

**Time 521**

**Outside Of Time**

**Chapter 521: Fenghai's First Prison (2)**

Even the sunlight falling from above couldn't dispel the murky atmosphere here.

However, these weren't the main focus of Xu Qing's attention. As he climbed down the stairs and arrived at the top floor of the prison, he noticed that there were cells lining the walls of the deep pit.

Every cell was a huge area.

Within each area, there were countless cages.

Xu Qing could faintly see countless criminals of all races shouting inside.

Moreover, there was a strong smell of blood emanating from the surrounding soil, filling the area with a pungent stench.

Xu Qing remained silent, his face unchanged, as he continued forward.

The Pawn occasionally turned his head to look at Xu Qing. Upon noticing Xu Qing's composure, he gradually looked more interested.

As the two of them continued to walk deeper, Xu Qing saw more Pawns.

The Pawns here weren't young and were in this gloomy place all year round, causing them to emit a cold and murderous aura. Some of them were even holding mutilated corpses in their hands with blood still dripping from them.

That kind of cruelty that exuded from their bones made Xu Qing squint his eyes.

In addition, he discovered that when the Pawns saw him, some acted as if they were indifferent to his presence, some showed cruel looks, and some frowned with scrutiny.

Xu Qing didn't pay attention to these gazes. He could sense that every Pawn here had a very powerful cultivation base. Any one of them placed outside would be a remarkable figure.

They gave him the feeling of a wolf pack.

The Sword Holding Palace outside was also filled with wolves, but the wolves in the Prison Department were even more savage, bloody, and xenophobic.

They rejected everyone who wasn't a Pawn. In their hearts, there were only two identities: peers or criminals.

Xu Qing was neither a criminal nor a Pawn, and his appearance was very concealed, giving these pawns the feeling that a sudden light had appeared in the night, or a lost lamb wandering into a pack of wolves.

Despite the various gazes directed at him, Xu Qing calmly followed the Pawn in front to the 89th floor.

This was the centermost part of the entire prison. There were 88 floors above and 88 floors below.

There were no prison cells on this floor, only a black hall with 21 huge pillars in the surroundings. These pillars connected the upper and lower floors, and also had wyverns coiled around them.

Their vertical pupils coldly stared at Xu Qing. The lights in the surroundings were also incomparably dim. Xu Qing couldn't see too far and was only able to discern a figure sitting cross-legged in the depths of the hall.

Here, the expression of the Pawn who led the way became respectful and his eyes revealed fanaticism. He spoke with reverence.

"Palace Master, I've brought him here."

With that, the Pawn stood up and retreated until he left the 89th floor. He then waited outside.

Xu Qing took a deep breath and cupped his fists as well. He then bowed toward the figure in the depths of the hall.

"Sword Holder Xu Qing greets the Palace Master."

Almost at the instant Xu Qing's voice rang out, a huge eye suddenly opened in the darkness in the depths of the hall. This eye was over 100 feet tall and its vertical pupils were yellow. There were many black dots scattered inside. The edge of the pupil in the middle was swaying irregularly like smoke.

Under the eye, a tall figure sat cross-legged. He appeared to be middle-aged and was wearing black armor. In front of him lay a long spear, and his black hair swayed in front of the vertical pupil. The terrifying aura emanating from him distorted the surroundings. and the terrifying fluctuations caused the surroundings to distort.

Xu Qing only took a glance and his mind rumbled. He faintly felt as though he was looking at a god.

The other party didn't have any anomalous substances but the pressure he emitted could affect everything. It was as though he was the god of this prison!

He was the current Palace Master of the Sword Holding Palace!

He slowly opened his eyes and coldly looked at Xu Qing.

His gaze was like lightning. The moment it landed on Xu Qing, every inch of flesh and blood in Xu Qing's body trembled. It was as though his body and soul couldn't withstand the gaze and were about to collapse.

Fortunately, the other party quickly retracted his gaze. Xu Qing's face was pale and his mind was shaken. The Sword Holding Palace Master said the first sentence after meeting Xu Qing.

"As Sword Holders, every one of us is a sharp sword of the human race. We have to be prepared to die for the human race at all times."

The Palace Master's voice was deep and powerful, containing dignity as it spread in all directions. It also echoed in Xu Qing's mind, exploding inside like lightning.

"Although there are differences in cultivation levels and positions among Sword Holders, regardless of whether it's you or me, we are in essence one of the swords that protect the human race!"

"I originally didn't want to give special treatment to anyone, but you were appointed by the Great Emperor and outsiders are watching. Hence, I passed down a decree and asked you to be my follower."

"However, this is for outsiders to see and also to respect the emperor. It's not because you, Xu Qing, a new Sword Holder who hasn't done anything, are really worth it."

"In my opinion, you're no different from the other new Sword Holders, let alone those who have made great contributions."

The Palace Master slowly spoke. As his words echoed, the pressure became even more intense. The entire 89th floor trembled under these words.

"Do you understand this?"

Xu Qing nodded. He felt that what the Palace Master said made sense. In reality, he didn't like this edict bearer post that much.

"The Sword Holding Palace isn't a place to nurture flowers. If you think that you can rest easy here with the emperor's personal appointment, you might as well scam back to the Yinghuang Province and enjoy the glory of your 100,000 feet light there."

The Palace Master continued.

Xu Qing fell silent for a few breaths. He endured the pressure and discomfort and lifted his head to speak in a low voice.

"Palace Master, is there a place in this world where you can rest in peace?"

The Palace Master looked at Xu Qing.

"I don't know if there's really a place where one can rest in peace, but I think some people can rest in peace because others have endured the storm for them."

"There's also another type of peace of mind. It's to kill all the enemies who can disturb you. Naturally, you'll have nothing to worry about."

"I don't want to owe others, so I can't be the former."

"I want to be the latter and have always been the latter." Xu Qing rarely spoke so much. After he finished speaking, he bowed deeply and didn't speak anymore.

The Palace Master looked at Xu Qing and a sharp glint appeared in his eyes. After a long silence, he spoke.

"The position of the edict bearer can be hung on you, but I don't need you to do anything related now. Go and serve as a Pawn of the Prison Department first. Let me see how you can become the second type of person who can rest in peace."

Xu Qing agreed. After bowing, he left the floor under the Palace Master's gaze.

After watching Xu Qing's figure disappear, the Palace Master calmly spoke.

"How is this kid?"

"Every word he said was sincere." A buzzing sound echoed through the 89th floor, like the low roar of a behemoth. It also stirred up waves of storms that spread out on the floor.

The huge wyverns coiled on the 21 pillars lowered their heads and trembled.

"I think so too." The Palace Master calmly spoke. When he lifted his right hand, a jade slip appeared in it.

This jade slip was sent by the Yinghuang Province's Sword Holding Court. It recorded the information about Xu Qing in detail.

However, the starting point was Peerless City. It was when that place disappeared when the god opened its eyes.

"He experienced the god opening its eyes twice, but didn't die. He stumbled and rose from the slaughter. Such a person is worthy of being nurtured by me." The Palace Master closed his eyes.

\* \* \*

## [Outside Of Time](#)

### **Chapter 522: He Is Hell (1)**

Xu Qing was outside the 89th floor, looking at the Pawn waiting there.

This Pawn with a scar on his face had clearly received the decree and understood that Xu Qing would be taking up his post here. Hence, he crossed his arms and leaned against the wall, sizing Xu Qing up.

Although he had checked it when he was outside previously, at that time, he was examining as though he was looking at an outsider. Now, it was different. After he swept his gaze over, he looked at Xu Qing's peerlessly handsome face.

"Kid, with such good looks, you'll be at a disadvantage here. To those vicious criminals, your appearance isn't intimidating enough and you will become the object of their mockery and ridicule."

The middle-aged Pawn still had a fake smile.

Xu Qing didn't say anything. He lifted his head and looked at the Pawn.

When he met Xu Qing's gaze, the middle-aged Pawn could see the calmness in Xu Qing's eyes. He laughed.

"Interesting. Follow me." The Pawn pressed his back against the wall and stood up. In the dark Prison Department, they walked up the steps in circles.

When they passed by the greenish-black cell doors everywhere, he would occasionally glance inside and curse a few times.

No matter how noisy the criminals in the cells were, they would instantly fall silent after the Pawn cursed.

Xu Qing was pensive. He noticed that in the vast space in each cell he passed, there were hundreds of small cages containing all sorts of criminals from different races.

They had strange appearances and many of them weren't humanoids. After Xu Qing's gaze swept past the several cells, he even saw the Sea Corpse Race.

After observing the cells, Xu Qing retracted his gaze and looked at the pitch-black abyss below the stairs.

Waves of cold air rose from below, accompanied by deep roars.

"There's no need to look. Below the 89th floor is Area C. That's not a place you can go to, even I don't have the qualifications." The Pawn at the front calmly spoke.

"This place used to be a ghost cave?" Xu Qing suddenly asked.

"You've quite some knowledge. That's right, this place was indeed a ghost cave in the past. When the Prison Department was built, it was suppressed by someone from the Imperial City."

"Hm?"

As the Pawn spoke, his expression suddenly darkened. He kicked open the door of the cell at the side and walked in before slamming the door closed.

At this moment, the door became blurry and the inside couldn't be seen clearly.

Xu Qing waited there with a calm expression.

A while later, the cell's door opened. The middle-aged Pawn smiled sinisterly as he wiped the blood on his face and walked out.

"Inside is a criminal from the Horned Merchant Race. It once slaughtered the small sect I was in. After I became a Pawn, I applied for leave and went out to capture it. Every time I see it, I can't help but go up and tidy it up. However, I have to be careful not to kill it; otherwise, I'll have no fun in the future."

Different from when he came, the Pawn was clearly more relaxed now. After saying this to Xu Qing, he even whistled and continued forward.

Xu Qing's gaze lingered on the cell. At that moment, it was completely silent, with a thick fog of blood permeating the air. Clearly, all of this wasn't as simple as what the other party had said.

However, all of this was normal even in the Homicide Department back then. Xu Qing didn't mind and continued to follow the other party.

On the way, Xu Qing saw even more Pawns. Most of them were in the cells. Clearly, they each had their own prison cells to guard and not many went out.

Different from when they came in, every time the middle-aged Pawn saw a colleague, he would introduce them.

"A newbie is here."

Every time they heard this, those Pawns who emitted an intense bloody and baleful aura would reveal looks of interest. After sizing up Xu Qing, some of them actually followed.

A while later, when Xu Qing was followed by more than 30 Pawns, someone urged.

"Old Li, it's about time. We're already in Area D17. There's no point in going further. Everyone still has work to do, there's no need to drag things out."

The middle-aged Pawn grinned and stopped in front of a cell.

"Alright, let's do it here."

As he spoke, he kicked open the cell door and waved at Xu Qing before walking in.

Xu Qing glanced at the 30-odd Pawns behind him.

All of these people's eyes lit up like a pack of wolves in the night as they looked at him.

Xu Qing suddenly spoke.

"Are you guys gambling?"

As soon as he finished speaking, the Pawns started laughing.

"I'll bet on myself." Xu Qing took out a bag that contained about 100 spirit stones and placed it to the side.

He then walked into the cell.

"Interesting." The dozens of Pawns outside looked at each other and became even more interested as they walked in one after another.

The moment Xu Qing stepped into the cell, his vision blurred. It was as though he had entered another space and appeared in an empty space. There were over a hundred huge cages surrounding him.

Some of the criminals inside were sinister, some were gloomy, some looked mischievous, and some had strange glints in their eyes. However, no one spoke. All of them were staring at Xu Qing and the Pawns.

The middle-aged Pawn who was the first to enter swept his gaze across the surroundings.

"Your new toy is here. You're lucky this time."

"It's up to your performance now. As usual, whoever tears off a piece of his flesh will be able to move freely in Area D17's cell for the next month without being locked up and without fear of retaliation. That's the rule."

## [Outside Of Time](#)

### **Chapter 523: He Is Hell (2)**

As soon as the middle-aged Pawn spoke, heavy breathing rang out from all the cages in the surroundings. Numerous gazes that were filled with cruelty and madness looked at Xu Qing in unison, as though they wanted to use their gazes to tear Xu Qing into pieces.

In their eyes, Xu Qing appeared as a delicious and tender snack, arousing their sadistic tendencies. After all, the prospect of relative freedom and not being locked up for a month was something they craved intensely.

Even though they knew that those who could become Pawns weren't simple, the fact there were so many of them boosted their courage.

Moreover, every one of them were grave sinners who had killed many humans. They were locked up here and tortured day and night, but their hostility hadn't been completely obliterated.

Moreover, Xu Qing's beautiful appearance caused them to be even more excited. Coupled with their hatred for the Sword Holders, all of this immediately caused the ferocious atmosphere here to boil with increasingly hurried breathing.

Seeing this, the middle-aged Pawn smiled and looked at Xu Qing.

"Kid, this is the rule of our Prison Department. All new Pawns have to suppress an area. If you fail, you can only be an assistant to others and can't be qualified to be a Pawn."

"Only those who succeed are qualified to guard a cell. I wish you a good time. Let us see how many you can kill."

As he spoke, the middle-aged Pawn walked to the side of the cell's gate. After he stood beside the other pawns, he waved his right hand. Immediately, creaking sounds echoed as the cages in the cell were opened.

At the same time, the shackles on these criminals that suppressed their cultivation bases were unlocked.

Waves of Golden Core aura erupted.

Most of the people imprisoned in Area D were Golden Core cultivators.

Although the spirit energy in them was weakened due to the long-term suppression, the hundred of them with their respective methods, as well the ferocious aura emanating from them, made it impossible for anyone except for a high-level Sword Holder with a strong will to be able to resist their ferocity.

Moreover, there were many among them who were good at physical combat. This made the battle more difficult from a conventional point of view.

At that moment, these criminals rushed out one after another.

Some were fast, some were slow, some rushed head on and were about to attack. Some were good at observing, some had terrifying bodies, and some had astonishing spells.

Like a group of demons dancing wildly, the ferocious beasts were released from their cages and headed straight for Xu Qing.

As for Xu Qing, who was standing in the center of the vast space, he was like a little lamb that could be torn apart and played into pieces by them.

This scene caused the expressions of the Pawns at the entrance of the cell to reveal playfulness.

All of them had experienced this before, so they were looking forward to seeing the newbie experience all of this. Of course, if Xu Qing faced life and death, they would naturally make a move.

This was just a tradition, not bullying and killing among Pawns.

"Kid, remember to beg for mercy if you can't handle it. If it's too late, we won't have time to save you," the middle-aged Pawn said with a smile.

Xu Qing nodded and rushed forward, heading straight for the first nonhuman in full armor who had arrived in front of him.

Amidst the savage grin of the nonhuman, Xu Qing ruthlessly slammed into it.

With a loud bang, the nonhuman's smile froze as it felt a violent force rushing toward it. Its body trembled, and blood spurted out. Just as horror appeared on its face, a dagger appeared in Xu Qing's hand and he ruthlessly slit its neck.

The force was so great that the head flew up and blood splattered out like a fountain.

At the next moment, Xu Qing suddenly retreated and collided with another nonhuman. Before the nonhuman could react, the dagger in Xu Qing's hand stabbed behind him continuously.

After that, it slashed upward, from its abdomen to its glabella.

He then crouched down and dodged the spell that whistled over his head, then rushed toward the third nonhuman. He bent his knees and leaped up, directly colliding with the other party's face.

The nonhuman could only let out a short scream before its head shattered.

The blood that gushed out in the surroundings sounded like a gurgling stream, and the sound of the falling bodies echoed with a thud. The gates of hell seemed to have been opened, unleashing a demon of slaughter.

Xu Qing had attacked too quickly. Before most could react, Xu Qing's speed suddenly erupted and he appeared in front of a four-armed nonhuman with a crystal gem on its forehead.

This nonhuman looked violent and had a powerful body. Its four arms clenched into fists as it tried to punch Xu Qing.

However, Xu Qing was much faster. He grabbed one of the nonhuman's arms and his powerful physical strength erupted. As the nonhuman's expression changed, its arm was guided by a huge force and directly blasted into its body.

Blood spurted out. The instant its expression changed to one of horror, Xu Qing's right hand turned translucent and pierced into its chest, breaking through its four Heavenly Palaces.

Under the gaze of everyone in the surroundings, Xu Qing dragged out four dim golden cores that were still connected to the nonhuman's flesh. He crushed them all and absorbed them into his body.

Xu Qing picked up the nonhuman's large body and threw it to the side toward another group, before rushing toward another nonhuman.

He pierced the nonhuman's throat with his fingers. He then took out its golden cores and absorbed them.



Next was the eighth, twelfth, seventeenth...

The criminals finally started realizing how terrifying Xu Qing was. All of them started to cooperate with each other. Some got close, and some cast spells from further away.

They formed an inescapable net.

However, Xu Qing's speed was too fast and his body was astonishingly powerful. Seeing that the spells in the surroundings were about to reach him, the Golden Crow manifested and let out a cry, resisting the spells from dozens of criminals.

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 524: He Is Hell (3)**

Xu Qing rushed through the colorful light of spells and arrived in front of another nonhuman.

This nonhuman was one of the spell casting cultivators. It had wings but it wasn't a Quasi-Immortal, and looked more like a crow-man.

After noticing Xu Qing's arrival, the crow-man's eyes contracted and he tried to retreat, but it was already too late. Xu Qing grabbed its neck and smashed it into the wall at the side.

As the wall rumbled, the crow-man's neck exploded and its head was destroyed. Its corpse then fell to the ground.

"What a pity."

Xu Qing felt regret in his heart. He didn't have time to pull out the other party's golden cores.

With a swing, the crow-man's corpse smashed into the distance.

Looking at the ferocious nonhuman criminals in the surroundings, Xu Qing licked his lips and rushed out again.

He didn't use poison. Xu Qing felt that it wasn't worth it to use his trump cards here. In fact, he rarely used spells either. In a flash, he arrived behind a criminal in the blink of an eye, causing its expression to change drastically. It attempted to dodge, but it was too late.

Xu Qing's right hand directly penetrated its back and grabbed its heart. As he crushed it, he also probed into its Heavenly Palaces and grabbed four dim golden cores.

Just like that, mournful cries continued to ring out from D17's cell.

Moreover, the cries became even more shriller and fearful.

30, 40, 50...

Xu Qing's killing speed became faster and faster. The cruelty of his attacks and his agility were even more astonishing. At that moment, his entire person was like a blood shadow as he grabbed the neck of a nonhuman and pulled out its golden cores amidst its cries of despair.

A criminal launched a sneak attack from behind right at this moment. However, the instant it got close to Xu Qing, his shadow swayed. At the next instant... half of the nonhuman's body disappeared, as if it was devoured by an invisible mouth.

The slaughter continued.

In the time it took for an incense stick to burn, the stench of blood permeated the air. The ground was covered in corpses, most of which had their Heavenly Palaces destroyed. Their golden cores had been extracted and they had turned into desiccated corpses, with their qi and blood devoured by Xu Qing's Golden Crow. They died an extremely miserable death.

There were also some whose heads were either destroyed or their heads were separated. It was a tragic sight.

There were also a few special races whose bodies were scraped alive by Xu Qing.

At this point, the remaining dozens of nonhuman criminals finally couldn't suppress their fear despite their ferocious nature.

In their eyes, Xu Qing's expression clearly hadn't changed at all from the start. However, the feelings they felt had already turned upside down.

Previously, Xu Qing was like a snack or a lamb to them. However, now, he was a ferocious wolf that had thrown away its lamb skin. In fact, this description wasn't appropriate either. That was a walking hell!

All of this caused monstrous waves to surge in their minds and their bodies shivered.

"He's definitely not a Pawn from Area D!"

"When the Pawns from Area D attack, their emotions will fluctuate. He-his didn't!"

"This is a malignant star. He clearly suffered many injuries but he hasn't even frowned. Such a person... I give up. Lord Pawn, we give up!!"

It wasn't that Xu Qing wasn't injured. With so many criminals joining forces and Xu Qing not using his trump cards, he would naturally be injured.

However, the more injured he was, the more savage he became. This was especially so when he caught up to one of the criminals and smashed his head into its face, shattering its head into pieces.

This scene had terrified the remaining criminals. They looked at Xu Qing with extreme fear. In their eyes, Xu Qing's cruelty surpassed theirs.

When they saw Xu Qing's face covered in blood turning his head and looking at them, their determination collapsed uncontrollably. They ran crazily toward the Pawns.

The Pawns by the gate of the cell were also shocked. The scene today was something they would never forget for the rest of their lives.

They looked at the corpses all over the ground, at the viscous blood gathered on the ground, at the criminals who were scattering in horror, and at the incomparably calm Xu Qing.

Everyone gasped, and their minds stirred intensely. Their expressions were incomparably solemn.

They had seen killing before and were all people who killed. Hence, what they were shocked about wasn't Xu Qing's act of killing but Xu Qing's expression during the killing.

Even though they were also ferocious people, they couldn't do what Xu Qing did. From the start to the end, his expression did not fluctuate at all like an ancient well.

Regardless of whether it was killing or being killed, it was very difficult to control one's emotions. They would naturally fluctuate.

The horror and despair of the killed and the excitement and enjoyment of the killer were almost impossible to fake.

There would eventually be subtle changes in the expressions.

It was the same for all the Pawns in Area D.

Only those who had killed to the extreme, or those who had experienced hell in the human world, could change killing into their instinct. Only then could their emotions remain calm in this state.

They had seen such people before.

That was Pawns who worked in Area C below the 89th floor and was of a higher level than them.

Any Pawn there was such a person!

"Area C!"

These Pawns instinctively looked at each other. Under this solemnity, the gaze they used to look at Xu Qing was no longer as playful as before. Instead, their gazes carried deep respect and intense light.

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 525: Mysterious Area**

Xu Qing's massacre continued, and hell was still moving.

In fact, what the Pawns in Area D saw was both correct and incorrect.

What was correct was that Xu Qing's expression didn't fluctuate at all during the massacre.

What was incorrect was that... he wasn't controlling his emotions.

Time and time again, he had crawled out of a pile of corpses and wandered on the verge of death. He had seen the god open its eyes twice, and struggled to survive. He no longer needed to control his emotions.

Killing was his instinct.

If you want to harm me, I'll kill you.

The initial malice and cruelty of these criminals had already determined the outcome. Regardless of whether it was here or outside, it was the same.

Xu Qing was relentless in his attacks, showing no mercy because of the criminals' mental breakdown or their desperate wails.

He continued to attack.

He caught up to one prisoner after another who was fleeing in fear and killed them by attacking their fatal spots which he had learned from the secret training.

Of course, he still needed the golden cores, so the process was accompanied by mournful cries that continued to echo through the area.

After another half an incense stick of time passed, Xu Qing held the head of a Two Faces Race cultivator in his left hand and stood among the corpses.

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He stood calmly under the dense stench of blood, and looked at the solemn-looking Pawns at the entrance of the cell.

"Finished."

Xu Qing threw down the head in his hand and spoke softly.

The Pawns' expressions were solemn. After a long time, they bowed to Xu Qing in unison.

The middle-aged Pawn at the front spoke in a low voice.

"Welcome, Brother Xu Qing, to the Prison Department!"

Behind him, all the Pawns spoke in unison.

"Welcome, Brother Xu Qing, to the Prison Department!"

In any place, the strong were respected.

It was the same for the Prison Department. However, other than being powerful, they also had to feel that they were the same kind of people.

If someone could do this, they would naturally obtain their recognition.

And, if that someone could go beyond it, then what they would obtain would definitely be respect.

This is what Xu Qing did.

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Xu Qing bowed and returned the greeting. Sensing that the Fifth Heavenly Palace was rapidly materializing in his body, he asked.

"Can I kill those from the other cells?"

When the Pawns, they sighed with emotion.

"Xu Qing, although we can kill the prisoners here, it's still not good to kill too many of them. You've already used up our quota for this month."

The middle-aged Pawn smiled bitterly.

"However, there's no need to worry. Every month, many criminals are captured to replenish the numbers. According to everyone's tacit understanding, we can kill as many criminals as we capture."

As he spoke, the middle-aged Pawn pushed open the cell door. When everyone walked out, Xu Qing glanced at the place where he had placed his pouch earlier.

The surrounding Pawns coughed dryly and looked at each other. They each took out some spirit stones and handed them to the middle-aged Pawn.

After the middle-aged Pawn took it, he sighed.

"It wasn't easy to have a newbie in the team. I thought I could make a fortune, but..." He shook his head and distributed the spirit stones to three to five Pawns.

These Pawns took them with a smile. They were the ones who had bet on Xu Qing's victory.

After that, the middle-aged cultivator kept some of the remaining spirit stones and gave them to Xu Qing according to certain odds.

Xu Qing's previous judgment wasn't wrong. These people followed him because they wanted to bet.

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Most of them were betting that Xu Qing wouldn't be able to hold on for long and the banker was none other than the middle-aged Pawn. Clearly, although some people bet that Xu Qing would succeed, and obtained benefits, Xu Qing also obtained a lot.

After all, his odds were very high.

He was satisfied with the spirit stones.

The other Pawns each had their own cells to guard. After they bade farewell, the middle-aged Pawn brought Xu Qing to the registration office.

On the way, his attitude was completely different from before.

"Brother Xu Qing, I'm usually stationed on the 35th floor. If you have any questions in the future, feel free to find me. I'll bring you to register now, and you'll be allocated a cell and a Pawn's Daoist robe. Your aura will also be recorded so that you can enter on your own."

Xu Qing nodded. As he walked, he passed by many cells. His gaze would look at them from time to time with some regret.

This expression was noticed by the middle-aged Pawn. He smiled and spoke.

"Actually, there's another way. That is, you need to suppress Area D1 on the 88th floor. At that time, you can choose to advance to a Pawn of Area C."

This time, his smile wasn't fake but sincere.

"After becoming a Pawn in Area C, you won't have any restrictions on dealing with criminals. Moreover, you'll be rewarded with more military contributions."

"Under the 89th floor?" Xu Qing asked. He had heard the other party mention Area C before.

"That's right. The Prison Department is divided into four areas: A, B, C, and D. All the floors above the 89th are Area D."

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"Below the 89th floor is Area C. As for Area B and Area A, they're not something we can know about. In reality, Area C is already very mysterious. I've never been there and don't know how many floors it contains."

"I only know that among the criminals imprisoned there, the weakest is in the Nascent Soul realm. Moreover, their cruelty far surpasses that of prisoners in Area D."

As he spoke, the middle-aged Pawn brought Xu Qing to the registration office on the ninth floor. There, Xu Qing obtained the Daoist robe with black flames and recorded his aura.

The cell he was going to guard was also arranged.

"Area D132." After seeing the cell Xu Qing was guarding, the middle-aged Pawn's expression was a little surprised. He took a few more glances at Xu Qing.

Xu Qing was puzzled and looked at the other party.

"Is there a problem?"

"D132. How should I put it? It's both a blessing and a curse. It's on the 57th floor." The middle-aged Pawn shook his head and looked at Xu Qing with a complicated gaze.

Xu Qing frowned.

"This has nothing to do with the criminals. Although the criminals inside are indeed more ferocious than those in the other cells, it's still Area D after all. It's a curse because many of its successive guardians have died mysteriously outside."

"However, not all the guardians died. There were still some who were fine. It's a blessing because our Palace Master was the guardian of Area D132 when he was at the Golden Core Realm."

"There hasn't been a new guardian for Area D132 for almost a hundred years."

Xu Qing's gaze froze. This matter attracted his attention.

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Hence, he took out the jade slip that recorded the information of the prisoners in Area D132 and scanned it with his divine sense.

There were very few prisoners in Area D132. At first glance, Xu Qing didn't see any problems. However, he didn't plan to go to Area D132 immediately. Instead, he planned to go back and research first.

Just like that, after Xu Qing asked some more questions about the Prison Department, he left the first prison of Fenghai County.

When he arrived in the outside world, it was already dusk.

Xu Qing felt that today had been very eventful. From meeting the Palace Master to serving as a Pawn, killing criminals, and his Fifth Heavenly Palace near to completing its materialization.

"Next, I have to build the Sword Pavilion." After walking out of the Prison Department, Xu Qing looked at the circles of the Sword Pavilions of different heights on the ground and arrived at the outermost layer. He then took out his command sword and stabbed it into the ground 10,000 feet away from the last Sword Pavilion.

At the next instant, the command sword shone with a resplendent light and rumbling sounds rang out. A 100-foot-tall Sword Pavilion stood in front of him, identical to the other Sword Pavilions in the surroundings.

100 feet was also the base height.

As the Sword Pavilion was formed, Xu Qing kept the sword. He then entered the Sword Pavilion.

This pavilion looked to be 100 feet tall from the outside but that wasn't the case from the inside. It was similar to the structure of the cave abodes and was divided into several rooms for alchemy, weapon refinement, closed-door cultivation, and even rooms to receive guests.

There was also a spirit gathering array, so the spirit qi in the Sword Pavilion was very abundant. It was much more comfortable to cultivate here than outside.

Hence, Xu Qing didn't return to the branch sect but chose to rest here.

As for the necessary protective barriers, such as array formations and poison, Xu Qing naturally wouldn't forget them.

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Although the Sword Pavilion's defense wasn't ordinary to begin with, Xu Qing still arranged it according to his habits before he felt at ease.

After that, he sat down and closed his eyes to cultivate.

Time passed.

During this time, he also received a voice transmission from the captain, informing him that all the new Sword Holders' assessments had ended. He also told Xu Qing in a very boastful tone about the post he had obtained.

"The Sword Holding Palace still thinks very highly of your Eldest Senior Brother. They arranged for me to work in the Office of Merit Records!"

"That chick Qing Qiu was assigned to inspection, Kong Xianglong is in charge of tracking down suspects in the field. Among all the newly promoted Sword Holders, including you, there are only five in administration posts, and I'm one of them."

The captain was incomparably smug. The sound of eating an apple could be heard from the jade slip.

"Xu Qing, what about you? Are you busy as an edict bearer for the Palace Master?"

"It's alright." Xu Qing was a little surprised at the captain's smugness.

"Little Qing, you don't understand, do you? Let me tell you, others might snort disdainfully at my post, but they're stupid. The moment I obtained the post, I could tell that this place isn't simple."

"The Office of Merit Records. This is a place for reviewing military contributions. If I use it well, I'll have great authority."

"At the same time, I also have a macro view of who's earning military contributions at a rapid pace, and based on the tasks they've completed and their cultivation level, I can calculate the increase range of military contributions for all the Sword Holders. This way, I can easily determine which tasks are the easiest and yield the most military contributions."

"In addition, as long as I have enough statistics, I can see any areas that are more suitable for obtaining military contributions. This location is too critical. If I study carefully, I can even see a lot of information from the clues inside."

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The captain's voice was filled with excitement. He was extremely satisfied with this position.

After Xu Qing heard this, a strange expression appeared on his face. He felt that perhaps when the Sword Holding Palace arranged this post for the captain, they didn't think so deeply...

"Let's not talk about it. I want to continue digging up this Office of Merit Records. Little Qing, wait. It won't be long before I find a good way and area to obtain military contributions. I'll bring you there!"

The captain ended the call excitedly and immersed himself in his research.

Seeing this, Xu Qing also felt some anticipation.

"Military contributions!" Xu Qing lifted his head and looked at the distant world. That was the direction of Morning Glow Province and also the location of Mount Morning Glow.

"There's also the Emperor Sword. I still have a chance to comprehend it. I have to do it as soon as possible." Xu Qing took a deep breath and took out the command sword.

He needed to make an appointment in advance to comprehend the Emperor Sword. After all, there were many Sword Holders and there was a limited number of spots every day. Hence, Xu Qing used the command sword to make an appointment. The time was at dusk the next day.

After doing this, Xu Qing thought of D132. He took out the prisoner's information jade slip and read it carefully.

There weren't many prisoners in Area D132, only 14. Moreover, they had all been imprisoned for more than 500 years, some even for 1,000 years. During this period, no new prisoners were locked up, and the prisoners inside hadn't died.

However, because there were no guards for the cell for the past hundred years, the prisoners could only stay in the cages. Only some spirit qi would seep in at a fixed time, allowing them to maintain their basic survival.

Xu Qing studied the slip for a long time, but even until dawn, he didn't see many special things about the cell.

If there was really one, it would be that the prisoners from Area D132 lived longer than the other cells.

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After pondering for a while, Xu Qing decided to take a look.

Hence, after dawn, he went to the Prison Department and went straight to the 57th floor. He stood in front of the cell gate in Area D132.

The greenish-black cell door exuded ancientness.

Xu Qing stood silently for a while as determination appeared in his eyes. He then slowly pushed open the cell gate that hadn't been opened in the past hundred years...

An aura of decay spread out from the gap in the slowly opening gate, permeating the surroundings.

The many Pawns on the other floors were also leaning forward on the stairs and looking at where Xu Qing was.

"D132, it's opened again."

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 526: The 14 Prisoners of D132 (1)**

D132 had a total of 14 prisoners.

Compared to the hundreds or even thousands of criminals in the other cells in Area D, the number of prisoners here was too small.

It was so small that Xu Qing didn't need to think too much before the information about all the prisoners appeared in his mind.

At that moment, as the gate of D132's cell opened and the decaying aura spread out, Xu Qing stood at the gate and calmly watched.

It was pitch-black inside the gate.

Xu Qing pondered for a few breaths before walking over.

He stepped into the dark space behind the cell step by step. He then waved his hand and the cell gate slammed shut.

The sound spread out and entered the ears of all the Pawns who were paying attention, turning into waves in their minds.

It was still dark inside cell D132. Only the sound of footsteps echoed.

That was Xu Qing's footsteps. He didn't use the Pawn's authority to turn on the lights here because compared to the light that revealed everything, Xu Qing felt that the darkness here suited him more.

He liked to move in the dark to begin with.

After he got used to the darkness, he was able to discern his surroundings although it was still dim.

Just like the cell he had carried out the massacre, there was a huge square in the center of D132, surrounded by cages.

Xu Qing walked along the corridor outside the cages, passing by one empty room after another, until he stopped outside the 19th cage.

This cage was occupied.

It was a figure sitting cross-legged with its back facing Xu Qing. It was so tall that its head almost touched the ceiling of the cage.

It was completely naked, but had countless tentacles swaying on its body. Some long, some short, and they draped over its body like threads of clothing.

The giant seemed completely indifferent to Xu Qing's presence and continued with its meal. The sound of its chewing echoed throughout the room, and its head shook as if it were tearing apart its food.

Outside the cage, Xu Qing stood still and watched with a cold gaze.

Through the shadow, he could clearly see that the thing the giant was eating was its tentacles.

At the same time, he also saw the prisoner's appearance.

According to the prisoner's information, it was a cloud beast.

On the way to the county capital, Xu Qing had seen cloud beasts in Yunfeng Province. They didn't have intelligence and their bodies were above 1000 feet tall. This figure in front of him was much smaller in height and its appearance was slightly different.

Xu Qing retracted his gaze and continued walking. Very soon, after seven to eight cages, he saw the second prisoner.

This was a female prisoner.

She was a human.

Her entire body was covered in dirt and bite wounds.

One could barely make out that she was quite beautiful, and her figure was even more enchanting. At that moment, she was crouching in a corner, holding a straw doll in her hands as though she was coaxing it to sleep.

When Xu Qing passed by, she sensed him. She lifted her left index finger to her lips and shushed him softly.

It was as though she was reminding Xu Qing not to disturb the child's rest.

The ground of the cage she was in was covered in straws and countless torn dolls.

Xu Qing stared coldly as the information about this woman appeared in his mind. This woman was once a heaven's chosen from the Great Void Demon Transformation Sect.

In her early years, she had a fortuitous encounter and ate heavenly treasures like the longevity fruit. Originally, there were high hopes placed on her, but it was discovered that she was actually cooking and eating human infants.

This matter caused quite a commotion back then.

She should have been executed, but most of the families of the infants she had killed requested that she suffer a fate worse than death and endure endless torture.

Hence, she was imprisoned here.

At that moment, Xu Qing fixed his gaze on the torn straw dolls scattered on the ground of the cage. Their eyes were wide open, fixed on the woman. Suddenly, they opened their mouths and let out cries, pouncing toward her.

This included the straw doll in the woman's arms. It crazily bit the woman.

The woman trembled as the straw dolls bit her, but she didn't resist. Instead, she lifted her head and smiled at Xu Qing. Her smile was strange, as though she was greeting Xu Qing.

Xu Qing watched for a while before retracting his gaze and leaving, walking toward the next prisoner.

Just like that, he walked more than half a circle around the cell and compared the information of the criminals inside one by one. At the same time, he was also observing if there were any problems with them.

Xu Qing wasn't too curious about why Area D132 was so unlucky. However, since he was the one guarding this cell, he had to control everything here.

Through his observation, the most direct feeling Xu Qing got was that the criminals in Area D132 were even stranger than the ones he had killed previously.

In fact, the seventh prisoner wasn't even a flesh creature.

It was a millstone that was spinning on its own.

It continued to rotate, emitting a suction force, as though it wanted to absorb and crush all the substances in the cage.

Even Ghost Hand hadn't introduced this race. According to the prisoner's information, this was a stone demon.

It was a rare race that was born after the god's fragmented-face arrived.

Right now, Xu Qing was standing in front of the 237th cage. The creature imprisoned in it was the 13th prisoner he saw in this cell.

The other party didn't have a body and only had a head. It rolled on the ground of the cage. After noticing Xu Qing, it suddenly stopped and stared at Xu Qing with its red eyes, revealing a happy smile.

"This is too fun. You're clearly dead but you don't even know it. How fun. You'll die in the hands of a straw-hat cultivator next time, but you're already dead. How can you die again?"

"You died a tragic death. Your body collapsed but your head was still there. The cultivator said that he wanted to bring your head somewhere."

### [Outside Of Time](#)

#### **Chapter 527: The 14 Prisoners of D132 (2)**

"So tragic, so tragic."

"Everyone is looking for you but they can't find you... Haha, they don't know where you were buried but I know, I saw it."

"Do you want to resolve it? As long as you throw me into the cage where the cloud beast is and let me stay there, I'll help you resolve it. How does that sound?"

"You have to believe me. I'm the only one who helped guard this place. Those Pawns who didn't die were actually because of me."

Xu Qing didn't say anything. After carefully observing the head, he walked away and went to the cage that imprisoned the last prisoner.

This place was even more special.

There were no cultivators in the cage and there was only a painting.

It was a painting floating in the air.

The painting depicted four generations of a family sitting together. There were a total of 23 of them and they were all smiling.

In the middle was an old man. Surrounded by his descendants, he smiled the happiest. His expression was perfectly portrayed by the painter.

Looking at the painting, a strange glint appeared in Xu Qing's eyes. This was also a new race born in the world after the god's fragmented-face arrived. Their name was the Painting Race.

This race didn't exist in reality. They lived their entire lives in paintings.

However, they said that the world was in the painting and they were the ones outside.

After a long time, Xu Qing retracted his gaze and turned to leave. When he returned to the cage where the first prisoner was imprisoned, the cloud beast that was eating suddenly stopped chewing and spoke in a low voice.

"Don't believe 237. No matter what it says, don't believe it."

237 was the cage where the strange head was located.

Xu Qing didn't bother with it. He walked to the cell gate and sat down cross-legged. As he looked at the dark prison, a look of contemplation appeared in his eyes.

He found these prisoners very interesting.

Time slowly passed. Other than a few voices, D132 was relatively quiet.

There were no strange or evil occurrences.

Xu Qing was still sitting cross-legged. He hadn't touched any items here or said a word.

In fact, regardless of whether he was walking or sitting cross-legged at this moment, his body was filled with the power of the Poison Restriction.

It didn't spread out but surrounded his body, isolating him from everything in the external world.

This was his usual cautiousness.

As for the rumored curse in D132, Xu Qing still hadn't sensed it.

He prepared to slowly investigate.

At that moment, seeing that the day was over and it was time for him to leave, Xu Qing stood up.

He had already applied to comprehend the Emperor Sword yesterday. The appointment time was after he got off work today.

However, the instant Xu Qing stood up, he abruptly turned his head and looked at the cage that imprisoned the human woman.

He saw a figure there.

It was the figure of a little boy.

He stood in front of the woman's cage and seemed to be saying something to her.

A sharp glint appeared in Xu Qing's eyes. He lifted his right hand and waved it. The black iron stick instantly flew over, flickering with waves of red lightning. It instantly arrived in front of the woman's cage and directly smashed into the wall.

However, the little boy's figure strangely disappeared.

Xu Qing expressionlessly walked over. When he got close, the black iron stick where the Diamond Sect's ancestor was quickly returned and sent a mental transmission to Xu Qing.

"Master, there's nothing here."

Xu Qing looked at the woman in the cage. This woman was still curled up in a corner and smiling at Xu Qing.

Xu Qing stared at her for a long time before turning to walk back to the cell gate. He then walked out of the cell.

As the greenish-black prison gate closed with a bang, Xu Qing transmitted his divine sense to the Diamond Sect's ancestor.

"You didn't see it?"

"Ah? Master, see what? In my perception, there was nothing there." The Diamond Sect's ancestor hurriedly spoke carefully. At the same time, he felt uneasy.

He felt that he had fallen out of favor... so he cherished this opportunity very much. However, he really didn't sense anything.

Xu Qing frowned and asked the shadow.

"...Mast... No..." The shadow replied shakily. Just like the Diamond Sect's ancestor, it also felt that it had fallen out of favor.

A cold glint appeared in Xu Qing's eyes. He then glanced at D132.

He currently needed to go to comprehend the Emperor Sword, as it was almost the appointed time, so he suppressed the thought of entering again to investigate and left the Prison Department.

When he walked out of the Prison Department, it was almost dusk outside. The clouds were slightly dark, and it was obvious that it would rain tonight.

Xu Qing didn't think about D132 anymore. He soared into the air and was about to head to the Sword Holding Palace when a thousand-foot-long Sword Pavilion below suddenly erupted with resplendent light. As rumbling sounds echoed, dozens of sword lights shot out and scattered in all directions.

An old man in a Sword Holder's Daoist robe hurriedly flew out from the Sword Pavilion. He performed a series of hand seals with both hands to stop the sword lights. Coincidentally, one of the sword lights headed straight for Xu Qing.

Its speed was so fast and the strength of its aura surpassed that of a Golden Core cultivator. It was a Nascent Soul attack.

Xu Qing's expression darkened and he abruptly retreated. The Purple Heaven Infinite Crown above his head shone brightly as he dodged amidst the rumbling sounds.

The sword light whistled past him.

"Little friend, I'm very sorry!!" After Xu Qing dodged, the old man had already blocked the other sword qi. At that moment, he looked at Xu Qing apologetically.

"I was studying a cultivation art just now and an accident happened." The old man smiled bitterly. Although he was at the Nascent Soul realm, he clearly felt bad and cupped his fists repeatedly.

Xu Qing frowned and glanced at the old man before sweeping his gaze across the surroundings. He felt that the other party didn't do this on purpose. After all, if the latter wanted to kill him, one Nascent Soul sword qi wasn't enough.

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 528: The 14 Prisoners of D132 (3)**

Moreover, this was the county capital and he had just left the Prison Department. If someone wanted to kill here, they would have to finish it in one strike.

After some thought, Xu Qing nodded.

Although there was a high chance that this matter was just an accident, Xu Qing was even more vigilant and headed straight for the Sword Holding Palace at full speed.

He arrived very quickly. After using up the one time Emperor Sword comprehension opportunity as a new Sword Holder, Xu Qing's figure disappeared as the array formation in the Sword Holding Palace was activated. He then appeared at the place to comprehend the Emperor Sword in the Sword Holding Palace.

This place was similar to the place of comprehension in the Yinghuang Province's Sword Holding Court. It was also a huge rock with a sword engraved on it. The surrounding ground was filled with array formations and chains wrapped around the large rock.

When Xu Qing arrived, there were already seven to eight people comprehending it. He swept his gaze and noticed that three of them were new Sword Holders of his batch.

Their eyes were closed and there was a protective barrier around their bodies.

Xu Qing retracted his gaze and found a corner to sit cross-legged.

Previously, he had almost succeeded in the Sword Holding Court. Although the Sword Holder from the Sword Holding Court said that this was what everyone felt, Xu Qing felt that it wasn't the case.

This was because in his sea of consciousness, the phantom of the Emperor Sword was still there. Even now, it had not completely dissipated and most of it was still there.

In addition to the comprehension insights Kong Xianglong had shared with all of them earlier, Xu Qing felt that he was very confident that he could succeed this time around.

Hence, anticipation rose in his heart. He sat cross-legged and closed his eyes, fusing his perception into the huge rock in front of him.

The instant his perception came into contact with the rock, the blurry feeling from back then surfaced in front of his eyes again.

However, this time around, Xu Qing didn't spend much time. Through the layers of fog, he saw the simple and unadorned sword shadow.

Staring at the Emperor Sword, Xu Qing continued to get closer. That sword became clearer and clearer in his eyes. He vaguely seemed to hear the sound of the sword and saw figures appearing around the sword.

Those figures' appearances couldn't be seen clearly but their movements were very uniform.

They drew their swords and slashed!

It was that simple.

However, the feeling Xu Qing got was different. The sword slashes of every figure stirred up waves in his mind, transforming into a storm that echoed with rumbling sounds.

As the storm and rumbling grew increasingly intense, he could vaguely see someone slashing down with a sword. The sea was divided, and deep fissures formed at the bottom of the sea. Moreover, the sword qi persisted and the fissure didn't close.

He also saw the ground collapsing under someone's sword strike. Almost half of a province turned into dust that drifted with the wind.

He even saw someone slashing the forbidden zone; the forbidden zone was directly swept back and shattered.

Other than that, most of the sword slashes were targeted at the nonhuman races. Countless nonhuman races died under the sword strikes, and the mournful cries before they died seemed to be still echoing at this moment.



This lasted until he saw a figure whose face couldn't be looked at directly.

This person wore an emperor's robe and looked extraordinarily mighty and noble. He stood in the sky and slashed at an existence that had stood up from the deep sea. Its entire body was covered in tentacles that emitted endless anomalous substances.

After the sword strike, the existence that walked out of the deep sea let out an earth-shattering roar. Its body shattered into countless pieces and fused into the sea.

The person wearing the emperor's robe was the emperor of the Sword Holding Palace.

And the creature from the deep sea... seemed to be a god.

These scenes were like images that were imprinted in the long river of time. After they kept appearing, as Xu Qing's mind trembled, in the end, all the Sword Holder figures overlapped.

They transformed into a sword!

The Emperor Sword.

Xu Qing's mind stirred with monstrous waves.

Six hours later, his figure disappeared from the place of enlightenment.

The moment he opened his eyes, a resplendent sword shadow flashed in Xu Qing's eyes.

He was still shocked. After a long time, he took a deep breath and looked at his sea of consciousness.

Over there, he could clearly see an Emperor Sword shining brightly.

The Emperor Sword had been comprehended successfully!

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 529: So Close, Yet Worlds Apart (1)**

Xu Qing took a deep breath and silently sensed the Emperor Sword in his sea of consciousness. He had a feeling that the Emperor Sword had completely fused with him.

It became an inseparable part.

This feeling caused him to feel a sense of strength.

This was the enhancement brought about by the emperor-level cultivation art, and he also felt a sense of familiarity with the sword. This was a change brought about by his deep comprehension of the Emperor Sword.

He was familiar with every part of the sword's structure, every inch of sharpness in the blade, and every stream of light flowing in its body.

However, this sense of familiarity was ultimately somewhat fleeting and unreal, like the reflection of the moon in the water. He still needed to continue studying and experiencing it until he finally turned the illusory into real, turning it into an instinct engraved in his soul.

"Only then can I advance to the second level and increase my comprehensive combat strength by one palace," Xu Qing mumbled.

A long time later, he looked at his right palm. With a thought, piercing light spread out from the lines on his palm and rapidly gathered, gradually taking shape and forming a sword shadow.

It contained an aura of sharpness that seemed to want to slay all living beings.

It also had a vast and mighty aura, as if it could crush all the gods and demons in the world.

Xu Qing could sense that the emperor-level cultivation art of the Sword Holders wasn't meant for protection in essence, but for killing. The baleful aura on it was extremely heavy.

This was a sword that slaughtered to protect.

Xu Qing understood and a sharp glint appeared in his eyes. It resonated with the sword light in his palm and fused together.

Vaguely, he seemed to hear the sound of a sword cry. That voice contained familiarity and recognition.

Vaguely, he seemed to see the countless figures he had seen when he was comprehending earlier. Each figure was holding the Emperor Sword, smiling at him as they witnessed a successor who would walk the same past as them.

Xu Qing bowed toward the void.

He was bowing to this sword as well as the predecessors

From this moment on, he finally possessed two emperor-level cultivation arts.

Golden Crow Refines All Life could devour everything in the world.

The Emperor Sword could kill all living beings below the sovereign.

Although the latter still needed time to nourish if he wanted to erupt with strength that surpassed his own, he had formed the Sword Seed. Everything was just a matter of time.

Looking at the Emperor Sword formed by the sword qi, Xu Qing suppressed the waves in his heart. After a long time, he finally regained his composure, and a pensive expression settled on his face.

"It won't be easy for me to nurture the Emperor Sword Art for many years, so the key for me is to turn it into one of my trump cards in every battle. I have to become more familiar with it and turn it from illusory to real as soon as possible and advance it to the second level to increase my combat strength by one palace."

"Increasing the familiarity requires a sword..." Xu Qing suddenly understood. He unsheathed the command sword.

Looking at this sword, he found himself lost in thought. He came to realize another use of this sword.

In addition to being necessary for the Sword Holders' daily needs and constructing the Sword Pavilion, this sword also had a hidden function, which was to increase familiarity with the sword for those who successfully comprehended the Emperor Sword.

This was because it... looked exactly the same as the Emperor Sword.

"As expected of the Sword Holding Ministry that has lasted to this day. Its every action contains profound meaning and foundation." Xu Qing sighed with emotion.

"With such a foundation, I think in the countless years of the Sword Holding Ministry, a large number of Sword Holders have comprehended the Emperor Sword. Even if there aren't any who succeeded on the first try, it shouldn't be strange for them to succeed in two attempts."

Xu Qing reminded himself that he couldn't be complacent just because he had succeeded in two tries. After all, Kong Xianglong had also succeeded in two attempts.

At the thought of this, Xu Qing took a deep breath and walked out.

However, he didn't know that the moment he successfully comprehended the Emperor Sword, the Palace Master, who was meditating on the 89th floor of the Prison Department, slowly opened his eyes.

The huge vertical pupil on his back suddenly opened.

"There's another person who has comprehended the Emperor Sword in two attempts. His name is Xu Qing."

A deep voice echoed, stirring up a storm on the 89th floor.

This voice was none other than the one which had spoken to the Palace Master after Xu Qing left.

The Palace Master fell into deep thought and calmly spoke a moment later.

"How's D132?"

"That place is special. Although I'm the artifact spirit of the Prison Department, I don't have the right to take a look. However, bad luck is already following Xu Qing around. Also, only you know the secret of D132. You can tell him directly. I'm also curious about how many secrets there are." The voice in the storm transformed into a rumbling sound that spread in all directions.

"D132..." The Palace Master's eyes revealed reminiscence.

"There's more than one secret there."

"However, I've never been biased. Everything depends on fate. If there's still bad luck on his body in seven days, go and remove him from his post of D132's guardian. Change it to some other cell. This means that he's not fated with this fortune."

The Palace Master calmly spoke and closed his eyes.

At the same time, in the Sword Holding Palace, Xu Qing was walking out.

"Since I'm here, I'll make a trip to the medicinal shops to buy some poisonous grass. I can't neglect my research in the Dao of Poison. Also, I have to buy some plain pills to study."

Xu Qing soared into the air and headed straight for the capital.

At that moment, it was already late at night. Dark clouds shrouded the sky and thunder rumbled. It was evident that a storm was brewing and rain was imminent.

However, regardless of whether it was day or night, most of the shops were open. After all, the main customers were cultivators who didn't have a particular time for buying goods.

However, the instant Xu Qing soared into the air outside the Sword Holding Palace and was about to step into the county capital, thunder rumbled in the sky. A bolt of lightning suddenly descended from the clouds and headed straight for Xu Qing, who was in the air.

This bolt of lightning looked like a tree branch, with countless forks that split off in all directions.

Its speed was extremely fast and its might was even more astonishing. It seemed like a heavenly tribulation had descended.

### Outside Of Time

#### **Chapter 530: So Close, Yet Worlds Apart (2)**

Although it was sudden, Xu Qing had already ingrained a sense of vigilance in his soul. Almost at the instant the bolt of lightning arrived, he quickly retreated and dodged.

As he watched the lightning bolt streak past him and crash into the ground, Xu Qing's expression turned grim as he gazed up at the sky.

His eyes were illuminated by the lightning in the sky, reflecting a sharp light.

Dark clouds filled the sky and thunder rumbled. There didn't seem to be anything too abnormal except for lightning swimming around. Everything seemed to be a coincidence.

"Something's wrong!"

Xu Qing's expression was gloomy. Regardless of whether it was the scattering of the Sword Holder's sword lights earlier or the lightning this time, it was too much of a coincidence.

This made him instinctively think of D132 and what the middle-aged Pawn, Old Li, had said.

"More than half of its previous guardians died mysteriously outside."

Xu Qing's expression was gloomy. With a step, he arrived at the edge of the county capital. He retracted his gaze from the sky and looked at the ground below.

Although it was night and dark clouds were everywhere, with the help of the dazzling light from the lightning streaking across the sky and his cultivation base, Xu Qing could still see the Prison Department on the ground clearly.

The two coincidences caused him to fall into deep thought.

As he pondered, Xu Qing walked into the county capital and spread out his perception.

"Not everyone guarding D132 died."

"Only a portion of them died accidentally."

"The Palace Master should know the secrets inside."

"Then why did he arrange for me to be there... Is it a test or something else?"

Questions surfaced in Xu Qing's mind as he walked toward the medicinal shops.

Thunder rumbled endlessly in the sky and the rain seemed to be accumulating the power to descend. There were very few commoners on the streets and most of the pedestrians were cultivators.

An hour later, Xu Qing saw a medical shop. His body swayed and he quickly approached. When he stepped in, Xu Qing frowned.

There were seven to eight cultivators buying medicinal herbs and pills in the shop. Among them, Xu Qing recognized a woman wearing the Daoist robe of a Sword Holder.

It was Qing Qiu, who was carrying the evil ghost scythe.

Qing Qiu had planned to buy some pills here before returning to the Sword Pavilion. After noticing Xu Qing, her beautiful brows under the mask furrowed slightly. The sound of the evil ghost inhaling echoed in her mind.

"This Xu Qing is like a lingering ghost, he seems to be following us. We won't take this path in the future. I think this Xu Qing is too dangerous, and we should steer clear of him. Otherwise, I fear that you won't be able to control yourself and end up perishing together with him!"

"It's not worth it to perish together with him. It's better to use this mutual destruction on others, such as the Mad Dog."

Xu Qing's gaze swept past Qing Qiu but he didn't care. When he walked straight to the counter, the voice of the Diamond Sect's ancestor rang out in his mind.

"Master, I have something that I wanted to tell you before."

Xu Qing's expression was as calm as ever. After telling the shopkeeper about the herbs he wanted to buy, he calmly spoke in his mind.

"Shoot."

"Master, that red woman's scythe has an artifact spirit."

"This artifact spirit didn't sense me, so every time it sees Master, it's cursing. It thinks that Master can't hear it, but it doesn't know that as a high-level lightning soul, I can sense it."

The Diamond Sect's ancestor had actually heard the divine sense of the evil ghost beside Qing Qiu a long time ago, but he didn't say anything. He originally planned to reveal it at a critical moment as a sign of contribution.

However, the incident in the cell made him uneasy and he was worried that he would be thought to be useless. Hence, he hurriedly told him about this.

"I eavesdropped on that ghost's words. It seems like they have a way to perish together with others. Master, you have to be careful when you kill this red woman in the future."

Xu Qing fell into deep thought and glanced at Qing Qiu's scythe.

"He's looking at me! His gaze is wrong, very wrong!" In Qing Qiu's mind, the evil ghost screamed.

"Let's leave quickly. I have a bad feeling. This Xu Qing seems to have sensed something. After all, he was personally appointed by the emperor and now, he's also the edict bearer of the Palace Master. We can't afford to offend him. Moreover, I feel that there's something wrong with his body. It gives me a very bad feeling."

As the evil ghost screamed, the voice of the Diamond Sect's ancestor echoed in Xu Qing's mind again.

"Master is mighty. With that glance, the other party's tiny artifact spirit was frightened to death. Master, don't worry. In the future, I'll help you keep an eye on this imp. Hmph, it dares to have ill intentions against You Lingzi's master. This imp has a death wish. With me around, no evil spirit can harm my master. It has to get past me first!"

"Also, Master, I think you can actually show your domineering aura occasionally. Uh, that's what it says in the book. The king of kings is domineering. I think Master can use that to frighten that imp artifact spirit."

"After that, I'll find an opportunity to instigate a rebellion. In that case, we'll definitely have no problems killing the red woman."

The Diamond Sect's ancestor quickly spoke, showing his value.

Xu Qing fell into deep thought.

At that moment, the shopkeeper had already taken out the medicinal herbs he needed. When he was settling the bill, Xu Qing thought of the plain pills and asked.

"Do you have any plain pills?"

The shopkeeper smiled and nodded. He then took out a pill bottle from under the counter and placed it in front of Xu Qing.

"One spirit coin, ten plain pills."

Xu Qing was a little surprised. This price was already extremely low. One had to know that in the Yinghuang Province, even the white pills were much more expensive than this.

"The Deputy Governor is wise and kind. He developed this pill of boundless merits so that the people in the county could be protected from the invasion of anomalous substances. Hence, this price is basically just the minimum cost required to preserve the pill's potency. It's not much different from giving them away for free."

Xu Qing praised the Deputy Governor inwardly. He gave out a spirit coin and kept the pill bottle. He planned to go back and study the plain pills to learn the Deputy Governor's alchemy method.

After buying them, Xu Qing turned and walked out of the medical shop.

Qing Qiu saw the scene of Xu Qing buying alchemy pills and some memories of the past involuntarily rose in her mind. She thought of the scavenger campsite in the Nanhuang Continent.

She recalled her time as a shop assistant in the general store at the campsite. A small and skinny figure in a large leather coat with a dirty face had walked up to her with caution, keeping his distance from all outsiders, to purchase white pills.

Qing Qiu frowned.

She didn't understand why the memory of her Brother Kid, who represented beauty in her life, surfaced when she saw that disgusting Ghost Hand buying pills.

In her opinion, this was a form of blasphemy.

Hence, she cast an even more disgusted glance at Xu Qing's back view. She then picked up the medicinal pills she had bought here and left. She flew out of the county capital and headed toward the ground.

She didn't stay in the Litu Sect's branch in the county capital and didn't have a good impression of the Litu Sect. Hence, in comparison, she preferred the Sword Pavilion.

However, before she could get close to the Sword Pavilion, she frowned again.

"Ghost Hand again. He's haunting us like a ghost. Could it be that he's here to harm us!" The screams of the evil ghost rang out in her mind, its voice filled with horror.

"I understand. He glanced at me just now and discovered me. He's here to perish together with us!"

"Shut up!" Qing Qiu gritted her teeth and felt frustrated. She turned her head and her gaze was filled with ferocity as she looked at Xu Qing who was flying over from afar.