

Talisman 31

Talisman Emperor

Chapter 31: Li Huai

What abundant wealth!

Chen Xi picked up the inconspicuous storage ring and briefly searched through it, and he couldn't help but inwardly exclaim in surprise.

This storage ring only had a space of an area of 33m and was obviously not of high grade. However, it contained a pile of 3,000 spirit crystals that contained dense spirit energy, and it was exchangeable for an entire 300,000 spirit stones!

"This stupid cow actually stored so many spirit crystals. Perhaps it's for the sake of breaking through to the Violet Palace Realm in the future? Unfortunately, it's instead benefitted me." Chen Xi was extremely excited in his heart. Perhaps 3,000 spirit crystals were nothing to some of the great clans and institution in Pine Mist City, but to Chen Xi who was poverty stricken since young, this sum of spirit crystals was an absolutely astronomical figure. With these spirit crystal in his possession, he was completely capable of buying numerous magic treasures, spirit pills, martial skills, and even pay for all his expenses. He didn't need to laboriously rush about to bring home the bacon.

However, Chen Xi still didn't intend to leave his work as a spirit chef apprentice, because he'd promised the owner of Clear Stream Restaurant, Du Qingxi, long ago that within these three years, so long as he didn't leave Pine Mist City, he would absolutely not quit his job.

A man is nothing without his word!

To cultivators, destroying one's own promise for the sake of the small gain before one's eyes was no different from destroying one's Dao Heart.

Chen Xi still remembered that when he was four, the Su Clan who had a daughter betrothed to him since before he was born had sent more than 10 Golden Hall Realm experts to stand atop the sky as they tore his marriage contract to shreds before the eyes of everyone within Pine Mist City, then flew off after going back on their promise. Whereas his grandfather suffered endless mocking and ridicule. That humiliation and shame that was impossible to forget caused his young heart to suffer great harm and he was unable to forget it for his entire life.

And it was because of this that he cared and valued promises much more than others.

"Eh! What's this?" Chen Xi's thoughtlessly glanced at a corner of the storage ring, and he suddenly noticed a strange thing that was palm-sized. When he picked it up to take a look, he noticed that this was a black colored jade token that was the shape of a key, and three ancient words were written atop it — Nether Enlightenment Token.

Chen Xi could only give up after trying various methods and didn't noticed any peculiarity about this Nether Enlightenment Token, then he hid the storage ring in his pocket before looking at the color of the sky for time. He didn't dare stay here any longer, and he turned and left.

After 15 minutes.

Chen Xi had finally walked out of the Southern Barbaric Forbidden Area and returned to the dense forest.

Ji Yu who was dozing on the rattan chair slowly opened his eyes, his gaze swept Chen Xi and seemed to have already seen through all the secrets on Chen Xi, and he lightly laughed. "Your gains aren't bad."

Chen Xi thought about the various encounters of tonight, and he deeply agreed. "Only through a true life and death battle did I realize that I actually had so many inadequacies. If it wasn't for my good luck of encountering a stupid Violet Rhino greater demon, I'm afraid I would have been in danger tonight."

Ji Yu lightly smiled then picked up the azure skinned bottle gourd and drank too mouthfuls of the strong wine before smacking his lips. "This is the benefit of actual combat. It's able to allow you to clearly recognize your own inadequacies. Let's go. The sky is about to get light and we have to return."

As he spoke, Ji Yu casually waved his hand, and at the next moment, the two of them vanished on the spot, only leaving a strand of faint wine fragrance in the air.

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Li Clan Main Hall.

Numerous elders that stayed in closed doors had gathered together here today.

"Manager Wu, 30 of our Li Clan's elite guards with cultivations at the initial-stage of the Congenital Realm all died at the hand of trash that only knows how to craft talismans? Truly absurd!"

The one who spoke was a black bearded old man. Although he had an aged face, his skin was like jade and had a pair of clear eyes. His body emitted a dignified aura that was frosty and stern. He was Grand Elder, Li Fengtu, who had the most profound cultivation in the Li Clan.

Manager Wu knelt down with a 'thump,' and his emaciated face sweated profusely as he ceaselessly repeated with a trembling voice. "This old servant is useless, this old servant is useless..."

"One month ago, because the General's Estate's Luo Chong and the Pine Mist Institute's Meng Kong butted in, Li Han and his brothers died tragically in the Commoners District, and Chen Tianli's young grandson, Chen Hao, was about to leave Pine Mist City. I can forgive all of this."

"But, I'll absolutely not let today's matter go. For the sake of obtaining the Nether Enlightenment Token in the possession of Old Freak Violet Rhino, my Li Clan has spent too much! I can't bear such a failure, and the entire Li Clan can't bear it!"

Grand Elder Li Fengtu's voice was low, frosty, and stern; it contained boundless rage within. The atmosphere in the main hall became even more silent and oppressive, and no one dared make a single sound.

"It's all my fault, I've always neglected monitoring Chen Xi..." Li Yizhen felt as if sitting on a bed of nails, his forehead dripped with sweat and his expression was guilty and uneasy. He was without even a shred of a patriarch's dignified manner.

"Hmph." The Grand Elder snorted coldly, and his expression eased up quite a bit. "The blame for this matter isn't on you. For the sake of our current plans, we must seize the Nether Enlightenment Token as

soon as possible, before the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trails that's three months from now. Otherwise, once this matter is known by the Dragon Lake City's Su Clan..."

Dragon Lake City's Su Clan!

Even though it was just a mere five words, but it was like a heavy hammer that fiercely smashed onto Li Yizhen's heart, and his expression abruptly went unsightly, then he took a deep breath and gritted his teeth. "Don't worry Grand Elder, I'll reclaim the Nether Enlightenment Token even if I have to use all the strength of the Li Clan!"

Crack!

Right at this moment, the tightly closed door of the main hall was opened. All the elders present were enraged in their hearts. Who was so audacious as to dare enter arbitrarily?

Bang!

An enormous black silhouette crashed onto the ground, it was shockingly the corpse of the Violet Rhino that Chen Xi had killed.

"Old Freak Violet Rhino has been killed, that Nether Enlightenment Token ought to have fallen into Chen Xi's possession."

A tall figure accompanied by an icy cold voice that was indifferent, slowly walked in. He had sword shaped eyebrows and starry eyes, with hair that touched the shoulder, and he emitted a shocking killing intent as he walked with even steps.

Eldest Young Master!

He... When did he emerge from closed door cultivation in the Ancestral House?

The heart of Manager Wu that knelt on the floor couldn't help but go cold, and was even more afraid of raising his head as he knelt there.

This person was precisely the person reputed to be the Li Clan's genius figure that was rarely seen in a thousand years — Li Huai!

He started cultivating at the age of three, then advanced to the Congenital Realm at the age of nine, and attained the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm at the age of 13. After that, he went into closed door cultivation in the Ancestral House for four years. At this moment, since he'd emerged from his closed door cultivation, he'd surely had already established his Dao Foundation in one go to step into the Violet Palace Realm!

The rage in the hearts of the people present instantly vanished when they saw the person was Li Huai, and the elders all revealed slight smiles. In their hearts, Li Huai who was like a favored genius of the gods had already possessed the qualification to participate in the clan's discussions in the main hall.

"Father." Li Huai lightly nodded to Li Yizhen, then he sat down at the side, seeming completely indifferent.

A burst of gratification and pride arose within Li Yizhen's heart. With such a son, the Li Clan's glorious future was not far off from being realized!

"Old Freak Violet Rhino was killed by that Chen Clan trash as well? Looks like this kid has grown!" Li Fengtu glanced at the corpse on the ground and his voice revealed a trace of astonishment.

Manager Wu who knelt on the ground said hurriedly, "Grand Elder really has eyes filled with wisdom. According to this old servant's observation, not only has the qi refinement cultivation of that kid attained an extremely high level, but he's also cultivated a profound body refinement technique that has already advanced to the Congenital Realm. If he isn't killed as soon as possible, this kid will surely become a great calamity to our Li Clan."

Congenital Realm in body refinement?

As soon as this was spoken, everyone present revealed a trace of astonishment. Among cultivators of the same cultivation, the school of body refinement crushed all the cultivators of the school of qi refinement, whereas within Pine Mist City, although it was rare to see body refiners advancing to the Congenital Realm, their might was something no one dared look down upon.

"I'll go kill him right now!" Li Huai who sat there without moving suddenly spoke out, and heavy killing intent was contained between his handsome brows, seeming to be extremely repulsed and disgusted by Chen Xi's growth.

Li Huai's reaction seemed to have been within the expectations of everyone since a long time ago, and Li Yizhen hurriedly said when he heard this, "Huai, calm down. Chen Xi's marriage contract with the Dragon Lake City's Su Clan has already been destroyed. No matter how he improves, it would still be absolutely impossible for him to marry Miss Su Jiao."

"Father, the Su Clan had once promised us that the Su Clan's Patriarch would agree to marry Su Jiao to me on the condition that Chen Xi's cultivation is crippled and we pay the price of humiliating Chen Xi to death. Now that this kid grown successfully, if we still don't take any action, I'm afraid it will be too late." Li Huai who had an icy cold and indifferent disposition seemed to have become a normal person when he spoke about this marriage that hadn't been concluded.

"Huai is right, now that we can already be sure that the Nether Enlightenment Token has fallen into Chen Xi's possession, since it's like this, we should take action as soon as possible."

Grand Elder Li Fengtu pondered slightly then slowly said, "Manager Wu, where does this kid live now?"

"Clear Stream Restaurant."

Manager Wu hurriedly replied, "Since the assassination failed last month, that kid seemed to have noticed it was not safe and has stayed in the Clear Stream Restaurant ever since."

"Clear Stream Restaurant? Hmph! It's only a lousy restaurant that has good relations with the General's Estate. Yizhen, arranged for some people to capture that kid and bring him back here tonight. Kill anyone that dares obstruct you!"

Li Fengtu coldly snorted, then slowly said, "I want to let everyone within Pine Mist City know that death is the only end for someone who offends my Li Clan."

“Don’t worry Grand Elder, I guarantee to complete this mission!” Li Yizhen respectfully accepted the orders.

“Du Qingxi isn’t so easily bullied.” Right at this moment, a voice that was pleasing to the ear the chime of a bell which was accompanied by a delicate fragrance floated in from outside the main hall, seeming to give one an image of a delicate and graceful woman, and this caused the expression of everyone within the entire main hall to go grim.

Although the expression of the Grand Elder, Li Fengtu, didn’t change, but shock had arisen within his heart. Who? There was actually someone who was able to conceal themselves while eavesdropping from outside the main hall under my nose? What sort of level has this person’s cultivation attained?

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Chapter 32: Su Jiao

The answer was quickly known.

Under the gazes of everyone present, a young girl clad in an azure dress had a calm expression as she walked in with even steps.

She was comely with lovely hair that was fluffy like clouds, her sweet and charming oval shaped face was slightly raised, and her indifferent expression revealed a trace of arrogance that was unable to be concealed.

Li Huai was the first to recover from his shock when he saw this young girl clad in an azure dress, and abruptly stood up as he said in pleasant surprise, “Miss Su!”

At this moment, the other people present all recognized the identity of this young girl clad in an azure dress. Some of them were excited, some surprised, and some instead lightly frowned.

“Dragon Lake City’s Su Jiao pays her respect to all the uncles present here.” The young girl clad in an azure dress slightly bowed as she spoke in a pleasant voice.

The Li Clan elders recovered from their shock and all held smiles on their faces as they greeted her. After Su Jiao took her seat, the Grand Elder, Li Fengtu, suddenly asked, “Little Jiao, who’s this Du Qingxi you mentioned earlier?”

“It’s naturally the owner of Clear Stream Restaurant.” Su Jiao lightly smiled then sighed, “She’s a favored genius of the gods that’s famous within Dragon Lake City and the precious daughter of the Du Clan’s Patriarch. Even I don’t dare offend her lightly.”

What!?

The owner behind the scenes of the Clear Stream Restaurant is actually the Eldest Young Miss of the Dragon Lake City’s Du Clan?

Everyone present was shocked.

Dragon Lake City was the heart of the southern territory that covered an area of 500,000 km, and was akin to a capital city. Practically all the great clans and great sects that could be considered to possess terrifying strength within the entire southern territory were all situated there.

Among the numerous great powers, the eight great sects, the three great institutions, and the six great clans stood out exceptionally. The strengths of these great powers, and the abundance of their hidden resources and reserves were something that ordinary people were completely unable to imagine.

The Su Clan that Su Jiao was born in, and the Du Clan that Du Qingxi was born in, were both one of the six great clans in Dragon Lake City. Although the Li Clan domineered in Pine Mist City, when faced with this little girl, Su Jiao, that came from one of the six great clans of Dragon Lake City, they still had to maintain sufficient respect. This was the disparity of strength and hidden resources and reserves between their clans!

Dammit!

If it wasn't for the arrival of Su Jiao, my Li Clan nearly incurred a monstrous calamity... Li Fengtu felt a burst of extreme fear when he thought of the terrifying background of Du Qingxi.

"Uncles, all of you don't have to worry, and you don't have to make a move against a piece of trash from a shattered family anymore. According to my knowledge, Du Qingxi seems to want to foster him into a spirit chef and take him into the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials. At that time, I'll go in and seize the Nether Enlightenment Token from him."

Su Jiao's expression was calm and indifferent, as if she was speaking of an insignificant matter, then she lightly smiled and said, "I want to see what ability this fellow who was betrothed to me since childhood actually has."

"Miss Su, since you've come to Pine Mist City, then as the host, I'll accompany you to there." Li Huai said in a clear voice, and his eyes emitted undisguised and dense passion.

"Then I'll be troubling you." Su Jiao smiled as she nodded with an expression that was indifferent as before, and what she actually thought in her heart was unable to be perceived.

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Three months rushed by.

Chen Xi sat on the floor and slowly opened a book.

The book recorded his cultivation experience and the changes in his state of mind over the past three months. He'd started writing down his gains in cultivation every day since that day he killed the two-headed Violet Rhino greater demon.

The reason he did so was something that Chen Xi couldn't explain. It seemed to be because leaving his job of talisman crafting that he'd devoted himself to for four years had caused him to feel difficulty to adapt to it, so he kept wanting to pick up his talisman brush and arbitrarily draw and write for some time.

Actually, Chen Xi knew himself, that he still loved crafting talismans extremely. He loved the patterns of the talisman markings that he drew himself; and he loved the path of the talisman markings that were fine and profound, and were filled with beauty.

Now, all this instead appeared in the form of words in the book, and it recorded every little bit of the things on his mind that he wasn't willing to pour out to another.

I'm extremely happy! Senior Ji Yu commended me for my marvelously swift advancement. Actually, I know, if it wasn't for Senior Ji Yu's guidance, it would be absolutely impossible for me to attain the advanced-stage in the Heavenly Dragon's Eight Steps.

Tonight, when I cultivated the Chaotic Windsplit Sword Technique, I failed to grasp its essence and was unable to breakthrough to the advanced-stage after a long time. I felt extremely vexed and sat at the river bank as I stared on blankly. I recalled Chen Hao still being steadfast and relentless as he practiced his swordsmanship with his left hand. What qualification do I have to flinch and be vexed?

I've finally become a 2 leaf spirit chef. Qiao Nan and Pei Pei both commended me as a genius of the Culinary Dao. Old man Ma instead expressed strong disagreement. He said he's afraid he'd spoil me, and it was harmful to my growth... Haha! Actually, even though old man Ma's temper is strange, but his disposition is still quite cute.

Deep in the night, as I roamed in the Southern Barbaric Forbidden Area, I encountered a Congenital Realm Divine Beast, Herculean Yellow Ape. Its skin was like steel that was difficult to be injured by swords and sabers; its speed was like lightning, and its strength was boundless. Seeing myself unable to flee, I resolutely rose to battle. I was only able to penetrate its throat with my sword technique when my True Essence was exhausted and my body was heavily injured, and killed it on the spot. After experiencing this desperate life and death battle, the Grand Collapsing Fist finally advanced to the third level 'collapsing a rock into needles' and my sword technique advanced to the advanced-stage together with it. Truly worthy of congratulations. Senior Ji Yu joked that we should toast to it!

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As he flipped through the pages, he seemed to be able to see his emotion at that time, and the corners of Chen Xi's mouth couldn't help but curl into a slight smile.

Old man Ma pushed upon the door and entered, and said in surprise, "Eh, you're actually able to smile, kid?"

In his impression, Chen Xi was indeed like his nickname, Deadpan Chen, as his expression always remained without change. At this moment, when he saw the smile flash in the corners of Chen Xi's mouth, he couldn't help but be extremely surprised.

Chen Xi closed the book and asked, "I have to start training in the 3 leaf spirit chef culinary arts?"

"You haven't advanced to the Violet Palace Realm. You won't improve much if you learn it now." Old man Ma shook his head, then said, "I came here this time to let you know that Boss Du had something to discuss with you later."

As he spoke, old man Ma noticed the jade slip by Chen Xi's side with a glance, then picked it up to look, and he couldn't help but be astonished. "Chaotic Windsplit Sword Technique?"

"Yes." Chen Xi nodded.

There were 3,000 spirit crystals stored within the storage ring he obtain from killing the Violet Rhino greater demon. Two months ago, he'd taken out 500 spirit crystals and entrusted it to Pei Pei to buy this Chaotic Windsplit Sword Technique in the market.

The Chaotic Windsplit Sword Technique was considered to be a treasure amongst the intermediate-grade martial skill. The sword moves were famous for being swift and fierce like an agile venomous serpent and fluttering like the wind. After being personally improved by the spirit of the Manor, Ji Yu, the mere six sword moves had been completely changed, and its grade had become even better, causing Chen Xi to be extremely fond of it.

“Not bad, cultivating some sword techniques can be used to protect yourself.”

Old man Ma coughed dryly. “But Chen, I think your mind ought to be placed on the Culinary Dao. A youth who possess natural talent in the Culinary Dao like you is completely capable of attaining the highest level of a spirit chef, and shocking the entire Darchu Dynasty with his name. At that time, even King Chu would invite you to be his personal spirit chef.”

Old man Ma drew an attractive pie that was sufficient to excite any spirit chef, but Chen Xi was instead indifferent to it, because he had too many things he wanted to do and it was completely impossible for him to be a spirit chef forever.

“Alas, you properly think it over by yourself, I won’t force you. But if you have the chance, go participate in the spirit chef ranking competition that’s held in the Darchu Dynasty once every 10 years. Take it as fulfilling a wish of mine, how about it?”

Old man Ma patted Chen Xi on the shoulder as his face revealed a rare trace of nervousness and anticipation.

Perhaps, this is the long-cherished wish of old man Ma in his lifetime? This caused Chen Xi to recall his own grandfather. Even before his death, the old man yearned to be able to rebuild the Chen Clan, but unfortunately, he was killed before he could realize his wish...

Chen Xi’s felt sad in his heart when he thought of this, and he said with a staunch expression, “I promise you!”

Old man Ma was stunned, and after a while, he silently turned around and left. Only when he walked out of the room did he roar out in laughter, and his low and hoarse voice revealed boundless gratification and happiness.

If grandfather was still alive and he saw my cultivation advancing by leaps and bounds, he would happily roar in laughter like old man Ma right?

Chen Xi shook his head and tried hard to disperse the unrealistic thoughts in his mind, then he picked up the talisman brush and started writing something on a piece of blank paper.

Gulp gulp~

Ji Yu suddenly appeared within the Quiet Room, and he picked up the bottle gourd before sipping a few mouthfuls of wine, then he asked, “Finished writing?”

“Yes,” said Chen Xi, and he passed over the paper that was filled with lines of rough writing.

The words on the paper were divided into 4 categories.

The first category, cultivation section, Perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm in qi refining and 5th level of the Congenital Realm in body refining.

The second category, martial skills section. Grand Collapsing Fist has attained perfection in the unity-stage. Heavenly Dragon's Eight Steps has attained the advanced-stage. Chaotic Windsplit Sword Technique has attained the advanced stage.

The third category, weapons section. Azurebolt Sword, an ungraded Magic Treasure.

The fourth category, self-assessment of combat strength: Unmatched below the Violet Palace realm, however, the probability of winning when challenging an opponent with a cultivation that exceeds mine isn't great.

From the day he started cultivating in his movement technique and sword technique, Ji Yu had requested that he take a day's worth of time out for self-reflection by comprehending the changes in his strength and summarizing his combat experience.

According to Ji Yu: It's insufficient to talk about advancement without bitter cultivation; and without self-reflection, how could he achieve great things?

Chen Xi was extremely fond of this practice, as only by being adept in summarizing combat experience and conducting self-reflection could he be able to rectify his flaws and tread more steadily and swiftly on the path of cultivation. Moreover, these papers that he'd written his self-reflection on were kept by him like treasures and were compiled into a book that was named the Self-Reflection Diary.

Ji Yu ceased reading and made no comment, then he picked up the brush and added on a line of words on the upper side of the paper. "Soul, Perception Force stage."

Chen Xi took the paper in his hands and read it, and he couldn't help but be stunned.

According to his knowledge, the soul could be considered as the most mysterious existence in a person's body. The energy of the soul was profound and difficult to comprehend, and it could be roughly divided into 5 stages, namely the Perception, Perception Force, Spiritual Perception, Divine Perception, and Divine Sense stages.

However, the differentiation of soul energy wasn't strict. Some people were born with strong souls and were able to condense Perception Force when they stepped into the Congenital Realm, whereas the energy of the souls of some people had only formed into Perception when they stepped into the Violet Palace Realm.

At the heart of the matter, this disparity was mostly because of the lack of a soul visualization technique.

Without a visualization technique, one was unable to cultivate the soul and could only allow the soul to advance as their own cultivation advanced. It was precisely because of this that within the cultivation world, there was a centralized understanding that said Congenital Realm cultivators possessed Perception, Violet Palace Realm cultivators possessed Perception Force, Golden Hall Realm cultivators possessed Spiritual Perception, Golden Core Realm cultivators possessed Divine Perception, and cultivators at the Rebirth Realm or above possessed Divine Sense.

“The wonders of the soul is far from being as simple as you think. You been visualizing the True Body Brand that my Master left behind and perhaps you’ve already noticed, the strength of the soul is not only able to ceaselessly strengthen your comprehension ability, but it’s similarly able to be reflected in your cultivation and martial skills.”

Ji Yu lazily lay on the rattan chair as he explained in a light voice. “If it wasn’t for your strong soul, it would be absolutely impossible for you to cultivate the Grand Collapsing Fist to the unity-stage. Similarly, besides diligent and bitter cultivating, your strong soul played an immeasurable role in your movement technique and sword technique’s swift improvement.”

Actually, Chen Xi had already vaguely become aware of the greatness of the soul’s strength from talisman crafting and from his culinary arts. At this moment, when he heard Ji Yu’s explanation, he instantly felt enlightened.

“Looks like I have to pay even more attention to the cultivation of the soul in the future...” Chen Xi muttered, then raised his head, but noticed that Ji Yu’s figure had vanished, and he was still stunned by this when he heard sounds of the door-knocking coming from outside the room.

“Chen Xi, the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials is beginning three days from now. Come out, I have something to discuss with you.”

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Chapter 33: Disciple of Dragon Lake City

It was Du Qingxi who’d come. She seemed gentle and graceful in the black dress she wore that revealed the outline and curves of her body. She stood there beautifully outside the door with black hair that was worn in a bun, and wore no makeup, seeming to carry a type of icy cold and pure sense of beauty.

“Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials?” Chen Xi was extremely bewildered as he gazed at Du Qingxi who was outside the door. He’d grown up in Pine Mist City and he naturally knew everything about the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials.

Every three years, a bizarre space with an extremely unfavorable environment would appear within the Southern Barbaric Mountain Range.

Baleful qi billowed within the space that was devoid of any plants; a type of ash-grey gale blew within it all year long, and whether it was night and day couldn’t be discerned within the space. Most importantly, the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain’s spirit energy of heaven and earth had dried up, it was like an abandoned land that was devoid of life. This space was simply an existence that was like hell to cultivators who breathed the spirit energy of the heaven and earth!

However, after a thousand years of research and searching, people had a new understanding of the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain.

This space did indeed have no living creature, yet there existed a type of ferocious and bloodthirsty baleful beast with a strength that had roughly attained the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm. Moreover, there was a type of treasure called a baleful pearl that was concealed within the body of a baleful beast. Even though its usage was unknown, its value was extremely shocking.

There was once a cultivator who took a baleful pearl and headed to the capital of Darchu Dynasty, Silken City, that was 5 million km away, and a baleful pearl actually sold for a whopping price of 100 spirit crystals!

This incident instantly caused a stir in Pine Mist City when the news spread back. So when the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain appeared once again, practically all the cultivators in Pine Mist City swarmed over. The weird thing was that only Postnatal Realm and Congenital Realm cultivators could safely enter, and other cultivators would be obstructed by a shapeless force the moment they entered the borders of the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain.

It was precisely because of this that the various institutions and clans within Pine Mist City jointly launched the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials activity with the General's Estate. They encouraged the younger generation of Pine Mist City who possessed a cultivation at the Congenital Realm to participate in the trials.

On one hand they can obtain baleful pearls, and on the other hand the cultivators could temper their survival ability and live combat skills in the unfavorable environment of the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain.

Most importantly, numerous clans and institution used the number of baleful pearls obtained as a standard to test their disciples. Not only would those who obtained a high amount of baleful pearls be able to become a core disciple and enjoy resources that ordinary disciples were unable to hope for, they would also be able to obtain a considerable amount of wealth to help with their expenses.

Moreover, the General's Estate would send out an invitation to the top three people who obtained the most baleful pearls during the trial and invite them to enter the southern territory's Dragon Lake City's Darchu Soulguard's branch!

The Darchu Soulguard was an organization under the command of the Darchu Dynasty. In terms of how terrifying its strength was, there were rarely any organizations that could compare to it within the entire territory of the Darchu Dynasty. Of course, an invitation was only an invitation, and if one wanted to join the Darchu Soulguard branch in Dragon Lake City, one would still have to pass numerous tests that were extremely harsh. The difficulty of the test was not much different from the test to enter an extremely large sect.

"Baleful qi billows within the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain and its spirit energy is exhausted. Moreover there are numerous baleful beasts there, so staying within the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain would be accompanied by continuous combat. Besides bringing along large amounts of spirit stones and medicinal pills, there's no other way for cultivators to survive within."

Du Qingxi's words were succinct and chilly, like her disposition that was icy cold like snow, and it carried with it a trace of being beyond question as she slowly said, "I came looking for you for the sake of entering the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain to cook for me. I've already prepared the cooking utensils and ingredients for you. Now I'll take you to see two people."

"Wait! When did I agree to go to the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain?" Chen Xi frowned as he asked. He extremely disliked the feeling of being ordered around.

Du Qingxi said as a matter of course, “You’re a spirit chef apprentice employed by Clear Stream Restaurant, this is one of your duties.”

“But, why me?” Chen Xi continued to question.

“You’re the disciple of old man Ma, and your cultivation is already sufficient to enter the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain. Who else can satisfy this condition besides you?”

Du Qingxi seemed to be slightly displeased from being questioned and her beautiful brows frowned. “Stop talking nonsense. I won’t treat you unfairly after we return from the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain.”

As she spoke, she turned around and walked off, seeming to be disinclined to explain another word to Chen Xi.

“Forget it, I’ll just make the trip. I’ve wanted to experience how the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain is like since a long time ago as well.” Chen Xi thought for a moment and followed her.

Du Qingxi was correct, before he left Pine Mist City, he was still a member of Clear Stream Restaurant. Since he’d taken a wage from her, he naturally ought to undertake the corresponding duties.

Most importantly, practically every day during these past few months, he’d trained his culinary arts behind closed doors within the Quiet Room, and the value of the ingredients he’d wasted was sufficient to be described as an astronomical figure. Whereas Du Qingxi had never once asked for repayment from him, and this caused Chen Xi to feel slightly embarrassed. This was probably how it felt to be helpless against someone who you’d accepted and received something from.

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The rear courtyard of Clear Stream Restaurant had always been the place Du Qingxi cultivated behind closed doors, and its environment was quiet and refined. Ordinarily, besides some close servants, there was rarely anyone who was able to step foot here.

When Du Qingxi brought Chen Xi into the courtyard, there were precisely two young men waiting there.

“He’s Duanmu Ze from the Dragon Lake City’s Duanmu Clan.” Du Qingxi pointed at the white clothed man as she introduced him briefly and to the point.

Chen Xi raised his eyes to gaze over and he couldn’t help but be stunned.

Duanmu Ze was absolutely a man that was handsome, noble, elegant, and had a tall figure. He wore clothes that were whiter than snow and had a graceful bearing. His thin lips lightly puckered and his serious face carried a trace of a smile that was sufficient to cause war among millions of young women.

However, Chen Xi didn’t care about this, as what he cared about was the clan behind Duanmu Ze.

Even though Du Qingxi introduced him in an extremely casual manner, how could Chen Xi not have heard of the names of the eight great sects, three great institutions, and six great clans that’s discussed animatedly everywhere in the city?

All these powers had deep hidden resources and reserves, and the level of their ancientness could be traced back to over 10,000 years ago. They were far from something a newly developing clan in Pine Mist City like the Li Clan could compare to.

The Duanmu Clan was one of the six great clans, so Chen Xi naturally felt slightly surprised when facing a Duanmu Clan disciple like Duanmu Ze. He's handsome and energetic and is of good birth, this fellow is presumably extremely famous in Dragon Lake City, right?

"Qingxi, doesn't this person you found seems to be slightly unreliable?" Duanmu Ze raised his eyes and glanced at Chen Xi, and his brows couldn't help but slightly frown as he spoke with a flat tone that carried a slight oppressive tone with it. He truly couldn't understand why Du Qingxi would find a spirit chef apprentice to join their ranks.

In the eyes of Duanmu Ze who was born in a wealthy and influential great clan, even though the culinary arts of spirit chefs were great, chefs were only chefs in the end. Their status was essentially still of the same class as lowly servants, how could Chen Xi mix with himself and the others?

It was precisely because of this that even though Du Qingxi had instructed him about this matter earlier, and he'd agreed to not fuss about it. But when he really saw Chen Xi, Duanmu Ze still felt extremely displeased in his heart, as if Chen Xi's appearance brought disgrace to his status.

A mere few words caused Chen Xi's impression of Duanmu Ze to become extremely terrible, and he didn't care to greet and chat with Duanmu Ze. On the contrary, he instead hoped that Du Qingxi would say that he's unreliable as well. In this way, he could just leave and he wouldn't have to stay with this guy who was proud as a peacock.

However regrettably, Du Qingxi didn't act in this way, and she even didn't pay any attention to Duanmu Ze. Instead, her gaze moved and she pointed at the other young man before continuing to introduce. "Song Lin, from the Dragon Lake City's Song Clan."

Song Lin actually had a rather handsome appearance, but he obviously was an extremely indolent fellow. He had puffy hair and was slovenly dressed, and his eyes were slightly narrowed. His entire body seemed as if it had fallen apart as he lazily leaned on a large tree within the courtyard with a drowsy look.

Song Lin weakly waved his hand towards Chen Xi when he heard Du Qingxi introducing him, then muttered, "Oh, I've heard Qingxi talk about you, but wait for me to finish sleeping, then we can chat properly..." As he spoke, his head kept drooping and he once again entered dreamland.

As expected, the clan behind this Song Lin is similarly one of the six great clans.

As he thought about this, Chen Xi's heart jerked as he suddenly realized something, there was also a Du Clan amongst the six great clans, and Du Qingxi wouldn't be a Du Clan disciple as well, right?

There was an extremely high probability for this.

Birds of a feather flock together. Looking at the attitude Du Qingxi had when facing Duanmu Ze and Song Lin, they were obviously people of the same kind, but only their characters were different.

It's only an extremely ordinary Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials, yet it attracted the participation of three disciples of the Dragon Lake City's great clans. Could it be that there's some secret concealed within?

Chen Xi wondered in his heart and he suddenly felt that his trip to the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain this time seemed to not be as simple as he had imagined.

"Qingxi, you really want to take him along?"

Duanmu Ze couldn't help but be infuriated in his heart when he saw Du Qingxi ignore him, but his face still had a magnanimous appearance as he frowned and said, "I heard demon beasts roam freely within the Southern Barbaric Mountain range, and it's full of danger. If by any chance we encounter some unforeseen event, then wouldn't it be a harm to his life?"

Chen Xi kept silent, but he couldn't help but sigh in his heart. If you want to drive me out, then speak directly. Why do you have to find such a forced and laughable reason? These disciples of great clans are really so hypocritical.

"Are you finished?" Du Qingxi said with an expressionless face.

Duanmu Ze's expression froze, then he had a serious expression as he said, "Qingxi, I'm thinking for him."

"If you're finished, then let's go." Du Qingxi was still completely indifferent as she turned and left.

Chen Xi followed her when he saw this, as he wasn't willing to stay together with Duanmu Ze. Who knew what sort of displeasing words this fellow would say in his anger?

The light smile that hung on the corners of Duanmu Ze's mouth instantly vanished when he saw the two of them leave the courtyard successively, and his expression became unusually unsightly.

"Oh, let's go as well." Song Lin rubbed his sleepy eyes as he weakly yawned.

I won't let that kid off just like this. Duanmu Ze's face sank and forced out a line of words from the cracks in his teeth. "Let me see if Du Qingxi will turn against me for the sake of a lowly servant!"

[Talisman Emperor](#)

Chapter 34: Ictail Bee

Every three years, the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain would appear within the Southern Barbaric Forbidden Area.

If one wanted to find the entrance to the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain, then one must traverse through vast expanses of forests that demon beasts roamed in and enter the forbidden area. There was even a high probability that one would encounter a greater demon that stayed within, thus it could be said that killing intent was concealed at every corner and it was extremely dangerous.

Now, along with the upcoming appearance of the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain, the pedestrian traffic on the bustling streets of Pine Mist City was obviously a few times busier than before, and they crowded and bustled like a tide that seemed incomparably clamorous.

“Laurel City, Jade City, Sandrop City... It seems that the cultivators from all the cities in the southern territory have appeared. The Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials this time is simply an unprecedentedly grand occasion!”

“Well, who said it wasn’t? I wonder what the General’s Estate was thinking, actually tacitly consenting to cultivators from outside the city being able to participate. Not to mention anything else, but solely for the sake of fighting for the shockingly valuable baleful pearls, the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials this time will absolutely not be peaceful.”

“That’s true. But I heard people saying that most people seem to not have come solely for the sake of the baleful pearls. They seem to want to seek some sort of sword immortal’s abode within the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain. I wonder if it’s true or not?”

“Sword immortal’s abode? Pfft! Stop joking! The spirit energy in the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain is exhausted and baleful qi billows in the sky. Which sword immortal would be so bored as to build his abode there?”

...

All along the way, various discussions filled the streets, extremely alike to the strange atmosphere when a storm is brewing.

“The Southern Barbaric Nether Domain will appear tomorrow, and the entrance will only be open for six hours. So, we must hurry there overnight.”

Du Qingxi took out a jade-slip map when they walked up before the Southern Barbaric Mountain Range, then she briefly looked through it before saying with a serious expression, “Everyone, be careful. Demon beasts roam about within the Southern Barbaric Mountain Range at night and it’s extremely dangerous. Don’t let your guard down.”

“Don’t worry, Qingxi. Even if we encounter a Violet Palace Realm greater demon, the strength of the three of us would be sufficient to kill it.” Duanmu Ze lightly smiled as he spoke with a casual tone as if he was speaking of an extremely simple matter.

Kill a Violet Palace Realm greater demon?

Chen Xi’s heart shook, since this fellow dared speak so highly, his strength should have surely already advanced to the Violet Palace Realm, and Du Qingxi and Song Lin would presumably be no different.

But, aren’t Violet Palace Realm cultivators unable to enter the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain? Perhaps, they have a method to enter within their possession...

This question related to certain secrets and Chen Xi wasn’t familiar with the three of them. So, it wasn’t good for him to inquire further and he could only conceal it within his heart.

Darkness enveloped the sky and scattered stars studded the sky.

Looking down from the sky, countless streams of people were like rows upon rows of ants as they poured towards the Southern Barbaric Mountain Range, and a rough estimate put them at not less than 10,000 people.

“Eh, I’m not seeing things right? Duanmu Ze who’s reputed to be a genius level figure in the Dragon Lake City’s younger generation had actually come as well?”

“You aren’t mistaken, that person is definitely Duanmu Ze. He supposedly already possesses a cultivation at the 4th star Violet Palace Realm, and he might become the next successor of the Duanmu Clan.”

“Wow! So he’s the Duanmu Ze of my dreams. Sure enough, he’s as handsome and extraordinary as the rumors say, simply too handsome!”

...

Right when Chen Xi’s group of four intended to enter the mountain, someone nearby recognized Duanmu Ze and it instantly caused a wave of praise and surprised exclamations.

Duanmu Ze’s handsome face revealed a slight smile with a trace of complacency. He’d been accustomed to seeing such a scene in Dragon Lake City since long ago, so he didn’t think anything of it and smiled to Du Qingxi who was beside him. “I never expected to be recognized so quickly, these people really have nothing better to do.”

“Since they have nothing better to do, then let’s leave quickly,” said Du Qingxi with her regular expression that was frosty like snow, as if everything in the surroundings were unable to arouse her interest.

Duanmu Ze was stunned, then he shook his head and smiled, yet in his heart he was secretly extremely furious. This Du Clan little girl is too difficult to capture, could it be that she must drive me to use force?

He’d been chasing afar Du Qingxi all along, but Du Qingxi’s disposition was too cold, and he’d tried many different methods that all ended in failure.

To a disciple of a well-known clan like him, he could obtain numerous beautiful women if he wanted, but in the eyes of Duanmu Ze, those women were all just ordinary women. Within the entire Dragon Lake City, only a few people were worthy of him, and Du Qingxi who was born of the Du Clan was undoubtedly one of them.

Du Qingxi’s appearance was extremely beautiful and she was exceedingly intelligent. Most importantly, she was the only daughter of the Du Clan’s Patriarch. If he were to marry her, then not only would he obtain a beauty, but he would also be able to obtain the support of the Du Clan, and to Duanmu Ze, this was the result he wanted the most.

Because becoming the son-in-law of the Du Clan was equivalent to obtaining the support of the entire Du Clan, and relying on this assistance, Duanmu Ze had complete confidence in being able to ascend the position of Patriarch of the Duanmu Clan.

So, although he took a blow from Du Qingxi’s cold attitude now, Duanmu Ze would absolutely not put out his thoughts of going after Du Qingxi because of this.

But he was still slightly displeased in his heart, especially because Chen Xi was watching nearby.

This kid is probably laughing to himself that I think too highly of myself right?

Duanmu Ze glanced at Chen Xi but noticed that this fellow was absent-minded, with an appearance that he was daydreaming, and completely gave Duanmu Ze no opportunity to find fault with him. For a time, Duanmu Ze gnashed his teeth in hatred and thought inwardly, Once we enter the mountain forest, I'll fucking find an opportunity to properly deal with you, lowly servant!

The night grew darker and darker, like black ink had enveloped the entire Southern Barbaric Mountain Range. Waves of terrifying beast roars sounded from afar, adding an aura of slaughter that caused one's heart to palpitate.

When faced with this scene, even Song Lin whose eyes were heavy with sleep all the way couldn't help but open, and his gaze was shining with unusual brightness.

"Let me warn you. If you dare be a hindrance to us, then no matter what Du Qingxi thinks, I'll surely properly teach you a lesson first." A strand of a voice transmission entered into his ears, and Chen Xi raised his eyes to look over. Chen Xi saw Duanmu Ze looking over with a light smile on his face as if the words from before didn't originate from him at all.

When faced with this sort of disdainful and threatening provocation, Chen Xi chose to directly disregard it.

A hindrance?

At that time, I wonder who will be the hindrance.

When he recalled the scene of him hunting those ferocious and crafty demon beasts every night for the past three months, Chen Xi was instead filled with pity towards Duanmu Ze. So what if you're a Violet Palace Realm cultivator? Those demon beasts aren't weak, and they're all sinister and ruthless with a myriad of methods of attack...

After they entered the mountain, Duanmu Ze led the group for the sake of showing his gentlemanliness. His white clothes fluttered as he walked forward with a sword in his grasp, and coupled with that handsome and refined smile of his, he indeed was able to arouse adoration in most girls.

Du Qingxi didn't object to it, Song Lin had always sleepily and wearily followed at the back of the group, and it was impossible that Chen Xi would seize the limelight from this attention seeking Young Master.

So, all along the way, Duanmu Ze seemed to take himself to be the leading figure of the group. Chen Xi had suggested he change the path many times but was flatly refused by him, as according to the way he said it. "Even if there's no path, sword cultivators must still use the sword in their hand to carve out a path, and taking a detour isn't the way a sword cultivator does things..."

Chen Xi didn't say anything further, as since someone wanted to suffer misfortune, then no one would be able to stop the person.

After that, at a place in the forest that was luxuriant with flowers and trees, a swarm of Icetail Wasps surged out as Chen Xi expected.

As a 4th star Violet Palace Realm sword cultivator, Duanmu Ze was naturally unafraid of these little things, and he drew his sword right away. As sword lights splashed out, swift and fierce sword qi seemed

as if they were shot out from bows, and within a blink of an eye, more than 100 Icetail Bees were instantly annihilated.

“So it’s a swarm of little bees, truly a disappointing opponent.” Duanmu Ze had a complacent expression as he sighed with emotion. At the moment he intended to put away his sword, his expression suddenly froze and his eyes revealed a sense of astonishment.

Numerous red and swollen lumps appeared on the skin of his face and hands, and his handsome face even became like roasted pig head. It was so horrible that one could hardly bear to look at it.

“Ah!” Duanmu Ze emitted a miserable shrill cry, as the severe itchiness on his skin that was difficult to endure caused him to be unable to take care of his bearing, and his hands fiercely scratched his face.

“What’s going on?” Du Qingxi was shocked inwardly, and she was extremely bewildered in her heart when she saw Duanmu Ze scratching his itch in an unsightly manner.

“Oh, Brother Duanmu, are you utilizing monkey boxing?” Song Lin opened up his drowsy eyes and muttered, “I remember that you hate monkey boxing the most. You said that its posture is too ugly and it affects aesthetics and bearing.”

“Even though he killed the Icetail Bees, his face and hands were stung by the stingers of the Icetail Bees. That’s why it’s so itchy and unbearable.” Chen Xi frowned as he spoke, yet in his heart, he was instead extremely pleased.

These Icetail Bees were the size of a thumb and were fully black. Their stingers were fine like the hair of a cow and crystal clear. When the stinger plunged into the skin of a person, it was like ice merging into water and was impossible to guard against. Moreover, the poison would instantly invade the blood and cause red swellings that were itchy and unbearable to appear on the skin.

“Since you knew, then why didn’t you say so earlier?” Du Qingxi coldly glanced over and spoke with a slight blaming tone.

“I advised him, but he said that as a sword cultivator, he must use the sword in his hand...”

Not waiting for Chen Xi to finish, the far away Duanmu Ze who was scratching his itch suddenly roared. “Kid, shut up!”

“Let’s go, I’m alright.” Duanmu Ze breathed heavily for a while, then forcefully endured the itchiness on his body as he stood up, and his body trembled as he walked forward.

“Alas, Brother Duanmu cares about bearing the most. In Dragon Lake City, Brother Duanmu would undoubtedly be number one in terms of bearing. Now that his appearance has become like this, he surely doesn’t feel well in his heart, right?” Song Lin lazily sighed, and his gaze wittingly or unwittingly glanced at Chen Xi, then his eyes drooped as he once again fell into a sleepy state.

“Oh, if I knew earlier that he was so afraid of itchiness, I ought to have advised him once more, and all this wouldn’t have happened,” said Chen Xi with an innocent expression.

When this entered Duanmu Ze’s ears, it caused the malicious flames in his heart to rise explosively. Especially when he thought of his unsightly manner fully entering Du Qingxi’s eyes, he was angered to the point he spat out a mouthful of blood, and he roared in his heart. Motherfucker! This fellow is surely

doing it on purpose! He didn't warn me properly but is deliberately giving sarcastic remarks now! You just wait! I'll surely fucking teach you a lesson!

"Young Master Duanmu, there are still some demon beasts that can't be considered to be formidable ahead, should we take a detour?" Chen Xi seemed as if he'd been moved by conscience and asked in concern.

Duanmu Ze's body froze, then he replied fiercely, "Thank you, but there's no need!"

As he spoke, seemingly for the sake of venting the rage in his heart, Duanmu Ze quickened his pace. The sword in his hand ceaselessly waved about, and the vines and grass that obstructed his way were instantly transformed into ash.

"You seem to be extremely familiar with this place?" Du Qingxi frowned as she asked.

Chen Xi nodded. "I've previously come here for a period of time."

"Then why don't you lead the way?" Du Qingxi questioned closely.

Chen Xi gazed at the far away Duanmu Ze and didn't say anything, but what he meant was thoroughly revealed.

"You lead the way after this." Du Qingxi said with an irrefutable tone.

"Okay!" Chen Xi nodded.

AH~

Right at this moment, Duanmu Ze's sad and shrill scream once again sounded out from afar, and his voice revealed boundless rage and terror, seeming to have encountered some sort of terrifying thing.

[Talisman Emperor](#)

Chapter 35: Gather

This fellow has surely encountered the Bubble Rat swarm.

Chen Xi wasn't surprised in the slightest when he heard Duanmu Ze's shrill cry because there was a soft bog just 33m ahead, and a swarm of rat type demon beasts that were the size of a fist lived underground.

Bubble Rats moved beneath the ground with speeds that were swift like the wind, their bodies were like blown up bubbles and which were filled with rotten smelling dark-green poison. Although the toxicity wasn't high, when spurted onto a person's body, that rotten stench was absolutely able to cause one to go mad.

Most importantly, Bubble Rats were extremely short tempered, and when they encountered an enemy, these disgusting and ugly little things would collectively choose to self-explode. The dark-green colored liquid that exploded out from their bellies was virtually like a rainstorm that blotted out the sky and was impossible to avoid.

"This..." Du Qingxi simply couldn't believe her eyes when she saw Duanmu Ze, he seemed as if he'd been thrown into and soaked in a dye vat. His hair, skin, clothes that were white like snow... they were all fully smeared with dark-green liquid, and he looked like an extremely ugly toad demon.

If they hadn't seen it with their own eyes, it was absolutely difficult to imagine how the person before them was the handsome and refined Duanmu Ze who wore white clothes that fluttered in the wind.

A gust of wind blew over, and a nauseating rotten stench instantly filled every corner of the area.

"So disgusting." Song Lin was suffocated by the rotten stench in the air to the point he was completely devoid of sleepiness, and he covered his nose as he repeatedly moved back.

"He isn't in danger, right?" Du Qingxi frowned and asked.

Chen Xi shook his head. "He's fine, just a little smelly."

Blargh~

Du Qingxi was suffocated to the extent she nearly vomited, she didn't hesitate as she moved far off right away, then said, "Duanmu, quickly change your clothes and leave this place."

"You all... How can you all be like this!?"

Duanmu Ze's eyes opened wide as he looked at Du Qingxi and Song Lin who stayed far away from him in dejection, and his voice revealed dense patheticness that made him seem like an abandoned widow.

"Young Master Duanmu, I already warned you earlier, but you didn't listen to me... Alas, you should hurry up and change your clothes, it's really extremely smelly." Chen Xi shook his head then turned around and left.

Duanmu Ze seemed as if he was struck by lightning, and he was stunned for a short moment before he let out an exceedingly furious low howl.

Chen Xi, you absolutely did it on purpose, on purpose!

I'll fucking kill you!

Duanmu Ze was angered to the point he started breathing heavily, but he nearly fainted at the instant he smelt the stench on his body, and a wave of explosive rage once again broke out in his heart as he completely hated Chen Xi to the bones.

When Duanmu Ze appeared once again, he'd already recovered his handsome appearance, but his expression was extremely gloomy as he stared at Chen Xi with a murderous gaze.

It looks like I've already seriously offended this fellow, but so long as Du Qingxi is here, I presume he wouldn't dare secretly make a move against me. Chen Xi shook his head and directly disregarded Duanmu Ze's gaze as he walked forward.

Duanmu Ze was silent all along the way, and under Chen Xi's lead, no other accidents occurred again.

Du Qingxi followed from behind and the surprise in her heart grew deeper and deeper. Along the way, they'd encountered some formidable demon beasts more than once, but Chen Xi seemed as if he had foresight and would bring their group to carefully circumnavigate around it to safely get by every time.

She had to admit that she'd indeed look down upon Chen Xi because it was occasionally even difficult for her to notice those demon beasts that were adept in concealment.

Whereas in the heart of Duamu Ze, Chen Xi's display of understanding the surrounding environment like the back of his hand caused Duanmu Ze to deem that everything that happened earlier was something Chen Xi intentionally did to cause him to make a fool of himself. For a time, the hatred Duanmu Ze had towards Chen Xi was simply to the extent it was like a deep ravine, and if it wasn't for Du Qingxi being present, he would absolutely kill Chen Xi at the first possible moment.

When daybreak was at hand, Chen Xi's group had finally passed through the forest that was like a screen of nature and entered into the Southern Barbaric Forbidden Area to appear before an enormous lake.

Chen Xi naturally recognized that this vast and boundless lake was called Spiritcave Lake, as the first Congenital Realm greater demon he'd killed with his own two hands was precisely the two-headed Violet Rhino that had cultivated for thousands of years and stayed at the center of the lake.

At this moment, no less than tens of thousands of cultivators had already gathered by Spiritcave Lake, and wherever his gaze went, it was dense with people. Noisy sounds of discussion rose and fell, and it seemed to be extremely bustling.

"The entrance to the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain wouldn't be atop Spiritcave Lake right?" Chen Xi looked at the far away crowd and felt slightly surprised.

"You don't know?" Du Qingxi seemed to be even more surprised than Chen Xi.

Chen Xi shook his head. "I've never participated in the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials and I've never paid attention to the information about this."

"Ha! As a disciple of Pine Mist City, you've actually never even participated in the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials. You're really pitiable." Duanmu Ze cut in with a tone that revealed intense disdain.

Chen Xi glanced at the fellow then said indifferently, "Although I haven't entered the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain before, I understand how to traverse the southern barbaric mountain forest."

Understand how to traverse the southern barbaric mountain forest...

Duanmu Ze was stunned then he recalled his encounter with the Icetail Bees and Bubble Rats. It was as if a scar in his heart was torn open, and his expression instantly became extremely gloomy as he said word for word, "I hope your cultivation is as formidable as your mouth, you'd better not die in the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain."

These words were equivalent to thoroughly and openly breaking the relations between him and Chen Xi.

Du Qingxi frowned as she glanced at the two of them before saying coldly, "Enough! If the two of you are still going to be like this when we enter the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain, then please leave now!"

Duanmu Ze curled his lips but said no more, he was obviously afraid Du Qingxi would send him packing.

Chen Xi wished for nothing more than to leave, but when he saw Du Qingxi's extremely icy cold expression and recalled the three-year agreement he'd signed with her, he instead hesitated to speak.

Their group hastened their pace and after tens of minutes, they'd appeared in the empty space by Spiritcave Lake.

Only after they approached did Chen Xi notice that all these cultivators were mostly gathered in groups of three or five, and they all held weapons in their embrace as they stood there with vigilant expressions. Obviously, within the extremely dangerous Southern Barbaric Nether Domain, although they were all competitors, for the sake preventing those formidable demon beasts from rushing out, everyone took the same decision to gather together.

After all, the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain hadn't appeared yet, and it wasn't the time to openly offend each other to seize the baleful pearls.

The appearance of Chen Xi's group attracted the attention of most of the people in the surroundings. The reason was extremely simple, the handsome Duanmu Ze standing there was like a flag. So long as it was a cultivator that had lived in Dragon Lake City, how would they be unable to recognize that this young man of extraordinary bearing was the outstanding figure from the Duanmu Clan's younger generation, Duanmu Ze?

"So it's Young Master Duanmu!"

"AH! Young Master Duanmu has come as well!"

"Young Master Duanmu, I never expected I would be able to see you here!"

...

All along the way, the sounds of greeting Duanmu Ze ceaselessly lingered in their ears, and the gazes that originally held slight hostility to Chen Xi's group had been withdrawn. The name of the Duanmu Clan was so great that it could be considered as a colossus in the entire southern territory, and ordinary cultivators didn't have the courage to offend the Duanmu Clan.

At this moment, Duanmu Ze's face revealed a wisp of his usual slight smile that revealed sufficient pride within his complacency, and relying on the blinding halo above his head, their group of four smoothly picked an extremely good spot.

Chen Xi couldn't help but sigh with emotion in his heart when he saw this. Just the name of the clan is able to make such an effect. Those clans with ancient hidden resources and reserves do indeed deserve their reputation for being able to survive until now.

Duanmu Ze's mood seemed to be much better after being flattered by the surrounding people, then he glanced at Chen Xi who sat cross-legged and said with a frown, "Hey! You're a spirit chef that's really not up to standard, can't you see that everyone's walked for an entire night?"

Chen Xi directly disregarded the fellow and looked at Du Qingxi. "Do you need to eat something?"

Du Qingxi thought for a moment then nodded. When she walked out of the forest, she wore a black veil on her head that was able to cut off being observed by the energy of the soul, and it covered her appearance, causing others to be unable to see her expression.

Only now did Chen Xi stand up, he withdrew some ingredients from his storage ring before igniting a spirit flame and started cooking.

This storage ring was given to him by Du Qingxi when they left Clear Stream Restaurant, within it was an entire 330m of space that was piled with hills of ingredients. If they ate sparingly, it would be sufficient for a few people to eat for two to three years.

Duanmu Ze didn't mind in the slightest when being ignored by Chen Xi, as being able to make Chen Xi cook under the gazes of everyone present had already achieved his goal.

He wanted everyone to know that Chen Xi was only a spirit chef of low status that followed by his side, and wasn't like how it seemed on the surface, a friend that could be conversed with.

At this moment, when he saw Chen Xi starting to cook, Duanmu Ze couldn't help but start anticipating. This mood of this fellow at this time is surely extremely unpleasant, right?

However, what disappointed Duanmu Ze was that although the surrounding people frequently shot over gazes of surprise, bewilderment, enlightenment, and disdain, Chen Xi's expression remained the same from the beginning until the end.

Not long after, a pot of Hundred Treasures Porridge that was cooked from over 100 types of spirit fruits mixed with five cereal spirit grains¹ was ready, and an enticing fragrance of porridge brought along traces of fresh fruity smell as it curled upwards and drifted to the surroundings.

Grrr~ Grrr~

Sounds of stomachs growling echoed out from the surroundings. Most of the cultivators here were all around the Congenital Realm and were still unable to survive on spirit energy like Violet Palace Realm cultivators, so they brought along dried rations when they came here. But when they smelt the delicious fragrance of the porridge that was fresh out of the pot, who wouldn't covet it? Even their stomachs wouldn't agree if they did!

"Young Master Duanmu is really someone that ordinary people can't compare to, he even brought a spirit chef when he came out for a trip. This quality of living is truly enviable!"

"Of course! Just by smelling the fragrance of that porridge, you can absolutely know that youth is at least at the standard of a 2 leaf spirit chef!"

...

Duanmu Ze felt even happier in his heart when he heard this, and he picked up a white napkin and covered his leg with a complacent expression, then he instructed. "Fill a bowl of porridge for me."

Chen Xi was holding a bowl of porridge and eating, and he muttered in reply, "There's no more."

There was indeed no more, after giving Du Qingxi and himself a bowl each, a large bowl was taken by Song Lin who was like the reincarnation of a hungry ghost, and the bottom of the pot had already been scraped clean.

Duanmu Ze lowered his head and gazed at the napkin that he'd prepared on his leg, then looked at the empty pot, and his expression constantly changed and was incomparably brilliant.

"Oh, this porridge is good. What's rare is it has an entirely different taste and is not one bit inferior to the head spirit chef at my home." Song Lin gulped down large mouthfuls of porridge with a face of intoxication and satisfaction, and would occasionally emit a slurping sound.

"This porridge is surely something he developed himself. It has a sweet taste and glutinous texture that's different from normal, and it contains pure spirit energy that is condensed and doesn't dissipate until it's been eaten. It's indeed not bad." Du Qingxi nodded as she judged.

Duanmu Ze's expression went even more unsightly when he saw the two of them didn't have any intention of supporting him and were instead evaluating the taste of the Hundred Treasures Porridge with great interest.

"Eh! That's..."

Right at this moment, a commotion arose in the crowd and the gazes of everyone shot towards the distance.

Du Qingxi raised her head and glanced over before withdrawing her gaze, and she said with a calm expression, "So it's that girl from the Su Clan. I knew she wouldn't miss the opportunity this time."

Su Clan?

Chen Xi's heart abruptly shook tremendously, and he quickly raised his head.

1. The five cereals represents rice, beans, wheat, and two types of millet.

[Talisman Emperor](#)

Chapter 36: Numerous Experts

Su Clan!

A mere two words caused the hatred and rage that had accumulated within Chen Xi's heart for many years to be instantly lit ablaze.

The scene from he was four years old was still vivid in his mind. 13 Su Clan Golden Hall Realm cultivators tore apart the marriage contract between him and the Su Clan's Young Miss before the eyes of everyone in Pine Mist City.

He still remembered the emotionless and icy cold mocking and ridicule of those Su Clan Golden Hall Realm cultivators.

He still remembered that when his grandfather saw the marriage contract being torn in pieces that flew about in the sky, his grandfather's aged face revealed an expression of pain and despair.

Furthermore, his grandfather had died miserably outside the city gate three months ago, and the Soundsaver Talisman Chen Hao gave him even allowed Chen Xi to deduce that perhaps the one responsible for assassinating his grandfather might be the Li Clan, but the one behind the scenes that were truly responsible was absolutely the Su Clan.

Chen Xi didn't know the reason behind it, but he knew that his grandfather had died in the hands of the Su Clan, and this was already sufficient!

"What's wrong with you?" Du Qingxi perceptively noticed that Chen Xi's aura seemed to become restless.

Chen Xi took a deep breath and awoke from his monstrous hatred, then shook his head.

Shriek!

It was the crack of dawn and rows of clouds that were like fish scales floated atop the sky. Extremely far in the distance, accompanied by a long and clear cry of a crane, the clouds and mist seemed to have been dispersed by an awl. An extraordinary and robust white crane flapped its wings, and as it broke through the clouds and approached with an extremely swift speed.

Whoosh!

In practically the blink of an eye, a white crane that was fully snow white like jade appeared in the sky above everyone, and it fluttered its wings as it let out a clear cry.

The gazes of everyone gathered onto the white crane at the first possible moment, and a young girl in a black dress that had an incomparably delicate and charming appearance stood there with her hands behind her back. She had lovely hair that was fluffy like clouds and an elegant figure, and that disposition of hers that seemed like she would be blown away by the wind caused many people to be secretly enchanted.

Song Lin laid on the floor and lazily opened his eyes, and he glanced at the young girl that rode atop the white crane before lightly muttering, "Oh, Duanmu, your Miss Su has arrived."

Duanmu Ze glanced at Du Qingxi who was beside him and the corners of his mouth twitched, and he furiously howled in a low voice. "What do you mean by my Miss Su? What relationship does she, Su Jiao, have with me?"

Song Lin curled his lips in contempt, and Song Lin was just about to say something when Duanmu Ze extended his hand to cover Song Lin's mouth, then Duanmu Ze smiled embarrassedly to the nearby Du Qingxi. "This fellow is sleep talking again."

Du Qingxi paid no attention to Duanmu Ze's explanation. On her beautiful face that was covered beneath her veil, her pair of deep and starry eyes continuously looked at Chen Xi, and her beautiful brows slightly frowned and seemed to have thought of something.

At this moment, Chen Xi had his head lowered, causing others to be unable to see his expression. But under Du Qingxi's close gaze, she still noticed the slight trembling of his body, and he seemed to be forcefully suppressing the violently fluctuating feelings in his heart.

“At the moment Su Jiao appeared, his mind became unusually disordered, could it be... Right! The girl Chen Xi was betrothed to that year is surely Su Jiao without a doubt!”

A flash of wisdom appeared within Du Qingxi’s mind, she recalled the various rumors about Chen Xi in Pine Mist City, and finally understood what was going on. She couldn’t help but faintly sigh in her heart. His marriage contract was torn to shreds by the Su Clan before the eyes of everyone. Perhaps, until today, he hasn’t released such a blow from his heart?

“It’s the Eldest Young Miss of the Dragon Lake City’s Su Clan!”

“Ah! So she’s the Miss Su that’s one of the twin prides of Dragon Lake City? No wonder she’s so beautiful!”

“Hmph! She’s more than beautiful! Miss Su’s cultivation is extremely extraordinary, otherwise, how could she become eminent within Dragon Lake City where experts are as numerous as the clouds and obtain the distinction of being one of the twin prides of Dragon Lake City in one go?”

...

At this moment, everyone by Spiritcave Lake recognized Su Jiao’s identity, and the discussion didn’t lack exclamations of shock, admiration, and adoration.

In mid-air, Su Jiao had an indifferent expression, as if she didn’t feel the ferventness of everyone below, and she shot her gaze towards the distance.

Gradually, everyone was attracted by her actions, and their gazes shot towards the same direction in succession.

“Hahaha! I’ve kept Miss Su waiting!” After a short moment, accompanied by a loud laughter that was like a thunderclap, a blood red light whistled out from deep within the cloudy sky, and a ferocious imposing manner instantly filled the heaven and the earth.

The hearts of everyone shook as they felt this formidable imposing manner that was arrogant and unruly, and their expressions fluctuated between surprise and bewilderment.

The blood red light swiftly came to a stop and only now did everyone clearly see the appearance of the person. This person wore a black robe with gold embroidery, he had a wide chest and broad nose, and thick long hair hung down to his shoulders. He stood atop a sword that was dark red like fresh blood, and a fierce and unruly imposing manner shot into the sky as he openly declared his strength to everyone.

“Redlotus Bloodsoul Sword! He’s the Little Sword Devil, Cang Bin! The sword cultivating genius of the Dragon Lake City’s Cang Clan!”

Someone exclaimed in surprise, and it instantly caused an uproar. As they looked at the black robed figure that stood atop the blood red sword in mid-air, their gazes were filled with fear and reverence.

The killing intent on this person is so dense, he’s obviously experienced countless bloody slaughters!

Chen Xi who was lost in thought was jolted awake as well. He raised his head to glance at the black robed figure that stood mid-air and his formidable soul allowed him to see more things than what others could.

“Oh, Duanmu, your old rival has come as well. Your Miss Su will be seized away by him if you still don’t make a move.”

Song Lin’s lazy voice once again vaguely came out from his mouth, and the veins on Duanmu Ze’s forehead thumped as he gnashed his teeth and said, “I’ll say it one more time, she isn’t my Miss Su, the one I like is...”

The two words ‘Qingxi’ hadn’t even left his mouth when Duanmu Ze suddenly saw Du Qingxi coldly glaring at him. His heart trembled as he forcefully swallowed back what he was about to say, and he had an extremely embarrassed expression.

Chen Xi paid no attention to all this, as his attention had already been drawn by the discussions that sounded out from afar.

“Strange, why have so many Violet Palace Realm cultivators come today? Only Congenital Realm cultivators and below are able to enter the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain.”

“It is extremely strange. Not only are there numerous Violet Palace Realm cultivators here for the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials this year, even cultivators from outside of Pine Mist City occupy half the amount of people. Such a spectacular scene is simply unprecedented in the past!”

“Pfft! What’s there to feel strange about? Violet Palace Realm cultivators only require an Essence Seal Pill and they’d be able to lower their cultivation by a realm to maintain it at the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm. Entering the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain is a piece of cake.”

“It can’t be? If they were to participate then wouldn’t we Congenital Realm cultivators be unable to obtain even a single baleful pearl?”

“Don’t worry, the backgrounds of these Violet Palace Realm cultivators are extremely great. Would they care about these baleful pearls with their statuses? Their objective is surely that sword immortals abode that’s given rise to much discussion. Even if it isn’t, they’re surely here for something else. Anyhow, they’re surely not here for baleful pearls.”

...

No wonder Du Qingxi’s group of three would come here. So they possess something like the Essence Seal Pill, and are able to lower their cultivations to the Congenital Realm. Chen Xi was originally still wondering about this matter. Now, when he heard the surrounding discussion, he couldn’t help but come to a sudden understanding, then he frowned. But, what’s that sword immortal’s abode?

What made Chen Xi feel shocked inwardly the most was that just currently, he’d seen Du Qingxi, Duanmu Ze, Song Lin, Su Jiao, and Cang Bin; five leading figures of the younger generation of Dragon Lake City, and their backgrounds were all formidable like the others. Then how many other experts with terrifying strengths were concealed in the shadows?

“Brother Cang, let’s go down and wait as well. The Southern Barbaric Nether Domain will appear in approximately 15 minutes.” Su Jiao lightly nodded to Cang Bin in mid-air and her gaze that was calm and emotionless like water swept downwards. She quickly found her target, then she lightly descended.

“If you insist.” Cang Bin laughed as he put away his Redlotus Bloodsoul sword and followed her to flash downwards.

Amongst the two of them, one had an indifferent disposition, the other was arrogant and unruly, and their cultivation and identity were extremely shocking. The moment they hit the ground, the crowd consciously opened a path for the two of them to pass.

Su Jiao paid no attention to the gazes of ardent adoration that were shot at her from the surroundings and she directly walked to the location of Chen Xi’s group of four before stopping and smiling sweetly. “Brother Duanmu, Brother Song, I never expected that the two of you would be here as well.”

“Miss Su, aren’t you here as well?” Duanmu Ze stood up and lightly smiled as he said. He wore his usual white clothes and was handsome. When he spoke at this moment, his elegant demeanor did indeed attain a level that caused others to be unable to find fault with it.

Compared to Cang Bin who was by Su Jiao’s side, their temperament and appearances were different, but they both emitted an imposing manner of strong confidence that was evenly matched.

“Oh, I’m so sleepy. All of you chat.” Song Lin was completely indifferent instead, and he still laid there like a pug as he muttered before his eyelids drooped down once again and he slept soundly while snoring loudly.

Compared to Duanmu Ze and Cang Bin, the tired and sloppy Song Lin was simply not like a person that had come from one of the six great clans of Dragon Lake City’s, the Song Clan!

Su Jiao lightly smiled then turned to look at Du Qingxi whose face was covered by a black veil. “Big Sister Qingxi, you’ve come for the sword immortal’s abode as well?”

“What do you think?” While her voice that was frosty like ice sounded out, Du Qingxi stretched out her hand to remove the black veil that covered her head to reveal that chilly and extremely beautiful face of hers. Her starry eyes were clear like water and her cherry lips were rosy, and her pure white face was like a fully bloomed lotus that was exceedingly beautiful.

At the moment the surrounding people saw Du Qingxi’s appearance, they were all dumbstruck and were fiercely surprised by her beauty.

“Of course it is, otherwise, why would Big Sister Qingxi come and stay at this little Pine Mist City for so long?” Su Jiao lightly smiled. “But, there’s only one sword immortal’s abode, and for the sake of obtaining it, I won’t make any compromises.”

“Since it’s like that, then we’ll use that to decide on the winner in the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain.” Du Qingxi replied in an extremely straightforward manner, her voice was chilly as usual and carried a sense of having made a decision to kill.

“That’s what I intended as well.” Su Jiao grinned as she replied, then she shot her gaze towards the side. There, Chen Xi sat cross-legged.

Along with the appearance of Su Jiao and Cang Bin, the people in the surroundings had shot their gazes over already. Duanmu Ze had arrived early on, and everyone already knew his identity. Moreover, along with Su Jiao calling out Du Qingxi's name, then seeing that beautiful and refined appearance of Du Qingxi, most people were able to guess that this woman was surely the favored genius from the Dragon Lake City's Du Clan. Du Qingxi that was called one of the twin prides of Dragon Lake City with Su Jiao!

As for Song Lin, just by hearing his name, they knew. This tired and drowsy fellow was surely from the Song Clan of the six great clans of Dragon Lake City.

Su Clan, Cang Clan, Duanmu Clan, Du Clan, Song Clan... Five young men and women who were all respectively from one of the six great clans of Dragon Lake City. Moreover, they were all the most outstanding figures in the younger generation who were flourishing in the limelight. How could the people present normally see such a grand line-up?

So at this moment, when they saw Su Jiao casting her gaze at Chen Xi, the people present couldn't help but guess in their hearts. Who is this fellow? He's able to mix together with five youths that have deep backgrounds and superb cultivations. Could it be that he's a disciple from the last one of the six great clans, the Fang Clan?

At this moment, Chen Xi who sat cross-legged on the ground had undoubtedly become the center of attention for everyone.

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Chapter 37: Southern Barbaric Nether Domain

Su Jiao's gaze was indifferent and tranquil as she quietly sized up the youth before her. Her expression was similarly calm, and caused others to be unable to perceive what she thought in her heart.

"You're Chen Xi?" After a short while, Su Jiao slowly spoke with a voice that carried a trace of condescending arrogance.

Chen Xi?

At the moment her words echoed out, the surrounding people were all confused and only those people that came from Pine Mist City revealed a trace of astonishment when they heard this name.

Who in Pine Mist City didn't know the great name of Chen Xi the jinx?

It was precisely because they knew this that they felt astonished when they saw Chen Xi actually being together with the disciples from the great clans of Dragon Lake City.

"Fuck! Why's the jinx here? Isn't he a loser that only knows how to craft talismans? Why's he participating in the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials as well?" Someone felt that it was difficult to believe.

"AH! I've finally recalled it. He hid behind Young Master Duanmu earlier and all of us were drawn by Young Master Duanmu's elegant demeanor, so we overlooked this fellow." Someone seized this opportunity to flatter Duanmu Ze.

"It can't be! How could someone that's able to be called out by name by a figure like Miss Su be an ordinary person? Hey, buddy, who exactly is this Chen Xi?" The cultivators from outside Pine Mist City were extremely curious and they all started to inquire about Chen Xi's identity.

"Haha! All of you are too young, and you're all talking fucking rubbish! Let me tell all of you, that Miss Su was betrothed to Chen Xi all those years ago. It was approximately when he was four..." Someone started brazenly talking about the scene of Chen Xi's marriage contract being torn apart all those years ago.

Chen Xi kept silent as he heard the bustling sounds of discussion from the surroundings, and his expression was extremely calm as if everything in the surroundings wasn't related to him.

"Eh, jinx? This isn't real right?" Duanmu Ze feigned astonishment, and the pleasure and ridicule in his eyes were something that was clear for all to see.

"I never imagined that Miss Su had such a past with him." Cang Bin who had his hands crossed before him glanced at Chen Xi in surprise and his eyes emitted dense disdain and contempt. "But if it was me, I would surely not marry trash like this."

Under the mocking and ridicule from the surroundings, Chen Xi stood up and stared at Su Jiao as he abruptly asked, "You're related to my grandfather's death, right?"

"I..." Su Jiao was stunned then her expression went cold and she said with a frown, "Does the death of your grandfather have anything to do with me?"

"Dare to do the deed, but not admit it?" Chen Xi continued to pursue in question.

Su Jiao was extremely furious in her heart from being interrogated by Chen Xi, and she said word by word, "Do you think I would explain myself to trash from an impoverished family? You need to understand that the marriage contract between our clans doesn't exist anymore. Now, even if I kill you, I don't have to worry about facing any trouble. Do you understand?"

A trace of contempt flashed at bottom of Su Jiao's eyes when she saw Chen Xi keeping silent, and her tone was even more unbridled. "In any case, even if I killed your grandfather, what can you do with your little strength?"

"Remember, the weak will never have the right to speak. Being in an impoverished family is an inherent shortcoming and mediocre ability is an acquired shortcoming. You have both of them! But you still dare speak to me in this way? Truly laughable and stupid!"

"If you still dare speak to me in this way when I see you again, then I'll surely kill you!"

After she finished speaking, Su Jiao turned around and left with Cang Bin, and when she left, a slight indifferent smile still hung on her delicate and charming face like a triumphant queen.

"Miss Su, leave Chen Xi to me, I'll surely teach him a good lesson until you're satisfied." A clear voice vaguely sounded out in the distance.

"Thank you for your concern, Young Master Li Huai. But the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain is more important, just temporarily leave other things be."

Li Huai?

Chen Xi suddenly raised his head and looked at the handsome young man in the far away crowd, and he muttered in his heart. The Eldest Young Master of the Li Clan? You two are together as expected...

“Are you ok?” This was the second time that Du Qingxi had asked Chen Xi the same question.

Chen Xi shook his head and his expression returned to normal. Since he was young, he’d encountered innumerable amounts of ridicule and mocking. This little blow from Su Jiao didn’t cause him to feel wronged or furious.

On the contrary, because he saw Li Huai and Su Jiao together, it caused him to be even more certain that the death of his grandfather was absolutely related to the powers that backed these two people!

Du Qingxi didn’t say anything further because the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain was about to appear.

Om!

After a short moment, a strange fluctuation suddenly sounded out in the surroundings of Spiritcave Lake. The originally calm surface of the lake seemed as if thousands of bombs were thrown into it, and enormous waves that were 30 over meters high surged out with a bang.

The enormous waves billowed like numerous 30 plus meter long water dragons that swam about and roared, and the spirit energy of heaven and earth was thrown into chaos by these violent fluctuations. Currents of air whistled as they blew out as if a gale had risen.

Whoosh!

The gazes of everyone present was attracted by this scene.

“The Southern Barbaric Nether Domain is about to appear. Everyone, stand back!”

Right when this voice finished sounding out, the hundred plus water dragons formed from waves had coiled together above Spiritcave Lake and formed an enormous vortex that revolved crazily.

At practically the same time, a monstrous suction force surged out from the vortex, and the spirit energy within a domain of 50km from Spiritcave Lake was instantly swallowed up. The dark-green grass and trees withered with a speed that was visible to the eye, and a cultivator nearby to Spiritcave Lake that didn’t retreat in time was instantly sucked into the vortex. His body transformed into a clump of blood that instantly vanished.

“Watch out! Once you’re sucked in by the vortex, you’ll be instantly minced into scraps even if you’re a Golden Core Realm cultivator.”

Actually, there was no need for a warning. When everyone present watched the earlier scene, they’d long since retreated more than 100m, and only when they felt the vortex was of no threat did they stand still with a lingering fear in their hearts.

Crackle!

The violent sounds of thunderclaps abruptly sounded within the sky, and an astonishing scene appeared. The sky behind the enormous vortex seemed to have been crushed by the hands of a god, it crumbled inch by inch and a large 'door' that black lights rolled about on had gradually condensed into form.

Along with the appearance of this 'door,' the terrifying suction force disappeared and the heaven and earth returned to normal.

"Let's go!" A figure took the lead to flash explosively towards the 'door.'

When the others saw this, how could they be willing to fall behind? So they transformed into numerous black silhouettes that swarmed towards that 'door.'

"Big Sister Qingxi, little sister will be going first." Su Jiao turned around and laughed with a crisp voice. The white crane beneath her feet flapped its wings and they disappeared within the 'door' with a whoosh. Cang Bin and Li Huai stood on flying swords as they followed her to enter the 'door.'

"Let's go in as well. This door that leads to the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain will only remain for 15 minutes, and the next time it appears will be after a month." Not long after Su Jiao's group left, Du Qingxi brought Chen Xi and the others to enter the 'door.'

Om!

After 15 minutes, the vicinity of Spiritcave Lake was completely devoid of people, and the large 'door' above the lake suddenly vanished and the shattered sky returned to normal.

Crackle!

Not long after the large 'door' that headed to the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain disappeared, the sky above the bank of Spiritcave Lake was torn open like cloth, and a two slender and white hands extended out.

Subsequently, a tall violet robed young man walked out of the crack in the sky with even steps, and he rubbed his chin as he gazed above Spiritcave Lake, seeming to have thought of something.

The sun shone onto his face, and his features that were well-defined seemed to have been carefully carved by a sculptor. He was unusually handsome with a fierce gaze, and there seemed to be two balls of violet lightning revolving within his pupils, adding a peculiar and mysterious aura to him.

"Dammit! So it's just a wasteland that exists within a spatial tear. I fucking thought it's a minor world that hadn't been explored. Now I'm doomed! If I'm caught by that unruly little girl I'll..."

The violet robed handsome young man's face revealed a trace of an annoyed expression, then he noticed something and his sword shaped eyebrows fiercely knit. His figure vanished on the spot with a whoosh, as if he'd vanished into thin air.

"He's fled again! This damn bastard!"

The sky shattered with a bang to reveal a deep and gloomy passage, and a young woman with a delicate appearance and a graceful figure walked out in fury. She swept her gaze towards the surroundings and

seemed to have not found what she wanted, then she fiercely stomped the ground before turning around and without hesitation, she returned into the passage in space once again.

The middle of the 5,000 km domain of the Southern Barbaric Mountain Range, was precisely the publically acknowledged depths of the Southern Barbaric Forbidden Area. Circles of ripples abruptly appeared in the sky before a cliff waterfall, and a tall figure walked out from within the ripples. It was shockingly the violet robed young man from before.

“Oh, there are actually so many greater demons... Hmm, not bad, not bad indeed. Hiding here for some time seems to be a good choice.”

As he spoke, the violet robed young man stroked his chin and looked around his surroundings, then he extended out his slender and white right hand to lightly grab towards the sky, and a large black python that was thick like a bucket suddenly appeared in his originally empty hand.

There was a small blood red horn on this large python, its entire body was densely covered with layer upon layer of scales that were like cloud markings, and four golden little claws even grew out beneath its abdomen.

“Oh, soon to transform into a flood dragon? Unfortunately, you’ve cultivated for over 5,000 years for nothing, and in the end, you can only obediently become the meal in my stomach...” The violet robed young man smiled evilly. He paid no regard to the begging expression emitted from the enormous python’s eyes as he exerted force with his fingers and they were like sharp edges as they deeply sunk into the enormous pythons head.

Boom!

The head of the enormous python instantly transformed into a bloody rain that covered the sky and showered downwards.

The eyes of the violet clothed young man that were like two violet vortexes slightly narrowed, and the corners of his mouth curled into a slight blade-like angle. He raised his head and extended out a scarlet tongue, then he allowed the blood to splash on his body as he freely enjoyed this type of bloody and wild banquet.

...

Bang!

Chen Xi had just stood stably and hadn’t even had the chance to see the scene in his surroundings clearly when a black figure pounced towards him. He didn’t hesitate in the slightest as he struck out with his fist, directly smashing the black figure flying over to the ground 30 over meters away.

Roar!

The black figure lay prone on the ground and howled in reluctance to leave this world.

Only now did Chen Xi see clearly that this black figure was actually a wild beast the size of a calf that had a hideous appearance. Its entire body was jet-black like graphite, its eyes dark red like brass bells, and it emitted a brutal and ferocious aura.

Baleful beast? This is the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain?

Chen Xi gazed at his surroundings, and he only saw that the sky here was suffused with a thick layer of lead gray clouds that vaguely revealed a dark red color. The ground was filled with rocks and sand, and when the piercingly cold wind whistled past, sand and dust would flutter in the air to suffuse out like a mist, causing one to be unable to see where exactly in the distance was the end.

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Chapter 38: Netherezim Baleful Qi

Bang!

A sword light that was cold like snow flashed past, and the head of the baleful beast that Chen Xi struck down was instantly penetrated with a thumb-size hole.

The baleful beast let out a miserable howl before crashing onto the ground.

“These baleful beasts are all condensed from baleful qi, and one may say that they’re immortal. A baleful beast will only lose its combat ability when its head is shattered and the baleful pearl contained within is removed. Then, it will transform into baleful qi and dissipate.” Du Qingxi walked forward from the side, and she explained as she extracted a pigeon egg sized black colored pearl from the head of the baleful beast’s corpse.

“Oh, look. This thing is of no use to me, you keep it. You can exchange them for some spirit stones once we go out of here.” Du Qingxi casually tossed the baleful pearl in her hand to Chen Xi.

Chen Xi received the baleful pearl and couldn’t help but be stunned. He noticed that Du Qingxi attitude towards him seemed to have changed greatly, and it had an extra trace of faintly discernible care.

“Let’s go. We can’t fly within the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain. Our destination is still extremely far. If we can’t reach there within a month, then we would have wasted this opportunity that was difficult to come by.”

Du Qingxi didn’t wait for Chen Xi to carefully appreciate the reason for this care and walked towards the distance.

“Jinx, follow us well. Be sure not to lag behind.” Duanmu Ze glanced at Chen Xi as if he was gazing at a clown, then laughed in ridicule before leaping forward, and his sleeves moved gracefully as he flashed forward in an elegant manner.

“Oh, we have to hurry on with our journey.” Song Lin was still in a drowsy state, and his figure fluttered like a drunken monkey, seeming to be slow but he miraculously followed closely behind the group.

Chen Xi didn’t dare hesitate and he executed his Heavenly Dragon’s Eight Steps that had attained the advanced-stage. The point of his foot lightly touched the ground, and before the dirt splashed up, his body had already flashed out 30 over meters like a willow seed that rode the air. His movements couldn’t be said to be pleasing to the eye, but they were simple and agile and saved extremely on True Essence and physical strength.

The sky of the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain was always lead gray in color, combined with the dirt that suffused in the air; when a violent wind whistled past, the entire heaven and earth was covered in a layer of mist that was impossible to remove, and it was extremely easy to get lost while travelling here.

However, Du Qingxi had a small and exquisite silver colored compass in her possession and the four of them swiftly moved forward according to the direction the compass pointed at, saving the time for them to identify the direction.

Travelling in a hurry was extremely dull and dry, and baleful beasts would scurry out from the dense mist from time to time. Although they were unable to harm Chen Xi's group of four, they still affected the pace of their journey.

For the sake of making the best use of their time, everyone besides Chen Xi had all drawn their weapons.

Du Qingxi had a forked-tail dagger that was suffused with a dim-green luster in her hand, and on the upper part of the dagger was a lifelike azure lotus. The lotus petals bloomed gracefully and gloriously. Its name was Unity Azurelotus Dagger, and it was a graded Magic Treasure.

The sword in Duanmu Ze's hand was 0.3m long and two fingers wide; the blade was like an expanse of autumn water. There were seven stars that were suffused with rainbow colored lights carved on the sword, and spots of chilly starlight flickered gracefully, making it seem full of spirit. Its name was Sevenstar Rainbow Sword, and it was similarly a graded Magic Treasure.

As for Song Lin, he held an umbrella shaped weapon. The frame of the umbrella was a glossy black color and was inscribed with countless dense runes; the umbrella's surface was instead made up of 1,008 sharp hooks that were connected together, and it was suffused with a ghastly and murderous aura. Its name was Skynet Thousandhook Umbrella and it was undoubtedly a graded Magic Treasure as well.

Moreover, for the sake of protecting themselves well, besides the weapons in their hands, the three of them all wore various equipment that flickered with bright lights, such as armor, shoulder guards, bracers, and a belt... Even the shoes on their feet were of extraordinary quality with profound functions. It caused Chen Xi's eyes to be dazzled by all this and he was full of yearning. He had to admit that just the various Magic Treasures in the possession of these disciples from great clans weren't something that any ordinary person was able to possess.

Although because of the Essence Seal pill, the strength of Du Qingxi's group of three that was fully equipped was maintained at the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm, the formidability of their battle strength far surpassed an ordinary cultivator with the same cultivation. At the instant they noticed a baleful beast approaching, one of the three of them would beat the others to attack it, and they were all one hit kills that absolutely didn't allow a chance of survival.

Chen Xi held a sword in his hand, this sword was fully light azure with a sharp edge, and its name was Azurebolt Sword. It was the sword he entrusted to Pei Pei to buy while he was in close door training within the Quiet Room and coupled with that Chaotic Windsplit Sword Technique, it cost him an entire 2,000 plus spirit crystals. If it wasn't for him killing that two-headed Violet Rhino greater demon and unexpectedly obtaining 3,000 spirit crystals, he would have been unable to afford this Azurebolt Sword that had attained the standard of a high-grade mortal weapon.

Comparisons were indeed odious!

However, Chen Xi was already content with being able to possess his Azurebolt Sword. After all, his circumstances and resources were utterly incapable of comparing with those disciples from great clans that were born with a golden spoon. Rather than being envious and jealous, it was better to think of how to obtain these things in the future through his own effort. That was the matter that was truly important.

All along the way, Chen Xi practically didn't have the opportunity to fight because of the presence of Du Qingxi's group of three. He would only run up when the baleful beasts were killed to dig out the baleful pearl within its head. In a short time of not even two hours, he actually collected an entire 300 over baleful pearls which could be considered as an unexpected sum of wealth.

I wonder how many spirit stones these baleful pearls can sell for. I heard that there are people purchasing it only at the capital of Darchu Dynasty, Silken City. If it's like this, it's going to be slightly difficult for me to exchange the baleful pearls into spirit stones. Chen Xi thought inwardly.

The capital of Darchu Dynasty, Silken City, was an entire 500,000 km away from the southern territory. He would only be able to control a Magic Treasure and fly over when he advanced into the Violet Palace Realm. But even then, it was difficult to travel there without spending 10 to 15 days.

"Why sell them? According to my observation, this tiny pearl contains a tiny bit of an extremely rare Netherezim Baleful Qi. When your cultivation attains the Rebirth Realm, the marvelousness of its effect when used to condense a Rebirth Wheel would absolutely exceed your imagination." Ji Yu's voice suddenly sounded out within Chen Xi's heart, causing his body to freeze for a moment before returning to normal. He'd long since become used to the various unfathomable abilities of this unconventional spirit of the Manor.

Nevertheless, this was the first time he was communicating with Ji Yu via his soul after all, and he couldn't help but ask curiously, "You're able to perceive my thoughts?"

"No, but I saw you holding the baleful pearl and thinking hard with a frown. It was easy to guess," replied Ji Yu.

Chen Xi came to a sudden understanding, and he unconsciously heaved a sigh of relief in his heart. The secrets and thoughts of one's own heart being easily spied on and understood by another was something that anyone would be absolutely unable to tolerate.

"Right, you said this baleful pearl contains a tiny bit of Netherezim Baleful Qi?" After putting down the worries in his heart, Chen Xi suddenly realized the meaning of Ji Yu's words, and his heart couldn't help but tremble.

Various unimaginable baleful qis were contained within the heaven and the earth, and they were divided into three ranks. These ranks were the heaven-rank, earth-rank, and mortal-rank; these ranks were further divided into three grades, namely high-grade, intermediate-grade, and low-grade. In short, there were three ranks and nine grades.

The common Souls melt Baleful Qi and Icesoul Baleful Qi both belonged to the lowest low-grade mortal-rank baleful qi. Whereas baleful qis that had attained the earth-rank belonged to the ranks of rare

baleful qis. Baleful qi that had attained the heaven-rank were rare treasures that could only be encountered by luck and not sought after.

Netherezim Baleful Qi was a type of heaven-rank baleful qi, as for which grade within the heaven-rank it pertained to, even Chen Xi didn't know, clearly due paying very little attention to information in this aspect.

But even then, just by the two words, heaven-rank, Chen Xi dared to affirm that so long as he dared say that he had Netherezim Baleful Qi in his possession, it would absolutely attract the coveting of countless great cultivators!

The reason for this was that when a cultivator wanted to break through to the Rebirth Realm, the cultivator must use baleful qi to condense a Rebirth Wheel within the Dantian.

There were seven temperings in the Rebirth Realm, one Rebirth Wheel per tempering. Moreover, besides sufficient True Essence, when one wanted to condense a Rebirth Wheel, baleful qi was the crux of the process!

The formidability of a Rebirth Realm cultivator's strength was closely related to the rank and grade of the baleful qi used to condense the Rebirth Wheel. The cultivation of a cultivator that used mortal-rank baleful qi to condense his Rebirth Wheel would inherently lose tremendously to a cultivator that used heaven-rank baleful qi to condense his Rebirth Wheel.

It was easily imaginable how excited Chen Xi was now when he found out that this tiny baleful pearl actually contained a type of heaven-rank baleful qi.

"Exactly. However, the Netherezim Baleful Qi within the baleful pearl is extremely scarce. You'll have to gather over 10,000 baleful pearls, you'll more or less be able to extract a palm-sized ball of Netherezim Baleful Qi." Ji Yu sighed and said, "If you're willing to take the trouble, I can pass on the extraction technique to you."

Although the Rebirth Realm was an extremely distant goal to Chen Xi, being able to gather Netherezim Baleful Qi now was much better than spending the time to gather it in the future, after all.

Most importantly, Netherezim Baleful Qi was a heaven-rank baleful qi that could only be encountered by luck and not sought after. How could Chen Xi miss this extremely great opportunity? So, he agreed right away without the slightest hesitation.

Ji Yu was forthright, and at the moment before Chen Xi could even react, a piece of concise technique appeared within his mind.

The technique's name was Extraction Arts and it was a technique that specialized in extracting baleful qi. Its concept was extremely ingenious and wasn't difficult to cultivate.

In next to no time, Chen Xi had already mastered this technique, but due to pushing on their journey currently, he wasn't able to take a baleful pearl and try the technique.

Chen Xi wasn't anxious as he knew that the cultivation of any technique was absolutely not something that could be done in a short amount of time. Just like talisman crafting and culinary arts, unless one cultivated diligently and bitterly, it was absolutely impossible to attain the level of being skilled in it.

Because of finding out of the secret of the Netherezim Baleful Qi, Chen Xi gathered the baleful pearls along the way even more diligently. This change instantly attracted contempt from Duanmu Ze, and he even generously directed ridicule and cutting remarks at Chen Xi.

Like 'a bumpkin that hasn't seen the world,' 'insatiably greedy and shameless person,' 'jinx that's greedily gathering wealth like a madman'... These cutting remarks ceaselessly flew out of Duanmu Ze's mouth with varying tones. Compared to Chen Xi who was concentrated on gathering baleful pearls, the current Duanmu Ze was akin to a widow that had been lonely for a long time, forever possessing things to nag about.

In the end, Du Qingxi was truly unable to stand by and watch any longer, so she turned around and glanced coldly. Only then did Duanmu Ze reluctantly shut his mouth.

Song Lin didn't let the opportunity slip by and muttered, "Oh, Little Zeze that doesn't care about poise is actually quite cute..."

Little Zeze?

Duanmu Ze's pupils abruptly went wide, his feet staggered and he nearly fell down.

Dammit! So disgusting!

Duanmu Ze's mouth gaped but he didn't know where to begin talking from because he woefully noticed that before that damnable fellow, Chen Xi, he seemed to have never been his normal self...

Talisman Emperor

Chapter 39: Bloody Mountain

Exactly how large is the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain?

After walking for nearly 12 hours, Chen Xi still had a feeling as if he was walking in mist, and besides the baleful beasts that pounced out one after the other, he never saw a single other thing.

There were an entire 10,000 plus people that had entered the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain this time, but up until now, Chen Xi hadn't seen anyone besides Du Qingxi, Duanmu Ze, and Song Lin who were by his side.

Obviously, everyone was transported to a different location upon entering the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain.

Du Qingxi suddenly stopped moving, then she looked at the sky before looking at the map in her hand, and she turned around and suggested. "Let's rest for a while. We'll be leaving this Dusty Nightmare Area in another 15 minutes and enter Bloody Mountain."

"Innumerable amounts of baleful beast packs wreak havoc within Bloody Mountain. Moreover, when we arrive there, we'll encounter other cultivators. For the sake of survival and baleful pearls, or perhaps for the sake of that sword immortal's abode, the true competition and slaughter will be arriving really soon." Her voice that was chilly like ice had a trace of rare seriousness, and this was extremely rarely seen on Du Qingxi. Thus, it was noticeable how dangerous Bloody Mountain was that it caused even her to feel troublesome.

“Exactly. Baleful beast leaders accompany the baleful beast packs sometimes, these baleful beast leaders have cultivations equivalent to the initial-stage of the Violet Palace realm and are extremely terrifying. However, these baleful beast leaders would never actively attack people, but so long as someone enrages it, it would absolutely be a disaster to us who have our strengths limited to the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm.” Duanmu Ze had a solemn expression as he pondered for a moment before saying, and he didn’t boast shamelessly and confidently like he usually did.

Chen Xi who sat cross-legged as he counted the number of baleful pearls started paying attention when he saw the expression of both of them carrying a trace of seriousness. Violet Palace Realm baleful beast leader? The true slaughter is about to arrive? Is Bloody Mountain really so terrifying?

“Actually, I think the most dangerous thing is still the other cultivators that came here with us.” Song Lin rubbed his sleepy eyes as he interrupted.

Could he be speaking of Su Jiao and her group? Chen Xi pondered inwardly.

Du Qingxi and Duanmu Ze seemed to have become aware of something and both shot their gazes at Song Lin. Both of them knew that in spite of this fellow being slovenly, indolent, and was addicted to sleeping like it was his life; but his heart was like a clear mirror, and any signs of trouble in the surroundings would be unable to escape his notice. Now that he said this, could it be that he’d noticed something?

Song Lin spread out his hands and said helplessly, “Don’t look at me like that. In any case, I had a jittery feeling before we entered the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain. It was as if a formidable fellow that we don’t know of is concealed amongst those cultivators.”

Du Qingxi’s face was already completely serious when she heard Song Lin say this.

“Qingxi, you don’t have to be too worried. No matter how formidable these concealed fellows are, so long as they’ve entered the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain, then their strengths would be restricted to the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm just like us. The three of us joining forces are sufficient to deal with everything.” Duanmu Ze consoled in a light voice.

Du Qingxi was instead unable to accept this, and she casually found a place to sit cross-legged before closing her eyes and pondering.

Unfamiliar cultivators that came from outside Pine Mist City occupied more than half of a number of people that participated in the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials this time. For the sake of seizing even more baleful pearls, or perhaps for the sake of that sword immortal’s abode, these fellows would surely stop at nothing.

All of this was within Du Qingxi’s expectations, but when she heard what Song Lin said and recalled that there were still formidable figures concealed amongst these cultivators, how would she dare let her guard down?

Song Lin’s cultivation equally matched hers, but the cultivation technique he cultivated was extremely marvelous, and it was able to acutely perceive the dangers that could exist in the surroundings. Moreover, how terrifying would the cultivation of the person be that he’s able to cause Song Lin to feel danger?

I never imagined that the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain this time would cause such a stir. Just Su Jiao's group is already enough of a headache, but now there's another concealed expert. I wonder who will be the biggest winner...?

Du Qingxi lightly sighed in her heart, and her confident heart couldn't help but slightly sway.

"What're you daydreaming for? Get cooking!"

Duanmu Ze glared at Chen Xi before turning around and going nearby Du Qingxi before saying in a gentle voice, "Qingxi, we've traveled for so long, I presume you're extremely exhausted right? What do you want to eat? Ask that kid to make it for you."

Chen Xi had learned how to disregard this Young Master that provoked him for time to time, and he very naturally shot his gaze towards Du Qingxi.

Du Qingxi opened her eyes and pondered for a moment before instructing. "It isn't a bad idea. Chen Xi, do as you see fit."

The spirit energy within the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain had dried up and was instead filled with baleful qi. If one didn't have medicinal pills and spirit stones to replenish one's True Essence, then not to mention killing baleful beasts to gather baleful pearls, even surviving was an extremely difficult thing. The reason she brought Chen Xi along was precisely because Chen Xi was able to cook delicious delicacies that were full of spirit energy.

"Then I'll make some exhaustion relieving dishes, and let you replenish some of your physical strength." Chen Xi nodded.

"I want to eat as well!" Song Lin shouted out loudly. When eating was mentioned, this slovenly fellow that was always sleeping was virtually as if on drugs, and he was full of spirit.

"Don't forget to make a portion for me. If you dare be shifty then I'll surely teach you a lesson!" Duanmu Ze seemed to have recalled something when he saw Chen Xi take out some ingredients and began preparing to cook, and he warned in a cold voice.

"Hey, why're you so fierce to our spirit chef? Isn't it only not getting to eat some Hundred Treasures Porridge in the morning? Brother Duanmu, think about it, what if he puts a little poison into your bowl? Haha!" Song Lin smiled broadly as he teased.

Duanmu Ze was stunned. Right, I've been ridiculing and verbally abusing him all this time. If he harbors hatred in his heart then it's really possible that he will do so.

"Oh, he doesn't have to poison your food. He just has to spit a little bit or toss in some piss or shit..." The extremely slovenly Song Lin seemed to be extremely interested in hardcore things, and the more he said, the more excited he became.

It's too disgusting!

The corners of Duanmu Ze's mouth fiercely twitched, then he looked at the faraway Chen Xi, and he could only grit his teeth as he decided inwardly. If you dare let this Young Master notice a trace of an unusual taste while eating later, GODDAMMIT, I'll surely tear this fellow to shreds!

Chen Xi wasn't so senseless nor did he have such hardcore tastes like Song Lin. They were about to enter the fiendish Bloody Mountain, even if he wanted to disgust Duanmu Ze, he would have to decide based on the circumstances.

Duanmu Ze was currently in the same group as Chen Xi, after all. Even if they were an eyesore to each other, but under the current circumstance, he had no choice but to temporarily put down this resentment and face the approaching dangers together.

Grilled Mandarin Fish, Shallow-fried Croton Fruit, Deep-fried Mandarin Fishballs, Stir-fried Mantis Shrimp with Raw Scallions, Pork Braised in Emerald Mushroom Oil... In next to no time, plate after plate of lustrous and tempting dishes came fresh out of the wok.

A string of music that melodious and pleasant to the ear like gurgling stream sounded out from within a screen that was coiled around by spirit energy. Within the screen that was painted with flowers, birds, insects, and fish; Duanmu Ze, Du Qingxi, and Song Lin sat around a sapphire roundtable. As they gazed at the various delicious delicacies that were served continuously like flowing water and smelled the various tempting fragrances that floated in the air, their moods were instantly elated.

Being able to eat such a sumptuous banquet that was filled with spirit energy within the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain that was desolate like a wasteland and covered in layers of haze caused by the wind and sand that covered the sky, was undoubtedly something that made one extremely happy.

"I never expected that Qingxi would prepare so thoroughly, and even screens, tables, and chairs have been sufficiently prepared. When sitting here, the sounds of wind and sand whistling can't be heard, the gloomy and hazy scene can't be seen; the eyes and nose are filled with feasts to the eye and graceful sounds of music. Truly knowing how to enjoy life." Duanmu Ze held up the small wine cup made from carved jade and drained the cup in one gulp, then he emitted a satisfied sigh.

"Enjoying?" Du Qingxi was dazed and a trace of sorrow surged out from deep within her eyes.

"Eat food, eat food. Why are all of you chatting for? Oh, this Floss Candied Dragon Banana is too tasty..." Song Lin was like the reincarnation of a hungry ghost, his hands got to work and his chopsticks descended like rain drops as he gobbled down his food.

Chen Xi pushed the screen open and walked in, then he put down a pot of fresh and fragrant Treasurefruit Soup before turning around and leaving.

"You're not eating with us?" Du Qingxi raised her head and asked.

"I'm roasting some meat, all of you eat first." Chen Xi replied without turning back. He didn't want to sit at the same table as Duanmu Ze.

"Qingxi, he likes to stay outside. Moreover, there's no reason for a servant like him to eat with us." Duanmu Ze hurriedly mediated when he saw Du Qingxi still wanting to say something.

Du Qingxi said coldly, "He's a spirit chef, we have an employment relationship!"

Duanmu Ze curled his lips in contempt, then said indifferently. "Oh, is that so."

...

Chen Xi didn't have the time to be envious of the luxurious life of Du Qingxi's group of three, he sat on an area covered in gravel that was extremely far away as he voraciously annihilated a roasted hind leg of a roe deer. After he filled his stomach, Chen Xi dashed towards that area covered in layers of haze in the distance.

He wanted to gather baleful pearls!

Although he'd already gathered nearly 3,000 baleful pearls all along the way here, this was still far from enough. According to Ji Yu, he would need to extract the Netherezim Baleful Qi from at least 10,000 baleful pearls to be able to condense a Rebirth Wheel.

10,000 baleful pearls would also mean that he must kill 10,000 baleful beasts, and this was a number that would absolutely cause someone to feel it was hopeless. But, Chen Xi had only entered the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain this time with great difficulty, how would he be willing to leave without gathering sufficient Netherezim Baleful Qi?

However, right when Chen Xi had dashed out for not even 1.5km, a shrill cry suddenly sounded out from within the far away layers of haze.

"Flee quickly, a baleful beast pack is coming!" The voice revealed boundless terror, and it wasn't long before numerous cultivators dashed out of the far away haze in panic. Their hair was in disorder, clothes torn and stained with blood, and they were in an extremely sorry state.

Baleful beast pack? Could it be that these people had encountered an attack?

Chen Xi stopped moving, and his formidable soul's Perception Force spread out.

"Flee quickly! A baleful beast pack is coming!" Under the waves of shrill cries, those people had already come close, but an expected event suddenly happened.

When the burly middle-aged man in the lead was about to pass Chen Xi by, he suddenly twisted his waist and his fingers slightly opened up as his hand stretched out to grab at Chen Xi's neck!

When they saw this, the others changed from their sorry states to have vicious expressions on their faces as they moved to surround Chen Xi.

These were not pitiable people that were fleeing in a sorry state after encountered the attack of a baleful beast pack, these were obviously a gang of cunning and crafty bandits!

Chen Xi stood still on the spot, and he seemed as if he'd been shocked stiff from the sudden turn of events.

A trace of a savage and complacent smile appeared on the blood covered face of the middle-aged man when he saw this scene. What a stupid little fat sheep, he looks like a fledgling at first glance.

Hmm? Something seems to be slightly off...

At the moment the middle-aged burly man's eyes met with Chen Xi's eyes that were calm like ice, he felt an inexplicable horror surge out from his spine to swiftly cover his entire body.

Talisman Emperor

Chapter 40: Killing Bandits

The middle aged burly man was called Liang Hu, and he was an infamous leader of a gang of bandits in Pine Mist City. His cultivation was only at the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm, but relying on his cunning and cautious disposition, he'd always moved about freely until today, and he lived an extremely comfortable life.

The key of it was that he'd never once offended a disciple from a famous sect or great clan, and he only robbed and killed those independent cultivators at the bottom of society that didn't have status or position.

Three years ago, Liang Hu had participated in the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials, and he knew everything within it like the back of his hand. He knew that at this place where Bloody Mountain and the Dusty Nightmare Area were connected, he would normally be able to obtain extremely generous returns when he used the layers of haze to conceal his group and conduct raids. He entirely didn't have to waste both physical and mental effort to hunt baleful beasts to obtain baleful pearls.

Most importantly, so long as he was slightly careful, Liang Hu completely didn't have to worry that his identity would be leaked out when he conducted raids here. Even if the disciples of those sects were to die, their sects would mostly think that they'd died under the fangs of baleful beasts and wouldn't place any suspicions onto him.

With such thoughts in his heart, Liang Hu had brought over 10 Congenital Realm subordinates to participate in the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain trials this time for the sake of conducting wanton raids.

Reality was indeed like what Liang Hu thought, in a mere few hours, he'd already robbed and killed tens of cultivators that were traveling alone, and obtain a great number of baleful pearls.

Nevertheless, Liang Hu wasn't blinded by his victories, and he still carefully selected cultivators that traveled alone as the target for his raids.

However, at this moment, he suddenly realized that those fellows that travel alone aren't always weak, and a youth that had a young appearance might not always be a fledgling that was at his mercy.

Just like... Chen Xi who was before him.

Only an instant had passed since he attacked to the moment he noticed the calm killing intent that Chen Xi's eyes emitted, however in this instant, Liang Hu instead had a strong feeling of extreme danger. He didn't dare hesitate and fiercely stomped his right foot on the ground, then used the repulsive force from the stomp to twist his body and swiftly leap towards the side.

However, it was already too late.

Whoosh!

A breathtaking sword light appeared out of thin air and pierced out with an inconceivable speed that was swift like lightning.

Liang Hu's body was still in mid-air when a sword hole suddenly appeared on the right side of his abdomen and passed straight through his back, causing thick blood to suddenly shoot out.

"How... How could this be possible? I'd already attained the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm eight years ago, how could it be that I'm unable to block even a single strike?" Liang Hu fell onto the ground and lowered his head to gaze at the injury on his right abdomen that blood surged out from, and his face was filled with disbelief.

"Boss!"

"Boss is injured?"

"How could this be possible!?"

Liang Hu's subordinates were stunned when they saw their Boss's attack failed and instead was pierced by the sword of their enemy, and only now did they jolt awake from their shock and exclaim out in surprise.

Liang Hu was their leader, and a cultivation at the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm already stood at the peak ranks within the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain, but he was instead injured and fell to the ground within a single move. This...this was simply an inconceivable matter!

Immediately, within the eyes of these bandits that lived a bloody life at the tip of their blade, that youth that stood there holding a sword seemed to instantly transform from a little fat sheep into a cold-hearted expert, and it caused their hearts to palpitate in fear.

Actually, with Chen Xi's current cultivation, if he were to really battle Liang Hu, he didn't dare guarantee being able to heavily injure Liang Hu with a single move. The only reason he was able to achieve it so easily this time was a result of his formidable Perception Force.

Early on when he heard the shouts of Liang Hu's group, he'd used his Perception Force to sweep through the surroundings. His Perception Force that was comparable to that of a Violet Palace Realm cultivator was able to clearly search through an area of 50 kilometers, and he'd utterly not found a shadow of a baleful beast pack. How could he possibly fall for Liang Hu's trap?

Whereas Liang Hu was completely unaware of this and only took Chen Xi to be an inexperienced fledgling. Under his carelessness and lowered guard, he was naturally injured within a single move by Chen Xi who'd already gained insight into the matter.

Step! Step! Step!

Steady and rhythmic footsteps sounded about, and Chen Xi had an icy cold expression as he held his sword in hand and walked forward with a heart filled with surging killing intent.

He didn't have the slightest bit of a favorable impression towards these bandits that raided and killed people. If it wasn't for his formidable Perception Force that had noticed something was not right, he'd nearly fallen for their trap and lost his life on the spot. At this moment, how could he possibly let these fellows off so easily?

Liang Hu forcefully endured the violent pain as he crawled up from the ground and shouted out explosively. "Brothers, attack! No matter how formidable he is, he's only a single person. Kill him and the baleful pearls in his possession will be ours!"

"Boss is right, he's only a single person, what're we afraid of?"

"Right! This kid might have a large number of baleful pearls in his possession!"

"Kill!"

The ferociousness of the bandits was successfully aroused, and they all had gazes of insanity as they besieged Chen Xi.

Chen Xi's was emotionless as always. Having cultivated bitterly within the southern barbaric mountain forests every night for the past three months while fighting life and death battles with numerous Congenital Realm greater demons had caused him to already forget how many injuries he'd received, and how much fresh blood he'd sprayed.

The live combat experience that Chen Xi tempered through slaughter and bloodshed had caused Chen Xi to enter combat status the instant he decided to get into combat.

No hesitation, delay, or spouting any nonsense, all of his concentration was locked onto the slaughter that was approaching, and his mind was calm and filled with killing intent.

"Die!"

Chen Xi's wrist nimbly revolved as he stepped using the Heavenly Dragon's Eight Steps, and the Azurebolt sword in his hand transformed into innumerable sword silhouettes that were like a squally shower, and it sprayed down swiftly and fiercely like a hurricane.

The bandits noticed in terror that within their field of vision, innumerable sword silhouettes were like a large net made of sharp blades that arrived before them in an instant, causing them to be unable to dodge.

Pu! Pu! Pu!

In the air, a string of thick blood was like spraying lava as it shot out violently wherever he passed.

The diligent and bitter training during these past three months caused Chen Xi's Chaotic Windsplit Sword Technique to have attained the advanced-stage since a long time ago. In terms of the profundity of his sword technique, it was comparable to that of a Violet Palace Realm cultivator, and it was far from something these useless bandits could compare to.

When Chen Xi had assessed his combat strength within the Self-Reflection Diary he wrote every day, he'd labeled himself as being invincible under the Violet Palace Realm. Even the spirit of the Manor, Ji Yu, who'd lived for nearly one million years and possessed a hypercritical eye didn't raise any doubts towards this. Thus it could be seen to what degree Chen Xi's combat strength had transformed to.

Cough... Cough...

The pupils of the six bandits before him abruptly dilated, and their expressions were stiff and savage. A bloody hole was pierced through all their throats, and they emitted a hoarse and horrifying shrill cry before crashing onto the ground.

Even until death, they'd never imagined that Chen Xi's sword technique would actually be so swift, swift to the point they hadn't even attacked when they fell lifeless on the ground.

The weapons held up by the remaining five bandits froze mid-air, and they stared blankly at their companions whose corpses lay scattered on the ground. An inexplicably large fear that felt like two shapeless hands choking their throats surged throughout their bodies, and they actually forgot to breathe!

Even though they were bandits, not all of them had cultivations at the Congenital realm. It wasn't that they'd never encountered a ferocious person that was difficult to handle within the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain, but they were usually able to obtain the final victory by relying on their numbers. However, at this moment, when they were faced with Chen Xi who had killing intent filled between his brows, only now did they notice that such a wide gap actually existed between two Congenital Realm cultivators!

Dead!

In the blink of an eye, six of our Congenital realm companions have all died...

Their fighting spirit fell like an avalanche as they gazed at Chen Xi who was like a devil, and the five bandits all emitted a sharp cry of terror before desiring to flee.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The Azurebolt Sword was like fluttering mist as the blurred sword light brought along a sharp howl, and it easily pierced through the backs of the five bandits, causing blood to shoot out wherever it passed.

During these past three months of carrying out life and death battles with those ferocious and cunning Congenital Realm greater demons had allowed Chen Xi to understand an extremely important principle: Refraining from holding back in the slightest when dealing with enemies and making sure to kill his enemies as swiftly as possible was always the safest method.

He didn't hold back. Within his eyes, these extremely violent and wicked bandits were a group of animals, and their deaths were nothing to be regretted!

Liang Hu had long since been muddled by everything that had happened before him, and when he saw Chen Xi holding the Azurebolt Sword that still dripped blood droplets and walked over, his legs shivered before falling to kneel on the ground with a thump, then he emitted an extremely frightened shout. "I'll hand over all the baleful pearls. Please don't kill me, Young Hero!"

Chen Xi remained completely indifferent, and his expression was extremely cold and indifferent.

"I'll fight you with my life!" Liang Hu couldn't help but laugh grievously when he saw Chen Xi was so resolute. Under the stimulation of fear from his approaching demise, he suddenly leaped up and a pitch-black dagger suddenly appeared within his hand, then he pounced forward before fiercely stabbing his dagger towards Chen Xi's Dantian.

Whoosh!

A sword light flew out and Liang Hu's head separated from his body and flew high up into the air. A pillar of blood that was as thick as a baby's arm rushed out from his severed neck and splattered all over the ground.

Up to this point, Liang Hu's group of bandits had all been killed on the spot!

If someone saw this scene, they would surely be shocked by Chen Xi's viciousness and decisiveness.

"They actually have over 10,000 baleful pearls. These fellows have most probably robbed and killed quite a number of cultivators here. Truly a heinous crime! They deserved death!"

Chen Xi found a Hundred Treasure Bag from Liang Hu's corpse and briefly sized it up. At the same time that he was surprised at the large number of baleful pearls within, he was even more disgusted in his heart of these bandits that were full of sin.

"Within the Southern Barbaric Nether Domain, no matter how a person's cultivation was, their strength would surely be restricted at the perfection-stage of the Congenital Realm. I presume Su Jiao and Li Huai are the same as well. But the two of them are Violet Palace Realm cultivators after all, and are even core disciples of great clans. They presumably have various formidable trump cards. If I were to encounter these two people, I wonder who would be the victor...?"

After tossing all the baleful pearls he obtained into his storage ring, Chen Xi silently pondered for a moment before shaking his head, then turned around and left.

When he returned to their campsite, Du Qingxi's group of three just happened to have finished eating. When they saw Chen Xi return, they utterly never imagined that he'd just experienced a bloody battle, and they greeted him before departing.

Chen Xi naturally would not speak out about what had happened, and he followed closely behind them. After walking for the time an incense stick to burn, the surrounding scenery abruptly changed.

The originally lead gray sky suddenly turned dark red, and an oppressive and irritable aura brought along a burning hot stream of air as it assaulted their faces.

There weren't any layers of haze here anymore, and their field of vision was extremely vast. Chen Xi was able to see the faraway mountains that towered into the sky and the enormous rocks that were of bizarre shapes, and still fluttering about on the ground that was devoid of life.

Terrifying roars vaguely sounded out from far away, and when interlaced together with the dark red sky, it caused one to feel extremely stifled.

"We will be entering Bloody Mountain from now onwards. True danger and slaughter is about to begin. Watch out everyone." A voice that was chilly as ice echoed out. Du Qingxi gazed at everything in the distance that was like a blood colored world, and her expression was filled with seriousness.