injured a few times. It’s just a normal beast, but regular Starlight may not be able to handle it. I had people get hurt when we captured it.”

“No way!” Wang Ming said with surprise. “You guys are all Darkmoon, but it hurt you?”

“Yeah!” Zhou Qin answered. Li Hao was already approaching the tiger. He wouldn’t be in such a hurry normally speaking, but he was in a great hurry right now.

.....

Inside the cage.

The tiger remained unmoving even as the young man crunched over gravel. Some dried blood could be spotted on its brightly colored pelt. It was noticeably injured.

Just as Zhou Qin wanted to issue a reminder when Li Hao drew close... a tiger roar split the air over the mansion!

A massive tiger claw shot at Li Hao; the young man looked into the animal's eyes. It was filled with fury, despair, and reluctance! It would not accept a life like this! The claws were incomparably sharp as they slapped at Li Hao with incredible speed!

Bam!

The massive body slammed into the cage, leaving only a few millimeters between the claws and Li Hao. However, the young man remained just out of reach, causing the tiger to tear the ground with fury and shake the cage.

“ROAR!” echoed repeatedly until the tiger eventually gave up and crouched on the floor again.

Li Hao watched it silently, taking in the experience, feeling everything the tiger projected. He drew a little closer, resulting in another soundless swipe from the tiger. It was faster, keener, and more ferocious than last time!

There were no accompanying roars, just fury and bitterness!

A loud impact rang out as the cage shook from being rammed. Li Hao suddenly stepped forward and punched the tiger's paw. Blood spurted out of its claws, but the tiger ignored the injury and swiped at the young man!

The loathsome human remained just out of reach!

The tiger went berserk and began biting and gnawing the cage. It struggled again and again, wanting to rush out of confinement. It was unable to do so no matter how it tried. The confrontation continued for a very long time!

Startled, Zhou Qin stared at Li Hao. “Um... what’s your friend doing?” he muttered to Wang Ming.

“I don’t know.” Wang Ming shook his head. He really didn’t know; it looked more like Li Hao wanted to torture the tiger since he’d punched it a few times.

.....

Li Hao watched silently, sending the tiger reeling with another punch. The tiger flung itself forward, ripping at the cage and trying to claw the human. Again and again it tried, not knowing the meaning of fatigue or pain.

Despair deepened in its eyes. Just when Li Hao thought it’d given up...

The tiger bounded forward once more; a crunch accompanied its actions as its teeth bit down on a bar that it’d been wearing away for a while. Its tooth snapped, but it also created a massive opening in the metal bars.

The tiger rammed the cage, snapping a bar in half with its momentum. Zhou Qin jerked with alarm—not out of fear, but out of concern that Wang Ming’s friend would be hurt.

Li Hao remained unmoving and permitted the tiger to spring at him. When claws swiped at his head, the young man sent the animal flying with a hearty punch. He advanced on the tiger; it struggled despite suffering notable injuries.

“You know there is no path ahead of you, that there is only death,” Li Hao sighed. “You know that I am stronger, yet continue to attack. Are you not afraid of dying?”



The tiger didn't respond, it simply continued struggling. It waved its paws around when Li Hao raised his hand. The young man caught one of them and conducted some sword energy into the animal. The tiger remained jerking and flailing against its captor.

Keeping a tight grip on its claws, Li Hao shoved it back into the cage. He turned to Zhou Qin and asked, "Friend, this tiger is too stubborn to be tamed. Can I ask you for a favor and release it back into the wild?"

Zhou Qin blinked.

Li Hao took out a piece of bone from his pockets. "This is five cubes of fire mysterious power..."

"Ah, don't," Zhou Qin quickly declined when he understood. "I actually already want to release it. Entertainment is what we go for in things like this, but this one's not settling down. In that case, it's just taking up space. Since you're a friend of Ole Wang, you're a friend of mine. This is no big deal, I'll have someone take it back!"

"My thanks!" Li Hao accepted the proposal without further discussion. He smiled at Wang Ming. "I'm done here, let's go back!"

"You're done?" Wang Ming repeated with surprise. What did his colleague mean? Had they come to free the tiger?

"Let's go, and remember to thank this brother for me!" Li Hao waved at Zhou Qin and left.

The fierce tiger behind them seemed to understand. It remained unmoving on the ground and watched the young man leave.

.....

Li Hao smiled when he walked out of the mansion. Trapped within a cage, yet refusing to submit? Being fully aware of the dangers, but still wanting to break out of imprisonment just for a fight to the death?

His teacher had observed a king among tigers, the dominator of a forest! Today, he witnessed the struggles of a caged beast. It was two entirely different feelings and auras, but Li Hao felt that what he saw today was very suited to him.

His teacher had dominated the land as a ferocious tiger who'd come prowling down the mountain. He was trapped in White Moon City and beset by danger on all sides. I am the tiger in the cage! These are my struggles!

Li Hao sorted through his thoughts as he walked; Wang Ming's expression gradually shifted as he followed behind. His colleague had seemed to become a tiger crouched silently, waiting for the opportunity to devour someone!

The handsome supernatural shook with dread. What was going on with Li Hao? Had he comprehended something? Wang Ming himself was also a practitioner of the Five Styles, but he'd never sensed anything like this.

.....

Li Hao bore a ferocious tiger in his chest—a cub materialized in his aura and crouched down quietly, waiting for the right moment. So what if he was confined inside a cage? There would come a day when he broke out!

The tiger aura had taken form!

.....

Inside the sports car.

Li Hao's presence was as if a tiger poised to spring. He was sitting quietly in his seat, but Wang Ming felt that there was a tiger next to him in the passenger seat no matter how he looked at it. Cold sweat beaded his forehead. Li Hao really was a little different today! Had he grasped his dao?

Meanwhile, Li Hao's eyes were closed in repose. Mind intent! This was his first instance of clearly sensing mind intent and the true meaning of martial dao. There'd been coincidence and luck involved when he previously comprehended the earth and sword aura. His ancestor's eternal stroke had given rise to the sword aura. He'd understood the earth aura when Liu Long's Nine Forged Force clashed with his teacher's Five Styles. That'd been a case of spontaneous enlightenment.

Today's instance of grasping the tiger aura didn't quite count as spontaneous enlightenment. His emotions and martial dao had built to a critical mass that erupted on the spot. When he observed the caged tiger, he'd resonated with the animal and put himself in its place. That gave rise to the aura, and now his tiger aura was fully formed!

Within the Five Styles, the tiger aura corresponded to water and was thus assigned to the kidneys. Li Hao, however, ignored that correlation. Was it water?

No!

Hong Yitang once explained the nature of auras to him. They were not innately assigned to an attribute. Liu Long's Nine Forged Force was of water, but his father's was of fire. They were the same secret art and same method. In the same vein, his tiger aura was different from his teacher's. It was up to him to see which attribute it mapped to.

A beast at bay putting up a desperate fight; a ferocious tiger confined within a cage. That was not water. Water was gentle. His tiger craved to kill, to explode with fury, to never have to suffer patiently again. It wanted to erupt like a geyser of flames and turn the land to ashes.

There was fire in the heart!

A fire aura!

Indeed, his tiger aura was neither water nor metal. It was a tiger burning with desire. A fire aura!

### Chapter 315: Winds Rise (I)

Li Hao understood that his tiger was the fire of his heart. His teacher's ape was the fire heart ape, whereas his was the fire heart tiger. It was two entirely different styles, a similar case to Liu Long and his father with the Nine Forged Force. One honed the water aura, the other trained the fire aura.

The ferocious tiger entered his heart!

His heart seemed to be on fire; massive chains snaked around the tiger, wanting to keep it in place. That only served to incense the tiger even more and intensify its violence. So you want to lock me down as well??

A refusal to be confined was the core nature of the caged tiger. It refused to submit to the chains that sought to restrain it! It snarled with fury, howled with madness, and tore in a frenzied rush.

Li Hao's expression remained calm. Keep it in, hold on a little longer. I'm chaining you today so you can be released with even more power in the future. The fire tiger sword aura was his next goal. The earth sword aura was as weighty as a mountain. It was grand and magnificent, but lacked killing power.

Li Hao began chaining the fire tiger with the supernatural lock of the heart. The chains were incredibly thick—much stronger than when he'd locked the earth mountain into place. A Nova blood pearl had greatly increased his potential and fortified his supernatural locks.

ROAR!!

A vicious tiger snarl echoed in Wang Ming's ears. Turning pale, he tilted his head at Li Hao. What was that? Was that an aura? Had Li Hao comprehended the tiger aura?

.....

Li Hao ignored his compatriot. He'd wrapped the tiger in chains, but it continued to struggle wildly. It shook his heart so much that the organ thumped painfully.

Very good!

This was the vigor that he wanted. If the tiger settled down without a fight after being locked in place like the earth mountain had, that would mean it was no longer a tiger in a cage. This aura might not match his earth sword aura—in fact, it might even be a bit less—but it was a complete reflection of Li Hao's mentality. This drive, the burning spirit that refused to be doused, the madness that disdained to be quiet... It was a realization that only resulted from wholly placing oneself in that way of thinking.

If Yuan Shuo was here, he'd be shaken by the sight. He would tell his student that only today did the young man truly set foot into Dominator of Thousands. This was Li Hao's enlightenment on the path of martial dao, his own accomplishment!

Intent within the heart!

This was his third aura, or in actuality, the second. He'd turned the sword aura into a general outline. He wasn't going to treat it separately and turn it into the metal aura. It was going to lead all of his auras.

The starting point of his sword aura was too high. It came from illustrious origins—the sword intent of an unparalleled powerhouse. His sword aura would be weakened if he forced it to become a metal aura.

Lingering scarlet shadow energy inside Li Hao's body repaired the damage from earlier. His wounds swiftly healed and he fully incorporated this second aura into the heart. Now his heart and

spleen both nurtured an aura. Once his tiger became a fire tiger sword and melded into the sword aura, it would grow even stronger.

He urgently needed to attack someone to vent the fire within his heart!

Although his eyes were closed to his surroundings, he could vaguely sense attention from the gazes of others. Someone was following him—he'd left headquarters too abruptly and hadn't gone home. His watchers couldn't react in time to do anything.

This was also the outcome that he wanted.

.....

A hotel in the eastern quadrant.

Hu Qingfeng quickly received a report.

"Li Hao just went out to... go look at a tiger?" he read a report with surprise. "What's he doing?"

Standing beside him, Yu Xiao cursed inwardly. What are you running around for? Why haven't you gone back to complete the drawing? Going to check out a tiger? You've got too much time on your hands!

"That Wang Ming probably put him up to it..." Yu Xiao waved it off and quickly changed the topic. He didn't want Hu Qingfeng to pay too much attention to the young man. "Li Hao told me today that Hou Xiaochen will exit seclusion in three days!"

"Hmph!" Hu Qingfeng snorted. "It seems to me that this so-called seclusion is just a front. He might've emerged a long time ago."

Yu Xiao kept quiet—I don't think so! Hou Xiaochen might really be injured. He would've already eaten Li Hao otherwise. He's probably recovering from his wounds so he can better devour the young man.

Hu Qingfeng contemplated the group's next steps instead of chatting further. "Is Li Hao willing to hand over his blood?"

"Yes!" Yu Xiao chuckled. "How would he dare refuse? Plus, that kid doesn't understand anything. He looked at me with more enthusiasm than he'd show his own father when I said I'm from central headquarters. He probably doesn't know any part of what Hou Xiaochen's thinking."

Hu Qingfeng nodded. That made sense. In the eyes of the Night Watchers, any powerhouse from central headquarters was a figure to revere. There were only a few senior executives among the Silver Moon Night Watchers who were somewhat aware of Hou Xiaochen's intentions.

That was the end of the conversation for Hu Qingfeng. Yu Xiao had returned saying that Li Hao needed a day or two before supplying heart blood, that the man didn't want regular blood. Hu Qingfeng didn't find anything amiss about this declaration. It would be for the best if they could obtain heart blood.

.....

White Moon City.

A small residence in the southern quadrant.

"Gone off to look at a tiger?" He Yong stroked his bushy beard as he frowned at the person in front of him. "And a captured tiger at that? Does he want to comprehend the tiger aura? That doesn't seem likely to happen... This Li Hao possesses neither the domineering traits nor the irreplaceable madness as his teacher. It'll be hard for him to grasp the tiger style!"

His thoughts immediately jumped to the young man wanting to understand the aura, but that was almost impossible. It very much depended on the person whether or not an aura could be grasped.

He Yong wasn't unfamiliar with Li Hao. Even though the young man had some small plots and schemes up his sleeves, he was different from Yuan Shuo. The kid was too young and had grown up under careful protection. Being as sheltered as he was, it was almost impossible for him to comprehend the tyrannical nature of a fearsome tiger.

It was a waste of time to go look at one, not to mention an imprisoned specimen!

"Kids are so naive." He Yong shook his head with a chuckle. "Do they think they can command an aura by looking at tigers and bears? The auras of the Five Styles are not an easy matter to grasp."

He dismissed the rest of the topic. "Be on your way. Remember, just watch and don't brashly intervene. Hou Xiaochen is still present within Silver Moon, he's not dead. Don't be dumb like the others. Doing anything now—even if you succeed—will only result in guaranteed doom when the man exits closed door cultivation."

He Yong more or less understood Li Hao's affairs. Whether it was the Breathing Method of the Five Styles or the Nova level blood pearl, none of it held interest for him. It'd be nice to have them, it didn't matter if he didn't. Whoever had designs on Li Hao at this moment was betting their lives. He Yong wasn't interested in gambling his away for the sake of some trinkets. He didn't lack these treasures, not as a royal instructor.

What he needed more was enlightenment and pointers for the proper steps to take on his path.

.....

Everyone was discussing Li Hao's latest move. The young man's sudden interest in a tiger raised a great deal of speculation, but most thought that he wanted to comprehend a tiger aura. Almost no one looked favorably upon his chances to succeed.



Those who knew Yuan Shuo understood what his tiger style was like. That was a true king of the mountain forests!

Yuan Shuo came into possession of his tiger aura only after he swept through the province. He truly understood the aura's nature and its domination after fighting a dozen famous martial masters.

Li Hao was far from that level, he wasn't even a cub!

.....

The Night Watchers.

Li Hao set foot through the front doors with a smile on his face. Almost all of his temper was fully retracted and melded into the tiger aura. He seemed more gentle than before, like his emotions had been fed to the tiger.

Hao Lianchuan was surprised by what he read from Li Hao upon seeing the young man again. The boy seemed incredibly pure, like he truly was just a student. He'd previously given off the tiniest hint of pretense. But when he smiled now, it seemed to really come from the depths of his heart.

The deputy director could no longer see through Li Hao. He frowned slightly, but quickly relaxed his brows.

"Hu Dingfang called my communicator today," he said. "He wants me to protect you well. He heard what you said at the meeting and wants you to be careful. Also, he wants you to stay away from Wang Ming. That kid will be nothing but trouble for you!"

"Please thank him for me, director." Li Hao smiled. "But he doesn't need to be concerned about my matters. There's no need to exert himself on my behalf. If teacher thinks it's fine, then it's fine. It's

not a good idea to try to win teacher over through me. No matter how much he helps me, it stops with me. I don't want to affect my teacher through my influence."

"Why not?" Hao Lianchuan chuckled. "Wouldn't that be good?"

"It's not that it's bad, but that there's no need." Li Hao changed the topic. "Director, I'd like to go see the sea in two days. Would you like to come with me?"

The sea? Hao Lianchuan blinked.

"I can." He nodded. "But White Moon's sea is just an inner sea, it's not a truly unbounded mass of water in the true sense of the word. You should head south if you wish to see the real sea. The sea there is vaster than the one in the north.

"Maybe if there's a chance to someday." Li Hao looked around him. "Director, can you give me an office or something? I like clocking in to work and it's not convenient to always camp out in your office."

"....." Are you freaking addicted to work or what? Or do you think you're going to be a deputy director in White Moon? Only deputy directors have their own offices here, as well as those in charge of finances and similar. Kid, you're a weird one.

## Chapter 316: Winds Rise (II)

"There's no space on the fifth floor," Hao Lianchuan responded after some thought. "But there's an empty office on the fourth floor. It's close to Manager Yu though, do you want it?"

"Really?" Li Hao was surprised that he would actually be allocated an office.

"It's just an office!" Hao Lianchuan chuckled without care. "Not to mention... people don't really want to be neighbors with that one. If you don't mind, it's yours as soon as you get your things together."

While the secretary was more reliable in taking care of matters, she showed a frosty demeanor to everyone who was not Hou Xiaochen. Thus, the rest of the Night Watchers would rather stay on another floor than be her neighbor.

Li Hao didn't care. This was great! He had his own office at headquarters on the second day of arriving in White Moon City. How nice. Should he bring over the silk banner from Silver City too?

Nah, he would be going back to Silver City one day. That banner should hang where he got it.

.....

Li Hao didn't do anything else that afternoon. He cleaned up the office, put away his things, and for all intents and purposes, looked to take over the space. The other secretaries and drivers on the fourth floor were surprised by his actions. How was there anyone who dared use that office?

Many snuck glances at Manager Yu, but found that the secretary didn't care at all. It was as if this matter wasn't happening. These people had to give up their desire to gossip and simply conclude that rookie Li Hao possessed above average courage!

The young man was busy until the end of the work day. He was in a wonderful mood as he looked at his new office. At forty square meters, it wasn't a small office. Everything he needed for his office desk was present, as well as a sofa area for guests. Although it didn't measure up to his office in Silver City, he was in a metropolis in which space was at a premium. Thanks to knowing people in the right places, he had a private retreat at work. All it'd taken was one simple word from Director Hao.

Li Hao walked out with satisfaction after admiring the results of his labor. He locked his office door and put away the key in his pocket.

In the hallway.

Manager Yu happened to set foot out of her office at this time. She raised both eyebrows when she saw Li Hao lock the door. This... fellow... really was quite interesting. He was treating this territory as his own! Was he really prepared to come to work here?

The time was 6 pm, precisely when they should get off work. Clocking into work in the mornings and leaving work precisely on time... Manager Yu didn't know how to describe what she was feeling.

"Li Hao!"

"Manager Yu!" The young man followed what the rest called her. "You're off work too, manager?"

"....." Manager Yu never knew what getting off work felt like. She rarely left the building. She blinked at the question and slowly inclined her head. "I'm off work!"

"Want to go together, manager?"

"That's alright." Manager Yu looked silently at him for a bit before leaving with large strides. Together for what? She never left the building, what together was there to be had?

"Then good bye, manager! I'm going home!" Li Hao bid merrily, in a great mood. It was a happy day. Instead of taking a car or a bike when he exited street level, he walked back to the family accommodations.

The light bulbs reappeared as soon as he left the Night Watchers, but he paid them no heed. These people weren't worth dirtying his sword. Not to mention, they wouldn't give in to their impulses. They would take action only when they fully grasped everything there was about him. For one, they needed to determine if anyone was protecting him from the shadows. No one would make an attempt before they understood what the Night Watcher arrangements were.

Li Hao seemed oblivious to his circumstances. He strolled home, buying a few buns and a bowl of beef noodle soup along the way. He didn't like troubling others. Although the Inspectorate could deliver to his door, he didn't like asking them to do so. Self-sufficiency was just fine and food here wasn't too expensive. He drew a high salary at his rank, did he care about spending a few coins like these?

.....

"Is there really no one looking out for the kid?" Some watchers in the darkness were confused; it looked like no one was standing guard in the shadows. Did the Night Watchers think Li Hao didn't need oversight just because the kid didn't live too far away? Or did they think that no one dared touch the young man because Hou Xiaochen was in the city?

They carefully observed for a while to confirm that indeed, there were no secret protectors for the young man. Out of the Night Watcher powerhouses, Hou Xiaochen was in seclusion, Hao Lianchuan was busy at headquarters, and some of the other peak Sunflares attended to their own missions. Nearly all of the Night Watcher Sunflares were preoccupied with other business.

The only one not busy was Wang Ming, and he'd driven off in his sports car after bringing Li Hao back in the afternoon. There were eyes on him too. He really had run off to pursue his own delights and wasn't present in the southern quadrant of the city.

.....

Upstairs, through the front doors.

Li Hao smiled faintly like nothing was amiss, but was secretly quite surprised. Had Red Moon sent people to him again? There was a scarlet shadow inside his apartment.

A Red Moon member had probably slipped into the area while Hao Lianchuan was absent. There was no sign of a supernatural, just the scarlet shadow. They probably thought it wasn't likely the shadow would be exposed, so it floated right in front of the young man.

Li Hao would've trembled with fear if this was in times before. But now... he was used to the sight. He even took a moment to sense that it was roughly initial Sunflare. That could also be determined from its size. He'd eaten so many of these that whenever he saw scarlet shadows now, it was like he saw a snack waiting to be swallowed in one gulp.

Red Moon was certainly bold. It looked like another one of their powerhouses had arrived in Silver Moon, or had Violet Moon recovered? They were more concerned about Li Hao's wellbeing than anyone else.

The organization was deathly afraid of the young man dying, going missing, or breaking free of their control. He often thought that they were the only ones in White Moon City who truly cared about him!

How lonely that was, and a little sad! Red Moon was the best!

There was nothing else on Li Hao's schedule for the night. After eating his buns, he sat down in front of the desk. The scarlet shadow watched silently next to him, as if a parent overseeing their child's homework.

Li Hao began drawing a map of the ruins. He would fulfill his promise to Yu Xiao and produce a map for the man. Since there was no origin weapon anymore... The young man thought for a while and made a mark on the city doors. Those two characters were more valuable than an origin weapon!

This was a true treasure map, he wouldn't lie about that. As for the scarlet shadow watching him... so it watched him.

Do you see this? Go look at the two characters over the city gates. There might be surprises in store for you. If that killing fiend rushes back from the past... Man, that'll be fun.

The scarlet shadow was still present after he finished his diagram. It would seem that a lot of people had an eye on Hao Lianchuan. They were each bolder than the rest upon knowing that the deputy director wasn't back yet.

Li Hao ignored the shadow and resumed practicing the boxing technique from earlier in the day. His punch shot out with significant force and was aimed at the scarlet shadow. The shadows weren't afraid of physical attacks, but the blood qi of martial masters could damage them. Mind intent had an even greater effect.

Seeing that the scarlet shadow didn't run off after extended practice, he picked up the Earthturner Sword to begin running through sword techniques!

.....

Inside a unit of the family accommodations building of the Inspectorate.

A middle-aged man with run-of-the-mill features spoke into a communicator.

"He's not doing anything." The man frowned. "He came back, ate, drew a little, then began practicing martial dao. He's focusing on the fist and sword, and his sword intent is rather strong..."

He had no words for Li Hao. Work, home, dinner, training... Was this the lifestyle of a young man? Didn't he have any hobbies? There was nothing noteworthy about him at all!

.....

On the other side of the communicator.

Outside White Moon City.

Violet Moon looked at the city; another person next to her also looked at the city with an amused expression. He could hear the report coming from the communicator.

“This heir of the Lis... is so boring!” he laughed softly.

Violet Moon nodded and cut off communication. “We don’t need to pay attention to him for the moment,” she murmured. “We are beset on all sides because of the blood pearls. Hou Xiaochen killed Red Hair. What do you think we should do next?”

“So he’s dead,” the man chuckled. “It’s enough for Hou Xiaochen to kill one, does he dare kill a second? Red Hair was too careless and too weak—he died in one move and lost incredible face for Red Moon!

“The leader gave me two missions for my trip. Number one, bring back Li Hao or his corpse! Number two, bring back Yuan Shuo or his corpse. Nothing was said about Hou Xiaochen.

“Therefore, the Hou Xiaochen that humiliated you isn’t our primary target. Our true goal is still Li Hao! We’re different from the others—Li Hao is more important to us than Hou Xiaochen. Don’t lose sight of our purpose, Violet Moon!”

“But... it’s almost impossible to take him alive,” Violet Moon fretted. “Then we can only kill him. Will he be effective when he’s dead?”

“I don’t know.” Blue Moon didn’t care. “I’m just going to follow orders. Perhaps the leader has other methods. Of course, taking the young man alive is for the best. We need to wait for the next rainy season and it’s almost upon us. The next rainy season will happen around December.”

The intervals between killing the heirs of the eight families were growing shorter and shorter. The next rainy season was less than half a year away.



“Then... what about the ancient city of Battle Heaven?” Violet Moon was loath to walk away from everything just like this.

### Chapter 317: Winds Rise (III)

“We’ll enter Battle Heaven if we can and it doesn’t matter if we can’t,” Blue Moon answered calmly. “Violet Moon, the treasures and even ultimate treasures of your eyes may not be worthy of mention in our leader’s eyes. Origin weapons and mysterious power stones might not be that important. Red Moon did not leave so much strength behind in Silver Moon for this. Our goal from the very start was the eight families of Silver City. That has never changed, not in all these years.”

“Then why didn’t we confine Li Hao earlier?” Violet Moon frowned. “He was just a mundane then and wasn’t Yuan Shuo’s student yet. All this trouble arose from letting him be and all these consequences have developed as a result. He could’ve been secure in our custody a long time ago.”

“You don’t understand, things aren’t that simple!” Blue Moon shook his head. “We discovered his existence only after Li Hao turned eighteen! It wasn’t like we were aware of him from the beginning—we only confirmed his status as a direct descendent of the core Li family after he was eighteen. Before that, it wouldn’t mean anything even if we determined he was part of the Lis!

“He was already Yuan Shuo’s student at eighteen. And the leader did move against the Lis before this. His parents’ death was our earlier work, but we didn’t think that his father wasn’t the core of his family legacy... That is what’s so frustrating about all of this!

“Not to mention, it wasn’t an appropriate time,” Blue Moon continued in a soft voice. “We couldn’t take Li Hao with us. It would’ve been bad if we had—his bloodline would swiftly downgrade. His father may have lost the bloodline inheritance because we got to him outside the city.”

Violet Moon listened silently, she had nothing to offer as she hadn’t participated in any of this. She hadn’t been aware of the organization’s plan against the eight families for that long. She was an outsider before as she’d only recently inherited the Violet Moon position.

Their leader seemed to have given up on taking Li Hao alive with this command of bringing back the young man’s corpse. She wasn’t aware if there was anything involved to warrant this change.

“Blue Moon, what do the eight families represent?”

“Don’t ask!” Blue Moon replied softly. “Even I’m not clear on that, but I won’t ask. Asking too many questions is not a good thing, and knowing too much isn’t a good thing either. Our task is simple, bring back Li Hao!”

“When do we make our move?” asked Violet Moon. “Hou Xiaochen is too strong. You may not be a match for him either.”

“When everything falls into chaos!”

Violet Moon sank into deep thought. When was chaos coming?

“It’ll be soon!” Blue Moon smirked. “The Night Watcher central headquarters have sent a few kids that have no idea how immense this world is. All they think about is achieving deeds of merit and pacifying rebellion. The only thing they have in their sights is taking down Hou Xiaochen. Those kids will be our greatest help.”

“Hu Qingfeng?” Violet Moon doubted. “He may be a Nova, but he’s less than Red Hair. Where does he get the courage to provoke Hou Xiaochen?”

Is he crazy?

“He’s not crazy. Not only is he not crazy, but he’s wide awake!” Blue Moon chortled. “He can’t take down Hou Xiaochen, but... there’s people willing to help him! Like... me! And the Equality King, and Half Mountain!”

The man smiled radiantly. “Hou Xiaochen is a thorn in our side, so I agreed to it! Of course, this isn’t important. I just need Hu Qingfeng to make a move and distract Hou Xiaochen. I can take Li Hao as soon as he does. ...no, it might be better for you to do the deed. I don’t mind crossing paths with Hou Xiaochen to see how strong he really is.

“And if four Novas aren’t enough, we can add more!” Blue Moon chuckled. “There are plenty of people in the central region who wish to see where his limits are. If we can’t take him this time, we’ll send five, six Novas... If all of us combined can’t take him, then we’ll wait for even stronger existences to come!”

Violet Moon took a deep breath. These people had allied together! It was an initiative she hadn’t considered before because she felt it may not be the best move.

“Tell me truly, Blue Moon, is there more than you here?” she asked.

Blue Moon looked at her with a stern look. “I told you, it’s not good to know too much!”

Violet Moon was irritated, but didn’t ask further. Are there more here from the elder council or the other Seven Moons? They can’t possibly have not prepared anything after knowing how strong Hou Xiaochen is.

As strong as Blue Moon was... Violet Moon didn’t think much of him rivaling Hou Xiaochen. The man’s overbearing tyranny in gently stabbing Red Hair to death was still fresh in her mind.

.....

Li Hao had almost toyed the scarlet shadow in his apartment to death. It vanished when Hao Lianchuan returned. The young man didn’t go out to meet the deputy director. He’d had enough of seeing the man’s face for the day. He began compressing the ferocious tiger in his heart after the shadow left.

The tiger sword!

He wanted to see if he could turn this tiger into a fire tiger sword before tomorrow night!

Li Hao did not sleep again tonight. He kept trying to compress the tiger, but it was incredibly stubborn. It refused to be shaped into a sword even though it was on the verge of deformation. It was quite a headache for Li Hao as his auras couldn't be too disorderly.

If one was a sword, another was a tiger, and a third was a mountain, that would be disadvantageous for fully deploying their might. While that made them more comprehensive, a jack of all trades usually meant master of none. Yuan Shuo was very well rounded, and while he wasn't mediocre, he didn't hold much of an advantage when it came to pure offensive power.

Li Hao tried for a very long time this night. He compressed the tiger by a great amount, but was unable to create a sword. All he could do was squeeze the tiger into a more compact version.

.....

It was morning of September 6 in the blink of an eye. Li Hao reported to work on time, as usual. Traveling with Hao Lianchuan meant that he could bypass much unwanted attention along the way.

It was his third day in White Moon City.

Inside the car.

Hao Lianchuan glanced at the young man who had his eyes closed. The more the deputy director looked, the more he felt that the kid was different from two days ago.

"Li Hao..."

"Mmhmm."

"Be careful tonight!"

“I know.” Li Hao nodded. “How much time do you need before joining me, director?”

“Thirty seconds at most, ten seconds at the very least! You must guarantee your own safety within these thirty seconds. Otherwise... I’ll give up the plan! We don’t have to kill him, I just want to vent my ill will. We don’t have to do this.”

That wasn’t too fast. A fight involving powerhouses could be over within ten seconds. Hao Lianchuan being an initial Solar... or mid Solar now... wasn’t fast to begin with. He was better off with the Flaming Phoenix Spear, but it was still too long of an interval.

“That won’t do,” Li Hao laughed. “I’ve already arranged everything. Trouble won’t leave me alone if we don’t do it.”

“Then... make sure you know what you’re doing. Otherwise, your master won’t let me off the hook if anything happens to you!” Hao Lianchuan suddenly regretted his actions. Although he knew that the kid was bold and possessed some smarts, he suddenly recalled that the kid’s master was Yuan Shuo.

If anything happened to Li Hao, Yuan Shuo would certainly run him to hell for it, even if Hou Xiaochen didn’t. He abruptly regretted this chain of events, he should’ve stayed away from his impulses!

Li Hao, on the other hand, was very calm. He looked out the car window and breathed out softly. He hoped... that he would have the chance to deploy one sword stroke today. Just one would do. The tiger sword ardently wished to attack. Perhaps it’d be willing to be a sword once it vented some of its grievances!

.....

The southern quadrant of the city. Night Watcher headquarters.

Another quiet day began. All of White Moon was very quiet these days. Nothing happened apart from a few small problems. There weren't even conflicts above Sunflare.

Hou Xiaochen still did not appear and the other side didn't seem to be in a rush. They quietly waited for his return. No action was hastily taken just because they heard he was injured.

Wang Ming arrived early this day as well, but he was just here to show his face and check on Li Hao. He wasn't going to stay for long.

.....

Wang Ming clucked his tongue with admiration and envy as he took a tour of Li Hao's office.

"Old Hao is damn good to you!" His colleague had his own office!

A pity it was next to Manager Yu, though. Wang Ming even went to the trouble of keeping his voice down as he talked. Otherwise, he'd want to get a taste of what it felt like to work in an office. Having an office at headquarters was a mark of one's status.

Li Hao smiled without a word. He was polishing his longsword. The Earthturner Sword felt quite nice in the hand.

Wang Ming naturally knew that action might take place soon after he ran his mouth two days ago. He registered Li Hao's actions and winked at his colleague, eager and excited.

Li Hao raised his head and grinned at the handsome supernatural. After some thought, he transmitted, "The work day is over at 6 pm and I arrive home around 6:30 pm. Do something for me during this period of time."

Wang Ming wasn't surprised by the method of communication since he knew that Li Hao could transmit. He bobbed his head rapidly with anticipation, dearly wishing to be involved.

"There are seven surveillance cameras placed along the street from headquarters to the Inspectorate's family accommodations. I need all seven to stop working during this period of time and for no one to discover it. Can you do it?"

Wang Ming frowned and muttered, "That's an Inspectorate responsibility. It'll... be hard for me to pull that off. And maintaining it for half an hour..."

It was indeed a difficult proposal. Wang Ming thought some more on it. "I know what you want. I can only do that for a certain area and just a short amount of time. How about this, as soon as I hear or sense something, I'll barge into the surveillance office and knock the guards unconscious. I'll take all the tapes and destroy them. How about that? No one will care about it after the fact."

"Do you know where the surveillance office is?" Li Hao raised an eyebrow at him.

Wang Ming grinned widely in immediate agreement. Of course he knew!

"My friends and I used to race cars through the city and were warned a few times. We knew where it was after that," he murmured. This was a small matter, he wanted to be more involved. "Is there anything else I can do?"

Li Hao mused over the matter given how excited Wang Ming was. He nodded. "Buy dinner for me and wait for me to come back tonight."

"....." Wang Ming looked at him, speechless. He glowered and said no more. Are you even listening to yourself??

Li Hao chuckled and ignored his compatriot. Sunflares weren't worth much anymore. As strong as this fellow was, it was more than Darkmoons who wanted to move against him now.

## Chapter 318: A Fierce Battle! (I)

Time passed, minute by minute. Everyone went about their normal day. Li Hao went through his usual schedule—training martial dao, practicing his boxing method, and running through sword techniques.

Manager Yu was speechless at the continued disturbance next door. It was her first time seeing such a quiet, completely boring fellow. It wasn't that the Night Watchers didn't have these kinds of members, but that they were usually elderly.

Was the young man unused to his new environment, or was he always like this? Apparently, this was how he operated in Silver City as well. This kind of person was very uninteresting. While Hou Xiaochen was also a man of few words, that was his noble bearing to Manager Yu. When Li Hao was the same way, it was utterly boring.

.....

The eastern quadrant of the city.

A hotel.

The five supernaturals from the central region weren't all at the hotel. Hu Qingfeng had gone to the provincial government again and someone else was visiting the Silver Moon Division of the local military.

There were only two left in the enormous suite. There was Yu Xiao and there was a blonde man in his thirties. The two were drinking wine and chatting.

Yu Xiao glanced at the clock on the wall. 5:50 pm. There were ten minutes until Li Hao left work. The kid was a typical office worker who didn't stay a single minute past 6 pm.



“Ole Huang, this wine isn’t good enough. I smelled something extremely fragrant when I left the hotel yesterday. I’ll go buy some so we can continue drinking. This blasted place is so damn boring that I can’t sleep at night if I don’t drink.”

The blonde named Ole Huang laughed. “Have someone else run the errand. Is there a need for you to go in person?” That was such a trivial task!

“I’ll go. I forgot what the store was called, but I remember where it was. It’s not too far. Wait for me here, I’ll be right back.” Yu Xiao got up to leave.

“Why don’t I go with you,” Ole Huang chuckled. “I have nothing else better to do.”

Absolutely not! The last thing Yu Xiao wanted was to be tied to this guy. As a peak Solar, Ole Huang was stronger than him. Hu Qingfeng was the strongest out of the five, two were peak Solars, there was a woman at late Solar, and Yu Xiao brought up the rear.

Would anything be left for him if Ole Huang came along?

“It’s fine!” Yu Xiao waved him off. “Wait here, maybe Boss Hu and the others will be back soon. They’ll be annoyed to see that both of us are absent.”

“That’s true.” Ole Huang didn’t continue to press. “Just buy the wine, don’t stir up any trouble!”

“How can I?” Yu Xiao roared with laughter.

“I mean it,” Ole Huang emphasized. “Don’t think that no one’s aware of your little habits. If you really want that, just spend some money to have women throw themselves at you. Don’t go dipping into unsavory nonsense. This isn’t a region in disarray, there’s a big one holding down the fort here!”

Yu Xiao had certain unpalatable habits, such as sneaking into a woman's house and being up to... no good. He had a track record, but at the same time, neither were the Night Watchers quite so distasteful. Yu Xiao didn't dare indulge in front of others; he only did so in areas torn apart by war. He'd done so more than once, and Ole Huang was aware of his past deeds.

But Yu Xiao was strong enough and close enough with Ole Huang that the latter let things slide. He didn't report it to his supervisor as there was no future in these disorderly regions. Supernatural energy was an absolute mess there and no one would ever know who was behind the deeds.

"How would I ever, Ole Huang?" Yu Xiao quickly said. "Do you think I'm an idiot? This is Silver Moon, not a war zone!"

"Mmhhh, so long as you're aware!" Ole Huang said nothing further. Yu Xiao smiled and left without a word.

Old Huang furrowed his brows when the man left. This guy was in a hurry today—he'd looked at the clock more than once. This was White Moon City, the capital of Silver Moon. He wasn't thinking with his small head, was he?

Not completely at ease, Ole Huang rubbed his temples. A matter like this could be a severe one, it could also be a slight one. But once it was exposed, the Night Watchers were on the side of order and justice. Someone would be along to take care of Yu Xiao if his deeds were known!

The perverts at headquarters wouldn't mind casually killing or castrating him, to say nothing of anything else.

He can't be that dumb, can he? Old Huang stared out the window, deep in thought.

.....

It was 6 pm in the blink of an eye. The day was over.

Manager Yu heard a slight commotion from the office next door. The door closed, then locked. She listened silently from her desk, at a loss for words. How punctual! The kid was more accurate than an alarm clock.

He was neither one minute early nor late leaving from work. Li Hao lived like he was a preprogrammed puppet!

“The day’s over, see you tomorrow!” A beaming Li Hao greeted people he crossed paths with. Another day over and another day down. He’d spent the day tending to his own business at work and getting paid for it. What a lovely time!

Hao Lianchuan happened to be coming down the stairs at the same time, he nodded at the young man when they met at the staircase. Li Hao nodded back at him and continued down to the first floor.

.....

The young man exhaled noisily and beamed brightly when he walked out of the Night Watcher headquarters. What a beautiful day!

Across the way.

Someone had been keeping watch from this side recently—not secretly, but out in the open. Instead of Li Hao, they waited for Hou Xiaochen to emerge from seclusion. News would be delivered to various factions the moment the man showed himself.

When they saw the young man...

Someone drinking tea couldn't decide if he wanted to laugh or cry. "That kid—Yuan Shuo's disciple? I've been keeping watch for two days. He gets to work exactly on time and leaves precisely on time everyday. Not a minute late and not a minute early. He's more accurate than a clock! I only need to see him to know that it's 6 pm."

"This must be the self discipline of martial masters!" laughed another person at his table.

"Hahaha, probably. It's interesting, isn't it?"

"That's true, it's too boring over at the Night Watchers." A merry conversation circulated as they walked Li Hao leave. Everyone shook their heads. Where did this weird kid come from?

.....

Li Hao ignored the teahouse across from him. It was all small fry—balls of light so small they were nearly invisible. The Night Watchers knew of supernaturals on the lookout there, but no one cared. Various organizations had placed them there as scouts. They were permitted to remain out in the open.

Li Hao advanced, following the street. There was no danger for the moment as he was too close to headquarters. He'd have to walk at least ten minutes before running into anything.

He'd been scoping out the perimeter over the past two days and identified three spots where he was most likely to meet with danger on the way home. Given Hou Xiaochen's influence, the first spot was too close to headquarters. The second and third spots were more likely to see action.

The second spot was a small alleyway that saw infrequent passersby. It was roughly one hundred meters long and overlooked by tall buildings on both sides. They blocked the light, making it suitable for ambush.

The third spot was roughly five hundred meters in front of the family accommodations building. It was a parking lot that wasn't often used as there weren't many White Moon inhabitants with cars.

It didn't matter either way to the young man. Supernaturals were such a prominent ball of light that he would see them so long as he wasn't blind.

Li Hao passed by a stall of buns after a while; he decided against buying buns today. They might go to waste later. When he was more than three thousand meters away from headquarters, he saw several balls of light hovering around him.

There was one beneath the ground and one aboveground. These guys haunted him like ghosts that refused to depart the world. It'd been several days—who knew what was so fascinating about him?

Li Hao continued like he hadn't seen anything. The small alleyway was coming up in one thousand meters. Ordinary balls of light were impossible to make out from such a far distance, unless they were huge!

A smile crossed the young man's face. Yu Xiao sure knew how to pick his places! This was where the man had chosen for his ambush. It looked like he wasn't so arrogant as to think he could strike in a brazen way. Indeed, Li Hao identified a ball of light that belonged to Yu Xiao waiting in the alley.

Balls of light differed from each other; some were strong, some were weak. Given the different attributes, some took different shapes and forms. If he looked at them closely, he was able to determine which ones he'd seen before. However...

The young man frowned slightly. He knew that Yu Xiao was mid Solar, but there was another massive ball of light off to the side, less than five hundred meters from Yu Xiao. It was bigger than the man's—Li Hao regarded it warily.

There was another one? Who? Li Hao looked intently at the ball of light—it was stronger than Sun Yifei. Peak Solar? It wasn't as strong as Violet Moon or the Revolution King, but it was slightly stronger than late Solar.

To think that there'd be a peak Solar in the premises today!

It wasn't in the alleyway, but was a concerning development all the same. Five hundred meters was a distance that could be crossed in a few seconds by powerhouses. The unexpected development was perplexing and a bit annoying. Why were there two Solars present?

Fine, maybe what he'd said had drawn the attention of other powerhouses. Li Hao was quite resigned! A plan could never keep pace with changes in reality. He'd wanted to give the fight a shot himself even though he was alone. Could he battle a mid Solar? He was much stronger than before, so he ardently wished to give it a try.

But with an additional peak Solar... that was troublesome.

## Chapter 319: A Fierce Battle! (II)

At the same time.

Inside the alleyway.

A withered tree trunk had appeared amidst the quiet street at an unknown point in time. This was Yu Xiao's disguise. As a wood powerhouse, wood bending and hiding in wood was a basic skill.

He quickly calculated the time again—the moment was almost upon them. That kid should be coming soon. He would have the map on him, right? He should have it, based on Yu Xiao's understanding of the young man from the previous day. He'd refrained from retrieving it from Li Hao today because he didn't want to raise attention. Going to the young man two days in a row was too noticeable.

He would have to remember to hold himself back in a short while. It wouldn't do if he pulverized the boy in a few seconds. He wanted both the diagram and the complete corpse. Neither one could be relinquished!

However, Yu Xiao frowned lightly. Was that supernatural activity beneath the ground? An earth Sunflare?

That was quite irritating. These dirt rats were very annoying. Was this one following Li Hao or unintentionally passing by? Or was it protecting Li Hao?

No matter who it was, Yu Xiao decided that he'd have to kill this guy too if he was still there after Li Hao died. As for Yu Xiao himself, he wore a ghost face mask to conceal his identity. Someone else entered the short alleyway just as he rolled his eyes at the person in the ground.

The newcomer wasn't Li Hao.

"Are you sure he'll pass by here?" came a faint whisper.

"Of course, I've observed him for two days. He's on time to a fault. There's two more minutes, he'll be here."

"Are you confident? We must be fast—he's not weak as a half step Dominator. He's also Yuan Shuo's disciple. We can't think he's weak just because he's young..."

"No shit, we're both half step Dominators and old hats at what we do. The kid won't have a chance to react so long as we move fast enough."

Yu Xiao wanted to laugh from sheer anger. What the hell, why was there more? Two martial masters? And they were both half step Dominators. Did they have Li Hao in their sights too? Damned if the kid wasn't a hot commodity. Fine, he'd just kill a bit more when he was done with his main target.

The man's ears twitched as his thoughts ran rapidly—Yu Xiao's expression shifted slightly at a new finding. He could vaguely sense an aura in the area... He wasn't unfamiliar with martial masters as he'd fought them before. Yu Xiao narrowed his eyes and swept his gaze around the surroundings. His eyes darted upward; he seemed to pick up something there. There was no one in the sky, but there seemed to be something in the air over the alleyway.

A Dominator! Yu Xiao frowned ferociously. The fuck, what kind of winds were blowing today? Why were there so many people sticking their nose into this??

There was an earth Sunflare beneath the ground, two half step Dominators on the ground, and a Dominator in the air over this tiny alley. Dominators were known throughout the lands—which one was up there?

Of course, Yu Xiao wasn't afraid. He would only be concerned about a martial master like Yuan Shuo or one of the veteran martial masters who'd made their name decades ago. Otherwise, even a Dominator was the equivalent of a Sunflare.

He just found it odd. Had these guys all discussed it beforehand and decided to take action today? Why not any other day?

These bastards... The Dominator is the most annoying one. I'll have to take him out first in a second to make sure that he doesn't hold me back and ruin my plans! Yu Xiao cursed. He wouldn't have chosen this spot if he'd known about the situation beforehand. Granted, there would be nothing left for him to do but cry if someone else killed Li Hao. All he could say was that he had to help Li Hao resolve the threat of this Dominator first to ensure that his own scheme ran smoothly.

.....

Inside the alley.



Li Hao didn't sense the martial masters before he walked in, but he knew the second he set foot inside. There was a Dominator keeping an eye on him; the other two martial masters weren't worthy of consideration.

Weaklings! And a Dominator? So there really are martial masters with designs on me. They've got some nerve.

The two half step Dominators were pretending to be bystanders coming from the other end of the alley. It looked like they wanted to attack when they crossed paths with the young man. As few passersby as there were in the alley, it wasn't strange to run into someone here.

But with Li Hao's current eye for assessment, he could tell with a glance that these two martial masters had grasped the aura. At the same time, their auras were very weak, making them just half step Dominators. As for Yu Xiao—the rotted tree trunk in the alley was glowing so brightly that the young man would have to be blind to miss it.

There was also another earth supernatural in the ground beneath them. They weren't too weak either at late Sunflare. Li Hao then discovered another that even Yu Xiao didn't find. A ball of light hovered in the air one hundred meters over the small alley. It was probably a wind supernatural keeping watch from a high vantage point.

As Yu Xiao didn't dare easily release his mysterious power, he overlooked the existence of the last person in the sky. Li Hao judged it to be late or peak Sunflare, given the brightness of that ball of light. Solars weren't so common that they could be found by the side of the street, after all. Sunflare was already a notable existence.

So I'm treasure to all of them! Instead of being mad, Li Hao was quite happy. So many people care about me and came to escort me home. Who else gets this kind of treatment?

He continued forward. As short as the alleyway was, it wasn't long before he clearly made out the faces of the two approaching him. They chatted with each other, as if friends happening to take this way.

Whether it was Yu Xiao or the Dominator, there was no sign of movement from either of them. It looked like they were waiting for these two to take action first. On the other hand, Li Hao couldn't wait any longer. He picked up the pace, as if in a hurry to go home to dinner. The distance narrowed between the two parties.

Thirty meters... twenty meters...

Whether it was the Dominator above or Yu Xiao below, both tensed to spring when the three people were less than ten meters apart. The sword at Li Hao's waist vibrated slightly at this moment.

A split second! All that was needed was a split second—no shadow, no trace, no sound, no presence! The Ghost Shadow Sword!

Li Hao didn't wait to benefit from two parties fighting each other, there was no need! The Earthturner Sword instantly vanished and reappeared, slashing horizontally through the air!

Evening splendor still painted the White Moon skies at 6 pm. Radiance didn't filter into the alley because the buildings on either side cast shadows between them. The two half step Dominators continued forward, still brainstorming how to instantly kill Li Hao. Their throats suddenly itched and they wanted to cough. They were less than five meters away from the young man—they needed to make a move. When they looked at each other, they discovered something amiss. Why was there a line of blood on the other's throat?

Where had this strange line come from?

They turned to look at each other more fully, but their heads continued to swivel and swivel... until they felt lightheaded. Their heads toppled down from their necks!

Shock appeared in both of their eyes. There was no pain, this moment had come too swiftly! So swiftly that, when the line of blood expanded, there was no time for blood to spurt out.

Li Hao didn't look at them after he slit their throats with one stroke. There was no need! He sprang into the air with a powerful push of his legs and slashed forward, his sword brilliance as if a mountain and his move parting the firmament!

A wind supernatural one hundred meters in the air didn't have time to react before his scalp tingled with numbness. Mysterious power erupted and he wanted to run when a stroke cut him down from head to toe!

A sword stroke to sever the heavens!

The Dominator over the alley had wanted to stop the young man, but could do nothing but watch as Li Hao jumped over his head and vanished in the blink of an eye. He was still masked as he perched on top of the alley's walls, a dazed look in his eyes. He looked upward to see Li Hao slash through the firmament, sword qi running through heaven and earth!

It was over in a heartbeat and didn't raise much attention in the backdrop of a glorious sunset. The Dominator's expression changed drastically as he grappled with the situation and he manifested a dragon over his body with a roar. He brandished a spear and rushed the young man!

The Dominator wielded a spear!

The descending Li Hao answered with a ferocious roar of his own—Tiger Roar Through Mountain and Woods! It was thirty percent more aggressive and furious than previous. A mountain flashed out of the Earthturner Sword—the earth sword aura! A summoned spirit had emerged from his organ with its nurture aura!

Color drained from the Dominator's face—Summoner of Spirit??

Spear and Earthturner Sword collided. The massive dragon split into two after a loud snarl and the spear clattered to the ground in halves. Li Hao cut down his opponent with the sword in his right hand and his left extending in a punch!

Bam!

The Dominator's arm trembled after a momentous collision and it fractured into pieces. His spear was pulverized, his mind intent damaged, and he registered a punch coming toward him in a bleary haze.

A ferocious tiger roar split the air as a human watermelon exploded with a bang!

Li Hao ignored the results of his handiwork and stomped his foot. The earth trembled from his movement, everything happening so quickly that the earth supernatural beneath the ground didn't have time to react. The earth shook around him as Li Hao stabbed his sword into the ground.

Boom!

The earth split open as overbearing sword intent filtered into the ground, making straight for the earth supernatural. Only then did the latter sense the danger. He wanted to run, but infinite pressure seemed to bear down on him in all directions. He wanted to break through the pressure, but found that the earth itself seemed to be set against him.

Sword light flashed through his mind's eye—it was as if a mountain!

KABOOM!

A body split open beneath the ground!

Two half step Dominators, one Dominator, a wind Sunflare in the sky, an earth Sunflare in the round—five superhumans that counted as powerhouses—were executed on the spot by Li Hao's Earthturner Sword!

The withered tree trunk vanished, revealing a Ghostface. Yu Xiao heaved for air and reeled from shock. Li Hao? Was this Li Hao??

### Chapter 320: A Fierce Battle! (III)

Yu Xiao was too astounded for words! He'd been poised to make a move and was aiming for the Dominator first. He would then take care of the young man, but Li Hao had acted before he had a chance to!

He was at a complete loss and utter disbelief. Battle was over while he gaped with astonishment; everyone was dead. A broken body in air was falling to the ground. Too fast! Everything had happened entirely too fast, so fast that he didn't have a chance to collect his senses!

Li Hao didn't say anything when he revealed himself. Fire shimmered over the Earthturner Sword and the young man seemed to transform into a deadly tiger. A tiger roar shook the four corners!

Cornered beasts still fight!

Cornered beasts could still battle the heavens. Fiery sparks illuminated the alley and sky as Li Hao struck with his sword. His spleen and heart erupted with scintillating radiance. All he wanted to do at this moment was kill. There was nothing else on his mind.

Mid Solar?

So what!

There was no time for Yu Xiao to talk, ask, or think why Li Hao was so strong. He manifested a green wooden sword with a howl and rushed the young man. He had to attack—it felt like a mountain surrounded him and the earth would swallow him! Although he wanted to leave, it wasn't easy to manage at this stage.

Murderous supernatural energy exploded in the alley. Wood energy was very tenacious, but it could not withstand Li Hao's blow. It shattered when the sword struck; the defenses of mid Solar seemed so inadequate in this moment.

The sword stroke of severing the self floated up in Li Hao's mind, as did the struggles of the caged tiger from yesterday. Fury and madness appeared on the young man's face.

A tiger rages in my heart and my sword knows no return! All of you guys deserve death!

He'd felt only admiration, pity, and a burning desire to win in the fight with Sun Moxian. He hadn't felt such a strong killing intent. That had been a spar between martial masters, a fight to the death. These people in front of him did not deserve his respect or attention. What the hell were they worth?!

To sever the self!

Frenzied madness colored the tiger's howl as resolution supported it. The Earthturner Sword broke the wooden sword with a massive impact. Li Hao rushed forward, moving earth and shaking mountains.

Yu Xiao saw a bloodthirsty tiger, one covered with wounds. The Earthturner Sword exploded into hundreds of fragments, each fragment a killing move.

Pfft!

Countless fragments abraded Yu Xiao's face and body. Blood spurted out, wounds that were instantly healed by wood energy.

The Earthturner Sword had shattered. It'd shattered!

Yet, Li Hao didn't mind. Hong Yitang had said that the sword was powerful, but it was just satisfactory to the young man. It was to be expected that it couldn't maintain its integrity when used to deploy a blow at the Summoner level. Today, his sword intent was the primary focus, as was the tiger aura.

He utilized his hand as a sword next and punched like a tiger pouncing on prey. A tiger head reared at the tip of his sword. Li Hao didn't seem to be differentiating between his sword intent and tiger aura anymore. He dashed forward, instantly closing the gap between the two, and pounded with punch after punch. He was in such a berserk frenzy that repeated eruptions of Yu Xiao's mysterious power could not stop the blows.

Shock and despair filled the supernatural's eyes. How was this possible?! Was this still a martial master?? How could there be such strong martial masters in the world apart from Yuan Shuo?! Yu Xiao was a mid Solar, but had almost no room to counterattack in close quarters. Li Hao's battle style was so very similar to Yuan Shuo's in that when he occupied the advantage and took the offensive, that was the beginning and end of battle.

He either beat the enemy to death or died himself!

Bam bam bam!

A hundred punches were delivered in a split second, each stronger than the rest. The Nine Forged Force exploded with the last punch, bringing the taste of death to Yu Xiao. He snarled and concentrated all of his wood energy in his chest. Keeping his identity concealed was now his last concern, he didn't want to die!

He was a genius, a mid Solar. He sensed the terror of this punch! He could even sense a powerful presence drawing close to them. It was... Ole Huang!

Ole Huang is here! Did he follow me?

All thought went out of his head, he just wanted to live. Even if all of his secrets were exposed, he wanted to live. He cast his gaze behind Li Hao—Ole Huang was here. Peak Solar, save me! The colleague who'd secretly followed him would now become his savior.

Meanwhile, the man who'd just set foot into the alley looked at the scene with incredulity. He'd come very swiftly and rushed to the scene the moment that Li Hao's sword qi erupted. He was very fast, taking only five or six seconds in total. That included the time he spent reacting, charging to the alley, and now staring in stupefaction. That was all he'd spent!

He'd dithered with a slight bit of indecision because Yu Xiao seemed to have a plan up his sleeve. Would it be appropriate for him to appear?

Hence, Ole Huang had been slightly delayed, but only by ever so little.

In this moment, he saw a fist like a tiger's claws. It was also a sword, or a bit like the waves... What kind of boxing technique was this?? He only saw the punch shatter Yu Xiao's mask, break his wood energy defenses, and run the man through!

Yu Xiao's mouth opened and closed, as if crying out for help.

"Stop!" Ole Huang's voice finally rang in the alley. He was livid, fearful, and also furious. Was that... Li Hao?! He just killed Yu Xiao!

Indeed, Yu Xiao's chest had been punctured to the point where his heart could be seen. When it ruptured, Ole Huang knew that there was no hope for Yu Xiao. He wouldn't survive this even as a wood powerhouse. Death was his only outcome!

A mid Solar Yu Xiao had been murdered right in front of him! Rage built in Old Huang, as did shock and disbelief. Was this a disguised Yuan Shuo? Was it Yuan Shuo in front of him and not Li Hao?



Granted, he wouldn't be afraid even if it was Yuan Shuo. Yuan Shuo's best battle accomplishment was late Solar Sun Yifei, whereas Ole Huang was a peak Solar.

A body fell from the sky with a loud bam! Li Hao looked back at a blonde man that'd just entered the alley. That was the one he'd discovered high up in the air, a presence overlooked by Yu Xiao. He'd come too slowly, far more slowly than the young man anticipated. The body descending from the sky was the wind supernatural from earlier. It wasn't until now that the body fell to the ground.

Li Hao's fist was covered in blood—some of it his, some of it Yu Xiao's.

Drip, drip...

Blood dripped from his fist.

Ole Huang speared the young man with a sharp look of fury. "How dare you kill a Night Watcher!" he demanded harshly.

Hum!

Li Hao bounded up from the ground and rushed the newcomer. Peak Solar? That was very, very strong! But the fire in his heart hadn't been extinguished yet. Since a new person had come, he didn't need to bother leaving.

A sword appeared in Li Hao's hand—a small sword. It wasn't as lustrous as the Earthturner Sword. In fact, it was a bit tarnished—Stellaris. Blood and qi frothing, he infused the weapon with his mental strength.

The young man knew that in his regular condition, he was no match for this new opponent even after dominating Yu Xiao. He could at most match his teacher with one emerged spirit. It'd taken two emerged spirits for his teacher to barely kill Sun Yifei and he was heavily injured for it. The

newcomer absolutely rivaled Sun Yifei. Thus, Li Hao would have to bring out the Incantation of the Blade of Blood.

But... so what if he did?

The Incarnation erupted and turned Li Hao into a ferocious tiger prowling in front of a backdrop of blood red.

The fire heart ape? was Ole Huang's first thought. Yuan Shuo was most known for this move in his duel with Sun Yifei. But... why was this person a tiger instead? And was this the Incantation of the Blade of Blood that Yuan Shuo had used? The Night Watchers had record of this method, so was this person Yuan Shuo or not?

Li Hao arrived in front of Ole Huang as the man grappled with these two thoughts. He sneered. Do you think I'm Yu Xiao? A long spear manifested in front of him—a golden spear!

It stabbed forward with the cutting energy of the metal attribute. Countless holes pockmarked the walls on either side of the alley; the keen force nearly pulverized the structures.

Since Li Hao had sent his internal force into Stellaris, his own defensive capabilities were much reduced. Endless sharps of golden qi lacerated his body, dying his uniform a bloody red. The young man didn't care! As a martial master, the only thing on his mind at the moment was to kill!

He slashed his sword forward, the struggles of that caged tiger resurfacing in his mind. If you don't give me a way out, then I will not leave you a way to live either!

Humm!

Sword qi shot into the sky, but vanished as it was withdrawn just as quickly. Li Hao spat out a mouthful of sword qi and struck with Stellaris at the same time. The golden spear shattered with a bang!

When the Incantation of the Blade of Blood was combined with the indestructible sword, the terrifying power reached an ultimate peak despite Li Hao being weaker than his opponent. Sword light pulverized everything and pierced through Ole Huang's shoulder.

The man had never seen such a terrifying person before! And not just in terms of strength, but also in terms of density of killing intent and sheer violence...

There was no greeting, no identification, no hesitation, no nothing. There was only bloodthirstiness in the other's eyes, as if telling Ole Huang that to see each other was to kill each other. One of them would die, here and now.

Ole Huang managed to dodge slightly to the side, so only his shoulder was pierced. If he hadn't been able to do that, it would've been his throat that'd been run through. Every move was a fatal one!

He wasn't afraid, but it seemed highly likely that he would be injured if this continued. Heavy injuries were a distinct possibility and he might even die! Damn it, what did that bastard Yu Xiao do?! Was this person Li Hao or Yuan Shuo?