Time 531

Outside Of Time

Chapter 531: A Mysterious Clue

Xu Qing was also returning to his Sword Pavilion. He, who had been vigilant the entire way, naturally noticed Qing Qiu.

He guessed the reason. A cold glint flashed in his eyes as he continued on his way toward the ground without stopping.

At this moment, Qing Qiu also guessed the reason for Xu Qing being there. However, the evil ghost kept screaming in her mind which made her even more frustrated, and she shouted at the evil ghost.

"If you continue to nag, I'll perish together with you!"

The evil ghost instantly fell silent.

Just like that, Qing Qiu and Xu Qing landed at the outermost layer of the Sword Pavilions. They were separated by ten thousand feet and their gazes met again. After that, they frowned and stepped into their respective Sword Pavilions.

They were neighbors.

This matter couldn't be said to be too coincidental. After all, there were a total of 51 new Sword Holders this time. Moreover, they were all building the Sword Pavilions at the same time. It was natural for them to be close to each other.

Of course, the main point was that Xu Qing didn't like crowds. Hence, he didn't build the Sword Pavilion in the first few days. Instead, he only built it yesterday.

Qing Qiu was also a loner, so the possibility of them becoming neighbors naturally increased.

However, Xu Qing didn't care about this. After returning to his Sword Pavilion, he first checked his surroundings, making sure there was nothing wrong. Only then did he sit down cross-legged and begin to study the Emperor Sword he had comprehended.

The Emperor Sword in his sea of consciousness was a little different from when he had just succeeded in comprehending it. Its light was no longer bright and dazzling. Instead, after having a root, it emitted a profound and heavy aura.

It also emitted traces of sword qi.

The sword qi didn't scatter in disorder; instead, they surrounded the Emperor Sword like threads, forming ring after ring.

There were a total of 11 rings.

Xu Qing noticed that the twelfth ring also existed but there was only half of it.

Clearly, it wouldn't be long before it was complete.

"This is the nurturing of the Emperor Sword."

Xu Qing calculated the time and estimated that he should be able to form more than a hundred rings of sword qi every day based on the progress he had made since successfully comprehending the Emperor Sword.

The more sword qi there was, the greater the might of this strike.

"In a year, it can form 30,000 to 40,000 rings. In ten years, it will be 300,000 to 400,000 rings. In a hundred years..." Xu Qing estimated inwardly and felt that it was too far away.

"However, even if it hasn't been nurtured for so long, it should still possess considerable power when used normally."

Xu Qing sensed the sharpness of the Emperor Sword in his sea of consciousness and suddenly thought of Kong Xianglong's emperor-level cultivation art that had transformed into a golden dragon.

At that time, the golden dragon had the Emperor Sword in its mouth.

Xu Qing fell into deep thought and the tattoo on his back was immediately activated. Under the heat, the Sword Pavilion shone brightly. The Golden Crow's figure appeared behind him and danced in the surroundings.

Waves of burning phoenix feathers fluttered down, creating a peerlessly beautiful scene. Xu Qing guided the Emperor Sword in his sea of consciousness, causing it to gradually rise from the top of his head.

After it completely appeared, the Golden Crow let out a joyous cry and flew over. It opened its beak and held the Emperor Sword. After that, its entire body trembled and it seemed to have changed, revealing sword qi intent.

Its tails were the same. As they danced, it felt like they contained sword qi.

Its might had increased by a lot.

"So emperor-level cultivation arts can fuse together in such a way..." Xu Qing fell into deep thought. However, he felt that it was more likely that it was because of some characteristics of the Emperor Sword.

Xu Qing observed the Emperor Sword in his sea of consciousness with interest, but he couldn't be certain about his previous guess. Nonetheless, he was able to sense that the Golden Crow had become even more powerful, and the Emperor Sword's nurturing wasn't impacted as well. He put aside his thoughts and took out the plain pills to study.

As time passed, heavy rain poured down outside. Amidst the pitter-patter of the rain, Xu Qing delved deeper into his research on the pill.

He analyzed several plain pills before he finally discerned their refinement method.

"The technique is exquisite, but it isn't the key. The reason why this pill can greatly dissipate anomalous substances is because there are some extremely unique medicinal herbs inside."

Xu Qing couldn't tell what they were. This made him think of what the Deputy Governor had said about everything following the environment. Clearly, these unknown medicinal herbs inside were transformed by the Deputy Governor using this method.

Xu Qing took one out and placed it in his mouth before swallowing it. After sensing it carefully again, he confirmed that the effect of this pill was extraordinary and was full of praise for it. However, he vaguely felt that there were some flaws in this plain pill and it wasn't perfect.

But he was powerless to change it. To some extent, this pill has already opened up a new path in the Dao of medicine.

As he sighed with emotion, the sky outside began to brighten. With the clouds and the rain, the sky looked a little dim. Although it was still early in the morning, it looked a little like twilight.

Xu Qing lifted his head and glanced over before closing his eyes and resting for a while. After that, he walked out of the Sword Pavilion and made his way to the Prison Department in the rain.

As he got closer to the Prison Department, Xu Qing recalled his two accidents and a sharp glint appeared in his eyes.

"Today, I have to find out the secret of D132. Otherwise... I'll kill all the criminals in D132!"

Xu Qing strode through the rain-drenched ground, splashing through puddles of water. He entered the invisible barrier of the Prison Department and walked through it.

Although it was raining heavily outside, it couldn't penetrate the barrier and enter the Prison Department. However, the air inside still felt humid.

Despite the humid atmosphere, Xu Qing's calm expression remained unchanged as he descended the spiral staircase.

On the way, he saw a few Pawns he had seen before. After exchanging greetings, Xu Qing didn't head to Area D132 immediately.

He went to the cell on the 35th floor and found Old Li, who was handling a prisoner's corpse.

Old Li was the middle-aged prison guard who had shown Xu Qing around the Prison Department on his first day.

"Senior, I have something to ask." Upon seeing Old Li, Xu Qing cupped his fists and bowed.

Old Li was also willing to befriend a newbie like Xu Qing. Hence, he threw the corpse in his hand into the deep pit outside the stairs and turned toward Xu Qing.

"What is it?"

After a brief silence, Xu Qing asked about the guardians in Area D132 who hadn't died. He also asked if there were any of them still in the Prison Department.

"There is!"

Old Li recalled and nodded.

"That D132 is strange. I remember Chen Boli was the last guardian a hundred years ago. After working for three years, he changed the cell and is now on the 77th floor."

"However, even since Chen Boli became the guardian of D132, his personality has become strange. He's usually unwilling to communicate with others. If you look for him, you have to bring something. Xu Qing, do you have anything hard that can be used to sharpen a blade?"

Xu Qing rummaged through his storage bag and saw the tables and chairs he had obtained in the Spirit Venerable Nether Fairy's cave abode back then. He felt that they were hard enough, so he nodded.

"That makes things easier. I'll bring you there."

Old Li led Xu Qing to the 77th floor where they saw an old man with a pockmarked face.

This old man was crouching in a corner with walls behind him and on both sides, as if seeking a sense of security. In the dim light, he looked eerie and terrifying.

At that moment, he was forcefully sharpening his blade.

As the blade scraped against the whetstone, an ear-piercing sound reverberated in the surroundings.

After noticing Xu Qing and Old Li's arrival, the old man lifted his head and cast a gloomy glance, looking like he didn't want strangers to approach him.

"Brother Chen, this is Xu Qing, a newbie. He's D132's new guardian. He has some questions to ask you." Old Li introduced before quickly bidding farewell, seemingly not wanting to linger here for long.

The old man didn't say anything. His gaze moved away from Old Li's back and landed on Xu Qing.

Xu Qing cupped his fists and bowed. After that, he took out the Nether Fairy's table and chair from his storage bag and placed them at the side.

"Senior, these items are very hard."

He could sense that this old man's cultivation wasn't simple.

The old man glanced at the table and chair and lifted his right hand to grab them. He scraped his blade on them and looked satisfied.

"What do you want to ask? How to avoid an accidental death?"

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed. Through the other party's words, he felt that his previous judgment wasn't wrong. Hence, he cupped his fists and bowed.

"Senior, please enlighten me."

"You can already sense the bad luck?" The old man carefully sized up Xu Qing and asked.

Xu Qing nodded.

The old man's expression changed slightly as he placed the saber in his hand to the side.

"It seems that the ominousness accumulated in D132 is already extremely dense. It actually reacted to you so quickly."

"Actually, it's very simple to avoid an accidental death. As long as you don't leave the Prison Department, you'll be fine. Or you just need to have a strong fate which I don't have, so when I was in charge of D132, I never left the Prison Department. This was also what the previous guardian told me."

The old man looked at Xu Qing as though he was looking at a dead person.

"You have to be careful. Generally speaking, those with bad luck won't be able to survive for more than a month."

Xu Qing fell silent. After a long time, he slowly spoke.

"Senior, the ominousness you're talking about, does it come from the prisoners in D132? Could there be something special about them? However, this is Area D of the Prison Department. If these prisoners really have such ability, they should be imprisoned in an even deeper cell."

The old man nodded and then shook his head.

"The criminals of D132 aren't special by themselves. It's just that after they were locked up and survived in this cell, they became ominous. Of course, this is my judgment. I feel that they have become a part of the ominousness."

"As for the true ominousness, it might be D132 itself, or it might be one of the prisoners there. However, Palace Master didn't bother with it, so I think the former is more likely."

"Did the head in cage 237 ask you to send it to the cloud beast's room?"

"No need to listen to it, someone has tried. It's useless."

As the old man spoke, he began to comment on the prisoners in D132 for Xu Qing. Every one of them was very detailed.

"The thirteenth prisoner is that head. It does have some ability but not much. Don't listen to it for too long, or you'll be affected."

"The last one is the Painting Race. The 22 figures in that painting are all a part of it. This one has been imprisoned for the longest time but it's also the quietest. I've never seen it go out during my tenure."

Just as the old man said this, Xu Qing's eyes narrowed.

"Senior, aren't there 23 people from the four generations in the painting of the Painting Race?"

"Impossible. It's 22." When the old man heard this, his eyes narrowed as well.

Xu Qing fell silent for a long time before nodding. He then asked about some details. After that, he took out some spirit stones and placed them at the side before bidding farewell.

Looking at Xu Qing's back view, the old man suddenly spoke.

"Xu Qing, all the guardians who were stationed in Area D132 are people the Palace Master values. It is his test. I heard that other than many secrets, there's also a huge fortune hidden there. Unfortunately, I didn't find it."

"If you don't want to die accidentally, go to the ninth floor and change to a new cell. Every newbie has the qualifications to change cells once."

"After the change, you'll be fine. However, the list of people who guarded D132 in the past will not contain your traces."

"As for D132's mysteriousness, I once heard a guardian say something. I'll tell you."

"When you think you've discovered everything, there's actually more waiting for you."

Outside Of Time

Chapter 532: Shadow Explodes

Xu Qing fell silent when he heard this. His eyes narrowed slightly and he fell silent for a long time before cupping his fists and bowing.

The old man didn't speak anymore and continued to sharpen his blade.

Xu Qing left and returned to Cell D132 on the 57th floor. He looked at the greenish-black cell gate in front of him and pushed it open before walking in.

As soon as he entered, he heard the shout from the head in cage 237.

"Pawn, Pawn, are you back?"

"How is it? Didn't you get unlucky when you went out? Hurry up and throw me to the cloud beast. I'll help you neutralize your bad luck."

"Believe me."

"If you still don't believe me, then you're really done for. I've already seen it. You died very miserably, but you don't know. You don't know how many times you've died."

"Also... do you really think this is your first time guarding D132?"

"I can't say anymore. I can't say anymore. Hurry up and throw me to the cloud beast. If you throw me over, I'll dare to continue telling you the truth."

Xu Qing calmly walked on the corridor and passed by the cages where the prisoners were in. He then walked to the head and opened the cage. Amidst the excitement on the head's face, Xu Qing carried it in his hand.

"That's right, that's right. Haha, Cloudy, I'm coming."

Amidst the excitement of the head, Xu Qing carried it to the cage where the millstone was and threw it in.

The millstone trembled as though it was very surprised, but it also emitted some joy.

As for the head, the excitement on its face instantly turned into horror as it let out a mournful cry.

"Let me out. I don't want to be here."

"Lord Pawn, I was wrong. This place is cursed. D132 is cursed. I can slightly neutralize it for you."

"However, I didn't lie to you earlier. I really saw it. You've really died many times. I didn't lie to you."

Xu Qing didn't bother with it. He went to the cage where the last prisoner was. He looked at the painting that was floating and the 23 figures inside before suddenly speaking to the shadow.

"Eat it."

At the next instant, the shadow revealed greed. It spread out from under Xu Qing's feet and into the cage.

As it spread in, an evil intent spread from it and enveloped the surroundings. At the same time, the entire D132 suddenly fell silent.

The head no longer screamed, the millstone no longer spun, the cloud beast no longer chewed, and the straw dolls no longer cried...

Only the painting of the Painting Race was shaking.

As the shadow got closer, the shaking became increasingly intense. When the shadow was less than three feet away from it, the old man in the painting suddenly spoke.

"Lord Guardian, the one in the lower right edge isn't of our race."

Xu Qing immediately looked over and his gaze landed at the bottom right corner of the painting.

There was a little boy drawn there. He stood there smiling and looked no different from the other figures in the painting.

However, after the old man spoke, the little boy in the painting frowned. The shadow immediately lunged toward the little boy. With a cracking sound, it seemed to have bitten something.

After that, it returned to Xu Qing. As for the painting, it wasn't damaged but the little boy inside was gone. It had been swallowed by the shadow.

However, the instant the shadow returned, an unprecedented scene appeared.

The shadow's body suddenly trembled. Under Xu Qing's gaze, it instantly collapsed and shattered into pieces, while letting out a wailing sound.

Its body exploded!

A blurry figure crawled out and fused into the surrounding darkness while laughing. Even though the black iron stick rushed over quickly, it still missed. The little boy disappeared.

It was obvious that it was impossible for the shadow to die just like that. Although its body shattered into many pieces, they quickly fused together. After it recovered, it was clearly weaker but it hurriedly transmitted what it wanted to say to Xu Qing.

"Luck... Swallow... Explode, explode..."

It seemed to be very afraid that Xu Qing would think it was useless. This time, its description was actually quite clear.

Xu Qing turned his head to look at the place where the little boy had disappeared.

"Luck?" Xu Qing mumbled.

At that moment, the black iron stick returned and the Diamond Sect's ancestor manifested. He quickly glanced at the weakened shadow and then looked at Xu Qing. He instantly became nervous.

He had failed twice. Although the shadow had also failed, it had made up some nonsense about luck.

'This brat shadow has learned bad habits. Damn it!"

The Diamond Sect's ancestor snorted coldly inwardly. He felt that there was an 80% chance that the shadow was spouting nonsense because it didn't want to show its incompetence. Hence, he thought to himself, 'Little shadow, you can't compare to me.'

'Since you're spouting nonsense, I'll add some spice to it. This way, when the demon discovers that something is wrong, you'll be in big trouble. As long as I extract myself, I won't be implicated.'

He had read too many books and some of them also had descriptions of luck. Moreover, most of them were necessary items for the protagonist.

"Luck? Master, I can't see luck. In this aspect, I'm inferior to the knowledgeable Little Shadow. But since it said so..."

"Congratulations, Master. Master is indeed blessed by the heavens. That's why you can encounter luck here!"

The Diamond Sect's ancestor hurriedly spoke.

Xu Qing frowned and looked over.

The Diamond Sect's ancestor perked up and hurriedly recalled the contents of the book.

"Master, according to the explanation and train of thought Little Shadow gave, if it's not wrong, I should be able to guess why some guardians of D132 encountered accidents and died for no reason."

"If Little Shadow isn't wrong, then I know the secret of D132."

"This place contains a wisp of luck. It should be a part of the power of luck of Fenghai County. For some reason, it exists here and has transformed from invisible to tangible."

"As for the reason why those former guardians died, it was because their luck wasn't ordinary. It exceeded the limit, so it backfired and created misfortune and inexplicable events."

At this point, the Diamond Sect's ancestor was stunned because he felt that this explanation seemed... extremely reasonable.

'Was the Little Shadow telling the truth?'

While the Diamond Sect's ancestor's mind was shaking, Xu Qing frowned even more. This was the first time he had heard of luck. When his master introduced Crown Prince Purple Green, he said that the other party seemed to have been born from gathering the luck of the Wanggu Continent.

Just as Xu Qing was thinking, his expression suddenly changed. He abruptly looked to the right in the distance. A figure appeared in the darkness. It was the little boy who had disappeared earlier.

He stood there and looked at Xu Qing curiously.

The Diamond Sect's ancestor rushed out, but the little boy disappeared. However, he quickly appeared on the other side and continued to look at Xu Qing curiously.

This time around, Xu Qing noticed that the other party's gaze was on his right wrist!

Xu Qing's mind stirred and he lifted his right hand.

The little boy's sight also followed his hand.

Xu Qing fell silent. His right wrist looked normal but he knew that there were golden threads hidden there. Back then, when he had fused the poison pill and narrowly escaped death, the golden threads had flickered and a series of inexplicable coincidences had happened.

"What is this?" Xu Qing lifted his right hand and suddenly asked the little boy.

In Cell D132, as Xu Qing's words echoed, all the prisoners were extremely quiet.

The cloud beast turned around and the woman crawled to the edge of the cage. The stone patterns on the millstone formed eyes and the head in the corner also looked over...

Even the painting of the Painting Race became blurry. An illusory old man's figure stuck to the railing of the cage and paid attention to Xu Qing.

Xu Qing didn't care about these prisoners. He looked at the little boy and waved his right hand.

The little boy's gaze followed Xu Qing's right hand. It was as though in his eyes, Xu Qing's right hand had become the only thing in this world. His expression was very strange, with a hint of confusion.

When he heard Xu Qing's words, his gaze moved away from the hand and met Xu Qing's gaze.

A moment later, he opened his mouth as though he was saying something, but no sound or divine sense spread out. Even the shape of his mouth didn't change at all.

Xu Qing frowned.

However, the little boy's expression was very strange. After he finished speaking, his ears twitched a lot, as though he had heard a response. His eyes lit up as he spoke again.

After that, he listened attentively.

In the end, he seemed to have heard a response that made him happy. Hence, he became excited. After taking a look at Xu Qing, he patted his chest and retreated, merging into the darkness again.

At the same time, in the county capital's territory, located about a month's journey away from the capital and near the border of the Netherworld Province, there was a range of continuous mountains.

One end was deep into the Netherworld Province, and the other end was in the county capital.

This mountain range was very strange. The soil and rocks were all purple.

Terrain of this color was rare and the mountain range's name was the Purple Spirit Mountain Range.

At that moment, in this part of the Purple Spirit Mountain Range that was located in the county capital, there was an abyss.

This abyss was very large and the bottom was pitch-black. One couldn't see the details and could only see waves of purple fog spreading out from the abyss. When it slowly rose into the air, two figures were approaching from outside the abyss.

Among these two figures, one was old and the other was young. The old man was none other than the old man from Panquan Road. The young girl was naturally the flawlessly beautiful Ling'er.

Previously, they were riding on the flying giant that had an agreement with their race. After they were brought to the county capital, the other party left. Hence, they walked to the Purple Spirit Mountain Range on their own.

Now, they were finally close to his destination.

"Ling'er, the Wood Spirit Race is about to arrive. According to the ancient agreement, you can obtain an inheritance here. However, there are risks in this matter. You need to recuperate for a period of time and wait for your bloodline to stabilize before you can attempt it."

"During this period of time, you have to be completely focused. You..." As the old man from Panquan Road spoke, he suddenly noticed that Ling'er was a little distracted.

"What are you doing?"

"Father, a kid is talking to me." Ling'er's eyes revealed a hint of surprise.

"What kid?" The old man from Panquan Road was surprised and looked around.

"It's nothing. Maybe it's the Wood Spirit Race." Ling'er blinked. This was the first time she had lied to her father. She knew that the other party didn't like Xu Qing, so she felt that it was better not to tell him about this.

At the same time, in her mind, she quickly replied to the voice of the child that suddenly echoed in her mind.

"That's right. I was the one who put this thread of fate. Who are you? Have you seen my Brother Xu Qing? Where are you guys?"

"In the county capital?!" Ling'er's eyes lit up even more.

"Yes, yes. You actually don't have a single friend? Alright, of course I can be friends with you. However, you have to help me take care of my Brother Xu Qing. I'll look for you guys in a while."

The old man from Panquan Road was suspicious and carefully sized up Ling'er a few times.

"Father, let's go quickly." Ling'er smiled and looked very happy. Her smile was filled with innocence and beauty.

The old man from Panquan Road became even more suspicious, but he didn't know what had happened. Hence, after some thought, he shook his head and continued to exhort.

"Don't make any mistakes. This inheritance is very important. You can't fail. That's a matter of life and death. In a while, when you reach the Wood Spirit Race, go into seclusion to stabilize your bloodline. I'll make a trip to the county to buy some auxiliary items for you."

"I know, Father." Ling'er pulled the old man's arm and said cutely.

At that moment, the mountain breeze blew over, blowing her black hair up and caressing her peerlessly beautiful face.

Ling'er lifted her hand and tucked her hair behind her ear. With the help of this action, she quickly turned her head in the direction of the county capital. The corners of her mouth curled up into a smile.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 533: Mountains and Clouds Covering the Blue Sky

At the same time, in Area D132.

Xu Qing frowned and looked at the place where the little boy had disappeared. After a long time, he walked toward the cage where the Painting Race was.

Perhaps it was because of the threat from the shadow earlier, the old man from the Painting Race didn't hide this time around. Instead, the moment he saw Xu Qing, he hurriedly approached the railing and cupped his fists respectfully.

"Shui Mozi, the sinner of the Painting Race, greets the Guardian."

"What is it?" Xu Qing looked at the illusory old man in front of him and asked in a low voice.

"Lord Guardian, it's luck!" The old man didn't hesitate at all and replied in a low voice.

When Xu Qing heard this, his gaze turned sharp.

Under his gaze, the old man's body trembled slightly. He felt that this guardian in front of him was very different from what he had seen before.

In reality, he didn't really care about the guardians. After all, his race was special. Even if the people in these paintings were destroyed or even if the painting itself was destroyed, it would be fine. They were all illusions.

However, at that instant earlier, the life-and-death crisis brought about by the guardian's shadow made him have a strong feeling that the other party could eat him.

This made him nervous. After all, if he was eaten, it would be very painful.

Hence, he noticed the change in Xu Qing's gaze and hurriedly continued.

"Lord Guardian, I don't know why that luck is here either. It was already here when I was locked up."

"I still have to thank the Lord Guardian for your help because that luck always likes to stay in the world of our Painting Race. With it around, I don't dare to appear. I even felt like it wanted to eat me." "Therefore, I couldn't remind you previously. I hope you can forgive me."

The old man hurriedly explained. He also knew that his words were not believable, as he had no intention of reminding the Pawn from the start.

However, he still had to say it.

After all, sometimes, explaining and not explaining were completely different in a sense.

At the very least, this represented his sincere attitude.

Xu Qing coldly glanced at the old man from the Painting Race. He didn't believe much of the other party's words and couldn't be bothered to interrogate him.

After turning around and returning to the cell gate, Xu Qing spread out his shadow and gave it the order to watch this place.

This could be considered a reward for it.

The shadow was instantly excited. It revealed happy emotions as though it had a new toy. It quickly split into 14 parts which then spread into the 14 cages.

The cloud beast stopped eating because the shadow was helping it eat because of its curiosity.

The woman trembled even more and stopped coaxing the straw doll to sleep. This was because after the shadow appeared, those straw dolls stood up one after another with trembling bodies and circled around it with extremely obedient behaviors.

In the end, they even surrounded the woman with the shadow, watching her like a hawk.

The millstone was still spinning, but it wasn't spinning on its own. Instead, the head was using all its strength to push it.

Both sides were horrified. This was because in the cage they were in, a shadow whip manifested and continued to whip.

In the cage with the painting of the Painting Race, the expressions of the 22 figures changed from their previous smiles to fear. This was because the shadow's main body was lying on it and licking it here and there.

The entire cage was filled with peace at this moment.

Only the little boy would occasionally look at Xu Qing. His gaze would always land on his right wrist and his curiosity gradually wasn't as intense as before. In the end, he simply sat cross-legged opposite Xu Qing and supported his chin as he looked at Xu Qing.

Xu Qing also looked at it.

He knew that this little boy was the secret of this D132.

Time flowed by and before long, half a month had passed.

During this half a month, Xu Qing didn't encounter inexplicable things when he went out again. As for D132, it became extremely normal under his supervision.

However, every time the prisoners inside looked at Xu Qing, they would express some horror.

This was because they were all missing something.

It was all the shadow's doing.

Its curiosity was too strong. It always liked to take a bite here and a bite there... Fortunately, these prisoners were bizarre entities and would recover after a night.

The head was no longer rambling, but would occasionally let out a sigh when Xu Qing passed by.

"Don't stomp me to death. I don't want to be trampled to death. It hurts."

The little boy also became familiar with Xu Qing. Basically, every day when Xu Qing came, it would immediately manifest and sit at the side.

It was as though he was following some agreement to protect Xu Qing.

Sometimes, it would even look for the shadow and watch it terrorize the prisoners.

As for the Diamond Sect's ancestor... Under his pitiful expression, Xu Qing didn't keep him in his storage bag. Hence, other than the shadow, the Diamond Sect's ancestor was also roaming free in D132.

He was very interested in that millstone. Somehow, he discussed it with the shadow and managed to bring the cage of the millstone under his management.

The shadow was most interested in the Painting Race. It especially liked to lie on it and lick it from time to time.

As time passed, the painting became blurry.

Looking at all of this, Xu Qing silently calculated the time in his mind. According to his communication with the other Pawns in the past half a month, he knew that the Pawns of the Prison Department had a monthly share of dealing with prisoners.

However, if the distribution was according to the number of prisoners in the cells, Xu Qing calculated that he would only get two.

He felt some regret.

"There are too few prisoners in D132."

Just as Xu Qing was thinking about how to replenish the prisoners, the old man from the Painting Race pleaded with a trembling voice.

"Lord Guardian, this old man has a secret to tell you. I don't ask for anything else but that after the Lord Guardian hears it, if you think this old man's secret is not bad, then... can you take this shadow back?"

Xu Qing's expression was as calm as ever and he didn't care.

"Lord Guardian... How many prisoners are we holding in our D132?"

The old man spoke with a trembling voice.

This sentence contained deep horror, as though he was also extremely helpless and had no choice but to tell Xu Qing.

Xu Qing frowned and looked over coldly.

He had known about the 14 criminals here when he arrived and had already checked them one by one. Moreover, he had already found out the secret about D132.

Now that this old man from the Painting Race suddenly asked this, he seemed to be deliberately mystifying things.

Xu Qing's gaze turned slightly cold and he was about to retract his gaze.

However, at the next instant, his expression suddenly changed as he recalled carefully.

"Lord Guardian, you also sensed it, right..."

When the old man from the Painting Race saw this, his voice trembled.

"Lord Guardian, are there really 14 criminals here?"

"Lord Guardian, recall carefully."

"In your memory, how many prisoners are there?"

"Have you really discovered the secret of D132?"

The old man's voice grew weaker and weaker until it finally disappeared.

Xu Qing looked at the cage the other party was in and his eyes gleamed.

The other party's words carried a hint of inducement. Xu Qing could already tell this.

However, no matter what, he still confirmed it in his mind and recalled the memories in his mind.

On the first day he came here, he had already checked the cages here one by one.

There were a total of 14 prisoners. The first was a cloud beast, the second was a human woman, the third was a millstone... The 13th was a head, and the 14th was the Painting Race.

"14. That's right." After Xu Qing pondered carefully, he took out the information jade slip and checked it very carefully. There were still 14 of them.

However, for some reason, Xu Qing felt that something was amiss.

However, he couldn't say what was wrong. Hence, Xu Qing stood up and walked toward the cage where the cloud beast was.

After taking a look, he walked a large circle along the corridor until he reached the old man from the Painting Race. He counted and there were 14 of them.

At that moment, outside the Painting Race's cage, Xu Qing's expression was gloomy. He stared at the blurry painting and gave the Diamond Sect's ancestor an order.

In an instant, the black iron stick flew out and circled the entire cell. It flew into every cage to investigate and finally returned, telling Xu Qing that everything was normal.

Xu Qing fell silent and released his shadow to investigate again. The shadow even swept past every prisoner and finally transmitted a divine sense fluctuation.

It was the same as what he had investigated previously.

There were indeed 14 criminals.

Xu Qing's expression darkened. He controlled his shadow to move a portion of the painting away, revealing the old man in the painting completely.

The old man from the Painting Race also looked at Xu Qing. His expression was filled with panic as he wailed.

"Sir, I had no choice but to spout nonsense. Just now, the black shadow was about to eat me up. I had no choice but to buy some time for myself like this. Otherwise, I'll be gone. Sir, you're magnanimous. Forgive me once, just once!"

Xu Qing didn't speak and his gaze turned even colder.

The old man trembled and his panic turned into fear. After that, he quickly spoke.

"What I'm going to say next is a true secret. Lord Guardian, actually, the true prisoner our Prison Department is suppressing is... a god!"

"Tell me in detail," Xu Qing slowly said.

"Lord Guardian, I don't know the details either. I heard from a prisoner who was even older than me here in the past that when the Prison Department was built, they sealed a god's clone... This is also the reason why the successive Palace Masters guard this place."

Xu Qing fell into deep thought. He thought of the first time he came and the roars he heard from the deep pit. He also thought of the tremors that would occasionally come from the Prison Department.

He also thought about how they dealt with the corpses here. They threw the corpses into the deep pit as though they were feeding something.

These thoughts filled his mind and expanded until they finally occupied his entire mind, diluting the doubts he had about the old man from the Painting Race.

After a long time, Xu Qing glanced at the old man and completely recalled his shadow from the painting.

Although the shadow was unwilling, it had no choice. It could only focus its attention on the other prisoners and continue playing.

The Diamond Sect's ancestor was the same and went to the millstone.

Area D132 returned to normal.

That lucky little boy also appeared again. It seemed to have been following Xu Qing the entire time, maintaining a certain distance and never leaving.

Time slowly passed and several days passed.

Xu Qing was normal. Although he had occasionally pondered over the old man's words, they had unknowingly dissipated in his mind.

On this day, when it was time for his shift to end, he, who had left D132 and was preparing to return to the Sword Pavilion, saw an acquaintance in the Prison Department.

It was Kong Xianglong.

Outside Of Time Chapter 534: Memory (1)

Kong Xianglong worked in the field office and was in charge of catching criminals.

He had brought in a criminal today. When Xu Qing saw him, he was chatting happily with a few familiar Pawns on the ninth floor. Beside him was a dying Two Faces Race's clansman.

The cultivation base of this Two-Faced Race member was extraordinary. Despite his heavy injuries, the fluctuations of his Golden Core Seven Palaces were still very intense, indicating that he was an extraordinary person in his race. Otherwise, it was impossible for him to have seven Heavenly Palaces.

However, he was in a miserable state now. His body was covered in wounds as if he had been severely beaten up. Moreover, he had lost a leg, and from the looks of it, it seemed to have been torn off forcibly.

Kong Xianglong was also injured but he didn't seem to mind it. When he caught sight of Xu Qing, his eyes lit up and he flashed a smile.

"Xu Qing!"

"Brother Kong."

Xu Qing returned the greeting. The surrounding Pawns also smiled and greeted Xu Qing. During this period of time, Xu Qing had been stationed in Area D132 for a while now and had successfully guarded it without changing his post, which had become a topic of discussion among the Pawns.

This was especially so when he went out every day and returned unscathed. This earned him even more admiration.

Upon seeing Kong Xianglong, Xu Qing also smiled. His gaze then landed on the wounds on the other party's body.

"It's nothing, just small injuries. Xu Qing, you became a Pawn? Haha, as I expected."

Kong Xianglong swept his gaze across the dark fire patterns on Xu Qing's Daoist robe and also noticed the expressions of the surrounding Pawns. He didn't seem too surprised that Xu Qing had become a pawn.

"Actually, when I heard that you went to become the Palace Master's edict bearer, I guessed..."

"What did you guess?" Before Kong Xianglong could finish speaking, a cold and dignified voice rang out from the steps of the ninth floor.

As the voice echoed, the cold figure of the Palace Master appeared. His every step emitted a pressure.

All the Pawns instantly became serious and bowed in unison.

"Greetings, Palace Master."

Xu Qing also bowed. Kong Xianglong's body trembled and he hurriedly lowered his head to greet him.

Xu Qing noticed that Kong Xianglong seemed to be extremely afraid. In fact, his forehead was covered in sweat.

The pressure from the Palace Master was huge. As he got closer, an oppressive feeling filled the entire ninth floor.

While the surroundings were silent, the Palace Master's figure walked in front of everyone.

He glanced at the Two Faces Race criminal lying on the ground. After that, his gaze landed on Kong Xianglong and he spoke coldly.

"With your cultivation, you could clearly capture and suppress this cultivator alive with a single strike. Why did you use two strikes, are you becoming complacent because the outside world is praising you as the heaven's chosen of this generation? You didn't learn anything else but you learned pride very quickly."

After saying that, he looked at Xu Qing with the same coldness.

"And you, what are you doing here instead of going back to cultivate? Are you being complacent just by suppressing D132? Besides, did you really suppress them? If you have the ability, go and suppress D1 to advance to Area C!"

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed. The Palace Master's words caused him to fall into deep thought.

As for the Palace Master's temper, Xu Qing already knew it. During this period of time, as he gradually got familiar with the other Pawns, he had heard people talking about how strict this generation's Sword Holding Palace's Palace Master was with others.

Coupled with the first time they met and the other party's scolding, Xu Qing knew that there was no point in saying anything at this moment.

Kong Xianglong lowered his head and didn't speak.

"Why aren't you saying anything? I'm asking you!" The Palace Master's gaze swept past Xu Qing and landed on Kong Xianglong.

Kong Xianglong hesitated and spoke in a low voice.

"At that time, the Two Faces Race cultivator had a few quasi-human maidservants nearby. They were pitiful people. I was afraid that the might of my attacks would be too great and injure the innocent, so..."

Quasi-human wasn't a race. They were born from the mating of human and nonhuman. Their fates were sometimes even more miserable.

The Palace Master fell silent and spoke after a long time.

"Even so, how could you be injured against just a Golden Core with seven palaces? What private matters have you been up to?!"

Sweat broke out on Kong Xianglong's forehead, but he had no choice but to speak up.

"He still has some accomplices. They ran away. Although they weren't on the wanted list, I saw the heartless things they did, so I chased after them and killed them all. After that, I encountered a tough opponent and also killed him, which caused my injuries."

The Palace Master coldly glanced at Kong Xianglong and turned to walk toward the steps. However, a cold voice echoed.

"It's excusable, but you didn't abide by the rules of the Sword Holder and caused additional trouble. You will be punished with seven days of imprisonment. Take him away!"

With that, the Palace Master left.

Xu Qing looked at Kong Xianglong sympathetically.

He felt that the Palace Master was too old-fashioned and unreasonable.

Kong Xianglong sighed and glanced at Xu Qing as he smiled bitterly.

"If I had known this would happen, I would have left after sending him off. I was a step too late. How unlucky."

As he spoke, the Pawns at the side walked over solemnly. After restraining the Two Faces Race prisoner on the ground, they walked in front of Kong Xianglong.

Kong Xianglong resigned himself to fate and lifted his hands. He was then shackled and brought away.

Before he left, he even turned his head and waved at Xu Qing.

Xu Qing silently watched this scene. He only left the Prison Department and returned to the Sword Pavilion after Kong Xianglong's figure disappeared.

After sitting down cross-legged, Xu Qing looked at the dark night outside. The scene of Kong Xianglong being reprimanded and sent to prison appeared in his mind.

Through this matter, he could clearly sense that the Sword Holding Palace Master was a strict follower of rules and regulations. Just like how he reprimanded him, even a heaven's chosen like Kong Xianglong was treated the same.

"Such a Sword Holding Palace..." Xu Qing's gaze looked at the night.

He suddenly felt that it was quite good. The rules here were even simpler. Although everything depended on strength, contributions and rules were equally important.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 535: Memory (2)

"No wonder, when Brother Chen told me that Zhang Siyun's grandmaster was one of the four deacons, he said that the other party wasn't a person who played favorites. With such a Palace Master, such actions would not be permitted."

Xu Qing fell into deep thought. After experiencing these small matters again and again, he had unknowingly gained a preliminary understanding of the Sword Holding Palace.

At the same time, he thought of what the painting old man had said.

"The god's clone is imprisoned in the depths of the Prison Department!"

Xu Qing shook his head. He felt that it was enough for him to know about this matter. It wasn't something he could investigate and verify.

Hence, he buried this matter in his mind and closed his eyes to sense the Fifth Heavenly Palace.

His Fifth Heavenly Palace was about to take shape. According to his judgment, it would complete its materialization in about five to six days.

"The further it goes, the slower the materialization speed will be."

Hence, Xu Qing had been thinking about whether he should put in his life-bound mosasaur...

He felt that the first four Heavenly Palaces were not bad. Compared to them, the mosasaur was a little ordinary.

The formation of the Heavenly Palace's golden core could be achieved not only by integrating external objects, but also by one's own cultivation art. Xu Qing pondered about the potential outcome of fusing an emperor-level cultivation art with the Heavenly Palace.

In theory, this was possible but Xu Qing lacked some information. Hence, after some thought, he braced himself and took out the voice transmission jade slip to transmit his voice to Purple Mystic Fairy.

"Senior, are you there?"

"No." Purple Mystic Fairy's voice rang out from the jade slip almost instantly.

Xu Qing fell silent and there was no further reply from the jade slip.

He could tell that Purple Mystic Fairy's tone wasn't right. He didn't know when he had provoked the other party, so he sent a voice transmission to Lord Fifth to ask about the integration of an emperor-level cultivation art into the Heavenly Palace.

"Ah? Didn't Purple Mystic Fairy tell you? Before we came to the county capital, your master had communicated with her about fusing your emperor-level cultivation art as a golden core."

"A few days ago, I even saw Senior Zi Xuan inviting some of her good friends to the sect and asking about something similar. After all, every emperor-level cultivation art is different and the method of

integration is also particular. She even specially visited the three great sects and paid some price to go to their Scripture Pavilion to research."

"If you carelessly fuse it, although it won't be harmful, it won't succeed."

Xu Qing fell silent. He didn't know that Zi Xuan had done so many things for him and waves of emotions rose in his mind. Hence, he picked up the jade slip and transmitted his voice to Zi Xuan.

"Senior..."

"Mm, who are you?" Zi Xuan's voice rang out from the jade slip.

"Xu Qing..."

"Oh, it's that Xu Qing who chose to stay in the Sword Pavilion and never returned in order to avoid me?"

Xu Qing didn't know how to reply and could only speak softly.

"I heard from Lord Fifth... Thank you, Senior!"

A light snort rang out from the jade slip.

"Your Fifth Heavenly Palace is about to take shape, right? Come see me on the day it takes shape. Oh right, I like to eat the osmanthus cake from the south of the city."

"Alright." Xu Qing heaved a sigh of relief inwardly. He hurriedly kept the jade slip and made a mental note of the osmanthus cake.

"I have to find an opportunity to repay Purple Mystic Fairy in the future." Xu Qing wasn't good at expressing his emotions. Hence, he took out the bamboo slip and carved Zi Xuan's name on the other side. The records there were all people who had done him a favor.

"Also, I have to hurry up with my military contributions." Xu Qing frowned slightly when he thought of his military contributions.

After becoming a Pawn, he had a clearer understanding of obtaining military contributions. Normally speaking, as a Pawn, he would have a fixed military contribution every month.

It wasn't much, and he was too far from his target. If he wanted to obtain more, he had to go out and complete missions.

However, even the missions didn't give much. Those missions with more rewards were usually team missions or Nascent Soul missions.

However, in the end, with this accumulation, there would be a day when he reached the required number. Hence, he planned to complete all kinds of missions near the county capital in the following days.

After making this decision, Xu Qing closed his eyes and began to meditate.

Time flowed by. When dawn was about to arrive, Xu Qing suddenly opened his eyes.

"I seem to have forgotten something..." Xu Qing frowned and pondered. A moment later, his eyes narrowed.

"The Palace Master asked me if I really suppressed D132."

Xu Qing mumbled. He felt that something was amiss with this sentence. What was most amiss was how he felt that his memory was so bad that he almost forgot it after he returned.

"That's not right!" Xu Qing abruptly lifted his head. He was very confident in his memories. He shouldn't have forgotten such a thing.

"When did my memory start to be bad?" A look of contemplation appeared in Xu Qing's eyes. After recalling his experiences, his eyes gradually narrowed.

"I'll only unknowingly forget the memories related to D132. I won't forget anything else."

"And this situation also started when I became the guardian of D132!"

Xu Qing's mind shook.

He suddenly thought of something the previous guardian, the old man who sharpened his blade, had said to him that day.

"When you think you've discovered everything, there's actually more waiting for you."

Xu Qing fell silent. After a long time, he mumbled with a cold gaze.

"I was affected by D132."

At that moment, it was dawn outside.

However, there wasn't much bright sunlight. The sky was gray and rain fell.

This was the rainy season in the county capital and it would last for several months.

Xu Qing stood up and a cold glint appeared in his eyes. He pushed open the Sword Pavilion's door and walked toward the Prison Department amidst the wind and rain.

The instant he stepped into the Prison Department, he transmitted his thoughts to the Diamond Sect's ancestor and shadow at the same time.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 536: Memory (3)

"From this moment on, use the recording jade slip to record all my subsequent actions."

The Diamond Sect's ancestor and shadow were stunned and hurriedly obeyed.

"Master, what happened?" The Diamond Sect's ancestor asked carefully.

"I suspect that there's a certain power that interferes with my cognition and weakens my memories of certain things."

Xu Qing's eyes turned increasingly cold. He walked into the Prison Department, the 57th floor, and... Area D132!

It was unknown when it started, but Area D132 wasn't as dark and cold.

It was unknown when it started, but the head didn't speak much. The cloud beast no longer ate its tentacles and the spinning of the millstone became rough. However, the old man from the Painting Race appeared frequently.

Perhaps the shadow and the Diamond Sect's ancestor had contributed in this aspect.

After Xu Qing entered D132 and sensed everything here, this thought rose in his mind.

The little boy also appeared and stood not far away from him. There was a hint of helplessness in his eyes. When Xu Qing saw this, his mind sank. After that, he didn't bat an eyelid and walked on the corridor as usual, walking past the cages that held prisoners.

When he walked to the millstone, he saw that the strange-looking head didn't roll on the ground. Instead, it appeared on the millstone and stared at Xu Qing with a strange expression.

It looked at Xu Qing, and Xu Qing also looked at it.

It didn't speak.

"Why are you so quiet today?" Xu Qing calmly asked.

"I don't want to be trampled to death. Besides, have you seen anyone talking to a dead person?" The head smiled strangely.

"I have," Xu Qing replied.

The head was stunned.

"Not only have I seen it before, but I've also said it before," Xu Qing said seriously.

The head revealed a strange expression. After that, it swayed left and right and faced Xu Qing with the back of its head.

Xu Qing walked onwards until he reached the cage where the Painting Race was. He looked at the cleanlooking old man inside and suddenly spoke.

"Repeat everything you said to me before. If you miss a word, I'll kill you."

The old man was stunned.

Xu Qing was expressionless. With a wave of his hand, his shadow spread out and extended to the other party's cage again.

The old man hurriedly spoke. His memory was very good. He told Xu Qing everything he had said before.

Xu Qing nodded and returned to the cell gate. He then closed his eyes and meditated.

A day passed and nothing happened on this day. It was no different from usual. When it was time to get off work, Xu Qing walked out of D132.

He returned to the Sword Pavilion without stopping.

The instant he sat down, Xu Qing spoke.

"You Lingzi, you first."

The black iron stick flew out and the Diamond Sect's ancestor quickly manifested. His expression was incomparably solemn. With a wave of his hand, a recording jade slip appeared and scenes appeared on it.

The person on the screen was none other than Xu Qing.

It recorded his actions from the moment he stepped into the Prison Department until he entered D132 and finally left. It was very detailed and clear without missing anything.

This was especially so for the words of the old man from the Painting Race. They were all recorded.

Xu Qing watched it for a long time but didn't see anything abnormal. Hence, he transmitted his divine sense to the shadow. Very soon, the shadow also released the scenes it recorded.

After the comparison, everything seemed normal.

A look of contemplation appeared in Xu Qing's eyes as a thought involuntarily rose in his mind.

"Could it be that I'm thinking too much?"

Xu Qing fell silent. After suppressing this thought, he continued to check the jade slip's recording. In the end, his eyes suddenly narrowed and landed on the old man from the Painting Race in the jade slip.

The other party's voice rang out from the jade slip.

"Lord Guardian... How many prisoners are we holding in our D132?"

"In your memory, how many prisoners are there?"

"Sir, I had no choice but to spout nonsense. Just now, the shadow was about to eat me up. I had no choice but to buy some time for myself like this. Otherwise, I'll be gone. Sir, you're magnanimous. Forgive me once, just once!!"

Xu Qing stared at the recording and listened to the words of the old man again and again. In the end, he performed a series of hand seals and put the scene of the old man pleading for forgiveness in loop before speaking softly.

"You Lingzi, Little Shadow, listen to this. Was this old man talking to me?"

Outside Of Time

Chapter 537: Severing the Cause and Effect by Forgetting (1)

The Diamond Sect's ancestor was stunned and the shadow revealed countless eyes.

"Is it possible that this sentence is an explanation for an existence I didn't notice..." Xu Qing calmly spoke.

"Moreover, from the start to the end, this painting old man addressed me as 'Lord Guardian'. Only in this sentence did he say 'sir'.

"Such an obvious gap but I strangely neglected it previously." Xu Qing's eyes revealed coldness.

"Then, how many criminals are there in D132?"

Xu Qing narrowed his eyes as he recalled.

"The first one is a cloud beast."

"The second is the human woman."

"The third one is the millstone."

"Thirteenth..." Xu Qing paused and an icy aura rose from his entire body.

"Who's the fourth?" Xu Qing mumbled as his pupils constricted.

The Diamond Sect's ancestor was about to speak but he was also stunned. He couldn't remember either. After that, his entire body trembled and horror appeared in his eyes.

The shadow was also at a loss.

"Who's the fifth one? Or rather, from the fourth to the twelfth one, who are they? Why can't I remember?" Xu Qing spoke softly. He took out the prisoner's information jade slip and checked it. No matter how he counted, there were 14 of them.

However, he just couldn't remember the nine in the middle.

It was incomparably bizarre.

There were records of them in the jade slip. Xu Qing felt that he had seen them but he couldn't remember them.

"That previous guardian also introduced the prisoners. He didn't seem to... mention the nine in the middle. However, I actually felt that it was normal at that time."

"Interesting." A cold glint flashed in Xu Qing's eyes. He opened his storage bag, wanting to record everything he had learned. However, after some thought, he didn't use the jade slip but took out a blank bamboo slip.

He had many bamboo slips in his storage bag.

On this bamboo slip, he engraved everything he was thinking about word by word.

In the last line, Xu Qing wrote five words and a question mark.

The power of a god?

After doing this, Xu Qing walked out of the Sword Pavilion in the dark night.

It was still raining outside. There were puddles everywhere on the ground. Xu Qing walked on them and arrived at the Prison Department.

As he walked on the steps of the Prison Department, the sound of his footsteps spread far away, forming echoes.

This was the first time Xu Qing came to the Prison Department at night. The surroundings were even darker. Only the lights on the walls that were lit some distance away emitted a dim glow.

In the pitch-black surroundings, these lights were insignificant.

Xu Qing calmly walked down the steps step by step. He didn't want to wait until dawn because there was no difference between day and night to him.

However, as time passed, he was worried that his memories would become blurry again. Hence, he planned to take action immediately.

He wanted to see the prisoners from the fourth to the twelfth.

Just like that, in the silence and darkness, Xu Qing arrived at the 57th floor of the Prison Department. He arrived in front of the greenish-black cell gate of D132 and pushed it open.

"Are there fourth to twelfth prisoners or not?!"

Amidst the creaking sounds echoing in the silence, Xu Qing expressionlessly walked in. With a bang, the gate closed.

D132 was as pitch-black as ever.

The moment he walked in, Xu Qing faintly felt someone in the cages looking at him. At the same time, the little boy's figure also appeared beside him. Its eyes were filled with helplessness and concern.

Xu Qing noticed the boy's expression and frowned.

He had come here this time because of this gaze!

When he checked the jade slip earlier, he discovered that there was no sign of the little boy in the recording. However, he remembered the helpless look in the other party's eyes.

That was why he came here late at night. His goal was to find out why the little boy's gaze was like this.

This was his only goal.

"What's here?" Xu Qing lifted his right wrist and looked at the little boy.

The little boy opened its mouth and seemed to say something. However, no matter what it said, Xu Qing couldn't hear him. It was as though they were in different time and space.

Even though Xu Qing used many methods, such as writing, he was still unable to communicate with the little boy. In the end, when the dawn was about to appear, Xu Qing sighed softly and gave up.

He glanced at D132 once again, his gaze sweeping past the 14 prisoners. Everything was normal.

Hence, he turned around and prepared to leave. However, the instant his hand touched the cell gate, Xu Qing suddenly showed a hint of confusion.

"I came here late at night just to communicate with luck? This isn't in line with my personality!"

"I could have done it during the day when I am on duty. Why did I come at night?"

"I... seem to have forgotten some things."

Xu Qing mumbled and turned to look at D132. It was the same as in his memories.

"That's not right!" Xu Qing's eyes gleamed.

"My memory isn't that bad, but I just can't remember..."

"Could it be that some kind of power has affected me?"

"When I was coming here, I might not have been affected, so I came. However, after entering this place, I forgot my motive... In that case, I should have discovered some clues."

As he looked, he suddenly opened his storage bag. He rummaged through it and after carefully checking every item, he took out a bamboo slip.

A large number of words were densely engraved on this bamboo slip.

Xu Qing frowned. He was familiar with the bamboo slip but he didn't remember any words on it. Hence, he checked it carefully. As he read, his expression changed.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 538: Severing the Cause and Effect by Forgetting (2)

"What are the fourth to twelfth cages holding?"

"God's power?"

Xu Qing's mind stirred intensely. He was familiar with the handwriting. It was his handwriting but the content was completely unfamiliar to him. In the end, he abruptly lifted his head and looked around.

"It affected my memory?!" Killing intent flashed in Xu Qing's eyes. The Third Heavenly Palace in his body shook and the aura of the Poison Restriction spread out and enveloped his entire body. After that, he took a deep breath and used the power of the Fourth Heavenly Palace for the first time.

It was the Purple Moon Heavenly Palace.

With a thought from Xu Qing, the Fourth Heavenly Palace trembled. A wisp of purple moonlight bloomed in Xu Qing's sea of consciousness and enveloped his entire body. At this moment, the formless life level of his body suddenly increased.

His expression became cold and his eyes were ethereal. Although his appearance didn't change, he gave off the feeling that he was no longer a human with emotions but a god that looked down on all living beings.

With this attitude, Xu Qing went to look at D132 again.

With this glance, D132's appearance changed drastically in his eyes.

This place wasn't black at all but red. It was bright red and the ground was covered in blood. Be it the walls or the cages, they were all blood-colored.

Only one area emitted light. That was the place where the little boy was beside him.

Because they were very close, the light emitted by the little boy also enveloped Xu Qing.

He was in the light, and other than the blood-colored light, there was also a dense blood fog, as though it wanted to invade but was blocked.

Xu Qing's mind shook. He abruptly looked at the cage where the cloud beast was in. Inside... wasn't the cloud beast but a headless stone lion!

Its entire body was greenish-black and emitted a dense ominous feeling.

After that, he looked at the cage where the human woman was in. That place had also changed, as though the veil had been lifted, revealing the true scene. The woman inside was no longer a beauty but a skeleton.

A gigantic straw doll was in the cage. Its entire body was blood-colored and countless straws kept falling down. It transformed into small straw dolls and kept devouring the woman's skeleton. After eating it, it spat it out and pieced it back together.

It was as though it would continue tearing it for generations.

Noticing Xu Qing's gaze, the huge straw doll even turned its head and grinned at Xu Qing.

As for the cage that imprisoned the millstone and head, it was also different from before. The millstone had vanished, replaced by a massive water vat that emitted an ancient aura. Within the vat was a murky liquid, and a black lotus had bloomed, sending out countless branches that spread throughout the area surrounding the cage.

Many of them directly pierced into the head, causing the head to have a pained expression.

At that moment, the head noticed Xu Qing's gaze. However, its expression was very strange. There was helplessness in it as it spoke in a weakened voice.

"I'm the only one who hasn't changed. I told you, I'm a good guy..."

Xu Qing fell silent and swept his gaze toward the other cages. What he saw caused monstrous waves in his mind.

He didn't see the fourth to twelfth prisoners.

He saw a huge finger that pierced through a hundred cages. This finger emitted an indescribable divine might and the blood that flowed from it illuminated the whole cell red.

The blood fog and blood were all born because of It.

That was... the god's finger.

In the last cage, the old man from the Painting Race had a sinister expression. His body was emaciated, with half of it naked and covered in bite marks. He was drawing with his fingers.

Countless paintings floated in the cage and the scrapped paintings filled the ground. Upon closer inspection, every painting inside depicted Xu Qing!

Noticing Xu Qing's gaze, the old man turned his head and grinned.

"Good morning, Lord Guardian."

This was D132's true appearance.

There weren't fourteen prisoners here but six.

Xu Qing's expression turned grim. After carefully examining the paintings, he made his way to the location of the headless stone lion. With a wave of his right hand, the array formation of the cage was activated, causing the stone lion to crumble and shatter with a resounding rumble.

Next was the straw doll. It was also torn into pieces by the array formation, followed by the water vat's black lotus and head.

Xu Qing stomped the head into pieces. Before it died, it let out a sigh.

"Why don't you believe me?"

Finally, it was the Painting Race. Under the strange smile of the old man, Xu Qing flicked his sleeve, and a ball of flames whistled past, incinerating everything.

After doing this, he gazed at the finger for a long while, lost in thought. Eventually, he turned around and walked out.

This finger was D132's true secret.

In the end, what was imprisoned here was actually this god's finger. It was just that Xu Qing didn't understand why such a thing was placed in Area D.

Xu Qing looked at the little boy and saw that the light outside its body was resisting the blood intent emitted by the god's finger. He suddenly understood.

"The Diamond Sect's ancestor was wrong. Misfortune isn't caused by being unable to withstand the enhancement of luck, but it comes from a curse. The god's curse. Luck is here to suppress the curse."

"Therefore, the past guardians will be indirectly affected by the curse and suffer misfortune."

"This is a cognitive curse. The way to break it is very simple. You just have to see through everything."

"Therefore, you are the true guardian here."

Xu Qing spoke softly.

The boy nodded.

Xu Qing was silent. He walked to the cell gate and looked at the bamboo slip in his hand. He crushed it and scattered it on the ground.

He no longer needed this item. He planned to resign from D132's post. This place was bizarre. Even though he had seen through cause and effect, he wasn't willing to stay here any longer.

Hence, he restrained his purple moon and Poison Restriction and pushed open the cell gate.

The moment he walked out, as the gate closed, Xu Qing drew in a deep breath and frowned.

"Unfortunately, that little boy can't communicate. However, he doesn't seem to have any ill intentions toward me. It's more like curiosity."

"Forget it. However, there are only 14 prisoners in D132. That's too few."

Xu Qing felt that he should think of a way to increase the number. With such thoughts in mind, Xu Qing gradually walked away. He wanted to see Kong Xianglong, who was currently imprisoned.

After Xu Qing left, everything in D132 was as usual.

The cloud beast was still chewing, the human woman was still coaxing the straw doll to sleep, the millstone was still spinning, and the painting of the Painting Race didn't disappear. The old man sighed.

"Why is there such a terrifying fellow here? He wakes up every day. When will it end? Even when we remind him, he will wake up and kill us; even if we don't remind him, he'll still wake up after analyzing the situation."

The head at the millstone screamed when it heard this.

"I'm more annoyed than you. It was all normal when this guy came the first time. After the second time he came, he woke up. From then on, he would wake up every day. Moreover, every time he woke up, he would stomp me to death, and that part never changed!"

"Does it feel that good to stomp on me? I told him countless times not to step on me. Damn it, I want to kill him. No, straw hat will kill him. He's destined to die!"

Amidst the commotion, the little boy's figure appeared at the entrance of the cell. It picked up the shattered bamboo slip pieces. Carrying them with it, it made his way toward a hidden and undetectable corner of the cell and threw the pieces over.

In here... there was a pile of bamboo slip fragments.

There were words on each fragment. They were all Xu Qing's handwriting.

If one were to calculate carefully, they would discover that the number of bamboo slips was only one less than the number of days Xu Qing had been on duty here.

Perhaps tomorrow, there would be another shattered bamboo slip.

The little boy let out a deep sigh and disappeared without a trace. When it reappeared... it was already outside D132, standing behind Xu Qing.

No one could see it, not even Xu Qing.

It followed silently, as though he was abiding by a promise. It was going to protect Xu Qing until the young lady who was willing to be friends with it arrived.

That was the agreement.

However, it was a little vexed because the person it wanted to protect no longer needed its protection from the second day onwards.

He had seen through everything about D132 and it on that day. He also didn't need its help to neutralize his bad luck, he broke the bad luck himself.

Hence, he would wake up every day, gain enlightenment, and carry out a massacre here.

Due to the influence of the god and the suppression power of the Prison Department, he would forget everything every day.

The cycle repeated.

This was D132. It was also the core of the Prison Department's strength.

Misfortune indeed didn't come from luck. It came from a curse, a god's curse.

No one could withstand it. One could only forget and sever cause and effect.

* * *

Outside Of Time

Chapter 539: The Most Miserable God in History

Kong Xianglong's treatment was not bad and he was imprisoned in D3.

That place was on the first floor, so there was plenty of light. Also, there was no one else in the cell.

After Xu Qing asked around, he found out that the first ten cells were prepared for their own people. Usually, those Sword Holders who made mistakes would be locked up here and Kong Xianglong was a frequent visitor of these cells.

"Unfortunately, it was too sudden this time and I didn't prepare any wine..." At that moment, Kong Xianglong, who was sitting in the cage in D3, smacked his lips and looked at Xu Qing pitifully.

He was really craving wine.

Xu Qing looked around. After confirming that Kong Xianglong was the only one locked up here at the moment, he took out a flask of wine from his storage bag and sent it in.

Kong Xianglong's eyes lit up. He quickly grabbed it, opened it, and took a long swig. With a loud burp, he erupted into joyful laughter.

"Awesome! I don't feel anything when I drink it every day, but when I can't have it, I really miss it."

"Come, Xu Qing. Accompany me for a drink." As he spoke, Kong Xianglong lifted the wine flask and toasted Xu Qing through the railing.

Xu Qing performed a series of hand seals and the cell gate of D3 was instantly locked. After that, he took out a flask of wine and drank it as well.

Kong Xianglong was even happier. The two of them took a swig each and drank very comfortably. Xu Qing even took out a few apples and handed them to Kong Xianglong.

However, after Kong Xianglong ate one, he felt that it was tasteless, so he continued to drink.

Xu Qing ate an apple and drank the wine. Kong Xianglong spoke more than usual.

"I've stayed in these few cells on the first floor. Sometimes, I was lucky and didn't get caught. Sometimes, I was unlucky and was reported. This time, my luck was even worse and I directly encountered the Palace Master."

At the mention of the Palace Master, Kong Xianglong sighed repeatedly.

"By the way, Xu Qing, what have you been busy with during this period of time? I think your cultivation is about to make a breakthrough. Why haven't you broken through yet? If you break through quickly, we can do missions with more military contributions together."

Xu Qing fell silent for a moment. He recalled that the other party also had an emperor-level cultivation art and even had ten Heavenly Palaces. Hence, he briefly explained his choice for the Fifth Heavenly Palace and asked for guidance.

"I have experience with this. Fusing an emperor-level cultivation art into the Heavenly Palace is different from fusing ordinary cultivation arts. It requires a specific ritual and a Dao Protector. At that time, I used my military contribution to exchange for an emperor-level cultivation art, and also hired a deacon to be my Dao Protector. Forget it, this is a little vague, I'll show you instead."

Kong Xianglong waved his right hand and his body became translucent. The ten Heavenly Palaces were clearly revealed in Xu Qing's eyes.

There were six below the life fog and four within the life fog.

Among the four palaces, three were formed by life lanterns that shone with resplendent light. Their shapes were strange and each of them emitted astonishing fluctuations.

The other Heavenly Palaces were also extraordinary, especially two of them.

One of them was coiled with a golden dragon and emitted a golden light, giving off a noble feeling. When Xu Qing looked at it, the golden dragon on it suddenly lifted its head and stared at Xu Qing with bright eyes.

The Golden Crow also manifested behind Xu Qing at this moment. It circled inside D3 and looked at the golden dragon.

Both sides controlled their auras with a look of scrutiny.

As for the other emperor-level Heavenly Palace, it was a sword palace. It looked similar to the Sword Holding Palace and emitted supreme sword might with an extremely sharp aura.

Xu Qing's mind shook when he saw all of these. He originally planned to ask for verbal guidance and hadn't expected Kong Xianglong to completely reveal his Heavenly Palace to him.

One had to know that the Heavenly Palaces were a person's secret. Unless one trusted someone, they wouldn't reveal them easily.

However, Kong Xianglong didn't seem to have any scruples and directly revealed them to Xu Qing.

"What are you dazing around for? Not only have you seen them, but Little He and Little Chen have also seen them."

Kong Xianglong laughed. Although his cultivation base energy couldn't spread out due to shackles, it was still possible to reveal the Heavenly Palaces inside him.

"Do you see them? They are the Heavenly Palaces formed by my two emperor-level cultivation arts. You should have also comprehended the Emperor Sword, right? I sensed a resonance just now. When your Emperor Sword reaches the second level later, it can also become a sword palace."

Kong Xianglong focused on his two emperor Heavenly Palaces and explained them to Xu Qing, allowing him to see them more clearly.

Seeing Kong Xianglong's Heavenly Palaces with his own eyes, Xu Qing was a little moved. A solemn expression appeared on his face as he stood up and bowed deeply to Kong Xianglong.

"Thank you, Brother Kong."

"There's no need for thanks between brothers." Kong Xianglong restored his body to normal and took a big sip of wine.

"When you integrate the emperor-level cultivation art later and activate the Fifth Heavenly Palace, I'll see if there are any missions with more military contributions and call you. There are many such missions in our field office. Little He and Little Chen told me many times to find such missions. They also lack military contributions to exchange for inheritances."

Xu Qing thanked him seriously and drank with Kong Xianglong for a while. When it was time for his shift to end, he left. He didn't return to the Sword Pavilion but went to the south of the city to buy osmanthus cake.

He was going back to the branch sect to look for Purple Mystic Fairy tonight.

The Fifth Heavenly Palace had completely materialized yesterday. Xu Qing planned to put Golden Crow Refines All Life inside it to form his first emperor Heavenly Palace.

"My life-bound mosasaur... will have to give way again. I'll use it next time!"

Xu Qing took a look at the mosasaur coiled in his natal magic aperture.

Under the influence of his aura, the mosasaur also lifted its head and looked at Xu Qing.

"It'll definitely be next time!" Xu Qing mumbled inwardly. He arrived at the south of the county capital and found a shop that sold osmanthus cakes.

At the same time, after Xu Qing left the Prison Department, the Palace Master, who was sitting crosslegged in the main hall on the 89th floor, opened his eyes. He lifted his head and looked up. He frowned and let out a cold snort.

"A Pawn is drinking with a prisoner in the Prison Department. How improper!"

"When the two of them were drinking earlier, you pretended not to see. Now that they've finished drinking, one left and the other is sleeping, and you open your eyes now and act pretentious? Who are you showing it to? Me?"

A low voice rang out from the void behind the Palace Master. The huge eye with a vertical pupil suddenly opened, and the pupil in it burned like fire, stirring up a storm that circled around this floor.

The Palace Master didn't care about the artifact spirit's mockery. He retracted his gaze with a cold expression and pondered for a moment before speaking slowly.

"Since the two of them agreed to go out... send a letter to the Yao family in my name."

"The content is still 'Yao Yunhui, are you courting death?" The voice in the storm was loud like a bell, echoing endlessly.

"Six words." The Palace Master's voice was cold.

"Xu Qing is my edict bearer."

"To issue a decree twice for a Sword Holder, isn't this against your principles? Or is it because the bad luck on Xu Qing's body is gone? Eh, that's right. The bad luck on his body suddenly disappeared some time ago. Let me think, it seemed to have disappeared after he went to D132 for the second time."

"How strange. His bad luck is gone so suddenly. This Xu Qing went to D132 the second time more than a month ago. What happened? It's a pity that I don't have the authority and can't see it. Sigh, it's so annoying. I'm an artifact spirit but I don't have authority over D132."

In the storm, the muffled sound was like thunder rumbling.

"It's not like that. Yao Yunhui doesn't understand," the Palace Master said calmly, ignoring the other party's mention of Xu Qing's misfortune and D132.

"A Sword Holder can die in battle. That's their home and glory."

"However, they can't die at the hands of a despicable person. That is a humiliation. I can't accept this happening to any Sword Holder."

The rumbling of the storm paused for a moment before it shouted again.

"Including Zhang Siyun? A secret letter came from the Yinghuang Province's Sword Holding Court. Zhang Siyun has a god in his body. The imperial capital probably knows about this through the emperor's statue. Some people are very interested in him."

The Palace Master fell silent. After a long time, he shook his head.

"As long as he's still a Sword Holder, I won't allow him to be used as bait. I'll think of a way to deal with the god in his body!"

"What about Chen Erniu?"

The voice in the storm suddenly became intense and sharp.

"I don't believe you can't see the problem with him. Besides, if I didn't sense wrongly, I should have seen his previous life. However, I can't remember it. How strange, why can't I remember it?"

The voice in the storm was filled with frustration. In the end, it turned into a roar. At the same time, a roar rang out from the lowest level of the pit in the Prison Department. It seemed to be responding, as though it wanted to overlap with the voice of the artifact spirit.

"I can't remember, I can't remember, I've forgotten... Who am I? I need to think hard about who I am. I am..."

The Palace Master's expression remained composed. He slowly lifted his right hand and pressed down slightly.

With this push, the 177 floors of the Prison Department shook at the same time, emitting a resplendent light that gathered at the center of the various floors, which was the middle of the deep pit.

177 huge runes formed there. At the same time, they cascaded down to the bottom of the deep pit.

As rumbling sounds echoed, the roar at the bottom of the deep pit slowly weakened and finally dissipated.

The roars in the 89th floor also dissipated at the same time. The huge vertical pupil behind the Palace Master slowly closed.

Just as it was about to completely close, the vertical pupil revealed confusion and a weak voice rang out.

"Who am I..."

"You are the artifact spirit of my Prison Department!" The Sword Holding Palace Master said in a low voice.

When the vertical pupil heard this, it revealed understanding and calmed down.

"That's right, I remember now. I'm an artifact spirit. I'm the artifact spirit of the Prison Department. My mission is to suppress all prisoners."

The eye completely closed.

The Sword Holding Palace Master looked at the closed vertical eye and frowned. A hint of gloom appeared on his face as he muttered inwardly.

"He has come to his senses a little frequently over the years..."

At that moment, if someone could probe the Palace Master's mind, they would definitely be incomparably shocked by the word 'He'.

This was how the gods were addressed.

Clearly, that vertical pupil wasn't an artifact spirit of the Prison Department at all.

All along, the vertical pupil which was conversing with the Palace Master thought that it was an artifact spirit, but in reality, He was the only reason why the previous Palace Masters of the Sword Holding Palace guarded the Prison Department.

His true identity was the last clone of the unknown god sleeping in the Immortal Forbidden!

Looking at the eye that was closed, the Sword Holding Palace Master thought of what the other party had said.

"To be able to make Him feel familiar, there must be something wrong with Chen Erniu. However, the emperor acknowledged him and gave him a chance to become a Sword Holder. In that case, he is a Sword Holder."

"That means, he is my subordinate."

"My subordinates can die on the battlefield, but they can't die by treachery!"

The Palace Master said inwardly. This was his principle.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 540: Golden Crow Descends Into the Heavenly Palace (1)

The osmanthus cake in the county capital wasn't cheap.

One portion had five pieces and cost a spirit coin.

The reason for this seemed to be because some spiritual plants had been added to the osmanthus cake. As for the osmanthus itself, the shopkeeper said that it was transported from Lin Lan Province.

Xu Qing bought three portions.

He ate while moving toward the branch sect.

It had to be said that the taste of the osmanthus cake in the county capital was indeed quite good. When Xu Qing arrived at the branch sect, he had already finished his portion. After that, he took a deep breath and strode into the branch sect.

On the way, he saw a few disciples of the Eight Sects Alliance. Every one of them was very respectful when they saw Xu Qing. Even Huang Yikun helplessly greeted Xu Qing.

Xu Qing nodded and walked toward the branch sect's residence A.

He felt a little nervous when he thought of Purple Mystic Fairy. Regardless of her cultivation or her various emotions, she was beyond Xu Qing's reach.

However, he had no choice but to go.

Hence, he took a deep breath and stepped into residence A. After passing through a few courtyards, he arrived at the courtyard where Room A1 was located.

This place was also a large courtyard with many fake hills and flourishing vegetation. There were also many maidservants.

Clearly, even in the county capital, Purple Mystic Fairy still had requirements for the quality of life.

When these maidservants saw Xu Qing, their eyes lit up and bowed in greetings with curious expressions. After Xu Qing walked far away, they looked at Xu Qing's back and couldn't help but whisper to each other. From time to time, they would even laugh coquettishly.

However, regardless of whether it was Xu Qing or them, they couldn't see that there was a little boy who had entered the courtyard. It stood beside the group of maids curiously and pricked up its ears to listen to their discussion.

At that moment, Xu Qing had already arrived outside Room A1. His expression turned solemn as he cupped his fists and spoke in a low voice.

"Disciple Xu Qing requests an audience with Purple Mystic Fairy."

The door of the room slowly opened and Purple Mystic Fairy's figure walked out. She was wearing a purple palace dress today. Her black hair draped over her shoulders. She looked noble and elegant, and emitted spiritual charm like an immortal.

However, her beautiful eyes were filled with a hint of anger. This emotion caused her peerlessly beautiful face to look more lively, as though a fairy had walked into the world.

Her appearance seemed to add a hint of light to the dusk night. When it was reflected in Xu Qing's eyes, it became an indelible reflection that grew deeper and clearer.

Zi Xuan walked up to Xu Qing.

When she saw the paper bag in Xu Qing's hand, the anger in her eyes melted into joy.

"I was still wondering why you came so late. So the little kid still remembers what I said."

"Junior doesn't dare to forget Senior's words." Xu Qing tried his best not to be so nervous and said solemnly. After he finished speaking, he handed over the osmanthus cake with both hands.

Zi Xuan smiled and took it, and was about to speak.

Xu Qing began to take out items one after another from his storage bag.

Green bean cake, immortal dew pancake, pineapple crisp, pea cake, almond pancake, nine layered cake...

There were a total of more than 50 types, and there were two portions of each.

When the maidservant at the side saw this scene, she hurriedly stepped forward and took them with a tray. Very soon, the pastries on the tray piled up into a small mountain.

Zi Xuan was stunned for a moment and looked at Xu Qing strangely. It was the same for the maidservant who was holding the tray.

After Xu Qing finished taking out everything, he took a deep breath and spoke seriously to Purple Mystic Fairy.

"Junior doesn't know what Senior likes other than osmanthus cakes, so I bought everything I could."

Xu Qing's words were sincere. He held great respect for knowledge and understood that not only did he need Purple Mystic Fairy to guide him on integrating an emperor-level cultivation art into the Heavenly Palace, but he also needed her protection

He would remember this kindness in his heart. That was why he spent time buying so many pastries. This was also the reason why he came late.

When Zi Xuan heard this, her phoenix-like eyes landed on Xu Qing's eyes. After staring at them for a while, ripples appeared in her heart. The displeasure she had felt during this period of time completely dissipated. She then turned her head and instructed the maid softly.

"Put these pastries in my room. Be careful not to break them."

The maid hurriedly nodded. After she entered the room, she glanced at Xu Qing and Zi Xuan before leaving.

She felt that she shouldn't stay here right now.

Ignoring the maid, Purple Mystic Fairy's lips curved upwards, revealing a gentle smile on her flawless face. She waved her hand and the surroundings underwent a transformation. The green stone slabs turned into grassy meadows, the artificial mountain became a towering peak, the flowers and shrubs transformed into tall trees, and a pavilion appeared nearby.

"Xu Qing, come."

Zi Xuan walked into the pavilion and sat there. At that moment, a gentle wind blew over, lifting her black hair. It also fluttered her dress and pressed it tightly against her body, accentuating her curves when she sat down.

The dress looked even more perfect on her.

Xu Qing hesitated and walked over, sitting opposite Zi Xuan.

Sitting here, he could see more clearly and a familiar fragrance seeped into his nose.

That fragrance was very pleasant.

He could only sit here because the stone stool was here.

"Tell me about the matter with the Prison Department in the past month or so." Zi Xuan placed one hand on the stone platform at the side and supported her chin. Her eyelashes fluttered as she looked at Xu Qing.

In this moment, her demeanor had changed from the mature and elegant woman who had walked out of the room earlier. She was no longer as gentle and dignified as she was when she saw the osmanthus cake. Instead, she exuded the aura of a young girl, and her age was indiscernible from her appearance. Yet, she remained peerlessly beautiful.

Even though Xu Qing had experienced this transformation several times before, he still couldn't resist its allure. He admitted that... from head to toe, this Purple Mystic Fairy in front of him exuded an astonishing charm.