

The Eternal 161

Chapter 161: Xiao Qingwang's Breakthrough

"Hey, this isn't funny at all." Yunxiao took a step forward, reaching out a hand to grab him. But then, the cracks on his body widened, and suddenly blood oozed out of them. An excruciating pain washed over him, and he did not know whether it came from his body or his heart. He froze in place and could no longer move forward even just a bit while Chen Dasheng's body fell back out of the chariot toward the ground.

Puke!

In the distance, Xingyang Kun coughed out a mouthful of blood. His spirits slumped in an instant, and he seemed to have grown decades older, with blood covering him all over. He lifted his head and stared venomously at Yunxiao, who stood absentminded on the chariot, and bellowed, "Why are you still alive? You should be dead! Fall down, FALL DOWN NOW!"

The last few words he screamed at the top of his lungs in a voice thick with rage. Dragging his wounded body, he flew slowly forward, mustering his Primordial Qi one bit at a time as he advanced. It was all because of this boy that he, a noble Martial Grandmaster, had fallen into such a miserable state. He swore that he must flay the other, break his bones, and burn him into ashes.

"He will never fall!"

Suddenly, a cold voice came from behind Yunxiao. It trembled slightly in the air as the man who uttered it was suppressing his anger. Meanwhile, a hand rested gently on the latter's shoulder and slowly helped him down. At that moment, Yunxiao's head was already completely blank, and although his eyes were wide open, they were lifeless.

"Who are you?" Xingyang Kun was both startled and angered. He did not notice how the man had suddenly appeared, and this newcomer's faintly suppressed aura seemed to be not weaker than his.

RUMBLE!

No longer able to contain the anger in his heart, the man released his aura, which spread out like ripples on the water across the air, pressing hard on everyone and making them suffocate!

“Martial Grandmaster! He has advanced into the realm of Martial Grandmasters! How can he be so fast?”

The first person to freak out was Qian Duoduo. He clearly remembered that the man’s strength was weaker than his just a few days ago, but now he was already a Martial Grandmaster!

The newcomer was none other than Xiao Qingwang, who had been cultivating in the Divine Realm Tablet. After taking two Nine Orifices pills in a row, he finally broke through the bottleneck and became a one-star Martial Grandmaster. However, just as he was overjoyed and rushed out of the tablet to look for Yunxiao, he saw Xingyang Kun detonate the mystic artifact and Chen Dasheng save Yunxiao at the cost of his own life.

“Martial Grandmaster! You are a Martial Grandmaster! How can there be a Martial Grandmaster in Yanwu!”

Xingyang Kun was shocked, and he was completely at a loss of what to do now. He had detonated his intrinsic mystic artifact, and although he was severely injured, he was confident that he could still escape from the fleet of over thirty hoverchariots and a nine-stars Martial King. But, he did not expect that his opponent also had a Martial Grandmaster!

How was that possible? If they had a Martial Grandmaster, why did he not show up earlier? Had he known they had a Martial Grandmaster, he would not detonate his mystic artifact, and he would choose to leave as soon as possible. As a Martial Grandmaster, no one could stop him if he were determined to leave.

Xingyang Kun’s face turned as pale as a sheet in an instant. Without saying anything, he turned and fled toward the distance with all his strength. He could sense that the man’s martial essence of the Six Directions realm was not very stable, and that told him that the man should have just broken through. But, since he was seriously injured, there was no way he could be the latter’s match. Therefore, he chose to flee immediately.

“You will stay here forever!” Xiao Qingwang roared with a towering rage as he shot forward in a beam of light.

Two beams of light fought fiercely in the sky, one severely injured and not having the will to fight, while the other burned with rage. Very soon, Xinyang Kun was on the losing side, struggling to defend against the attacks from his opponent. He had two intrinsic mystic artifacts, but one was broken and the other detonated, which wounded him during the explosion and caused his fighting strength to plummet to the peak level of a nine-stars Martial King realm.

The ending was as expected. In a final act of desperation and anger, Xinyang Kun used an internecine move—he self-detonated his dantian—and produced a massive explosion. Xiao Qingwang was wounded by the blast, but he managed to kill his opponent. It was his first battle after becoming a Martial Grandmaster, and he had killed another Martial Grandmaster. Although their fighting strength was not equal from the beginning, it allowed him to have a deeper understanding of the Six Directions realm, and he was able to quickly stabilize his cultivation base.

He flew back at top speed and picked up Yunxiao, who was dying on the chariot, then sped in the direction of the pill pagoda. A moment later, his voice came from the distance, “Hong Bing, maintain the order and deal with the aftermath!”

When Hong Bing saw Xiao Qingwang and Yunxiao’s figure disappear into the City Lord Mansion, he finally woke up from the shock. The battle just now was definitely the most legendary and dangerous one he had seen in his entire life. And not only he, but all the people on the scene were greatly shocked. Their faces were pale and they could hardly come back to their senses even now.

But, he quickly realized his responsibility and shouted, “Everyone, listen to my command! I want all of you to land in the square now, and after that, you are required to stay at where you are. We will begin the rescue once the situation is clear!”

The center of Yanwu was a huge, bottomless pit, and no one knew how many people had died inside. At Hong Bing’s command, all the chariots began to land orderly. If these men had joined Yanwu solely for cultivation resources, after the battle, a faint sense of pride and belonging began to develop in their hearts.

Hong Bing immediately began to organize people to maintain order and identify the missing persons. Fortunately, he was the commander of the City Guards, so he was very familiar with the city and could

handle everything easily. Meanwhile, Meng Wu and Chen Dasheng were brought to the pill pagoda as well by the members of Dubhe.

Zhang Qingfan and all the alchemists almost went berserk when they saw Yunxiao with all his wounds. His condition was so serious that it was almost equivalent to that of Ji Meng not so long ago. It was then that the crowd in the pill pagoda realized that a fierce battle had just taken place outside, and each of them was fuming.

It was especially the case for Li Chunyang, who was holding Chen Dasheng's body in agony. They had been brothers for life, but in order to honor his promise to take good care of Yunxiao, Chen Dasheng sacrificed himself. Blood trickled down from Li Chunyang's tightly clenched fists, and his eyes were all red.

Meng Wu's vitality was almost gone, and she was barely breathing, so they placed her and Yunxiao together in the Thousandwood Rejuvenation array. Although Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han had seen Yunxiao control the array, they had learned not much about it. So, after working hard for some time, they only managed to gather a meager amount of life force, which they injected into the two wounded people. But, such a tiny amount of life force was like a drop in a bucket.

Yunxiao's injury was not only extremely serious, but also very strange. His skin seemed to have turned into stone and would break apart with the slightest touch. In the beginning, Xiao Qingwang did not realize that and had broken a patch of skin near his shoulder blade, causing his blood to gush out of the wound. That frightened him, and after that, he dared not to touch the other too hard again.

Just as the crowd was at a loss of what to do, Ji Meng suddenly said, "To save me, Young Master Yun had refined a Golden Sixsun pill. Do you reckon he still has some?"

That reminded Zhang Qingfan, and he hurriedly and carefully removed Yunxiao's storage ring before sending his divine sense into it. But then, he suddenly frowned, and his face grew serious. Soon, beads of sweat rolled off his forehead, and in the end, he shook his head and said with a wry smile, "Xu Han, I need your help. I cannot open the restrictive spell Master Yunxiao has placed in the ring."

Xu Han naturally knew the restrictive spell placed by Yunxiao in the ring was extraordinary, so he immediately sat cross-legged down and began to crack it together with Zhang Qingfan.

A silence fell as the people around them all watched quietly while Li Chunyang held Chen Dasheng's body with a blank face, his eyes red but dull and lifeless. Suddenly Meng Bai stood up and walked toward the inside of the cavern.

While frowning, Luo Yunshang asked, "Meng Bai, what are you doing?"

Meng Bai's skinny body stopped and began to twitch violently. Then, he turned, with tears trickling down his face, "I...I am going to meditate! I don't...I don't...I don't want to see my sister and Master so badly wounded again and yet have nothing I can do!"

Luo Yunshang felt a sting in her nose. "Meng Bai..."

Meng Bai gave her a tearful smile and said, "Don't worry, my sister and Master will be fine." He took out a large demon beast egg from his ring and murmured, "Master told me that as long as I ate this egg, my strength will soar. I will go and eat it now. When my sister and Master wake up and see my great progress, they will definitely be very happy."

Without looking back, he walked toward the inside of the cavern.

Everyone was sad and angry, but no one made a sound, and their eyes burned with rage. Luo Yunshang closed her eyes slightly and prayed, 'Lord Gu Feiyang, your disciple is seriously wounded, and he needs you now. Where are you, Lord Gu Feiyang?'

Suddenly, Zhang Qingfan let out a long sigh and exchanged a helpless look with Xu Han. Even though they had joined hands, they were unable to crack the restrictive spell!

Xiao Qingwang could no longer hold back his anger and bellow, "Both of you are fourth-tier alchemists, and yet you can't even open a storage ring! Useless, you are both useless!"

His angry voice echoed in the cavern. Anyone who dared to scold two fourth-tier alchemists like that would have to face serious consequences, even if he were a Martial Grandmaster. However, both Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han just bowed their heads with a look of shame on their faces.

Meanwhile, Xiao Qingwang lifted a hand and made a grabbing gesture, and the ring immediately fell into his palm.

Luo Yunshang was shocked, "Qingwang, are you trying to..."

"Yes, I'm going to forcibly break open the ring's space!" A determined look came over Xiao Qingwang's face.

That startled Luo Yunshang. "But, forcibly breaking open the ring's space will most likely destroy its contents, and then there will be nothing left!"

Chapter 162: Treatment

Xiao Qingwang's pupils constricted. He glanced at Yunxiao and Meng Wu, who were lain in the center of the array, and said firmly, "We don't have the time to consider so much now, and I think we can try as long as there is ten percent success rate. When the ring space is broken, I'll use all my strength to prevent it from collapsing. Yunshang, Ji Meng, Yian, Li Changfeng, the four of you must use the fastest speed to bring out as many things from it as possible!"

"Understood!"

The four people answered in unison. Then, with a nervous and serious look, they surrounded the ring and concentrated their divine sense to the strongest level as they stared unblinkingly at it. Supposedly, Li Chunyang was a more suitable candidate for the task, for his cultivation base was stronger than them. But judging from the blank look on his face, his mind should be equally blank as well.

"Good!" Xiao Qingwang nodded in approval and said, "Pay close attention now!"

He threw out a palm with the fingers bent like a claw. Suddenly, a martial essence of the Six Directions realm gathered from all directions into his palm, and then he pressed it down hard onto the ring. Under the mighty power, the ring began to twist.

With a faint crackling sound, Yunxiao's ring blew into pieces. An independent space emerged, but no sooner had it appeared than it began to collapse.

"Freeze!"

Xiao Qingwang roared as he mustered all his Primordial Qi in his palm and slapped it at the space. That halted the collapse for a brief moment, and then the space crumbled and vanished in an instant.

Meanwhile, he felt that his power was repelled by an irresistible force of rules, which shook his mind and caused him to cough out a mouthful of blood. He could not believe that even with all the power of a Martial Grandmaster, he could only last a brief moment!

And during that brief moment, Luo Yunshang, Ji Meng, Yian, and Li Changfeng moved at the same time and tried their best to remove as many things as possible from the space at the fastest speed. Even so, they only managed to take out less than one-third of the things.

Their faces were extremely unsightly, and they were very anxious, fearing that the Golden Sixsun pill was not among the things they had taken out.

Xiao Qingwang sighed. "The planning lies with man, the outcome with heaven. Master Zhang, take a look at the things and see if you can find any medicinal pills that can save their lives."

Zhang Qingfan began to go through the items nervously while Luo Yunshang and the others also tried to pick up smaller objects like bottles and boxes. Very soon, Zhang Qingfan found a pale yellow medicinal pill from among the various bottles and looked surprised. He put it under his nose and smelled it, then, to be one hundred percent sure, he let Xu Han examine it as well. Finally, he said firmly, "This is a Golden Sixsun pill!"

"Yes! We made it!" Everyone was overjoyed. Xiao Qingwang quickly took the pill and walked into the array, then put it into Yunxiao's mouth and helped him dissolve it with Primordial Qi.

The Golden Sixsun pill was a fourth-tier healing medicine, but even Zhang Qingfan and Xu Han could not refine it. After all, not only did they not have the recipe, but it required several extremely bizarre refining techniques, which they did not know how to use at all.

They waited with expectant faces, but there was no reaction from Yunxiao. Only his skin slightly returned to normal from that stone-like state. His face was still extremely pale, and he was still in a coma.

“This...” Zhang Qingfan was confused. He thought everything would be fine after they found the Golden Sixsun pill, and yet nothing had changed even after all the hard work.

Xu Han, on the other hand, felt a chill on his back. Ji Meng had almost died with one of his legs stepped into the jaws of death, but just one Golden Sixsun pill was enough to save his life. It was to guarantee that his cultivation base would not drop that Yunxiao had constructed the Thousandwood Rejuvenation array. He did not expect that Yunxiao would only become slightly better after taking the same medicinal pill.

Xiao Qingwang was furious, and he roared, “He is only a third-tier alchemist, and both of you are fourth-tier alchemists, but why is there such a huge gap between you?”

Zhang Qingfan’s face turned slightly pale. He had never been scolded like that after he had become a third-tier alchemist. However, not only was he not angry, but he was also ashamed. “I’m indeed a loser. Master Yunxiao is in such a serious condition, and yet there is nothing I can do!”

Suddenly, Xu Han said, “Old Zhang, I just thought of a pill recipe. Do you still remember the recipe you showed me, which is hidden in the depths of the imperial palace?”

Zhang Qingfan paused a moment, then his eyes lit up and he jumped, slapping his forehead as he said, “I’m such a fool! How could I even forget that?!”

He hurriedly explained to the crowd, “I found a pill recipe by accident in the treasure of the imperial palace before, which is a fourth-tier medicinal pill that can revive the dead. As I thought I can never become a fourth-tier alchemist in my life, I didn’t pay too much attention to it. The recipe is still imprinted in my head though. I will refine it with Xu Han now. We will save Master Yunxiao!”

When he had finished, he ran out of the cavern with Xu Han. At least they saw a sliver of hope, which cheered both men up immediately.

Meanwhile, Hong Bing had begun the work of getting Yanwu back on track. First of all, he locked down the whole city and permitted no one from entering or leaving, so as to prevent the news from leaking out quickly and attracting stronger enemies. Secondly, he sent people to transport a large amount of earth and rock from outside the city to fill the huge pit in the center of the city.

Qian Duoduo stood on top of a building and watched as all that took place. He swept the whole city with his divine sense, and he did not find Yunxiao and the others. That made him realize that they must have entered an independent space.

The battle just now had left a deep mark in his head. He could not believe that a young Martial Master could have such a fierce fighting strength. Especially the last attack, the illusory flaming bird...He reckoned that if he were in Xingyang Kun's position, he would have long been burned into ashes.

"Is that a phoenix? Aye, it should be the illusory form of a phoenix, a legendary True Spirit," Qian Duoduo murmured to himself, his eyes filled with deep shock. All ancient True Spirits were existences of the Ten Worlds realm, but they had long been gone in the long river of history, and only existed in legends now. He did not think he could see the trace of one today.

"What kind of man is this City Lord of yours?" Qian Duoduo asked with a frown on his face as he sensed the aura of another man beside him.

That gave Hong Bing a pause, but then he smiled and said while looking at the city down below being restored and resumed orderly, "This City Lord of yours? He is your City Lord as well. To be honest, I'm not sure. He has only been in Yanwu for half a month. But..." his eyes suddenly lit up and his face grew serious, "I believe that under his leadership, Yanwu will certainly become a great place!"

"A great place?" Qian Duoduo smiled noncommittally. "In your opinion, what makes a city great?"

Hong Bing heard the disdain in his tone. A hint of irritation rose in his heart, and he said coldly, "I don't know, but as long as he is the City Lord, I believe Yanwu will become a first-class power sooner or later in not only Firecrow Empire, but the Heavenly Martial Realm as well!"

"A first-class power in the Heavenly Martial Realm? Hah! You are a frog living at the bottom of a well. Do you know how vast the Heavenly Martial Realm is?" Qian Duoduo showed a sarcastic look and said

disdainfully, "Firecrow Empire is just an insignificant existence in the Heavenly Martial Realm. Even if it is wiped out by someone tomorrow, it will not be a piece of important news, and not many people will want to know about it."

That made Hong Bing extremely uncomfortable. Although he was facing a nine-stars Martial King, he still held his head up fearlessly and said in a cold voice, "Yes, I'm indeed a frog living at the bottom of a well, and you are a mighty nine-stars Martial King. But you can look with your own eyes at the City Lord himself, look at how he leads us and Yanwu to the pinnacle of this continent, one step at a time!"

At that moment, Hong Bing did not know why he was so confident, and a faith that had never existed before sprouted in his heart. He glanced coldly at Qian Duoduo and left to continue his work. He did not want to spend his time with someone like this.

The sarcastic look on Qian Duoduo's face slowly faded away. There was a look of pain in his eyes as they seemed to look through layers of space into the unreachable north while a voice rang in his mind...

"When I reach the pinnacle of this continent, I, Qian Duoduo, will come back!"

He felt a pang of sadness, and he closed his eyes. When he opened his eyes a moment later, they were as clear and calm as before. Looking at the city down below, he murmured to himself, "Did he say the pinnacle of the continent? Since everyone trusts you so much, then...I will believe you just once."

He lifted his hand and looked at the Nine Orifices pill in his palm. Then, with just a blink, he vanished from the rooftop.

In Mount Inch within the Divine Realm Tablet...

Zhang Qingfan roared excitedly, "We made it! This is the Snow Pill, a fourth-tier healing medicine! We've finally made it!"

Sensing the rich Primordial Qi emanating from the medicinal pill, he turned and bolted toward the cavern.

“This Snow Pill is an ancient healing medicine. Although it is only a fourth-tier medicinal pill, it is much stronger than all those common fourth-tier medicinal pills! Can you sense its rich Primordial Qi? It can certainly save Master Yunxiao!” Zhang Qingfan explained in excitement. After he fed the pill to Yunxiao, the crowd waited quietly with expectant faces.

Time went by little by little...

Li Changfeng could not bear it anymore. He walked out of the cavern and looked at the sky, which was always bright and clear in the Divine Realm Table. He frowned and said, “At least six hours have passed, right? Why hasn’t he reacted yet?”

Zhang Qingfan’s forehead was covered with sweat, and his face was blank. The medicinal pill was refined by him and Xu Han, and they both knew how strong its strength was, which was enough to revive a dead. But, why had it only made Yunxiao’s face slightly red?

Xu Han could not help saying, “This is very strange! Maybe Master Yunxiao’s condition is too serious. Why don’t we go and refine a few more? Maybe that will help...aye, maybe.”

By now, even he had completely lost confidence.

Chapter 163: Wake Up

“Yes! We will refine a few more! I’m sure we can save Master Yunxiao by feeding him enough Snow Pills!”

Zhang Qingfan was fuming. The fact that he, as a fourth-tier alchemist, could do nothing when Yunxiao, who was like a teacher to him, was dying had completely angered him.

“Hold on!”

Just when the two of them walked out of the cavern and planned to continue to refine more pills, Xiao Qingwang cried out suddenly, “Look, what is going on with the array!”

They hurried back to the cavern and saw the array had activated by itself, and was slowly rotating in a way that was more perfect than when they controlled it previously. Soon, it was running at its full capacity.

“What...what’s going on?” Both men were startled and completely confused at first, but the look on their faces turned to surprise when they saw the array begin to crazily absorb the surrounding Primordial Qi, convert it into the purest life force, and forcibly pour into Yunxiao and Meng Wu’s bodies.

In the beginning, it was like a trickling stream, but then it turned into a rushing river, and before long, both Yunxiao and Meng Wu were completely drowned by the almost corporeal life force. The crowd guarded around the array were struck dumb; they had never seen so much life force, and when they inhaled it, they immediately felt their minds become clearer and their spirits freshened.

After it was activated, the array ran continuously for one day and one night. It was only when the rushing life force began to gradually fade away that the crowd could see the situation inside the array: Yunxiao sat there with a calm face while Meng Wu was still in a coma.

Although Zhang Qingfan’s Snow pill did not fully recover Yunxiao, it restored a wisp of his divine sense. And as Divine Realm Tablet was his intrinsic mystic artifact, although he had not yet fully refined it, he could still control an array in it effortlessly. So, after his wisp of divine sense restored, he used it to activate and control the array and began to heal his injuries.

“Young Master Yun! “”Yunxiao! “Master Yunxiao!”

The crowd cried out almost simultaneously, and everyone had an overjoyed look on their faces. After the moment of joy, however, Luo Yunshang frowned and asked worriedly, “Why is Meng Wu...”

Yunxiao glanced at them and said calmly, “Her three spiritual souls were shattered by Xingyang Kun. Unless a Soul Nourishing Wood is found, she won’t wake up, no matter how strong her vitality is.”

“I see. At least there is a way to save her.” Luo Yunshang was relieved to hear that, but what really worried her was Yunxiao’s overly calm look, which was a kind of indifference toward everything. How could a boy who was only fifteen years old have such a calmness about him, as if he had experienced many vicissitudes of life, and indifference toward everything?

“Are you all right, Young Master Yun?” Xiao Qingwang could feel the cold as well, and he asked worriedly.

“I’m fine.” Yunxiao glanced at the crowd. Suddenly, his pupils constricted slightly, and his eyes flashed with a glimmer of pain. He tried his best to ask in a calm voice, “Where is my grandpa and Uncle Chen?”

Everyone was shocked, and for a moment, no one knew how to answer.

Li Changfeng swallowed hard and said, “Your grandpa is out there with...he.”

Yunxiao seemed to lose his spirit in an instant. With the loneliness and sadness that could no longer be concealed in his eyes, he said softly, “I see. I’ll go and see them.”

After saying that, he vanished from the cavern. The crowd wanted to follow, but Luo Yunshang stopped them. She sighed and said, “Let him go! Chen Dasheng died to save him. You should know how miserable he is at this moment.”

The crowd fell silent. Xiao Qingwang’s eyes gleamed as he suddenly turned and walked toward the depths of the cavern and said coldly, “Go and meditate now, all of you! Soon there will be tougher battles. I don’t want to see any of you leave like him in the next battle.”

Although they felt pain in their hearts too, they all had experienced the slaughter on the battlefield, and had lost many of their brothers and sisters in the past. So, they could still accept it. Upon hearing that, they stood up and started toward the depths of the cavern with a trace of hatred on their faces.

After coming out of the cavern, Yunxiao saw Li Chunyang drinking wine alone in front of a new grave on a hilltop.

“You’ve woken up?” He asked in surprise when he saw Yunxiao walk over, and then he said with a wry smile, “Do you know what is the most painful thing in life?”

Yunxiao rested his eyes on the grave and shook his head.

“Haha!” Li Chunyang burst into laughter with tears running down his face. “The most painful thing in life is that you can’t get drunk! I have never been drunk since I became a Martial King.”

A lonely look came over Yunxiao’s calm face. He closed his eyes slightly and said, “I will brew a pot of wine that can make you drunk the next time.”

There was no sunrise or sunset in the Divine Realm Tablet, but a cold wind was felt blowing constantly.

...

Under Hong Bing’s orderly command, the aftermath within Yanwu was quickly settled. The large pit in the center of the city was filled and the list of missing persons compiled.

Yunxiao glanced at the list. Most of the casualties were common people, but because the city was too densely populated, they were also many members of Dubhe and Merak. He gave the list to Wu Zishi and said, “I want all the sacrificed common people to be properly settled. The compensation must be paid to their families in a timely manner, and for those who don’t have immediate family members, their compensation must be paid to their relatives. As for the members of Dubhe and Merak, they will receive a hundred times more compensation, and I want you to personally send the money to their families.”

As for Chen Zhen, Yunxiao had sent him and Han Bai into the cavern and asked them to meditate there. He had once promised Chen Dasheng that he would help Chen Zhen become a Martial Lord in one year. Now that Chen Dasheng was dead, he had to fulfill the promise no matter what.

Wu Zishi bowed and hurried away. Meanwhile, Yunxiao turned to Jia Rong and asked, “How much have you borrowed?”

Jia Rong had returned just after the battle. He quickly stepped out of the rank and said, “Myriad Treasures Store lent us fifty thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones. Yin Zhaoyang said he is going to cultivate in seclusion, and most probably won’t show up for some time. Tianyuan Trading Company has lent us fifty thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones as well. Miss Ding Ling’er didn’t say anything except that they don’t have too many Primordial Stones available on hand right now, and can only lend us so much.”

Yunxiao snorted coldly. “That old codger Yin Zhaoyang is afraid I will pluck his hair again, so he hid himself. Hmph! He wants to curry favor with me, and yet he’s unwilling to invest. There’s no such good thing in the world! Send someone to tell him that if he doesn’t lend two hundred thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones to me, I will take it as if I never knew him! By that time, I will not entertain him even if he brings me two million or twenty million Primordial Stones!”

He was in a bad mood now. If it were at a normal time, he would just laugh it off, because the result was actually within his expectations. But, he was not so accommodating now. He thought he had done well with Yanwu’s defense and offense, but just a Martial Grandmaster was enough to wreak havoc in the city, and Chen Dasheng was even killed because of him.

“Ah? This...” Jia Rong was struck dumb, and beads of cold sweat began to drop down his forehead. Who would borrow money like that? He could already imagine the furious look on Yin Zhaoyang’s face when he would tell the latter that. The man was a Martial Grandmaster, and this demand was like a slap in his face.

But then, he suddenly recalled that a mighty Martial Grandmaster had just fallen over Yanwu, which he found extremely difficult to accept.

Right then, a servant came into the hall with a jade slip in his hand and said, “Just now someone gave me this and said it must be opened by the City Lord. The man vanished right in front of me after giving it to me.”

The servant was just a common mortal, and the so-called vanished man was most probably a warrior using a movement technique.

Yunxiao took the jade slip and sent his divine sense into it. With that, the information contained in it immediately emerged in his mind.

It was news from Tianyuan Trading Company. Surprisingly, they knew every detail of what had happened recently in Yanwu, and Ding Ling’er even included detailed information about the Xingyang family and the Supreme Palace, as if she knew what Yunxiao was thinking.

‘Hmph! It looks like this little girl doesn’t trust me. She is watching me so closely. But I can’t blame her, since she has invested so much in me,’ he thought to himself.

His original plan was to enter a secluded meditation, break through to the realm of Great Martial Masters, and then bring his men to attack the Xinyang family. But, after reading the news from Tianyuan Trading Company, he changed his plan slightly. He took out the invitation from Supreme Palace and gave it another look as he made up his mind. He turned to Hong Bing and said, "I'm going out. When Neng Feichen gets here, give these medicinal pills to him and bring him to the pill pagoda. I've already prepared three venues inside and created extremely harsh environments with arrays, which are more than enough to let the members of Dubhe, Megrez, and Merak cultivate at the same time. Teacher Luo Yunshang will be the leader of Dubhe for the time being. Tell her that when she comes out of her seclusion."

After saying that, Yunxiao left Yanwu alone, heading in the direction of the Supreme Palace.

The area under Firecrow Empire's jurisdiction was huge, but the land occupied by mortals was very small and mainly concentrated in major cities. Most of the land was occupied by mountain ranges that stretched endlessly. The Supreme Palace was situated in one such mountain range with excellent Primordial Qi. The sect did not have a long history, but it had risen rapidly, and it had become a famous power in Firecrow Empire in just a very short time.

To prevent Li Yi from recognizing him, Yunxiao had deliberately changed his appearance a little. No one could recognize him without looking at him carefully now.

"Slow down, brother! Are you going to the Supreme Palace to offer your congratulations?"

Yunxiao was walking leisurely in the mountain when a voice came from behind him. Soon, a man in white clothes came next to him with just a few leaps.

The man was a three-stars Martial Lord. He looked at Yunxiao in surprise as he smiled and asked, "Which sect are you from, brother? We can travel together."

'Travel together my ass! Supreme Palace is just a few steps up ahead, so why do we need to travel together?' Yunxiao cursed in his head. But, he still put on a joyous look and said politely, "I'm Meng Bai from Dhyana Sect. May I know which sect are you from, brother?"

The man had a dubious look in his eyes when he heard that. He studied Yunxiao from top to bottom as he frowned and said, "You are here for the Supreme Palace's celebration banquet?"

Chapter 164: The Supreme Palace

The way the man looked at him made Yunxiao somewhat uncomfortable. 'What did I do wrong?' he thought in his head. Puzzled, he asked, "Yes. Why? Is there something wrong?"

The man's smiling face instantly turned cold, and there was a sneer in his eyes as he snorted and said, "I'm Xiao Jian from the Hundred Swords Sect. Take care of yourself!" As soon as he had finished speaking, he strode straight on. It was he who had suggested them to travel together, but his attitude now clearly said that he did not take Yunxiao seriously anymore.

"Take care of myself?" That gave Yunxiao a pause. He hurried up and stopped Xiao Jian. "Why do you ask me to take care of myself, Brother Xiao Jian?"

"I'm not familiar with you, so don't call me a brother." Xiao Jian held his head up with a lofty air. When he saw the puzzled look on Yunxiao's face, he sneered, "You really don't know, do you? Well, I don't mind telling you the truth. Are you unpopular in Dhyana Sect and often offend others?"

Yunxiao still did not understand. "Does it matter?"

Xiao Jian gave him a cold look and said sarcastically, "It matters a lot! Your Dhyana Sect is a famous hermit sect in Firecrow Empire. Apart from Neng Feichen, the rest of you are worthless, and his time is almost up. Who doesn't know that you are the bottom sect? Supreme Palace flattered you by sending you the invitation, but you only send a Martial Master to attend the banquet? How ignorant and arrogant is that? So, you better take care of yourself later!"

Only then did Yunxiao understand the situation. Generally, the strength of the disciple sent by a sect to invite others for an event or to attend an event represented its attitude toward the others. For example, Supreme Palace only sent Fu Juncai, who was a Great Martial Master, to Dhyana Sect, but a Martial Lord to Hundred Swords Sect. Although Hundred Swords Sect only sent a Martial Lord to attend the celebration, Xiao Jian was actually the sect leader's son, the chosen prospective sect leader.

When Xiao Jian saw Yunxiao, he thought he was a disciple from some powerful sect, which was huge enough to just send a Martial Master. That was the reason why he hurried up and suggested that they

should travel together, so he could know him better. Little did he know that Yunxiao was just an insignificant disciple of Dhyana Sect, a sect that was far weaker than Hundred Swords Sect. If the Supreme Palace were provoked, it was very likely that they would kill this poor guy on the spot. Even if they spared him, they would still insult him in front of everyone.

Xiao Jian gave the poor guy, who was apparently framed by his own fellow disciples, a sarcastic look as he held his head up and walked away.

“I didn’t expect this,” Yunxiao said to himself with a wry smile. “Wouldn’t that make me stand out? This is going to be problematic.”

He could not think of a better way at the moment, and since he was already here, he could not just turn back and leave. So, he had no choice but move on and pray that he would not be recognized by Li Yi so soon.

Many people had arrived at Supreme Palace’s front gates. Xiao Jian showed his invitation to an old man in charge of receiving guests, who spoke a few polite words with him and asked a disciple to lead him in.

Yunxiao was shocked when he saw the buildings. ‘This Supreme Palace really is related to that Beiming family. Even its front gate is exactly the same as that of the Beiming Dark Palace, just that this one is smaller and not as grand,’ he thought.

At that moment, a man caught Yunxiao’s attention. When showing his invitation, the man said, “I’m Xingyang Ming from the Xingyang family of Firecrow Empire.”

Xingyang family!

Yunxiao’s pupils constricted. This Xingyang Ming was a two-stars Martial Lord, and judging from the faint Primordial Qi emanating from him, he was about to break through the next level.

“Welcome, my lord! This way please! Luo Mao, quickly bring Lord Xingyang Ming to the seat of honor!” The old man shouted. Although the Xingyang family was not much stronger than the Supreme Palace, it was one of the oldest and most powerful aristocratic families of the Firecrow Empire.

“Little brother, you are...” After Xingyang Ming went in, the old man saw Yunxiao. Shocked, so he asked quickly and carefully. A sect that only sent a Martial Master must be a very powerful sect, and there were less than five of them in Firecrow Empire. ‘Could this young man be a disciple from one of them?’ He dared not to neglect such an important guest.

Yunxiao smiled wryly when he saw the old man’s careful look. “I’m from Dhyana Sect,” he said while handing over the invitation.

“Oh, you are from Dhy...Wait, Dhyana Sect?!” The old man showed a surprised look at first, but then his eyes suddenly widened and his voice grew incredulous. Like Xiao Jian, he studied Yunxiao from top to bottom, then glanced at the invitation. “You are really from Dhyana Sect!”

That made the warriors coming to attend the celebration behind him stop in place and look over.

“What is Dhyana Sect trying to do? How insolent!”

“Heh! Supreme Palace throws this celebration banquet just to show off and display its strength. But in my opinion, Dhyana Sect is the one who is displaying its strength now!”

“Yea, how impressive! I can’t believe they just send a Martial Master here. This is no different from a slap in the face.”

“Haha! You’re right, and what a loud slap! I wonder how the Supreme Palace will react? Do you think they will kill him and make him an example?”

“I don’t think so. After all, today is a day of celebration. But, I’m sure there will be insults and humiliation.”

Yunxiao smiled bitterly in his heart as he listened to the chatter around him. Meanwhile, the old man’s face turned livid, and his eyes burned with rage. To him, it was a test of his wits, and he was so nervous that his forehead was already covered with cold sweats. With the people sent by all the well-known sects in Firecrow Empire watching them now, it would be a disgrace to Supreme Palace if he did not handle the situation well.

If he were allowed, he would have killed this stupid-looking lad with a slap. But, it was a taboo to kill someone on the Young Palace Master's big day.

Suddenly, the old man's eyes lit up, as if he had thought of a good idea. Staring coldly at Yunxiao, he asked, "May I know what gift does my lord from Dhyana Sect bring today?"

"Gift?" Yunxiao paused. He really forgot about it. If it were a few days ago, he might still have something on him, but now his storage ring was destroyed by Xiao Qingwang, and his new ring only contained the Cauldron of Five Elements, which he would never give to anyone.

That stunned the old man, and his mouth dropped open as if he were completely struck dumb. "Don't... don't tell me you did not bring any gift?"

Yunxiao gave him an embarrassed smile and said, "Ugh...well...I will bring it next time, I promise."

The people around felt their heads reel. It was a pure provocation instead of a congratulation. If he were sent here because he was framed by his fellow disciples, then the fact that he did not bring a gift was no less than a slap in the face.

The old man choked back his anger and took some time to calm down. His eyes were wide with fury, but he tried his best to make his voice calm, "Fine, fine, fine! Zhu San, come over here and lead our guest from the Dhyana Sect inside!"

A disciple hurried over, and when he saw the look on the old man's face, he knew what he should do. "My lord, please come with me!" he cried, drawing out his voice.

Under the mocking eyes of the crowd, Yunxiao took a few steps, and then he suddenly asked, somewhat astounded, "Where are we going? Why did they all go through the front gate?"

"Front gate?" Zhu San glared at him and said in a loud mocking voice, "You are a lord, so you have to go this way. We have an entrance for dogs here and it leads directly to the woodshed. When the banquet starts later, I will bring you a bowl of rice. Do eat more, and make sure you are full before you go back. We can't let Dhyana Sect accuse the Supreme Palace for not serving you even a bowl of rice!"

“Haha!”

The crowd burst into laughter instantly. Zhu San’s voice was loud, so everyone heard him clearly. They laughed wantonly, and their eyes were filled with derision. Even the old man was laughing, and all his anger vanished in an instant. The more he looked at Zhu San, the more he found the latter likable. ‘How come I didn’t realize this boy had such good skills before? Not bad! I will promote him after this.’

Surrounded by the wild laughter, Yunxiao’s face was calm. No one knew that he was also laughing in his heart now. He had planned to sneak out during the banquet, and he was worried that someone might find out. But, little did he expect that he would be given such an excellent opportunity. He purposely put on a look of distress and sighed over and over again.

“Let’s go, sighing will not do you any good. I’ve prepared the woodshed for you. This way please, my lord!”

With a hint of a smile on his face, Yunxiao entered through a small door after Zhu San, and sure enough, he was led to a woodshed. Zhu San pushed open the shed’s door and sneered, “I’ll leave you here, my lord, as I have other more important tasks to attend. When the rice is served later, remember to eat a few more bowls. Haha!” He laughed triumphantly and left, leaving Yunxiao behind.

Yunxiao sneered and walked directly into the woodshed, where he sat cross-legged down and sent out his divine sense. In just the blink of an eye, the whole Supreme Palace was under his monitoring. He carefully avoided some powerful aura. Although his divine sense should be the strongest here, it was always good to be careful.

But, what he saw immediately put a frown on his face. This Supreme Palace had not only copied Beiming Dark Palace’s front gate, but even their interiors were almost identical. Moreover, the extreme cold energy they cultivated was actually the Beiming cold energy of the Beiming family, which was one of the most vicious energies in the world. And Luo Yunshang’s pure Yang energy happened to be one of the cultivation techniques that could suppress it. He did not understand why two of the most brutal cultivation techniques in the world would appear in Firecrow Empire at the same time.

“Since its interior is identical to that of Beiming Dark Palace, their treasury should be at the same place as well!” Yunxiao smiled, and he disappeared from the woodshed very quickly, running toward a small gallery beside the main hall.

In his previous life, he had attacked and escaped Beiming Dark Palace three times. Had he not been helped by someone, he would have died inside almost every time, so he was very familiar with its layout. Although this place was a lot smaller, as it was a copy, he found no difficulty in navigating around.

Soon, he came in front of a small yard after passing a few galleries. Inside it was an ancient square tower, which looked splendid with its crystal clear building material.

Chapter 165: Meet An Old Friend

“They lack even the simplest creativity. Why do they want to copy the square tower as well, and then construct it so crudely?” In Yunxiao’s eyes, such a splendid tower was just a poorly constructed inferior product. He was about to step into the yard when he suddenly sensed something. Hurriedly, he retracted his aura and hid in a corner.

A short moment later, a white figure ran sneakily over, glancing about as he moved, as if he were afraid of being found by others. With a few dashes, he leaped into the yard.

Yunxiao’s eyes gleamed, and he almost burst out laughing: The man was Li Yi. It seemed that they were destined to meet each other. ‘What is he doing here? Is he here to steal something too?’ Yunxiao thought to himself. ‘He is really bold to steal from his own sect! Well, I’ll just let him be my guide then.’

After stepping into the yard, Li Yi just stood there without moving, as if he had turned into a statue. Yunxiao was a little surprised. It had only been a few days, but Li Yi had already advanced to become a one-star Martial Lord. The progress was even faster than his own. He wondered how the other cultivated.

It was only after a moment of waiting that Li Yi began to move. Carefully, he lifted a leg and took a step, then another step. He landed each step in a very strange way and walked with extreme caution.

Obviously, there were strong restrictive spells in this yard, and one wrong step would kill him. Li Yi focused all his attention on his legs, not daring to be careless. It took him almost an hour to walk a distance of only several meters. When he finally reached the other side of the yard, he breathed a deep sigh of relief.

“What monster created this restrictive spell? This is simply torturing!” He complained while sending a few incantation seals with both hands into the square tower’s door, which made the two little copper rings on it glow with a faint yellow light. Soon, the door opened with a deep rumble.

With a joyous look, Li Yi could not help but murmur to himself, “After bowing my head and wagging my tail like a dog in front of that pervert for so long, I’m finally here! Luckily, he broke through and is throwing a celebration banquet, or I wouldn’t have this opportunity. Now, as long as I can find the Outworld Dark Jade and cultivate my extreme cold energy to perfection, I’ll have the ability to protect myself even from a Martial King!”

“The Outworld Dark Jade!” Yunxiao’s pupils constricted, and he cried out involuntarily. That thing was the unique treasure of the Beiming family, and also a must-have item to cultivate the Beiming extreme cold energy. How could it be here?

“Who goes there?”

The sudden cry frightened Li Yi and turned his face pale instantly. If he were caught stealing, he would definitely be killed. At that moment, he saw a figure dash into the yard, repeating the same steps he had taken just now. Yunxiao moved so fast that before Li Yi could see his face, he had already passed the restrictive spell, ran past him, and bolted into the square tower.

“Who are you!” Li Yi rushed in after Yunxiao, shocked and angry, but relieved at the same time. He would be shorter by a head now if the sudden visitor was a person in power of Supreme Palace. But, if the man was not from Supreme Palace, how did he pass the restrictive spell so fast? It was only after watching the Young Palace Master Ma Feibai a dozen times that Li Yi managed to secretly learn the steps, and even Ma Feibai could not move as quickly as the man.

As soon as he was inside, Li Yi was struck dumb. He saw the man just standing in the middle of the square tower with his back toward him, as if he were waiting for him on purpose. When he found with his divine sense that the stranger was only a peak-level Martial Master, he breathed a sigh of relief and said coldly, “Who are you? How dare you intrude a restricted area of Supreme Palace! Do you know you will be killed for this?”

Yunxiao turned around with a smile. “Long time no see, 9527. I hope you are well.”

“It’s you! LI YUNXIAO!” Li Yi was stunned at first, and then he flew into a rage in an instant. He found that whenever he saw this guy, he could no longer control his emotions. His body was trembling slightly as a monstrous killing intent exploded out of him.

“Haha! It feels so great to meet an old friend in a strange place,” Yunxiao said calmly, as if they were a pair of old friends who had not seen each other for a long time.

Li Yi took a few deep breaths and tried his best to calm down. He was already a Martial Lord, and he told himself that he should not be afraid of this guy. In a cold voice, he said, “It depends on what the old friend you meet in a strange place wants from you. If he tries to borrow money from you, it will not be so great anymore.”

“Haha! 9527, since when did you become so funny?” Yunxiao roared with laughter.

The killing intent was plain on Li Yi’s face. “I don’t find it funny at all. How did you learn the steps to bypass the restrictive spell?” He was still puzzled. If it were someone from Supreme Palace entered here, he could still accept, but he was completely baffled when the man was Yunxiao.

“You are the one who taught me,” said Yunxiao with a smile. “I really have to thank you this time. If you hadn’t come in first, I would have been blown to pieces by that restrictive spell.”

Li Yi almost fainted when he heard that. He could not believe he had unintentionally helped Yunxiao, which upset him even more than being cut with a knife. While fuming, he clenched his jaws and said, “Nonsense! I’ve had to watch a dozen times before I learned the steps! Even if you are truly gifted and had learned it by just looking at it once, there is no way you could use it with such proficiency!”

Yunxiao looked at him as if he were an idiot and mocked, “By that look of you alone, I can tell you are an uncivilized man, a material born to be a servant. You know nothing about music and dance. I realized immediately after watching you take the first few steps that it is one of the most popular dance steps in ancient times called the Soul and Sword Dance.”

When he had finished, he began to stamp rhythmically on the ground, moving with the strange steps and dancing with his upper body. “Look, am I doing it right? There’s also music to go with it, which is called...”

Li Yi did not wait for him to finish before he coughed out a mouthful of blood. Looking at Yunxiao's skillful steps and rhythm, he had no more doubt that he had indeed helped his foe. He was so angry that he felt his head reel, and he bellowed, "Don't be so proud of yourself, Li Yunxiao! This is where you die today!"

"Why are you so angry? It's not good for your health. Besides, if you make too much noise, you might attract others." Yunxiao smiled as he waved at Li Yi and said, "Come here and dance with me. It will help you release some pressure."

"You!" Li Yi was so angry that he felt his chest was about to explode. But, when he thought about how much effort he had put in to sneak into here, and that all the effort would be in vain if he were discovered, and he would be killed for a certain, he choked back the anger and said, "I've had enough of your nonsense! Just tell me what you want!"

"Hehe! What I want is nothing special. I can see a lot of treasures here, and I want them all," Yunxiao said casually.

"No way!" Li Yi rejected that brusquely. "Don't go too far, I tell you. There are too many treasures here, and I fear you can't take them all! Besides, I'm the one who came in first." He paused as he ground his teeth and went on, "We will share the things. You take forty percent, and I take the rest!"

Yunxiao laughed. He made a surprised look and said, "Are you sure you're not telling a joke?"

Li Yi's chest heaved with fury. He did not know why he wished he could rip that face to pieces whenever he saw Yunxiao. When he was in the Li family, he had never looked this good-for-nothing in the eye, and he did not expect that when he did, his eyes were stabbed by a bright light. "Fine! I admit defeat this time! We will share everything equally!"

Yunxiao put away his mocking look and sneered, "You are just a lowly servant of my family. What makes you think you are worthy of sharing everything equally with me?"

Li Yi finally could not stand it anymore. A fierce murderous aura exploded out of his eyes in an instant as he rushed forward. Meanwhile, there was a golden flash in his right hand: it was a sharp sword that appeared out of nowhere, and he thrust it directly toward Yunxiao's throat. He threw caution to the

wind completely, and he swore in his heart that he would kill this little son of a bi*ch today, even if it would cost his own life.

Although he had broken through and become a Martial Lord, Li Yi was not so arrogant as to think that he could kill Yunxiao with one move.

Sure enough, he saw Yunxiao move slightly and flick his sword with a finger, knocking the sharp blade to the side. He immediately felt a great force coming over at him, causing his arm to tremble slightly. Holding back the shock in his heart, he swung the sword rapidly and enveloped Yunxiao with sword light.

“Hmph! I don’t have time to waste on you anymore!” Fearing that the noise they made would alert others, Yunxiao drew his Tigertooth. A faint tiger roar rang out, and for a moment, the whole hall was filled with the might of a tiger king.

“Sword of Tigertooth, the roar that shakes the forest!”

“Impossible!” Li Yi’s pupils constricted as terror filled his heart. Yunxiao’s sword strike destroyed all his sword light as it condensed into a fierce tiger might that leaped at him like a demon tiger king, locking his aura and making it impossible for him to escape. When Li Yi was still a Great Martial Master, he had never been able to defeat Yunxiao, but he did not dream that it would still be the same even when he had become a Martial Lord. It frustrated him so much that he was about to go berserk.

“Don’t underestimate me! Try my Ice Punch!” He roared furiously, throwing out thousands of punches in the blink of an eye. For a moment, the world was filled with his fists, and the temperature inside the tower dropped significantly.

“Oh?” Yunxiao was surprised, and he said with a smile, “You’ve made some progress! Sword of Tigertooth, the Song of Blue Lotus Sword!”

Li Yi felt like coughing blood again when he saw Yunxiao’s casual look, but then he immediately sensed a great danger from the few huge lotus flowers blooming out of Yunxiao’s hands, which blocked all his Ice Punches.

With a soft smile on his face, Yunxiao pointed out his sword. Suddenly, the flowers condensed from sword light bloomed and broke apart into petals, falling down from the air before being rolled up by a gust of wind, which turned into a small tornado and spun toward Li Yi.

In the blink of an eye, Li Yi was surrounded by petals, making him terrified. All the petals in the tornado were made of sword light, which meant there were thousands of sword lights slashing at him at the same time. He sucked in a breath and felt a chill run down his back, but his mind calmed down in that instant.

If he lost his life, what was the point of killing Yunxiao? And what was the point of getting the Outworld Dark Jade?

Chapter 166: Set Up

At the most critical moment, Li Yi woke up and realized that nothing was more important than his own life.

“Ice energy, Ice Sword Technique!”

Suddenly, rings of cold air emerged and wheeled around him, then a plume of cold air transformed into a sword light and slashed out, forcing away all the tiger power along the way as it cut a passage through the blue lotus petals that blotted the air.

“Li Yunxiao, I swear I will kill you one day, hack your corpse a thousand times, then burn it and scatter the ashes everywhere!” Li Yi screamed as he fled through the passage he had cut out.

Yunxiao laughed and said, “I’ll wait for you, and I look forward to our next meeting!”

Li Yi’s body paused for a brief moment. It was plain that he was provoked once again, but he vanished into the distance in the next instant.

“I doubt he will inform others about me, but I shouldn’t stay here for too long.” Yunxiao glanced around in the square tower, putting everything he saw into his ring.

“There are indeed many good things, but none of them is as good as the Outworld Dark Jade. Where is it now?” While frowning, he sat cross-legged down and spread out his divine sense, searching every corner in the square tower while not neglecting even the tiniest spot.

“How clever! They almost deceived me!”

Yunxiao sensed a weak energy fluctuation in a corner. He walked over and kicked the ground with one leg, and it broke open immediately, revealing a small pit. Inside was placed an exquisite small white box made of a jade-like material that seemed to be the bone of some animal.

He opened the box and saw an object wrapped in a square of gray leather. He touched the wrapping and cried out, “The skin of an ancient dragon! No wonder it can block my divine sense. Luckily, this leather is too small and not powerful enough.”

He lifted the dragon skin, and a silvery-white stone was revealed. Meanwhile, a strong cold air blew into his face, and he felt like he was frozen instantly and losing his senses while a stream of extreme cold energy was attacking his meridians. He quickly covered the stone with the skin, and the feeling disappeared, just that his hands were still covered in a thin layer of ice.

“It really is the Outworld Dark Jade! Although it is only the size of a palm, someone should have knocked it off from the one in the Beiming Dark Palace. Tsk, tsk, is Ma Tianhe a traitor of Beiming Dark Palace? He is just a Martial Grandmaster, and yet he dared to steal it from them...He really has no idea of death or danger!”

After putting away everything, Yunxiao left the square tower and started toward the banquet hall. It had been a while since Li Yi fled, and the Supreme Palace was still quiet. He probably did not alert anyone for fear that it would drag him in as well.

As he heard the joyful singing and laughter coming from the banquet hall in the distance, Yunxiao sneered, then his lips moved slightly, compressing his voice into a line and sending it into the hall.

Xingyang Ming, who was drinking in the hall, suddenly frowned. A look of doubt came into his eyes, but it was gone in the next moment, and he abruptly looked outside, his face covered with shock and terror that could not be concealed. Without hesitation, he stood up and turned to Ma Tianhe and Ma Feibai as

he said, "Palace Master, deputy Palace Master, there is something urgent that requires me to leave early. I beg your pardon."

Ma Tianhe paused a moment, and an obvious look of displeasure came over his face. He said coldly without losing his grace, "Since Lord Xingyang Ming has something more important, we dare not to keep you any longer. Unlike us, who stay in the mountains like some savage men, a man who stays in the empire is usually bound by more things."

Xingyang Ming knew his host was unhappy, but he could not care much about it now as he just spoke apologetically, "I am truly sorry. I promise I will visit and ask you for your pardon next time."

Only then did Ma Tianhe look better as he waved and said, "You may leave now."

Xingyang Ming felt relieved and took his leave hurriedly. As soon as he stepped out of the hall, he ran toward a certain direction. Just now, a voice was sent into his ear, reading him a very profound cultivation technique. He had only listened to a few words when he felt his bottleneck, which had been stuck for some time, start to loosen.

It shocked and surprised him. He knew if he could get the complete cultivation technique, he would definitely make a breakthrough. Therefore, after leaving the hall, he immediately ran toward the voice. He did stop halfway, hesitating. After all, he was in the Supreme Palace. Although most of the experts were in the banquet hall now, there might still be some others hiding somewhere. It would be very difficult for him to explain himself if he were found.

But, whenever he stopped, the voice would read the cultivation technique in his ear again. Although he did find it strange, he still could not help heading toward the voice.

Finally, he came to a small yard, and the voice taught him a set of steps. He crossed the yard with the steps and entered the square tower. But, it was empty inside, without even a shadow. And the voice disappeared as well, as if it had never existed before.

"What's going on? Where is this place?" He frowned. "Judging from the strange restrictive spell outside, this should be an important place for Supreme Palace. But why is it so empty?"

“Something is wrong!”

Suddenly, he had a bad feeling, and he turned quickly to run out of the tower. When he got outside, he saw a large crowd of people rush over, led by Ma Tianhe and his son. The Palace Master looked shocked when he saw Xingyang Ming from far away, and he bellowed furiously, “Xingyang Ming! How dare you steal from Supreme Palace!”

Xingyang Ming was startled, and he felt a chill run down his back. He immediately knew that he was set up, and he panicked. “Palace Master, this is a misunderstanding! Please listen to my explanation!”

“Explain my ass! Hand over everything you have taken right now or die!”

Ma Tianhe’s voice spread out like a powerful blast, and the might of a Martial Grandmaster contained in it shook Xingyang Ming’s chest and made him spew out a mouthful of blood. He was completely in a panic, and he felt a chill in his heart as he saw the murderous eyes of the father and son.

Meanwhile, a voice suddenly rang out beside his ear, “Run to the left.” As if he had found a straw to clutch at, he mustered all his strength into his legs and ran to the left without even thinking. Moreover, he was so fast that even he felt incredible.

“Hmph! You are just a mere Martial Lord! Do you think you can run away from so many of us?”

With a sneer, Ma Tianhe rushed into the yard and walked quickly with the dance steps. However, just as he was about to cross it, a strange force suddenly pressed over from all directions and stopped him. Ma Tianhe was shocked, and he felt the force grow stronger and stronger until even he, a three-stars Martial Grandmaster, could hardly resist it. Hurriedly, he leaped backward out of the yard.

“Dad, what’s going on?” Ma Feibai asked shockingly. They had walked many times through the restrictive spell in the yard, and such a situation was unprecedented.

Ma Tianhe’s face was livid and unsightly, as if he had just swallowed a rat. He clenched his jaws and said, “Someone has modified the restrictive spell!”

“What! But it is...” Ma Feibai blurted, but he immediately realized something and shut his mouth. His eyes were filled with a look of disbelief.

Even they, as Martial Grandmasters, did not have the ability to modify this restrictive spell, let alone Xingyang Ming, who was just a mere Martial Lord. It was also the reason why he and his father placed the square tower in it and did not post any guards here. They had too much confidence in it.

Ma Tianhe’s expression was extremely ugly. Hundreds of people from various powers were watching gloatingly from behind him. He had invited them here to show them his strength, and yet it was only a joke that he showed them in the end.

“Find him! I don’t believe he can escape the Supreme Palace’s boundary in such a short time!” Ma Tianhe bellowed. Then, he took a deep breath and mustered a mouthful of Primordial Qi in his chest, before opening his mouth and blowing it out into the sky!

The crowd saw an almost corporeal sound wave shoot up into the sky and explode over the Supreme Palace. In the next moment, the whole void began to shake, with rings of sound wave spreading out rapidly, bringing his voice to as far as ten miles away!

“All disciples of the Supreme Palace, pursue Xingyang Ming immediately and kill him on sight!”

The faces of those behind him who came for the banquet fell in an instant as they were awed by the might of a three-stars Martial Grandmaster. Many of them nearly coughed blood under the thunderous roar and turned extremely pale. The furious roar had also hurt the meridians of a large number of Supreme Palace’s low-ranking disciples. A look of fear came over their faces as they poured out in the direction where Xingyang Ming had fled.

Xingyang Ming was the most wronged man right now. While fleeing desperately, he kept thinking about what was going on. Soon, he realized that he must be set up by someone. The fact that the man could frame him under the nose of everyone showed that he was not someone simple.

‘Who on earth wants to frame me and why?’

“Because you are from the Xingyang family.”

A faint voice rang in his ear. That startled him, and he halted suddenly in terror. Then, he saw a young man with a pair of cold eyes standing in front of him.

“Who are you?!” He was shocked, not only because this person knew what he was thinking, but the voice was exactly the voice that framed him just now. ‘But why is he so young? And he is only a peak-level Martial Master?’

“You have wasted all your time living to this age, so the strength of a Martial Master is enough to kill you,” Yunxiao said calmly, and his murderous aura grew stronger and fiercer.

“You!”

Xingyang Ming was deeply frightened now. “How... how do you know what I’m thinking? And, why did you set me up?”

Yunxiao sneered, “Ask Xingyang Kun these questions when you’re dead!” His murderous aura exploded out as he lifted his right hand and shouted, “The purple air comes from the east, the cauldron that suppresses heaven and earth! Eye technique, Demon Moon!”

In Xingyang Ming’s shocked eyes, a small purple cauldron suddenly expanded while a pair of blood-red pupils emerged behind it.

As he was in a rush, Yunxiao did not want to waste time on the latter, so he used his spiritual attack and the most powerful strike as soon as the fight began. With just a few moves, he trapped Xingyang Ming in the cauldron and refined him into ashes. At that moment, many people of the Supreme Palace had arrived, about thirty of them, and all below the realm of Martial Lords.

Yunxiao’s eyes were still blood-red, and there was an evil gleam flicking on his face. In a voice as cold as ice, he said, “You will die with him as well.”

A tiger roar rang out across the woods.

Chapter 167: If He Is Well, It Will Be Sunny

“Over there! Hurry up!” The tiger roar startled the disciples in the distance, and dozens of them hurriedly ran toward it. Suddenly, several figures flew over them.

“It’s Palace Master and the others! Let’s follow them, quick!”

Initially, these disciples felt perturbed in their hearts, worrying that the foe might be too strong. But they found their confidence when they saw even their two palace masters making their way toward the sound, so they ran over wildly.

But, they had just run a few steps when a thunderous roar mixed with endless Primordial Qi blew into their faces, knocking them flying backward and making them cough blood.

“Xingyang Ming! I swear I will kill you one day!”

Yunxiao had long driven his Tigerking chariot hundreds of miles away. He had killed two birds with one stone during this trip: Not only had he stolen everything in the Supreme Palace’s treasury, but he had also shifted the blame to the Xingyang family.

‘Xingyang Kun! You killed one of my people, and I will kill your whole family!’ A monstrous murderous air exploded out of him. Meanwhile, a dark purple cloud emerged around the chariot as it rumbled across the sky.

After returning to Yanwu, Yunxiao immediately entered the Divine Realm Tablet and began to meditate in seclusion. It took him only one day to break through the barrier of Martial Master and become a Great Martial Master.

“What? Going to Shangyang City?!” Xiao Qingwang narrowed his eyes and said in a deep voice, “Young Master Yun, are you going to look for the Xingyang family?”

Shangyang City was the capital of the Firecrow Empire, the home to the aristocratic families and the imperial family.

After breaking through, Yunxiao immediately summoned everyone. Looking at Xiao Qingwang's serious face, he nodded calmly and said, "Yes. I'm going to look for the Xingyang family."

Li Chunyang's face was glum when he heard that name, but he shook his head helplessly and said, "I disagree. If we were to fight the Xingyang family now, it is no different from knocking a stone with an egg. Just one of their Martial Grandmasters was enough to throw us into confusion. Although Qingwang is also a Martial Grandmaster now, we are still far weaker than a family who has hundreds of years of history."

Yunxiao said coldly, "Do you think they will not come to us if we don't take the initiative to attack? Xingyang Kun has been missing for a few days, and do you think his family doesn't know we killed him? Whatever we do, we must take the initiative in our own hands! I already have a plan in mind, and I just need eleven people to come with me."

"Eleven people?" Xiao Qingwang said. They could assemble a team of eleven experts who were Martial Lords and above. Such a force was strong enough to defeat anyone in Tianshui, but it was not enough to deal with an aristocratic family in Firecrow.

"Count me in." A voice came through the door, followed by a gust of strong wind, and the crowd felt a pressure blowing at their faces. Amidst the shocking gaze of everyone present, Qian Duoduo suddenly appeared in the great hall. Shrouded in an indescribable aura, he seemed a lot different from before.

"Martial Grandmaster!" Xiao Qingwang's pupils constricted. Looking at Qian Duoduo's aura, he said in surprise, "You've also broken through the barrier of Martial King!"

"Hmph!" With a disdainful look on his face, Qian Duoduo said coldly, "Why can't I when even you did it? In fact, it is nothing special to me." He was telling the truth. Even if he did not take the Nine Orifices pill, he could still make the breakthrough as long as he meditated with the Broken Moon Scroll, but it just would not be as fast.

Yunxiao glanced at Qian Duoduo and said with an approving look in his eyes, "The mind follows the heart. You have stabilized your cultivation base so quickly...Truly a man who practices the Broken Moon Scroll. Although Qingwang broke through before you, he is still a bit weaker than you."

Qian Duoduo had a strange look on his face. The way Yunxiao talked was like a three-year-old kid telling a thirty-year-old adult, "You have good physical strength, not bad!" The feeling was hard to describe.

Xiao Qingwang saw Qian Duoduo's expression and laughed. "Don't be unconvinced, I'm very convinced of what this lad has said. If he said I'm weaker than you, that means I'm really weaker than you. Now that we have two Martial Grandmasters, I think we can give it a try."

At the thought of the strength Yunxiao had displayed during the battle against the Martial Grandmaster, Qian Duoduo did not have anything else to say. He had never seen a freak like this, who was a Great Martial Master on the outside but had the strength of a Martial Lord or even a Martial King.

"No!" Li Chunyang rejected brusquely. "Both of you have just broken through, and you will be no match for those seasoned Martial Grandmasters."

"Count me in as well!" A strong voice rang out, and then a hearty laugh echoed in the great hall. The crowd turned and saw Neng Feichen stride over. He was beaming with energy and no longer looked old. It was plain that he had a strong vitality, and his lifespan had increased significantly.

"Thank you for the medicinal pills, Young Master Yun!" Neng Feichen bowed and thanked Yunxiao gratefully, his heart filled with mixed emotions.

Li Chunyang was somewhat stunned; he felt that the world had changed too fast. It was like he had just blinked once and three Martial Grandmasters had appeared. Three experts from the realm he did not dare to imagine in the past were standing in front of him, bowing toward his grandson.

"You're welcome, Sect Leader Neng, and I really need your help this time!" said Yunxiao with a smile.

Neng Feichen said seriously, "You don't have to speak like that, my lord. Now that Dhyana Sect has surrendered to Yanwu, we will naturally obey my lord's orders!"

The people around felt relief when they heard him state his stand clearly. After all, Dhyana Sect was not weaker than Yanwu, and with Neng Feichen becoming a Martial Grandmaster now, it might be extremely difficult to control. But, it seemed that they had worried too much.

Yunxiao said with satisfaction, "Good! I'm glad that Sect Leader Neng thinks like that. As long as you follow me wholeheartedly, you will have the hope to become a Martial Emperor, or even a Martial Supreme in the future."

He was telling the truth. As long as he could restore his strength of a ninth-tier Alchemy Supreme, these people could all advance to higher realms with just medicinal pills. However, they did not take it seriously and thought he just said that for the sake of courtesy.

Yunxiao stood up as an inexplicable aura emanated from him, filling everyone's heart with surprise and bewilderment while giving them a feeling as if they were facing a guru. He said in a soft voice, "The three of you, Grandpa, Dad, the two deputy Sect Leaders of Dhyana Sect, Ji Meng, Teacher Luo, Hong Bing, and Yian, you will immediately practice the Twelve Purple Lightning Array with me."

"Twelve Purple Lightning Array?" Everyone was astonished, and Li Chunyang asked, "What is this array? Why does it require twelve people? And how long do we have to learn it for?"

There was a glimmer of shock in Luo Yunshang's eyes and a blank look on her face, but a complicated look filled her eyes very quickly.

Yunxiao glanced at her from the corner of his eyes as he chuckled and said, "It is only a lightning-attracting array that can attract different types of lightning according to the strength of those forming it. If it is formed by twelve Martial Sovereigns, it can attract the strongest lightning called the Universal Brahma Divine Lightning, which can wipe out even a warrior with an indestructible body!"

The crowd was taken aback. They thought it was only a simple and ordinary array, but it turned out to be such a heaven-defying one!

"As for how long..." He chuckled and said, "You only have six hours, which happens to be the duration of our journey from Yanwu to Shangyang."

...

Twelve hoverchariots rose into the sky from Yanwu and sped away in the direction of Shangyang. Yunxiao sat in his Tigerking chariot, meditating. He had simplified the essence of the array and taught

everyone. Suddenly, a figure landed on his chariot and walked lightly toward him, sending a sweet fragrance into his nose.

“Yes? Is there anything else you don’t understand?” Yunxiao woke up from his meditation as he stared at Luo Yunshang and asked softly.

Luo Yunshang looked a little lonely as she stood there on the chariot, staring at the sky. At length, she sighed and said, “You should know what I’m thinking. Can you tell me the news about that man?”

As she said that, her voice grew extremely anxious. Her delicate body seemed a little weak in the strong blowing wind, and her shoulder began to shiver.

It was the first time she had asked seriously, hoping to get some definite information from Yunxiao. Although she had long been convinced that Gu Feiyang was still alive, that was just her guess. She did not know what the truth was.

“He was just a prodigal. The so-called number three on the power chart and an Alchemy Supreme are all bullsh*t in my eyes, and yet so many innocent girls like you have been cheated by him and miss him day and night! He is not worthy of you!” There was a look of melancholy in Yunxiao’s eyes and a weariness that belonged to someone who had gone through everything life could offer, which was completely unmatched with his young face of a fifteen-year-old boy.

That gave Luo Yunshang a pause, and she seemed to have captured a strange feeling. Supposedly, when someone scolded Gu Feiyang like that, she would have flown into a rage. But for some unknown reason, she did not feel angry right now. Her heart fluttered slightly as she stared at Yunxiao’s clear eyes, as if he were about to overlap with the figure in her heart.

She remembered the pair of deep eyes she saw on the Snowfall Peak of Shenxiao Temple, which seemed to have read through all the transmigrations and vicissitudes of life in the world. Although it was only a quick glimpse, she found them extremely familiar, as if she had been quietly staring at them for a thousand years in one of her previous lives.

‘Becoming loose are my clothes yet I regret not, for I languish and suffer for him willingly.’

“I forbid you from talking about him like that. If he is well, it will be sunny.”

There was a look of helplessness and bitterness in Yunxiao’s eyes as he smiled wryly and said, “He’s all right.”

Luo Yunshang breathed a heavy sigh of relief. At that moment, all the emotions and speculation that had been accumulating in her head and weighing down on her heart were released. She felt she was completely relaxed, and her body was as light as a sheet about to take flight.

“Thank you, Yunxiao!” In the face of her student, Luo Yunshang burst into tears of joy.

Yunxiao smiled bitterly; he really did not know how to end this matter.

Luo Yunshang sobbed softly. Suddenly, she felt so tired that she leaned her forehead against Yunshang’s upper arm, and soon her tears wet his sleeve. She seemed to have not noticed her unusual behavior, and she asked in a low voice, “Can you tell me how is he doing?”

Yunxiao frowned and said with a wry smile, “Teacher Yunshang, now is not the time to think about this. I’ll tell you when we get back.”

Chapter 168: The Attack of Lightning

Only then did Luo Yunshang notice her unusual behavior, and she quickly pulled herself away. Her face blushed as she said angrily, “If you don’t tell me when we get back, I’ll definitely teach you a lesson! Also, don’t forget you still owe me a Guangling Melody!”

When he saw her shy look, Yunxiao knew things were going to be troublesome. He gave a wry smile. “I think it is better to let Gu Feiyang play it for you in the future.”

That took Luo Yunshang aback. Her eyes went wide, her face blank as she murmured, “Would... would he play for me?”

Somewhat speechless, Yunxiao cleared his throat and said, “I don’t know, but I will tell him your request...”

“Thank you, Yunxiao!” Luo Yunshang was overjoyed, and she said with a grateful look on her face.

Yunxiao was stressed out. He waved a hand hurriedly and said, “Teacher Yunshang, you’d better return to your chariot and get familiar with the array.”

Luo Yunshang smiled. It seemed that she had returned to normal. “He taught you this Twelve Purple Lightning Array, didn’t he? It is actually one of the three ultimate arrays of Shenxiao Temple. Although I’ve not used it before, the whole array is in my head. Since we are just going to attract a low-level lightning, there will be no problem for me. Do you plan to attack the Xingyang family with lightning?”

A serious look came over Yunxiao’s face as he nodded and said, “Yes. According to my estimation, by combining the strength of the twelve of us, we can at least attract one of the Five Elements Divine Lightning, which is more than enough to make them suffer.”

Luo Yunshang pondered a moment and said, “We need to form the array over their mansion, but how are we going to prevent them from discovering us? They can easily stop us from completing the array with just a two-stars Martial Grandmaster.”

Yunxiao smiled. “Don’t worry, I’ve prepared for that.”

They discussed the details of the array for a while more before Luo Yunshang returned to her chariot happily. The question that had troubled her for over ten years had finally been answered. She had never felt so relaxed before, and she even had a vague feeling that she was about to make a breakthrough.

After she had left, Yunxiao thought for a moment while frowning. At length, he sighed and felt stressed out.

Very soon, twelve chariots arrived outside the city of Shangyang.

Shangyang was the capital of the Firecrow Empire, the most prosperous city within ten thousand miles. It was dozens of times the size of Tianshui’s capital, with a population of about one hundred million.

The chariots stopped in the sky outside the city. They did not dare to enter rashly; there were a few powerful divine senses in the city that even Yunxiao was scared of.

“We need to think of a way. If we fly straight into the city, we will surely attract the attention of those old monsters from the Temple of Revered Elders,” Xiao Qingwang said through a voice transmission. “The Firecrow Empire’s Temple of Revered Elders is where the imperial family keeps their experts. As far as I know there are more than thirty of them, and the strength of a Martial King is the minimum requirement to join the Temple.”

When he had just become a Martial King, he had received an invitation from the Temple of Revered Elders, but he rejected it politely.

The Temple of Revered Elders was under the direct command of the imperial family and did not take orders from anyone. Apart from serving the imperial family, its members were also in charge of the imperial city’s safety. No one could order them, and as long as the imperial city was not under threat and the emperor of Firecrow did not give them orders, they would not strike even if the four major families were wiped out.

Looking at the city ahead, Yunxiao began to perform incantation gestures with both hands. Soon, the arrays carved on the twelve chariots began to emanate beams of white light while the chariots gradually turned transparent. Before very long, they completely disappeared from the sky.

“We’re ready. Let’s go! Although we still can’t escape the divine sense of some experts, this at least states clearly that we are not here to cause trouble openly.”

It was just a stealth mystic art, which could not last for too long and could not deceive everyone.

As soon as the chariots entered Shangyang’s airspace, several strong divine senses rushed over from various places in the imperial city, targeting them in an instant.

Yunxiao’s face flickered slightly. These divine senses were very strong, and some were not weaker than his. But fortunately, they did not come with obvious hostility; they were just curious, and a few of them disappeared after observing for a moment. In the end, only two divine senses still followed them, as if to monitor them.

“Hmph! Look all you like!” Yunxiao sneered. Paying no more heed to the two divine senses, he drove the chariot directly over the Xingyang family. A cold smile came over his face as he took out the small box containing the Outworld Dark Jade from his ring. “With this thing as the array’s eye, there is nothing Supreme Palace can do to clear its name.”

Shangyang occupied a vast land, but even the Xingyang family, which had hundreds of years of history, could only purchase a not so large property at the edge of the capital. Although it was also an aristocratic family, it still could not compare with those super families situated in the central region of the imperial city.

In the common hall of the Xingyang family...

The current head of the family, Xingyang Yi, was pacing back and forth. Over the last few days, he had been feeling restless when meditating. With his current cultivation base, he would not feel things for no reason.

“Has Xingyang Kun not returned from Yanwu yet?” He vaguely had a bad feeling.

Xingyang Cheng, the chief steward of the family, frowned and said, “No, my lord. Elder Kun has not returned yet.”

A worried look came into Xingyang Yi’s eyes. “He should be back by now. Although he is just a one-star Martial Grandmaster, he is still a genuine Martial Grandmaster. Moreover, he has two intrinsic mystic artifacts. Even if he failed the task, he should be able to come back safely. Yanwu is just a small city of Tianshui. There is no way it can trap him.”

The chief steward did not understand either. “Could it be that Elder Kun suddenly had an urgent matter to attend somewhere else?”

“Hmph! With the heir of the family dead now, how could he not know what is more important? But then...it is good that Xingyang Jie had died! It will be better if the rest are all dead as well, so that my grandson can have the opportunity to be the heir.”

A grim sneer appeared on Xingyang Yi's face. Xingyang Jie was not his descendant, but one from the branch who was made the heir because his grandson was too useless.

Xingyang Cheng dared not to say anything about that, and he quickly changed the topic. "Even so, Xingyang Jie is the Grand Elder's direct descendant, and if this were to be learned by him..."

"It is precisely the reason why I sent Xingyang Kun to find out the truth and bring the murderer back to the Grand Elder!" Xingyang Yi said gloomily, "I had sent someone to bring a letter to Jutian Sect as soon as I was informed of what happened. The reply said the Grand Elder is in secluded meditation, and no one knows when he will come out. We need to catch the murderer as soon as possible. Otherwise, when the Grand Elder comes out and learns that his direct descendant was murdered, even I won't be able to withstand his wrath!"

Frowning, Xingyang Cheng asked, "Should we send another person to Yanwu?"

The family head paced a few steps while pondering, then said in a cold voice, "I remember Feiche from the Cheng family was murdered together with Xingyang Jie. Although he was not someone important in his family, he was still from the Cheng family. The Xingyang family cannot be the only one who is looking for the murderer. Inform the Cheng family and find out their response."

"Yes!" Xingyang Cheng's face lit up. "If the Cheng family also sends someone over, perhaps Tianshui will catch and bring the murderer to us."

"Hmph! I really want to see who is this rampant guy bold enough to kill the heir of the Xingyang family!" Suddenly, he frowned and asked, "Xingyang Ming went to attend the Supreme Palace's celebration banquet. Has he not returned yet either?"

Xingyang Cheng answered, "No, I haven't seen him. He was supposed to have returned yesterday."

"This..."

Xingyang Yi suddenly felt frustrated, and an uneasiness crept into his heart. He had a vague feeling that there was some kind of connection between these two matters, which stirred his mind, but he just could not link them up. As a result, the restlessness in him grew stronger.

“Who goes there?” Suddenly he threw his head back, and his gaze seemed to have penetrated the ceiling and looked at the sky.

RUMBLE!

Right at that moment, a great force smote the yard in the mansion and spread out abruptly while a sense of fear rose in Xingyang Yi’s heart. The force not only contained a violent aura, but also a chill that went deep to the bone.

He was a four-stars Martial Grandmaster, and yet he still had that feeling. He could not imagine what others would feel in the face of such power.

“Who are you? How dare you attack the Xingyang family!” Xingyang Yi roared as he rushed out of the hall. When he got outside, he saw a large, deep pit in the yard, with tiny electric arcs crackling around it, and plumes of cold air drifting out and spreading across the mansion.

“Extreme cold energy! This is the Supreme Palace’s extreme cold energy!” He sucked in a cold breath and could not believe what he saw. In the entire Firecrow Empire, only the energy cultivated by the Supreme Palace could have such an extreme chill. Moreover, the energy in front of him was so pure that even Ma Tianhe might not be able to achieve. ‘What is going on? Could something have happened to Xingyang Ming?’

Xingyang Yi looked up in shock and fury, but the sky was clear, without even a cloud, let alone a figure.

“Where are you? Show yourself now! Why do you want to hide like some thieves?” He flew into a rage and bellowed. The whole Xingyang family was woken up by the rumble just now, and people began to run out, searching for the enemy.

Suddenly, electric arcs emerged in the sky again. They appeared out of thin air, their color like the coldest ice. They gradually gathered over the mansion, their numbers growing rapidly.

Soon, electric arcs completely enveloped the sky over the mansion, turning it into an icy cold, pale-blue pool of lightning, with numerous blue lightning bolts flashing in it.

Meanwhile, the voice of a kid rang out of a room, sounding very excited, “Mummy, look! The sky is so beautiful!”

Almost all the people in the mansion had come out after hearing the explosion. They stared at the sky in shock and fury, with a look of disbelief on their faces.

Who was it?

Who dared to provoke the Xingyang family?

No, this was no longer a provocation!

This was an attack!

Chapter 169: Retreat

A pale blue light shone on Xingyang Yi’s fearful face, flickering and shifting. If such a powerful lightning bolt were to strike down, it would not leave just a large pit in the yard, but the whole mansion would turn into ashes!

He was completely struck dumb, and he felt a chill rise from the bottom of his feet to the back of his head. Suddenly, his pupils constricted, and he bellowed, “There you are! You can’t hide from me!”

As electric arcs continued to gather, Xingyang Yi finally found where the enemy was hiding. He waved his hands crazily, and rings of powerful Primordial Qi exploded out of him, transforming into several shadows that took the shape of different demon beasts and rushed up into the sky while roaring and screeching.

Even in Firecrow Empire, a four-stars Martial Grandmaster was still a mighty existence.

Looking down coldly from his chariot, Yunxiao snorted and said, “He finally found us. But, so what?”

He performed an incantation gesture with one hand while the experts on the other eleven chariots walked to the front of their vehicles and performed the same gesture as well. Surrounded by the chariots was the pool of lightning filled with chaotic energy. A stone about the size of a fist could be seen hovering in the middle while constantly emitting wisps of cold air, turning the color of all the electric arcs in the pool aquamarine.

“Strike now, metal divine lightning and water divine lightning!” Yunxiao roared and sent an incantation seal into the pool of lightning. The tremendous and violent energy was triggered in an instant, turning into an aquamarine bolt of lightning that smashed down from the sky. The void was shaking and cracking as the bolt pierced through the air toward its target.

What he used was the principle of mutual generation and overcoming of the five elements. The bolt of lightning was the combination of the metal divine lightning and water divine lightning. Metal generated water, and water was best at triggering the extreme cold energy in the Outworld Dark Jade. The energy had fused with the lightning, which gave it its aquamarine color and made it even more powerful.

RUMBLE!

The attack unleashed by Xingyang Yi with all his strength dissolved in a flash under the divine lightning while the powerful blast generated by the explosion slammed onto the mansion, spreading out in all directions. But at the same time, there was a blast that bounced back into the sky and shook the edge of the lightning pool, rendering the stealth of the twelve chariots ineffective and revealing them to the naked eyes.

In the blink of an eye, all the buildings of the Xingyang family were swallowed by a sea of blue light: the mansion, which had stood for centuries, was completely enveloped in the explosion and clouds of dust and smoke. At length, when the smoke faded away and the dust settled, everyone was struck dumb, because almost the whole mansion was gone.

Fortunately, Xingyang Yi’s attack had countered most of the power, so even though the buildings were destroyed, most of the direct family members were saved by the experts in the family. However, almost all the branch family members, servants, and women vanished together with the mansion.

“Son of a bi*ch! No matter who you are, I swear I will kill you today!” Xingyang Yi walked out of the explosion, covered in dust from head to toe. Much of his skin was scorched, and there was even a thin layer of ice on it. Meanwhile, his eyes were shot with blood.

The Xingyang family had stood in Firecrow Empire for centuries, but never once had its mansion been completely destroyed by someone like today. Although there were not many casualties in terms of its core members, the humiliation was unprecedented.

Moreover, even if he managed to kill the foe today, he was certain that his title as the family head would be deprived of him, and he might even be severely punished.

“Elders of the family, let’s attack together! We must kill these people today!” He roared while leaping into the air and leading the attack.

In the Xingyang family, only Martial Grandmasters could become elders, so there were only a few of them. Although many of them were Xingyang Yi’s foes, they still united as one and listened to his order at the critical moment.

Several figures rushed out of the rubble and flew up into the sky after him. Together they released their auras, targeting the twelve chariots. Meanwhile, the lightning pool gradually calmed down while the energy inside stabilized.

“Where are they?” Xingyang Yi was startled. Under his divine sense, he found all twelve chariots empty.

Yunxiao and others had stealthily retreated right after the attack, abandoning their chariots and making them hover in the air. They even left the Outworld Dark Jade in the lightning pool, which was glowing with a strange light even now.

“Damn you!”

Boiling with rage and humiliation, Xingyang Yi threw his head back and screamed. His voice was so loud that it was clearly heard by everyone in the capital.

Suddenly, an elder cried out in a shocked voice as he stared in terror at the Outworld Dark Jade, “My lord! The...The level of this stone is very high! It is at least a seventh-tier object!” The reason he said that was because he could only identify items up to the seventh-tier.

Stunned, Xingyang Yi turned to look at the Outworld Dark Jade incredulously.

Meanwhile, about a hundred miles away outside Shangyang, a Tigerking chariot zoomed through the sky, heading toward Yanwu.

The people in the chariot were extremely excited and could not believe that they had just attacked the Xingyang family with lightning. It was such a crazy deed that they reckoned even those super aristocratic families with thousands of years of history would think twice or thrice before doing it.

After the excitement, Li Chunyang looked worried. "I think the Xingyang family is going completely crazy now. Although they won't trace it back to us so soon, we need to be prepared for battles. When the time comes, their retaliation will wash over us like a fierce torrent."

"Retaliation? Hmph!" A ferocious look came over Yunxiao's face as he said coldly, "We will see only after they recover from the blow we just gave them!"

Everyone frowned and did not quite understand what he meant. It seemed that the blow was serious, and it had destroyed the whole mansion. But, the core members of the Xingyang family, especially those experts, were still alive and unhurt.

Suddenly, Yunxiao's face flickered. Staring ahead, he cried out in a serious voice, "Watch out, there's an expert in front of us!"

His cry alarmed everyone. They kept their guard up and sent out their divine sense, yet they found nothing unusual. However, none of them would doubt what he said.

"You are good, little boy! How did you find me?"

At that moment, a voice came from the void ahead, where the air twisted and distorted, revealing an old man with a white beard, who laid on his back in midair. He yawned and stretched his back, then looked at Yunxiao with his drowsy eyes. But, as soon as he did that, a startled look came over his face. He rubbed his eyes with a hand, somewhat incredulous, and said in a shocked voice, "How... how's this

possible? You are just a little boy! Are you really just fifteen years old? But, you are already a fourth-tier alchemist! Or third-tier?"

The old man sucked in a cold breath. To him, it did not matter whether Yunxiao was a third-tier or fourth-tier alchemist, what mattered was that the latter was only fifteen years old, and he was absolutely sure about that.

The people on the chariots were on high alert. They could not sense the old man's aura at all, and their divine sense went through him as if there were no one ahead. If they had not seen him with their own eyes, they would not have known that there was a man in front of them. They had never experienced this before, which made them extremely nervous.

Yunxiao snorted and said with a smile, "It's my business, so why does it concern you, my lord? We are in a hurry, please let us through."

"In a hurry? Hehe! You are afraid those little ones from the Xingyang family will catch up with you, aren't you?" The old man smiled lazily and said, "The strongest ones among you are three Martial Grandmasters, and from what I can see, they are still fresh in the realm. Tsk, tsk, today's young people are becoming more and more ignorant."

The three Martial Grandmasters almost fainted, especially Neng Feichen and Xiao Qingwang. Had it not been for the chance to break through and become Martial Grandmasters, their lives would have come to an end soon. And yet, this old man called them young people...

But, in the face of the old man, whose strength was unknown but surely stronger than theirs, their nerves were tensed and they did not dare to relax their vigilance.

Yunxiao's face turned cold. "Let me repeat myself: it's our business, and why does it concern you? Please get out of the way!" His tone grew cold, and the politeness was gone.

The old man froze for a moment. He did not expect Yunxiao to speak to him in that tone. Rolling his eyes inwardly, his face suddenly turned dark as he said in a deep voice, "Why does it concern me? You little punks just attacked someone in Shangyang. Do you think the few old things including me are mere decoration? And now you have the nerve to say it doesn't concern me? Do you know who I am? I reckon you must be spies from either the Skyfragrance Empire or the Woodensun Empire!"

The two empires the old man mentioned were the Firecrow Empire's neighbors, and together, they were the three major empires that occupied the southern region of the Heavenly Martial Continent. By accusing them of being spies from either one of the empires, he had given himself a reasonable excuse to kill them.

While frowning, Yunxiao asked, "Who are you?"

The old man glared at him and snapped, "My identity is my business, and why does it concern you?"

Everyone, including Yunxiao, was speechless. "What exactly do you want? I know you are not trying to capture us, or you would not have talked so much. And we are certainly no match for you. Why don't you just tell me what you want?"

That gave the old man a pause, but then an approving look came into his eyes, and he said, "It really saves a lot of time when talking to a clever person. Well..." He thought of his identity, and he was somewhat embarrassed to say what he wanted. After a moment of hesitation, he finally said, "The array you put out over the Xingyang family looks quite interesting. Although it is nothing to me, I feel some parts of it are not bad. So...let me have a look at its diagram. Of course, I am not taking it from you, because it is really nothing to me. I just find it interesting, that's all."

'It is nothing to you?' Yunxiao sneered in his heart. 'It is one of the three ultimate arrays of the Shenxiao Temple passed down since ancient times. At its maximum strength, it can attract the Brahma Divine Lightning, which can destroy even the Holy City. You are merely a Martial Emperor, and yet you claim it is nothing to you? What a poser! Let's see how long can you posture for!'

Chapter 170: The Bloom of The Lightning Pool

The old man was actually a Martial Emperor of the Seven Constellations realm!

In the empire, such strength made him an absolutely supreme expert. Apart from Jutian Sect, the backer of Firecrow's imperial family, there should be no other existences stronger than a Martial Emperor. Judging from that, even if the old man were not a guardian of the empire, he should be someone who held great power in his hand.

But, Yunxiao pretended to be relieved and said in a relaxed voice, “Oh, so you think that array is interesting. But, before we came out, our Palace Master told us that it is the secret of our sect and asked us not to leak it to others. If we give it to you, we will be seriously punished when we get back!”

“Palace Master?” The old man asked suspiciously, “Which sect are you from? Why have I never heard of any sect that has this kind of lightning-attracting array?”

“This...” Yunxiao said hesitatingly, “I can’t tell you. Our sect is still new in Firecrow Empire, and our roots are too shallow to compare with those sects with hundreds or even thousands of years of history. If others learn that we had just sneak attacked the Xingyang family, it will bring great disaster to our sect!”

The old man quickly went through all the new sects in his head, and soon, a few suspicious targets surfaced. He deliberately darkened his face and said coldly, “How do I know if you are telling the truth? If I let you go, but it turns out that you are spies sent here by the other two empires, it will make me into a laughingstock of all!”

Yunxiao frowned and said difficultly, “Actually...it’s possible for us to give you the array...Well, as the saying goes, money makes the mare go, if you can give us some compensation, we are willing to be punished when we get back. Right, guys?”

“Ugh... yea...”

The crowd immediately understood what he meant, and they nodded with their eyes lighting up.

“If we lost the array diagram, the Palace Master will surely severely punish us when we get back.”

“I shiver whenever I think of that extreme cold energy. If it were injected into my body, I think I would not be able to get rid of it for the rest of my life.”

“Last time when Zhang San went out for a task and lost a mystic weapon, he was beaten so seriously by the Palace Master that it took him half a year to recover.”

“Aye, unless we can get appropriate compensation, we will not hand over the array diagram even if we die!”

“Kof! Kof!” Yunxiao coughed a few times before he said helplessly, “You heard them, my lord. It is not that we don’t want to give it to you, but we have fears. As a Martial Emperor of the Seven Constellations realm, you just have to give us something you deem as junk to make us feel better.”

The old man was stunned. ‘What logic is that? I’m here to rob them, just that I can’t do it openly due to my status. How can they be so ignorant? They know I am a Martial Emperor, and yet they are negotiating with me?!’

“As a Martial Emperor, you wouldn’t think of robbing a group of juniors openly, would you?” Yunxiao frowned and said suspiciously. That immediately made the old man give up the idea of robbing them. If others knew that he robbed something from a group of juniors, including a fifteen-year-old boy, he would not be able to stay in Firecrow Empire anymore.

“Kof! Kof! Kof!”

The old man coughed violently. Then, with an angry look, he said coldly, “Who do you think I, Zhu Jin, am? Robbing something from a group of juniors like you? How ridiculous! I just find that array interesting, and I will throw it away after glancing at it. Do you think a mighty Martial Emperor like me will carry out deep research on such a low-level thing? In any case, I will not take it from you without paying. It’s your fated chance to have come across me. Well, I will just give you something good that you can use for the rest of your life.”

“I want a fifth-tier mystic weapon!”

“A sixth-tier medicinal pill!”

“A complete suit of armor, fifth-tier!”

“I want the Earth’s Ear!”

“Give me a divine ability!”

“I just want a Saint Transformation pill!”

“...”

Before Zhu Jin could offer them anything, everyone cried out noisily and excitedly.

Yunxiao said embarrassingly, “They are a bunch of ignorant people. Well, I just want two hundred thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones.”

“...”

Zhu Jin’s nostrils flared. “How dare you fool me!”

“Fool you?” There was an innocent look on Yunxiao’s face as he said in surprise, “You are a Martial Emperor! We will be digging our own graves if we dare to fool you! Ugh...are you thinking of not paying us? Or, you can’t afford to give us what we want?”

“Kof! Kof! Do you think I am so poor? Although these things are precious, they are nothing to me. But, no one would bring so many things with him all day. Besides, your shabby array isn’t worth that much. How about I give you twenty thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones and you give me that array diagram?”

“What? Twenty thousand? Superior-grade or supreme-grade? Did I hear that right?” Yunxiao widened his eyes and looked incredulous.

Zhu Jin said angrily while blushing, “One hundred thousand then! I won’t pay more than that! Your shabby array diagram isn’t worth even ten thousand!”

Yunxiao snorted. “One hundred thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones? We respect you as an expert and a senior, and yet you treat us like beggars! We prefer death to humiliation! We will live or die with the array diagram today, and we will not bring shame to our sect!”

Zhu Jin flew into a rage and could hardly hold himself back. ‘I am a mighty Martial Emperor! I can’t believe I’ve wasted so much time talking nonsense with these juniors! If it weren’t for the fact that there are other divine senses around, I would have killed and robbed them! But, someone is watching me now, and if this were to spread, the whole world would be laughing at me!’ He ground his teeth and said, “Don’t push me too far, boy! Name your price!”

Yunxiao snorted coldly. He knew what this Zhu Jin feared. It seemed that Firecrow Empire was also in constant internal strife. He held up three fingers and said, “Three hundred thousand superior-grade Primordial Stones, or you can kill us right now!”

Zhu Jin sucked in a cold breath. Although he could afford three hundred thousand, it still pained him to fork out so much in one go. But, when he thought of the array diagram that could attract lightning, his heart was immediately filled with excitement. He was cultivating a lightning-type cultivation technique, which was extremely rare and difficult to cultivate. However, if he could attract lightning at any time, he was certain that his cultivation base would take a great leap. Therefore, he had to get that array diagram!

“Fine! I will give you three hundred thousand! But, if I find something wrong with the array diagram or if it isn’t worth the price, you will taste my wrath!”

The old man briskly threw out a storage bag, which Yunxiao took over and put away without even looking at the contents. Since he was too embarrassed to rob them, he would not be dishonest now. While smiling, he threw over the simplified array diagram.

Zhu Jin’s eyes lit up as soon as he gave it a careful look, and he put it away excitedly. The pain in his heart was gone in an instant, and he said with satisfaction, “Not bad, it is indeed interesting! Take care of yourself, since you’ve just given the Xingyang family such great humiliation. Don’t think you can hide from everyone. Firecrow Empire is not as big as you think.”

Yunxiao smiled and said, “I will, if they still have the power to do anything. Thank you for the generous compensation senior. Till we meet again!”

Wasting no more time, he sent several incantation seals into the chariot, which immediately zoomed into the distance at maximum speed.

...

In the sky over the Xingyang family, Xingyang Yi and a group of elders were looking at the Outworld Dark Jade in the lightning pool. The power emanating from the stone shocked and terrified even them. Although they were all experienced and knowledgeable people, they could not recognize it, and did not know how to retrieve it from the lightning pool.

“My lord, do you think we should retrieve these twelve chariots first? The lightning pool seems to rely on them to operate.” One of the elders suggested.

“You are right. This stone should be the key to finding the culprits. They should have fled before they could take it with them. We will find them with this stone!” Xingyang Yi’s face was grave. Even if the culprits were found and chopped to a thousand pieces, the humiliation his family had suffered would not be washed away. He was certain that the whole imperial city would be talking about this incident tomorrow, and many people would be laughing and making fun of him.

At the thought of that, Xingyang Yi felt he was about to explode with anger as he threw out a palm and slapped at one of the chariots.

As his palm hit the chariot, it suddenly glowed with white light, bright like it was scorched under high heat. Then, the rest of them lit up as well. They floated in the air like twelve luminous objects, illuminating everything within hundreds of meters around them.

“This...”

Xingyang Yi was startled, and a bad feeling surged in his heart. Meanwhile, the Outworld Dark Jade in the lightning pool seemed to sense something and began to turn transparent while beams of extreme cold energy shot out of it, freezing the air.

An elder sucked in a cold breath and then bellowed in horror, “Not good! These chariots are going to blow themselves up!”

Only then did Xingyang Yi wake up from his shock. He flew into a rage instantly and roared, "Everyone, protect the members of the family! Listen up, the descendants of the Xingyang family, run for your life!"

The twelve chariots were only third-tier mystic weapons, so they could still resist the explosion, but the Outworld Dark Jade in the lightning pool gave him a deep sense of fear and shock. In the face of the cold energy emanating from it, he felt as if his soul were about to freeze. If that thing were to explode...

At the thought of that, he felt his whole body turn cold, and he could no longer calm down.

All Martial Grandmasters of the Xingyang family unleashed their trump cards and attacked the lightning pool together. At the moment when their family was facing a deadly crisis, everyone united as one and exerted their greatest strength. But...

RUMBLE!

The twelve chariots exploded, blowing apart like twelve mini suns in the sky, filling all eyes with a blinding light and shaking the world with a tremendous blast.

But very soon, a blue light broke out, devouring all of the white light as it bloomed like a huge blue lotus flower in the sky over the capital. For a moment, the whole Shangyang turned pale blue. The blue light that devoured all the other light and power did not make any sound, but it gave everyone a sense of emptiness as if the world had ended.

All the explosions quieted down under the blue light. Almost all the experts in Shangyang were terrified, and they shot up into the sky one after another to find out what had happened.