

## Time 331

### Chapter 331 - 331 Betrayed?

Lu Wen remembered that certain high profile inner disciples, as well as the person who would soon become an important inner disciple himself, Wen Zihao, the person ranked first in the arena, had disappeared in the 'Vermilion realm' this time well.

He clearly remembered fatty Fu's expression when he had mentioned that Shun Long was among these people too, but Lu Wen had been the most shocked by Wen Zihao's disappearance at that time.

That was the person who only had 2 defeats in the outer arena, and would certainly become an outstanding Elder of the 'Floating Cloud sect' in the future.

He even had a chance of becoming a figure similar to the Grand Elder Lan Hong!

Lu Wen wouldn't wait until Wen Zihao became too strong in order to curry favor with him.

Instead, he had planned on investing in him as soon as they returned from the 'Vermilion realm'.

This was why he was so disappointed once he heard that Wen Zihao had disappeared this time.

Although there was also a small chance that he had passed the second trial as well, to Lu Wen, it didn't make a difference.

At the same time, among the people who had disappeared, was also the sect master's daughter.

Lu Wen suddenly remembered, that fatty Fu had also mentioned back then, that Liu Mei might have been interested in Shun Long.

At the time, Lu Wen had scoffed at Fu Li inwardly.

Lu Wen considered himself more handsome than Shun Long, richer, as well as stronger.

Even in terms of talent, he didn't think that he was inferior to Shun Long.

Despite Shun Long rising in cultivation too fast, Lu Wen didn't believe that he was any slower than him.

Additionally, Lu Wen had also been fortifying his cultivation in preparation for his breakthrough to the Spirit realm in the future.

He already knew from his grandfather how tough the breakthrough to the Spirit realm would be, and yet, Lu Wen wasn't daunted in the slightest.

After all, despite taking his time fortifying his cultivation in preparation for his breakthrough, in the last 2 years, thanks to all the pills that he had consumed from the Lu family as well as the Meng family, Lu Wen had already become an early rank 2 Heaven grade cultivator, reaching the same level as his older brother!

It was impossible for Shun Long to be any faster than him!

However, without knowing why, as he thought of Shun Long, an astonishing thought was suddenly formed on Lu Wen's mind without any rhyme or reason.

"What if Shun Long actually managed to get together with Liu Jian's daughter?"

Lu Wen didn't know why this thought had suddenly sprouted in his mind and he immediately tried to suppress it, but the more he thought about it, the more this idea had started to take root in his thoughts.

After taking a deep breath to calm himself down, his eyes flashed with a bright light, as he moved towards the door of his room.

Although it didn't make any logical sense, and he had no reason to believe that this was true, Lu Wen intended to personally check whether Shun Long and Liu Mei had really come to the 'Floating Cloud city' together or not.

Besides, Liu Mei's destruction of the Meng family had already destroyed his plans.

Lu Wen knew that it was only a matter of time before his brothers got wind of this issue as well and came to restrain him.

After all, without the Meng family as his ally and support, Lu Wen also knew that his grandfather would no longer support him either.

The Lu family's old patriarch only cared for results.

Since Lu Wen had managed to fool his brothers for so long in order to take the position of the family head, his grandfather had secretly given his approval and even gave him pills and spirit stones to rear his own army.

However, if Lu Wen's plans were foiled, then even if he lost everything to his brothers his grandfather still wouldn't care.

After all, the old patriarch of the Lu family had 3 descendants to choose from, not just Lu Wen.

At the same time that Lu Wen was about to leave his room however, he suddenly felt his vision getting blurry while a painful sensation had suddenly appeared at the back of his neck.

Lu Wen felt like his body had suddenly been robbed of all its strength, as the second young master of the Lu family collapsed to the floor of his room.

He did his utmost not to lose consciousness and slowly turned his head around, only to see that the black-robed Elder who had just reported the news of the Meng family to him was the one to send a chop at his neck, aiming to render him unconscious.

"Why?"

Lu Wen mumbled while he felt his eyelids dropping ever so slowly.

Shaking his head, the black-robed Elder of the Lu family, Lu Chen, shook his head before he answered

"Young master, I am sorry, but it's already over. The Meng family has already been defeated! You no longer have a chance to become the family head! The next family head will surely be young master Lu Gong!"

Before he lost consciousness, these words resounded in Lu Wen's ears over and over, bringing him endless anger and killing intent!

So Lu Chen, one of his most trusted Elders, was actually planted by his elder brother? Or was it that he chose to betray him after learning of the Meng family's betrayal?

Without any more time to contemplate over this issue, Lu Wen could feel his consciousness drifting away, unable to hold on any longer as he finally passed out.

At the same time, in the sky above the 'Administration Building' of the outer city, Liu Mei was sitting on the 'red-winged condor's' back, and stared at her mother next to her before she said in a serious tone

"Mother, this will be the last thing before we leave!"

Lin Huefeng nodded her head with a solemn look in her eyes as she tightly held her daughter's hands.

She knew that what Liu Mei wanted to do now, was probably going to change the 'Floating Cloud sect' forever.

Chapter 332 - 332 The sect's secret

Liu Jian and Liu Changpun, as well as the Grand Elder, Lan Hong, had just read the report of the damages that the inner sect had suffered when Liu Jian suddenly realized that Liu Mei was missing.

An uncomfortable feeling appeared in his heart as he remembered Liu Mei heading towards the outer city of the 'Floating Cloud sect'.

Without wasting any more time, Liu Jian flew directly towards the outer city by himself.

Seeing their sect master suddenly getting flustered for no reason, the Elders around him looked at each other confused before they chose to follow behind him.

At the same time, on the 'red-winged condor's' back, Liu Mei looked at the crowd of outer disciples who had already gathered curiously in the ground below her, and after taking a deep breath, her eyes shone with a bright light as her voice suddenly resounded throughout the entire 'Floating Cloud city' as she said seriously

"Outer disciples of the 'Floating Cloud sect', quickly gather here!"

My name is Liu Mei, and I am your sect master's daughter. Today I have something very important to announce to all of you!"

The moment that he heard these words, Liu Jian increased his speed with an angry look in his eyes.

For a moment, he had even forgotten the terror of the black-armored knights.

Liu Mei had an announcement to make? There was no way that Liu Jian was going to allow this!

More and more outer disciples had gathered in the ground below the 'red-winged condor' that Liu Mei and Lin Huefeng were riding on.

Seeing the dozen 3m(12ft) tall undead knights leading an army of 200 skeletons, all of them floating in the air around Liu Mei, a feeling of terror as well as curiosity had welled up in the outer disciples' hearts.

"Senior sister Liu?"

A thin and bald young man dressed in yellow robes, who seemed to be around 1.8m(5.10ft) tall, was the first one to break the silence between the outer disciples as he looked at Liu Mei in the sky.

Lowering her head, Liu Mei seemed to have recognized this young man, as she nodded her head at him.

"Senior brother Kang Sun?"

"It's really senior brother Kang! Does that mean that that young woman is really our sect master's daughter?"

"Of course! Since senior brother Kang has already recognized her identity there is no question about it. Senior brother Kang wouldn't lie!"

In the past 1 year, since Wen Zihao had left the sect along with Shun Long and the rest of the people who wanted to travel to the 'Night star continent', Kang Sun had already become the person ranked first in the arena.

Despite not being allowed to enter the 'Vermilion realm' since he had refused to follow after Liu Changpun, he should have originally been left behind by the people who had met with fortuitous encounters in there.

However, after Wen Zihao was gone, no one in the outer city was actually strong enough to defeat him and take first place from him, including the young woman who was previously ranked 3rd, Tong Yueying.

This had caused Kang Sun's prestige to rise even further, and be practically at the same level as Wen Zihao's in the past.

Shun Long who was still standing in the sky high above the clouds with Fu Li, nodded his head once he saw Kang Sun, before he turned his gaze towards the fatty next to him and said seriously

"Fatty, that guy has a good character. It's not a bad idea to take him in your family. If he declines, it's fine, but if he agrees, you know that he will be honest and follow you faithfully."

Although Shun Long hadn't interacted with Kang Sun personally, he had still managed to grasp the most basic traits of his character, which was why he suggested to Fatty Fu to take care of him.

As for whether Kang Sun really wanted to follow fatty or not, that would be up to him.

After all, Shun Long understood what Liu Mei was intending to do and knew, that this was probably going to change the structure of the entire sect after today.

Taking a deep breath, Liu Mei nodded her head as she continued

"It's time for you to learn the true face of the sect. Otherwise, you will only realize that this is a prison once it's too late."

Before Liu Mei could finish her words, Liu Jian had quickly appeared a few tens of meters away from her, only stopping when he caught sight of the familiar army of skeletons surrounding his daughter.

With an angry look on his face, he pointed at Liu Mei and said in a furious tone

"Liu Mei! You have no right to reveal the secrets of the sect! If you want to take revenge on me you have long since overstepped your bounds!"

The moment that the crowd saw the angry sect master arriving, they all fell silent like a group of cicadas in the winter.

Most outer disciples had never even seen the sect master before, let alone know that he had fought with Liu Mei earlier.

Only the Elders and the inner disciples of the inner city knew about this matter, and of course, they wouldn't spread it to the outer disciples no matter what.

Liu Mei shook her head as she looked back at Liu Jian, and with a serious look in her eyes she answered solemnly

"This is not about revenge.

'Father', don't act as if you really are blind.

You know the true reason why the sect isn't growing as you wanted it to. It's because the 5 families have made the outer and inner disciples act like slaves.

The outer disciples have to forcefully sell their spoils from the 'Demonic Mountain range' once they join the sect and simply exchange them for sect points without having a choice to refuse, but there are even those greedy Elders who don't even give out compensation.

Of course, this is how the sect works, and this is why outer disciples cannot complain, since they had agreed to follow the sect rules no matter what.

However, is this really helping the sect?

Everything is done, only to benefit your 5 families in the end.

You are looking for slaves to mine the spirit stone mine, while everything goes in the pockets of the 5 families, occasionally rewarding a few spirit stones to the top 100 of the arena rankings to motivate them to become inner disciples.

But what really happens when they become inner disciples?"

At the same time, shock had filled Fatty Fu's face up in the sky, as he looked at Shun Long next to him and asked fearfully

"Brother, is senior sister Liu going to reveal everything? It will really destroy the sect if she does!"

Although Fatty Fu didn't agree with the way that the sect treated inner disciples, having to swear a Dao oath that they will forever follow the family that they join, he also understood the way that the big families viewed this matter.

After all, if a family groomed someone to a high level, then it was only natural to them to have that person forever tied to them as a slave.

This was the only way to ensure that these people wouldn't leave them in the future to join some other bigger sect or some other powerful family.

Of course, the sect could also be more amiable, and not force such harsh Dao oaths to its inner disciples or its Elders, but since it has been working like that for so many years, nobody was willing to try and change that, including the sect master Liu Jian!

After all, although the sect said that it allowed its outer disciples to leave once they reached the late-stages of the earth grade if they wanted to, Fatty Fu had also heard from his grandfather that it was actually a lie.

Even if you didn't accept becoming an inner disciple, you will have to stay inside the 'outer city' for your entire life.

This was why Liu Mei called the sect a prison!

Once you enter, there is no way out, unless you have steeled yourself to never advance in your Dao any further!

Nodding his head, Shun Long looked at Fatty Fu with a serious look.

This was something that had to be done, both for the disciples of the sect, as well as the sect itself.

No one from the big families was willing to try and change the way the sect really worked, but this would only cause further problems in the future.

Of course, Shun Long didn't care about any of this. Whether the 'Floating Cloud sect' was destroyed or not in the future or whether it collapsed on its own was none of his concerns.

However, Liu Mei seemed to have wanted to change this, without caring if this ended up hurting the 4 big families in the end.

The outer disciples all nodded their heads when they heard Liu Mei's words.

It was true that their only choice if they weren't already versed in alchemy, was to work in the mines of the sect, or take on some dangerous missions from the 'Administration Building' in order to earn sect points.

After all, aside from the 30 sect points that an outer disciple would get once they join the sect, the sect wouldn't even give them a plate of food or a place to stay.

It wasn't really a place that promoted cultivation, but clearly worked more like a prison-city rather than a sect.

Those who were unfortunate enough to have become rank 1 bronze grade formation masters were equally as useless to the sect.

Since no disciples had their own freedom to explore the places beyond the sect, or their own homes to inscribe formations to, formation masters below the rank 3 bronze grade were essentially useless to the sect itself and couldn't make a living.

Among the outer disciples in the crowd were certainly those who hadn't received compensation in the past, once some Elders had forcefully snatched their spoils after coming out from the 'Demonic Mountain region'.

After taking a deep breath, Liu Mei looked at the crowd and asked in a solemn tone

"Do you want to know what happens when you become inner disciples?"

"STOP!"

Liu Changpun shouted from the distance, as he had only now arrived at the scene along with the rest of the Elders of the sect.

Everyone, including the Grand Elder Lan Hong, had serious looks on their faces as they looked at Liu Mei.

Liu Mei however, didn't even turn her head to glance at Liu Chanpun, and with a serious look on her face she continued

"The sect will force you to swear a Dao oath, that you will forever become slaves of the family that you choose to join!

You are not given another chance aside from this!

The powerful and lofty inner disciples that you all admire, are in reality slaves tied to the sect without the slightest hint of freedom!"

The moment that Liu Mei finished her words, the sect descended into silence!

Chapter 333 - 333 Lu Wen and Lu Gong

The outer disciples stared at the sect master, the Grand Elder and all the Elders in the sky with obvious shock in their eyes.

Liu Mei's words were like a bolt of thunder resounding in the air, immediately silencing the entire sect.

After a few more moments of silence, an outer disciple was the first one to speak in a low voice that couldn't hide his fear

"So we are actually prisoners in the sect?"

This disciple's words weren't loud, but they were clearly heard by everyone else around him, waking them up from their stupor!

"I will leave the sect!!"

It was unknown which disciple was the first one to say this, but countless disciples had started running simultaneously towards the city's gates!

Of course, in the population of a few millions, the 50.000 disciples that had heard Liu Mei's words weren't many.

However, once the rest of the outer disciples from the sect noticed nearly 50.000 outer disciples running towards the 'Floating Cloud city's' gates at the same time, they immediately understood that something was wrong!

One of the Elders from the Liu family was the first one to return back to his senses, and looking at these outer disciples with eyes filled with anger and killing intent, he shouted loudly in a booming voice

"STOP!"

Some disciples immediately stopped running, obviously intimidated by the Elder's anger, but more than half of them continued towards the city gates despite their fear!

The Elder from the Liu family immediately flew towards the city gates, and before the outer disciples could get there, he instantly closed the city gates, preventing anyone from leaving the sect.

After shooting an angry look at Liu Mei, he turned his eyes towards the dazed sect master who didn't seem to have recovered from his shock yet.

The most furious out of everyone however, was Liu Changpun.

He knew that even if they prevented the disciples from leaving, Liu Mei's words would surely spread throughout the 'outer city' like wildfire, and every outer disciple would know of this matter by tomorrow morning.

How was he going to become the sect master in the future if the sect was in a chaotic condition?

Liu Changpun wanted to curse Liu Mei until he was satisfied, but after seeing the black-armored knights and the skeletons who were floating next to her, he quickly gulped down his words.

Liu Mei however didn't seem to care about Liu Changpun's or anyone else's reaction.

After throwing one more look towards Liu Jian, she could finally leave the sect without any more burdens in her heart.

As for how Liu Jian chose to resolve this issue, this was something that he had to decide on.

After all, Liu Mei knew that the outer disciples would be unable to leave the sect right away, even if they wanted to.

In the forest around the sect, there were countless rank 1, rank 2 and even some rank 3 magic beasts lying in wait.

Aside from the most powerful disciples at the top 100 of the arena rankings, no one else could safely leave the sect by themselves.

As for whether Liu Jian was willing to give fewer benefits to the 4 remaining big families in order to help the outer disciples grow instead, this was up to him to decide.

Lin Huefeng sighed as she saw the sect becoming smaller and smaller in her eyes.

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At the same time that Liu Mei's 'red-winged condor' was soaring in the sky, in the Lu family's mansion, the white-robed Lu Wen was tied up in the family dungeon with his hands and feet both cuffed on the wall behind him.

Lu Wen still hadn't regained his consciousness just yet, but the black-robed Elder named Lu Chen emptied a few buckets of cold water on his previous young master's head without any hesitation.

Feeling the cold water being splashed on his body made Lu Wen clear-minded once again, as he finally regained his consciousness.

As he opened his eyes however, Lu Wen found himself chained tightly, while in front of him was his 'loyal servant' Lu Chen standing next to a man who seemed to be in his early 30s.

The man's facial features were extremely similar to Lu Wen's, but his hair was a lot longer than his, and his eyes were actually a dark shade of brown.

The young man was wearing bright green robes, and was staring at Lu Wen with a smile on his face, not hiding the air of arrogance and superiority in his eyes in the slightest.

Lu Wen's face warped when he saw his older brother standing in front of him while his body was chained on the wall of the dungeon. After taking a deep breath to regain his bearings, Lu Wen looked at his elder brother coldly before he spoke in a commanding tone

"Lu Gong, untie me! How dare you imprison your own brother?"



It wasn't that Lu Wen and his brothers had a good relationship with each other which was why Lu Wen demanded to be uncuffed, but imprisoning a direct descendant was actually a grave crime in the Lu family!

Surprisingly, Lu Gong started to laugh, and looking at Lu Wen with a mocking look in his eyes, the eldest young master of the Lu family said coldly

"Little brother, this is the place where you will die. There is no reason to try and scream or shout, no one will hear you!

However, if you have any last words or unfulfilled wishes, you can tell your elder brother, hehe."

Lu Wen's eyes widened incredulously when he heard Lu Gong's words.

He didn't believe that his brother had the guts to kill him, otherwise he would have done so long ago.

And yet, the look, the aura, as well as Lu Gong's body language, made Lu Wen believe that his brother wasn't actually bluffing.

Suppressing his fear, Lu Wen looked at his elder brother with a mocking look that didn't hide his amusement, before he asked with a smile on his face

"Lu Gong, you say that you dare to kill me? Why don't you try and see if you will live to see the sun rise tomorrow? Will grandfather or father let you go after you have killed your own brother?"

Instead of getting angry, Lu Gong smiled, and patting Lu Wen's cheek with his hand he said

"You traitorous snake, do you think that I could have imprisoned you without grandfather and father finding out about this?"

Seeing Lu Wen's eyes suddenly widen, Lu Gong smiled even wider as he continued

"Indeed, little brother, it's just as you have guessed! Father and grandfather must surely know about this.

Since you betrayed our family, you have to face punishment!"

Lu Wen could no longer keep his calm face, and looking at his older brother who had taken out a dagger from his waist and was now holding it in his hand, he asked angrily

"Lu Gong, stop spouting lies! When did I ever betray our family?"

Shaking his head, Lu Gong looked at his brother while still fiddling with the dagger in his hands and said mockingly

"Didn't you accept more than 20 early Heaven grade cultivators from the Meng family? Don't tell me that you didn't give them any promises in return, such as that you will cooperate with them in the future once you became the family head?"

Looking at his brother with disbelief in his eyes, Lu Wen seemed to have just realized where this matter was heading towards.

His grandfather already knew about the issue with the Meng family, and Lu Wen was certain that he had also tacitly agreed to this.

What had happened between then and now?

Lu Wen immediately got the answer to his question. The destruction of the Meng family!

Seeing that his younger brother had immediately understood what he meant without explaining everything, Lu Gong smiled and nodded his head, as he confirmed Lu Wen's thoughts.

"Indeed, since the Meng family is destroyed, you can no longer become the family head. After all, it is already known throughout the city that you accepted 23 inner disciples from the Meng family.

What will happen if the sect master's daughter learns about this issue and comes to destroy our Lu family as well?

After all, although our Lu family is certainly stronger than the Meng, we would certainly suffer in her hands because of you!

As you understand younger brother, we can only sacrifice you for the good of the family!"

"BULLSHIT!"

Lu Wen couldn't hold himself from flaring up!

Looking at his elder brother, he wanted to point at him with his finger, but he realized that he was still cuffed, so he could only shout angrily to vent his furious emotions!

"Lu Gong, this is obviously just an excuse that you fabricated!

You know that there is no way that Liu Mei would attack our family! Unlike the Meng family, we have never meddled with her or her Liu family! At most, she would only give us a few warnings to stay clear from the Liu's!"

With a smile on his face, Lu Gong nodded his head as he agreed with his brother's words.

Under Lu Wen's shocked gaze, Lu Gong then smiled before he answered

"You are right little brother, this is indeed just an excuse. However, it is still the truth that you have failed to become the family head. By betting on the Meng family, you have lost this time. Whether it is I or our little brother who becomes the family head, none of us would leave you alive.

After all, you are like a snake who will come to bite us once you are stronger.

Since you have lost your chance to become the family head, your own worth to the family and to grandfather's eyes has already plummeted!

After all, even princes in the mortal kingdoms kill each other in order to become kings, let alone us when we fight for the position of the Lu family head!"

Despair appeared in Lu Wen's eyes, while inwardly he cursed Liu Mei's nine generations countless times!

He knew that what Lu Gong said was true.

Even in the mortal kingdoms, princes wouldn't let each other alive, to let them gather their strength in secret and usurp the position of the king in the future!

Of course, if Lu Wen really hadn't cared for the position of the Lu family head, whichever brother of his eventually obtained that position, wouldn't do anything to harm Lu Wen.

Without saying another word, Lu Gong had a smile on his face, as he shot forward and plunged the dagger in his hand at Lu Wen's neck.

Blood gargled up in Lu Wen's throat while a look of hate had appeared in his eyes as he stared at his elder brother.

He opened his mouth with difficulty and tried to speak, but the only sound that came was the blood that was dripping down from his lips.

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At the same time, Shun Long smiled lightly when he saw Liu Mei flying towards him with her mother sitting next to her, before he suddenly turned his eyes towards the Lu family's mansion.

Chapter 334 - 334 Leaving the 'Floating Cloud sect'

It was an instinctual feeling that had made Shun Long look towards the Lu family's mansion.

Shun Long had already guessed, that once the Meng family fell, there was no way that Lu Wen would be allowed to leave the Lu family peacefully.

After all, the big families of the sect weren't that much different than the royalty of the mortal world.

The only reason that fatty Fu and the previous young master of the Meng family, Meng Shengyi didn't have to face such issues, was because they were the only heirs of their families, with no one being able to threaten their positions.

At the same time however, even if Liu Mei hadn't chosen to destroy the Meng family herself, Shun Long had decided to do it personally.

This was both in order to destroy the Meng family, as well as personally take revenge on Lu Wen.

However, since Liu Mei had taken care of it, Shun Long decided not to meddle with the issues of the 'Floating Cloud sect' this time.

As for Lu Wen, although Shun Long wanted to personally settle matters with him, he clearly understood that his 2 brothers wouldn't allow him to escape once they got the chance of getting the upper hand and turn the tables on him either.

At the same time, fatty Fu had started to get anxious in his heart when he saw Liu Mei and her army of skeletons approaching towards his direction.

Although he knew that Liu Mei was only coming to meet Shun Long, after having witnessed the destruction of the Meng family personally, Fu Li felt some kind of instinctive fear towards the black-armored undead knights and the jade-white skeletons with the bony swords who were flying towards him.

Liu Mei was stunned for a moment when she saw Fu Li standing next to Shun Long, but remembering that Shun Long was good friends with fatty, it wasn't actually shocking.

Seeing Liu Mei and her mother approaching them, Fu Li flashed an ingratiating smile towards Liu Mei as he said flatteringly

"Senior sister Liu it's good to see you again! You have definitely inherited your beauty from your mother!"

Shun Long was stunned as he stared at fatty Fu with his mouth agape. Fatty was actually a sweet talker.

With just one sentence he had praised both Liu Mei and her mother at the same time.

Liu Mei smiled lightly at fatty Fu while Lin Huefeng looked at him with a smile on her face as she asked

"Fu Li, kiddo, what are you doing here?"

As Liu Jian's second wife, how could Liu Mei's mother not be familiar with Fu Li and the other heirs of the big families of the sect?

However, Liu Mei was the first one to speak, before fatty Fu could answer, as she moved next to Shun Long and affectionately held his arm, as she replied in a gentle voice

"Mother, this is Long-ge!"

Lin Huefeng's eyes lit up when she heard Liu Mei's joyous voice when she introduced Shun Long to her, before she nodded her head in response.

Of course, she had already noticed Shun Long who was standing next to Fu Li earlier, but she still asked in order to allow Liu Mei to introduce Shun Long by herself.

Getting off the 'red-winged condor's' back, Lin Huefeng stepped forward, and holding Shun Long's hands she smiled brightly as she said in a warm voice

"Meimei has already told me everything about you. Thank you for taking care of my little girl!"

Lin Huefeng had indeed heard everything about Shun Long from Liu Mei earlier, including the fact that the 2 of them were already Dao partners.

As Lin Huefeng's eyes stared at Shun Long, there was a radiant smile on her face, akin to that of a mother-in-law meeting her son-in-law for the first time.

Fatty Fu however was stunned when he heard Liu Mei's gentle way of introducing Shun Long.

How was this similar to the death queen who had just destroyed the Meng family a few minutes ago? This sounded more like a joyous wife introducing her own man to her mother!

Shun Long smiled as well when he heard Lin Huefeng's words, before he nodded his head and answered seriously

"Don't worry! Since Mei'er is my woman, then of course I will take care of her"

Seeing Shun Long and her mother getting along made Liu Mei heave out a sigh of relief, before she turned her eyes to look at Fu Li.

There was a bright smile on Liu Mei's face as she looked at the fatty, before she asked in a curious voice

"Fu Li, how are you and Jinjing getting along?"

Fatty Fu's eyes lit up when he heard the name of his fiancée, and looking at Liu Mei, he patted his chest and puffed it proudly as he said

"Senior sister, don't worry! Me and Jinjing are doing great!"

Suddenly, Fatty Fu paused his words, seemingly as if he had remembered something, and after a brief moment of hesitation he stared at Liu Mei before he continued

"Senior sister Liu... actually, Jinjing has been missing you ever since you left. After all, you disappeared so suddenly..."

Nodding her head, Liu Mei turned her eyes towards the Lan family's mansion below her at the 'Floating Cloud city' with a saddened look in her eyes.

Lan Jinjing's face appeared in Liu Mei's mind, and a feeling of sadness overcame her.

After all, Lan Jinjing and Liu Mei were childhood best friends, but they were split up so suddenly.

Lan Jinjing was also the only one who knew, that Liu Mei wasn't planning to return to the 'Floating Cloud city' after entering the 'Vermilion realm', which made the young woman of the Lan family even more dejected for missing her friend.

After casting a deep look at the Lan family mansion, Liu Mei looked at Shun Long before she asked in a sweet voice

"Long-ge, can you wait for me for a bit more?"

Shun Long nodded his head without minding too much that he had to wait until Liu Mei finished her business.

He already knew that Lan Jinjing was Liu Mei's best friend, so how could she leave without even seeing her once?

Almost an hour later, Liu Mei came out from the Lan family's mansion with mixed emotions in her eyes.

She was happy that she had managed to see Lan Jinjing again and chat with her, but Liu Mei also knew that she and Shun Long probably wouldn't have the chance to return to the Desolate East for quite a while.

It would probably be at least a few years until Lan Jinjing and Liu Mei saw each other again.

Seeing that Liu Mei didn't have any more issues to take care of, Shun Long looked at fatty Fu's reluctant face, before he bid him farewell.

Shun Long felt somewhat emotional after saying farewell to his friend since he knew that he would probably be unable to see him for a long time, before he turned his eyes to the horizon ahead of him.

Under fatty Fu's shocked eyes, at the same time that Liu Mei dispersed her skeletons and undead knights, letting them turn into dust before they suddenly disappeared, a panther with glowing silver wings flew towards them from the distance.

Shun Long had let Little Silver to take a look around the territories near the sect.

As long as it didn't go too far, he could always summon the black panther back thanks to their soul link.

Seeing Little Silver's majestic body and feeling its terrifying aura, a feeling of awe appeared in Fu Li's heart, as well as excitement.

This panther's aura was indeed much stronger than the peak rank 4 'Flying Blue whale's' from the 'Golden Buddha temple'.

Seeing Little Silver flying towards them, Liu Mei also knew that it was time to leave the 'Floating Cloud sect'.

Chapter 335 - 335 Lin Huefeng's choice

Liu Mei's mother was also shocked when she saw the black panther that quickly appeared in front of them.

Although this magic beast was actually smaller in size compared to her 'red-winged condor', but the oppressive aura coming from its body, was actually countless times more powerful than the condor itself.

After all, as an early rank 7 Heaven grade cultivator, Lin Huefeng could vaguely sense the terror hidden inside the 'Silver-winged panther king's' body!

Although Liu Mei hadn't explained to her exactly how powerful this panther named Little Silver was, with her experience, how could Lin Huefeng not realize that it was even more powerful than the personal magic beast of the head priest from the 'Golden Buddha temple'?

Seeing that the 'red-winged condor' had already started to tremble and was nearing the brink of collapse, Shun Long had Little Silver restrain its aura.

Only then did the early rank 3 condor finally stop shivering, but it still kept its distance of a few hundred meters away from the 'Silver-winged panther king' itself.

This was the instinctive suppression and reverence, caused by coming in contact with a more powerful magic beast.

For a moment, Shun Long wondered whether the 'red-winged condor' would lose its senses and collapse on the spot if it met with Little Black instead.

Shun Long and Liu Mei got on Little Silver's back, while Liu Mei's mother sat on the 'red-winged condor' and tried to placate the terrified bird, before the 2 magic beasts both took flight at the same time.

Liu Mei and Lin Huefeng had mixed emotions in their hearts, as they saw the 'Floating Cloud sect' becoming smaller and smaller in the distance behind them.

Shun Long then turned his head to look at Liu Mei, before he asked curiously

"Mei'er, what are your mother's plans?"

Now that she had left the 'Floating Cloud sect', Shun Long knew that it was very likely that Lin Huefeng didn't have a place to stay.

Of course, as a late-stage Heaven grade expert, many of the sects around the 'Floating Cloud sect', including the 'Roaring Wind pavilion' or the 'Flying sword sect', would be more than willing to accept her in their ranks as an Elder.

However, that was still a risky move for Lin Huefeng.

After all, if Liu Jian happened to get wind of this matter, with Shun Long and Liu Mei having left the 'Desolate East', it was unknown whether he would move to take back his wife or not by force.

No matter how willing these sects would be to keep a late-stage Heaven grade Elder in their ranks, it was unknown if they would be willing to offend Liu Jian.

Shaking her head, Lin Huefeng didn't wait for Liu Mei to answer for her, and looking at Shun Long she said with a gentle smile on her face

"I'm planning to leave the 'Cultivation world' and go to the 'mortal world' instead. After all, even if Meimei wanted to stay with me, I wouldn't allow her to leave your side to accompany me instead."

After a brief moment of pause, she then continued

"Although the 'Cultivation world' is interesting, the dangers that are hidden in every corner are much more serious than you can imagine."

This was Lin Huefeng's way of warning Shun Long and Liu Mei to be careful in the future.

Liu Mei nodded her head in response to her mother's words.

She knew that before her mother had met Liu Jian in the past, she had traveled to many places of the Desolate East, and had nearly lost her life twice.

Looking at his 'mother-in-law', Shun Long smiled in response, before he asked her in a serious tone

"In that case, miss Lin, do you want to stay in the place that my parents are? They are now living in a mortal kingdom, in one of the islands of the mortal world. Even if Liu Jian knows that you are in the 'mortal world', it will be almost impossible for him to find you between so many islands, kingdoms and cities."

Lin Huefeng was stunned for a moment, while her eyes lit up after hearing Shun Long's suggestion.

This was indeed not a bad choice.

After all, instead of wandering around the 'mortal world' alone, this way, she would be able to meet Shun Long's parents as well.

Shun Long smiled when he saw Lin Huefeng nodding her head, while the last feeling of uncertainty disappeared from his heart.

Although he knew that his parents would be safe by themselves in the 'Roaring Waves Kingdom' without any issue, having Lin Huefeng along with them reassured him even further.

This way, both Shun Fang, Shun An and Lin Huefeng would be able to be in the same place, and in case that something really ended up happening, Lin Huefeng would surely be able to help them.

After all, in the 'mortal island' that Shun Long's parents lived, even the strongest experts were at the early stages of the Heaven grade.

A late-stage Heaven grade expert would certainly have no equal.

Almost as if she had just remembered Shun Long's words, a look of mock anger appeared in Lin Huefeng's face, as she looked at Shun Long and said in a serious tone

"What 'miss Lin'? Call me mother-in-law in the future."

Shun Long nodded his head in response without saying a word, while at the same time, a sweet feeling had appeared in Liu Mei's heart.

Knowing that her mother would also have a place to stay next to Shun Long's parents made her feel at peace.

Turning around, Little Silver and the 'red-winged condor' then started to fly towards the 'mortal world'.

With the 'red-winged condor's' speed, it took almost 3 hours until it arrived at the 'Roaring Waves Kingdom'.

After Shun Long introduced Lin Huefeng to his parents, both Shun Fang and Shun An accepted Liu Mei's mother with great zeal.

The 2 of them looked very happy to have met their 'daughter-in-law's' family.

Shun Long and Liu Mei didn't leave the 'Roaring Waves Kingdom' right away, and after Liu Mei helped her mother purchase a mid-sized house right next to Shun Long's parents, Shun Long decided to stay in the 'mortal world' for a few more hours before they left.

...

Deep into the night, sitting on Little Silver's back, Shun Long watched the capital city of the 'Roaring Waves Kingdom' below him with a glint in his eyes.

He knew that it would most likely be a very long time until the next time he returned here.

Without another word, Shun Long took a final glance at the city below him, before Little Silver soared to the sky like a bolt of silver lightning tearing through the night's veil.

It was time to return back to the 'Night star continent' and visit the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range'!

Chapter 336 - 336 Arriving at the Ten thousand beasts mountain range

Sitting on Little Silver's back, Shun Long watched as the mortal island below him quickly turned into a small, black speck in the ocean, and just a few moments later, he and Liu Mei had already arrived back in the 'Cultivation world'.

Without stopping anywhere this time, it only took a little more than an hour for Little Silver to arrive at the 'Lightning Wasteland'.

Passing through the city which he had gotten a map of the 'Desolate East' when he and Liu Mei first arrived a few days ago, Shun Long soon saw the sea that separated the 'Desolate East' from the 'Night star continent' ahead of him.

Since they weren't flying at full speed however, Little Silver took a little more than a day to pass through the sea and arrive at the shore of the 'Snowcloud country'.

Shun Long had originally hoped that he would be able to hunt some rank 5 magic beasts on the way, but reality proved to be completely different from his expectations.

Aside from a few rank 4 magic beasts that weren't fast enough to swim away from Little Silver, Shun Long and Liu Mei didn't notice even a single rank 5 magic beast in the sea.

As soon as they sensed the black panther's powerful aura, all of the rank 5 magic beasts immediately fled deeper inside the sea, almost as if they were competing on which of them could dive deeper inside.



Of course, Shun Long wasn't willing to give up on these moving beast cores like that, but even if he had Little Silver dive inside the sea, he knew that it would be pointless.

Although the 'Silver-winged panther king' was almost unmatched in the air by magic beasts at the same level, its speed would be slowed by many times in the water.

That, and in addition to the fact that peak rank 5 magic beasts inside the water were almost as fast as the black panther was in the sky, when it was still a rank 5 beast, made Shun Long reluctantly give up.

Of course, the idea of summoning Little Black and hunt these magic beasts also flashed through his mind, but considering that he was heading towards the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range' where rank 5 and even rank 6 magic beast were abundant in numbers, made Shun Long give up on this idea of his.

After stopping at a random restaurant in the royal capital of the 'Snowcloud country' for a little more than an hour, Shun Long and Liu Mei continued forward, as they flew towards the west of the 'Night Star continent'.

The reappearance of the aura of a powerful rank 6 magic beast had quickly placed the capital of the 'Snowcloud country' into extreme unrest, as the head guard who was at the late-stages of the Nascent Soul stage was immediately dispatched by the Dao Kings of the royal palace to investigate this matter.

Of course, since the head guard wasn't willing to court death by directly investigating where the aura of a rank 6 magic beast was coming from, by the time that he had finished 'his search', Shun Long and Liu Mei had already left the city.

A full day later, the black panther was hovering in the sky, a few tens of miles away from the 'Heaven's Dome city'.

As he opened the map in his hands, Shun Long noticed, that they had already covered half the distance.

There were no dangerous places to pass through this time, like the 'Netherspirit forest' that directly blocked the way from the Heaven's Dome city to the 'Dragon Lord's villa, and a little more than a day later, Shun Long saw a gigantic mountain range emerging in the distance.

The mountain range spanned further than Shun Long's eyes could see, and was filled with enormous trees that were even taller than the ones inside the 'Vermilion Realm', where the members of the half-fiend race lived.

"It seems that Cui Guoliang used the trees from this place in order to create his 'Forest of Giants' in the 'Vermilion realm'. However, his own rank 3 'heavy bark earth trees' haven't matured enough, and they can't be compared with the ones in this place."

As this thought flashed through Shun Long's mind, he immediately understood that the forest in front of him was filled with a relatively common kind of tree called the rank 3 'heavy bark earth tree', which was the same kind that Cui Guoliang's clone had used when he created his 'Forest of Giants'.

Although Shun Long knew that this tree couldn't be used in any kind of alchemy or pill concoction, it was one of the most favourite places for rank 4 and rank 5 magic beasts to live in.

As the black panther approached closer and closer to this place, the roars of magic beasts could be heard even from the huge distance that separated them, bringing Little Silver a sense of excitement, as if it was going to eat its fill this time.

At the same time, Shun Long only needed a glance to recognize that this place was the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range'!

Right before the mountain range itself, a small city was actually erected.

Although this city was small when compared to big cities like the Heaven's Dome city, it was actually only half the size of the Silver sword city itself.

Shun Long didn't choose to head to the city right away, but instead, he first had Little Silver return back to the 'Stone of Time'.

Shun Long wasn't afraid of anyone coveting Little Silver and try to take it as a magic beast. Instead, he was afraid that the aura of a rank 6 magic beast would scare the rank 4 and rank 5 beasts away, leaving no prey to him and Liu Mei.

After all, Shun Long had 2 main reasons for coming to the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range'.

The first was to find rare rank 5 and rank 6 medicinal herbs that could only be found in this place, while the second one was to hunt rank 4 and even rank 5 magic beasts as he and Liu Mei trained to both become stronger.

Although Liu Mei only had to summon her skeletons or her undead knights during a fight and they could simply fight by themselves, there were still different ways that she could guide them when they fought, instead of allowing them to rush forward blindly.

Liu Mei had also noticed this during her fight with Liu Jian, where she had intentionally guided her 2 undead knights to attack him at the same time, one from the front and the other one from the side, leaving Liu Jian with no room to dodge.

Additionally, it was also rumored that the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range' even had rank 6 magic beasts deeper inside. Even with Little Black's strength, Shun Long wasn't willing to stir up this hornet's nest just yet, unless he had absolute certainty that he could successfully hunt a rank 6 beast and escape without revealing Little Black's existence.

After Little Silver had returned back inside the foggy space in the 'Stone of Time', Shun Long and Liu Mei flew towards the city in the distance by themselves.

Barely 15 minutes later, Shun Long and Liu Mei who had already put her white veil back on her face, arrived in front of the empty city gates.

Shun Long was surprised that not a single guard was actually guarding the city gates, or the city walls, or that there wasn't anyone asking for an entrance fee to enter the city.

After all, there were hundreds of people entering and leaving the city at the same time, and most of them were either coming from the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range' or they were heading there, making it clearly obvious that this was a bustling city!

After thinking about it for a few moments, in the end, Shun Long took a step forward, as he led himself and Liu Mei in the nameless city in front of him.

Chapter 337 - 337 Ten thousand beasts' city

Walking past through the city gates, Shun Long and Liu Mei both entered the bustling city in front of them without any obstruction.

Surprisingly, although this city wasn't too big in size, it seemed to have even more people than medium-sized cities like the 'Silver sword city' and the 'City of Sin'.

People had crowded the streets, while the amount of street stalls that were erected as people showed off their merchandise exceeded anything that Shun Long or Liu Mei had ever seen before.

After a brief glance, Shun Long noticed that most of these people were selling rank 3 and rank 4 magic beast corpses, or beast cores, while their cultivation mostly ranged at the middle and late-stages of the Spirit realm.

It only took a moment for Shun Long to realize what was going on.

It was obvious that once these people had a successful hunt in the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range', they would bring their loot in this city that was located right at the edge of the mountain range itself.

The prices for the rank 4 magic beasts varied greatly, depending on the magic beast's level, whether or not the beast's parts were useful in alchemy or in the creation of formations, as well as the condition of the beast.

A single early rank 4 magic beast was priced at 600 middle-grade spirit stones, a middle rank 4 beast was priced at 1000 middle-grade spirit stones, while a peak rank 4 magic beast's price varied from 2000 to 4000 middle-stage spirit stones!

Of course, Shun Long guessed that for people to hunt a single peak rank 4 magic beast, they needed to have at least a single Nascent Soul stage expert in their group, or at the very least, 3 or 4 peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts.

The person who was responsible for selling the beast corpse was most likely just a member of one big group.

After all, people usually fought in numbers when they hunted magic beasts, and this was even more true for mercenaries from the 'Mercenaries' Association'.

Shun Long noticed quite a few people with the badges of the Association on their chests, most of them being A-rank mercenaries.

However, Shun Long spotted even a few S-rank mercenaries either watching the sales of the street stalls, or wandering around in the streets of this city.

Liu Mei also remembered that S-rank mercenaries corresponded to powerful early and middle-stage Nascent Soul experts.

No matter how strong she and Shun Long were right now, Liu Mei knew that they were unable to fight against an S-rank mercenary by themselves head-on.

Shun Long however didn't seem too bothered by the Nascent Soul stage experts on the streets.

Instead, he and Liu Mei continued to walk around the city, seeing whether he could gather any useful information.

Aside from the countless street stalls that seemed to have taken up every corner of the city, Shun Long saw many different shops, including alchemy shops that sold pills, or the corpses and cores of magic beasts, as well as many formation masters' workshops.

Of course, these alchemy shops charged a huge premium in order to sell the magic beasts' parts that the mercenaries usually found, taking more than 40 percent of the profit.

This was the reason why many mercenaries preferred to set up their own street stalls and patiently wait until they sold their loot.

And yet, the alchemy shops continued to thrive in this city no matter what.

Since people would enter the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range' to hunt magic beasts, they needed pills to ensure their own survival.

Pills that healed these mercenaries' injuries, as well as 'anti-toxin pills' in case they met with an accident were the most popular ones that were purchased.

However, the formation masters also made a huge amount of spirit stones that wasn't inferior to the alchemy shops.

Repairing the weapons and the armors of these mercenaries' was extremely important as well.

After all, even if the mercenaries had pills to heal themselves, if their weapons were unable to pierce through the bodies of the powerful magic beasts, their pills would be unable to save them in the end.

Keeping their weapons and armor in top condition was vital to every mercenary who wanted to enter the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range', including even the S-ranked mercenaries.

Shun Long also got to know that the name of this city was the 'Ten thousand beasts' city'.

He also heard that a late-stage Dao King was actually responsible for keeping order in this city, but because he was a solitary figure, he didn't care about placing any guards in the city entrance to collect fees.

Instead, the pill shops and the formation masters' workshops would proactively offer this powerful figure a cut of their own profits every year, and in return, that person would make sure to keep order in the city.

Hearing that there was a late-stage Dao King inside the city, Shun Long avoided from having Little Black scan the city with his soul search.

Since he wasn't planning on actually staying in the city, there was no reason to try and verify whether there really was a late-stage Dao King in this place.

Instead, after understanding the general situation, he and Liu Mei didn't stay in the 'Ten thousand beasts' city' any longer, as they headed towards the gigantic mountain range in the distance.

This was the most famous mountain range in the entire 'Night star continent', as well as one of the most dangerous places as well.

Even Dao Kings were said to have lost their lives in this place, which gave the rumor that there were powerful peak rank 6 magic beasts hidden inside.

As they neared closer to the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range', Shun Long noticed countless groups that had set up camp outside the mountain range's boundaries.

Even though there were many inns inside the 'Ten thousand beasts' city' for the mercenaries to rest, Shun Long could easily guess, that these people who were waiting here, were either trying to find more powerful groups to join, or they were waiting for their own partners or guild members to come out from the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range'.

After all, it wasn't uncommon to get separated from your group inside this place, especially if you chanced upon the den of a powerful magic beast.

Seeing Shun Long and Liu Mei walk forward by themselves, some groups tried to probe them out of curiosity, since they could easily see that Liu Mei's strength was only at the middle rank 4 of the Spirit realm. However, after seeing that they were actually unable to discern the strength of the young man next to her, they avoided doing anything in broad daylight.

Liu Mei frowned when she noticed that some people seemed to have set their sights on Shun Long and her.

Shun Long however understood, that aside from the powerful magic beasts in this place, there was an equally as dangerous enemy... other mercenaries.

An incense stick of time later, Shun Long and Liu Mei had already arrived at the huge green forest that covered the entrance of the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range'.

The roars of magic beasts resounded in the air, bringing an aura of solemnity, as well as excitement to those who were entering this place for the first time.

Liu Mei turned her head to the side, to look at Shun Long who was standing in front of the entrance of the forest for a moment without saying anything.

After taking a deep breath, a smile soon appeared on his face, and looking at Liu Mei's bright eyes, Shun Long held her hand before he stepped forward, entering inside the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range'.

#### Chapter 338 - 338 Sneak attack

As soon as he entered inside the forest, Shun Long could smell the scent of blood assaulting his senses, as well as the thick amounts of pure qi that had filled the air around him.

Without being hasty, Shun Long first examined his surroundings before he chose which way he and Liu Mei were going to head towards.

Although the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range' was said to be heaven for the lucky adventurers of the 'Night star continent', since they could both hunt magic beasts or chance upon rare medicinal herbs that would grow in this environment, it was actually the same for the powerful magic beasts inside.

More often than not, these mercenaries that came to this place either to hunt magic beasts or find rare medicinal herbs, would end up in the belly of one of the magic beasts living here.

Although magic beasts would grow when they consumed the flesh of other magic beasts, the flesh of powerful cultivators was still a good supplement for them, even if it couldn't be compared to that of other magic beasts.

It was also the instinctual feeling of these beasts to hunt humans who invaded their territories.

Knowing that Shun Long intended to train himself this time, Little Black didn't spread his soul sense too far to sense the magic beasts around him.

Instead, the black dragon kept eating the stalks of 'Dragonblood grass' as he happily observed his master from the 'Stone of Time'.

Although Little Silver had now become more accustomed to Little Black, the black panther still felt an instinctive fear towards the huge black dragon.

Oblivious to the feelings of his 2 magic beasts however, Shun Long had just finished examining his surroundings before he chose to head towards the north.

According to the footsteps that were still left on the ground, most mercenaries who chose to enter the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range' seemed to head towards the north and the east.

This meant that there was a high chance, that the danger would increase significantly if someone chose to head towards the west, which was why most mercenaries seemed to avoid that route.

As Shun Long and Liu Mei walked deeper inside, Shun Long's eyes noticed that the 40m(130ft) tall trees around him didn't completely cover him and Liu Mei from the flying magic beasts that were traveling in the sky.

Although the trees' branches were long and thick, their leaves were much smaller in comparison, allowing the flying magic beasts in the sky to get a clear view of the people below.

However, since there were mostly rank 3 magic beasts near the entrance of the forest, none of them actually dared to attack them after feeling Liu Mei's aura at the middle of rank 4 in the Spirit realm.

Of course, Shun Long and the rest of the mercenaries who entered this place could fly in the sky as well if they wanted to, but if they attracted the attention of a powerful flying magic beast, they would definitely be put in a bad spot.

After all, although cultivators at the Heaven grade could fly, their speed was simply incomparable to flying magic beasts.

Even Shun Long himself guesses, that even with his second 'Monarch's Domain created by his 'Dao of Time', his speed wouldn't be much faster than an early rank 4 flying magic beast in the sky.

Suddenly, Shun Long felt a clear feeling of danger in his heart, while the ground beneath his feet had started to tremble.

He hurriedly jumped backwards almost by instinct, and Liu Mei did the same barely a moment later than him, when a magic beast had suddenly drilled itself from the ground, its sharp claws aiming to slash Shun Long's body in half.

This beast's sharp claws were a bright silver color, while its dark brown body had black-colored marks on it that resembled burn marks.

Its pitch-black eyes were staring at Shun Long with hints of malice inside them, almost as if the beast had gone crazy.

It only took a moment for Shun Long to remember the name of this magic beast based on his memories.

"A rank 4 'silver-clawed earth burrower'!"

Liu Mei had never heard of this magic beast before, and was staring at it with hints of puzzlement in her eyes, but between her hands, a black ball filled with her death qi had already been condensed.

She could sense that although the magic beast in front of her was only a middle rank 4 magic beast, even her undead knights would find it hard fighting against it head-on.

It was because the aura that was coming from this magic beast wasn't inferior to a peak rank 6 Spirit realm expert's.

Shun Long didn't find it weird that Liu Mei was unfamiliar with the 'silver-clawed earth burrower'.

It was because, this was a relatively rare and very cunning magic beast that lived beneath the ground, and would only come up when it sensed that there was prey that it could hunt.

Additionally, this magic beast had a preference for human meat, making humans its primary source of food.

Unfortunately for Shun Long, although this beast's claws could be used to create powerful silver-grade weapons, none of the parts on its body was actually suitable to be used in alchemy aside from its beast core.

And yet, Shun Long still smiled when he saw the middle rank 4 'silver-clawed earth burrower' in front of him.

He was certain that with his current strength, it wouldn't be too hard for him to take care of this magic beast.

Seeing the illusionary purple blade that had appeared in Shun Long's right hand, the 'silver-clawed earth burrower' felt a sudden feeling of danger.

Magic beasts always relied on their instincts rather than their eyes.

Although the illusionary purple blade looked extremely attractive, the feeling of lethal danger that it was emitting made the middle rank 4 magic beast shiver.

After shooting a wary look at Liu Mei and seeing that she wasn't actually attacking it, the 'silver-clawed earth burrower' dove into the ground without hesitation.

Silence immediately descended around Shun Long and Liu Mei as the middle rank 4 magic beast had suddenly disappeared.

And yet, neither Shun Long nor Liu Mei moved from their original spots.

That was because they knew, that the 'silver-clawed earth burrower' could attack at any time.

This was indeed the perfect environment for such a magic beast to hunt.

In a situation where the mercenaries couldn't fly in the air as they would attract the attention of the powerful flying magic beasts, using its ability to hide on the ground and mount sneak attacks to ambush its prey was extremely efficient.

Liu Mei had a worried look on her face, but seeing the confident look in Shun Long's eyes, she didn't hurriedly summon her undead knights to help him.

After all, she clearly knew that Shun Long intended to use this chance to train himself.

Standing still, Shun Long closed his eyes, as an invisible power completely covered his body before it started to slowly spread outwards.

Now that he had already reached the middle rank 4 of the Spirit realm and had consumed thousands of top-grade 'Spirit enhancing pills', Shun Long's spirit sense was already many times stronger than before.

He could now use his spirit sense to cover almost 2m(6.6ft) around his body and sense the space around him even with his eyes closed.

He knew that this was a power similar to Little Black's soul sense.

Although Shun Long's spirit sense hadn't evolved into a soul sense just yet, it was very similar in this regard.

The silence continued for a few more moments, until Shun Long felt something entering the range of his spirit sense, while the ground beneath his feet started to tremble.

This time, the 'silver-clawed earth burrower' was clearly faster than before and didn't intend to give Shun Long even a moment to dodge.

As it tore through the ground beneath Shun Long's feet, a sharp, silver-colored claw was pointed towards Shun Long's chest, ready to rip it in half.

Seeing the silver-colored claw that was about to collide with his chest, Shun Long's eyes that had already turned golden suddenly lit up with a bright blue light, as he then mumbled to himself

'Time Prison'

The rank 4 'silver-clawed earth burrower' was suddenly frozen in mid-air, as the terrifying power of the 'Time Prison' had forcefully stopped the flow of time around it.

Shun Long didn't hesitate, and waving his right hand horizontally, he swung the purple blade in his hand towards the 'Silver-clawed earth burrower's' neck.

Blood instantly spurted in the air as the middle rank 4 magic beast's head was separated from its body as soon as it met with Shun Long's spatial blade, dying the patch of grass beneath it with a bright red color.

At the same time, a golden-colored magic beast core appeared from its body, rolling itself until it stopped in front of Shun Long.

Chapter 339 - 339 Prey

Seeing the shiny golden-colored beast core that had rolled its way in front of his feet, Shun Long didn't hesitate to pick it up and place it inside the herb garden in his 'Stone of Time'.

At the same time, only when she saw the corpse of the middle rank 4 magic beast fall on the ground did Liu Mei allow the black ball of death qi from her hand to disappear.

Although she and Shun Long were both many times stronger than before, Liu Mei guessed that if the 'Silver-clawed earth burrower' had reached the peak of rank 4, they may not have been able to kill this beast even with all of her skeletons and undead knights combined.

After all, even Shun Long wouldn't have been able to affect a peak rank 4 magic beast with his 'Dao of Time' just yet, while his cultivation was still at the middle of rank 4.



Despite having almost half of his qi being drained at once after using his 'Time Prison', Shun Long didn't sit down to recover just yet, and instead, after removing the 'Silver-clawed earth burrower's' silver claws as well, he abandoned the useless parts of its body, as he and Liu Mei continued further inside.

Staying in that place to recover his qi would only bring more trouble.

Shun Long knew that the scent of blood coming from the middle rank 4 magic beast would certainly attract other predators in this area.

If a powerful peak rank 4 or even a rank 5 magic beast showed up, then it would surely cause a commotion and attract even more people and magic beasts in this area.

Additionally, although Shun Long had a certain degree of certainty in dealing with an early or even a middle stage rank 5 magic beast using the 'Soul Poisoning hell grass' poison, he also knew that some magic beasts were naturally immune to poisons as well.

He wouldn't bet things on luck to see if the magic beasts that were attracted here, were actually affected by the 'Soul poisoning hell grass' poison or not.

As he and Liu Mei continued walking deeper inside time continued to pass, but Shun Long was disappointed that even after 4 hours of walking, they didn't seem to find any other rank 4 magic beast.

Even early rank 4 magic beasts seemed to have been scarce in this area, which was completely different from the rumors about this place.

Shun Long suddenly understood that the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range' seemed to have certain layers that it was comprised of, which also indicated the different territories of the magic beasts here.

The first layer that he was at now, seemed to still be the very outskirts.

The magic beasts in this place seemed to be at the early rank 3 to the peak of rank 3.

Of course, among the rank 3 magic beasts, there probably existed some powerful rank 4 magic beasts that were usually hidden as well like the 'Silver-clawed earth burrower', but these beasts were extremely rare and wouldn't easily show themselves.

If it wasn't because the 'Silver-clawed earth burrower' had sensed that Liu Mei's aura was at the middle of rank 4 of the Spirit realm, this beast would have certainly avoided attacking them.

As he and Liu Mei continued to walk deeper inside the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain range' night soon fell, before the sounds of fighting as well as miserable cries of men and women sounded from the distance.

Liu Mei turned her head to look at Shun Long who was staring in the distance ahead before she asked curiously

"Long-ge, should we...?"

After thinking about it for a moment, Shun Long nodded his head at Liu Mei, before the 2 of them both climbed on top of a tree, and started moving forward, under the cover of the tree branches ahead of them.

Usually, flying, or even hovering above the ground was avoided in this place, since it would easily attract the attention of the magic beasts hidden in the surroundings as they sensed the qi fluctuations coming from Shun Long's and Liu Mei's bodies, but since there was a huge fight going on in the distance, Shun Long knew that he and Liu Mei wouldn't be spotted as everyone's attention would be placed in the fight ahead of them.

Shun Long could feel that the energy fluctuations from the fight ahead had definitely reached the late-stages of the Spirit realm.

Of course, taking a look at the situation and getting directly involved were 2 different things.

If there was really something precious, he didn't mind getting involved in this fight.

Less than a minute later, covered behind the shade of the rank 3 'Heavy bark earth trees' around them, Shun Long and Liu Mei had already arrived at the scene of the fight.

Surprisingly, the fight was even more intense than what Shun Long had originally estimated.

In front of a large lake close to the edge of the forest, a group of 6 mercenaries comprised from 4 men and 2 women had gathered together, as they fought against a 10m(33ft) long blue-colored turtle that was constantly bombarding them with its attacks.

The blue turtle had spiky thorns on its shell, but instead of feet, pairs of purple-colored tentacles expanded from its body.

The turtle's mouth spat out water without stop, not letting the mercenaries rest for a moment, while its powerful purple tentacles unceasingly bombarded them with attacks from the sides.

Although the mercenaries could sense that this magic beast was just a peak rank 4 magic beast, even the 2 peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts from their group as well as the early rank 9 Spirit realm middle-aged man were helpless against this beast that didn't seem to leave any openings to attack them.

As for the peak rank 7 Spirit realm young man and the 2 rank 6 Spirit realm cultivators, they were in an even more miserable condition.

Every slap from the turtle's tentacles brought with it immense power that shook these cultivators to their core.

If it wasn't for the peak rank 9 Spirit realm experts helping them, then these 3 would have already turned into a pile of flesh splattered on the ground.

No matter how this group of mercenaries tried to resist however, under the terrifying turtle's attack they were only accumulating more and more injuries as time went on.

Shun Long however didn't seem to care too much about the miserable condition of this group of mercenaries, while his eyes stared at the huge 10m(33ft) blue-colored turtle with a bright look in his eyes as he mumbled to himself

"A 'Purple tentacled poison turtle'!"

Chapter 340 - 340 Purple tentacled poison turtle

Shun Long's eyes lit up as he stared at the powerful peak rank 4 magic beast that was attacking the mercenaries.

He knew that if this turtle was used as a supplemental ingredient while he refined the 'Soul Poisoning hell grass', the poison would be so potent that it could affect even peak rank 9 Nascent Soul stage experts, as well as some peak rank 5 magic beasts to a certain extent.

Although it would most likely be unable to kill them, however, just the ability to incapacitate a peak rank 9 Nascent Soul stage expert or a peak rank 5 magic beast was already more than extraordinary.

Seeing that Shun Long had actually gotten excited after seeing the huge turtle, Liu Mei couldn't help asking him in a low voice

"Long-ge, is this magic beast suitable to be used for alchemy?"

Nodding his head, Shun Long stared at the rank 4 'Purple tentacled poison turtle' that was still bombarding the group of 6 mercenaries with its attacks, as it was slowly breaking through their defenses, before he seriously explained

"Not only is its beast core extremely useful to alchemists, but every single part of its body can be considered valuable. Although neither its beast core nor its tentacles can be used as the main materials to refine poison or 'anti toxin pills', if they are used as supplementary materials, they can amplify the might of a poison by severalfold."

Shun Long didn't need to explain anything else, as Liu Mei instantly understood why he was so interested in this matter.

Liu Mei clearly remembered the poison that Shun Long had concocted when he dealt with the 2 middle rank 7 Spirit realm cultivators of the 'Blood Pill pavilion' back in the 'City of Sin', and understood why Shun Long was so interested in this magic beast.

Although alchemists may not be too interested in creating normal 'anti-toxin pills', something that could enhance the potency of a poison would be valuable to both alchemists as well as poison masters alike.

Inwardly, Shun Long lamented how unfortunate it was that the 'Purple tentacled poison turtle' hadn't reached the early rank 5 just yet.

Otherwise, there was a good chance that his poison could even partially affect an early rank 1 Dao King realm expert.

Of course, if other poison masters knew about his thoughts, they would probably spit on his face in anger and exasperation.

A middle rank 4 Spirit realm expert creating a poison that could affect a rank 1 Nascent Soul stage expert was already unbelievable.

But affecting a rank 9 Nascent Soul stage expert and even a rank 1 Dao King? This was purely boasting!

Of course, the reason behind this was the extreme potency of the rank 5 'Soul Poisoning hell grass' as well as the premise that Shun Long could enhance the potency of the poison even further.

Otherwise, the 'Soul poisoning hell grass' would at most be able to kill middle-stage Nascent Soul stage experts or late-stage ones who didn't have high-grade or top-grade 'anti-toxin pills' to enhance the poison's effects.

However, there were still other issues behind the fact that a poison master could use poison.

Although the usage of poison was often frowned upon in the 'Cultivation world', Shun Long wasn't worried about that.

However, not letting people know that he was a poison expert and exposing his secrets was another matter altogether.

A few more minutes later, the group of 6 mercenaries had already reached a desperate situation.

Knowing that it was only a matter of time before they all died, one of the 2 peak of rank 9 Spirit realm experts turned his head around, and shot a meaningful look at the peak rank 6 Spirit realm cultivator behind him, before he continued the fight.

The young man who was at the peak of rank 6 of the Spirit realm nodded his head indiscernibly, and a few moments later, a bright gleam flashed through his eyes as he stared at a purple-colored tentacle that was coming his way.

Just as the poison turtle's tentacle was about to hit him, the young man suddenly ducked and completely avoided its attack, allowing it to hit the middle-aged woman who was about to help him withstand the turtle's attack.

Under everyone's shocked eyes, miserable cries left the peak rank 7 Spirit realm middle-aged woman's mouth as soon as the purple-colored tentacle hit her, while her body had also started to turn purple.

At the same time, the middle-aged man at the early rank 9 of the Spirit realm hurriedly turned his head around with a shocked expression on his face as soon as he heard the woman's scream, when he abruptly felt himself losing his balance as a powerful force violently pushed him from behind, sending him flying towards the tentacle in front of him.

Without a chance to dodge, the middle-aged man's body collided with the purple tentacle, as miserable shrieks of pain and fear left his mouth.

This sudden turn of events had caught the remaining young man who was at the peak rank 9 of the Spirit realm and was still parrying off the turtle's attacks, as well as the young woman at the peak of rank 6 of the Spirit realm both off-guard.

Even Shun Long and Liu Mei were stunned for a moment after seeing this traitorous move.

These 2 men had cooperated, to send the middle-aged man who was at the early rank 9 of the Spirit realm, as well as the middle-aged woman at the peak of rank 7, both towards the turtle's tentacles at the same time.

Seeing that two of the turtle's tentacles were now occupied, both the middle-aged man who was at the peak of rank 9, as well as the young man at the peak of rank 6 took this chance to escape from the turtle's range of attacks.

A furious roar filled with anger and disbelief erupted from the young man who was left fighting off the 'Purple tentacled poison turtle', as he turned his head to look at the peak rank 9 Spirit realm middle-aged man and asked in a disbelieving tone

"Hao Chin have you gone crazy? Weren't you the one who wanted to explore this lake? How dare you betray Old Han?!"

Shun Long and Liu Mei could both hear the anger hidden inside the young man's disbelieving tone as he furiously roared at the middle-aged man who was named Hao Chin.

Hao Chin however shook his head, and without any hints of anger or regret on his face, he looked at the angry young man who was still fighting off the 2 tentacles of the 'Purple tentacled poison turtle' before he said in a relieved tone

"Chen Yan, you can't blame me! We have been fighting this beast for more than 1 hour and it still had the upper hand. Instead of waiting for it to kill us off one by one why shouldn't we just push you forward so we can escape?"

Chen Yan's face seemed to have turned red from anger, but no matter how much he wanted to, he could no longer divert his attention to speak to Hao Chin as he had to place his entire focus on fighting off the peak rank 4 'Purple tentacled poison turtle' in front of him whose attacks had started to become even more ferocious.

Now that the turtle only had 2 opponents, the pressure on the young man named Chen Yan had more than doubled!

Without another word, Hao Chin and the young man behind him both shook their heads, before they instantly turned to fly away with relieved expressions on their faces.

Although flying in the 'Ten thousand beasts' mountain region' was dangerous, there was nothing more dangerous to Hao Chin and the young man behind him than the gigantic blue-colored turtle in this place!

Shun Long and Liu Mei both understood, that the 2 men were trying to escape before the 'Purple tentacled poison turtle' finished off the young man named Chen Yan and the young woman behind him, and turned its attention back to them.

As for Hao Chin, the only thing that he felt regretful for, was that he wouldn't obtain Chen Yan's and the rest's spatial rings and instead they would end up in the turtle's belly. However, as long as he could escape from the 'Purple tentacled poison turtle' then it didn't matter too much.

Neither Chen Yan nor the young woman behind him seemed to have been willing to accept this outcome, but their condition was only turning worse with every passing moment.

Finally, a few moments later, the young woman could no longer withstand the tentacles' attacks, as she was sent flying towards a tree in the distance.

The moment that her body hit the gigantic 'heavy bark earth tree', the young woman vomited blood without stop, before she ended up losing consciousness.

Seeing the desperate expression on the young man's face, as he turned his head around to look at the young woman who had collapsed on the ground, Shun Long shook his head before he mumbled to himself

"I really shouldn't meddle with other people's business."