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Outside Of Time

Chapter 551: The Stench of Blood Fills the Air, and the Poison Spreads Far and Wide (1)

Xu Qing wasn't wrong. He was indeed good at group battles.

Once the poison of his Third Heavenly Palace erupted, its lethality was astonishing. Ever since Xu Qing obtained the Poison Restriction Pill, he had never completely let it spread.

Even now, he was restraining it.

After all, the poison of the Third Heavenly Palace didn't distinguish friend from foe. Other than him who would be fine, regardless of whether it was the shadow or the Diamond Sect's ancestor, they would probably collapse.

Although he had restrained it, its power was enough to shock the minds of the black-clothed guards.

Almost instantly, three black-clothed guards with five palaces let out terrified cries as their bodies rapidly began to rot. The flesh on their faces started falling off, and blood dripped from their bodies. Even their eyeballs fell off.

However, they didn't feel any pain.

This was what was even more terrifying about Xu Qing's poison. It could silently corrode everything. By the time the enemy sensed the pain, the poison would have already seeped into their bones.

Amidst these cries of horror, Xu Qing's figure was like the wind of death as he appeared in front of a black-clothed guard with six palaces. He instantly slashed across his neck.

With a tearing sound, blood spurted out.

The head rolled down and was kicked up by Xu Qing. With a whistling sound, it transformed into an afterimage that headed straight for another black-clothed guard. It exploded in front of him and poisonous blood splattered everywhere.

The expression of this Holy Wave Race cultivator changed and he retreated, but he couldn't avoid the fate of death.

Xu Qing remained emotionless as he took a step forward. The physical strength of his seven palaces erupted in a complete display, causing a violent storm that thundered in all directions. From afar, it looked like a terrifying hurricane had suddenly formed out of nowhere.

With his incredible speed, Xu Qing mercilessly collided with the black-clothed guard.

Flesh and blood splattered everywhere.

Among the people in the surroundings, three more black-clothed guards were poisoned. They screamed and cried, but their bodies quickly melted into blood that flowed on the ground.

This scene caused the hearts of all the surrounding cultivators to skip a beat in horror.

"This poison is too powerful!"

"Everyone, disperse!"

Not only did the black-clothed guards who were fighting with Xu Qing disperse, but the expressions of Kong Xianglong, Shan He, and the others not far away also changed. They quickly moved away from this area with the people they were fighting with.

They wanted to get away from Xu Qing.

Xu Qing remained calm and collected. The more he used the Poison Restriction, the more he felt that everything was under his control. At that moment, he appeared in front of the ninth black-clothed guard with seven palaces like a ghost.

The instant he got close, he waved the dagger in his hand forcefully. The black-clothed guard wasn't ordinary either. He actually erupted with physical strength at this moment and grabbed the dagger, wanting to block it.

However, the moment the other party grabbed the dagger, the piercing force from the shroud erupted rapidly. The expression of the black-clothed guard changed, and he felt an incomparable piercing pain in his palm. His mind and soul were also assaulted by a sensation of being pricked by ten thousand needles.

When he instinctively let go, Xu Qing's dagger had already pierced into his throat with unstoppable force.

This was the second move Xu Qing had prepared for his dagger. It was also the power contained in the shroud cloth.

The price was that every time he held the dagger, he would suffer that piercing pain. His entire body felt as though it was pierced by countless sharp needles.

However, Xu Qing was already used to all of this and didn't care at all.

He took out his dagger and was about to continue when his expression changed slightly. He suddenly took a step to the side and dodged a flying sword that whistled past.

When he turned his head, Xu Qing saw another black-clothed guard with seven palaces using an emperor-level cultivation art to form a huge black hand that was moving toward him.

However, this time around, Xu Qing didn't need to make a move. Two black-clothed guards with six palaces suddenly revealed a bizarre smile. They turned around in unison and rushed toward their companion with the seven palaces, and self-destructed.

They were still shouting when they rushed out.

"My master greets you!"

This bizarre scene caused the expressions of all the black-clothed guards to change drastically.

At the next instant, the bodies of the two black-clothed guards exploded loudly, forming an impact that swept toward the seven palaces cultivator.

After suffering the explosion, the seven palaces cultivator spat out a mouthful of blood. His expression was one of shock and anger as he lifted his right hand and grabbed the black iron stick that was launching a sneak attack.

However, he couldn't control the red lightning that jumped up from the iron stick. It instantly entered his head, causing him to tremble.

Xu Qing's dagger also rapidly arrived at this moment. He stabbed into this person's heart and quickly made another strike. He stabbed seven times in a row, piercing through him with each strike. It was extremely savage.

As the blood-curdling screams rang out, Xu Qing noticed that his poison had mostly spread. Most of the black-clothed guards in the surroundings were rotting and every one of them was in fear. Their cultivation levels were also uncontrollably weakening.

"It's about time." Xu Qing mumbled inwardly. The shadow eye on his forehead directly expanded into a black coffin. As the lid opened, Xu Qing rushed out.

Of course, during this process, he didn't forget to shout out a seemingly indistinct incantation to hide his secret of shadow fusion.

The instant he appeared, Xu Qing activated the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art. His right hand instantly turned translucent and he ruthlessly stabbed into the chest of a black-clothed guard with six palaces.

No matter how the other party struggled, it was useless. He entered the Heavenly Palaces and grabbed the golden cores, ruthlessly pulling them out.

The cores still had veins attached to it.

Amidst the miserable cries of pain, the Golden Crow behind Xu Qing manifested. 42 long feather flames spread in all directions, causing the pitch-black darkness of the dawn to brighten at this moment.

An intense glint appeared in the Golden Crow's eyes. The moment Xu Qing took out his Golden Core, it directly devoured the black hand formed by the black-clothed guard's emperor-level cultivation art.

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The shadow wasn't to be outdone and quickly spread out.

The three parties absorbed at the same time.

At the next instant, this black-clothed guard's emperor-level cultivation art collapsed. His body shriveled and his Heavenly Palaces were destroyed.

Anyone who saw this would be incomparably shocked at the viciousness of Xu Qing's attacks.

Shan He's group wasn't much inferior. Night Spirit transformed into a one-eyed giant with green fur all over its body. It was a one-eyed heavenly demon unique to the Great Void Demon Transformation Sect and its eyes emitted a dim soul light.

The creature's upper body was even more monstrous, with four lumps of flesh growing out of it and forming four huge fingers. At the tip of each finger was a sinister face that devoured and bit at the enemy. Even when they were severed, they grew back instantly.

As for Shan He, his entire body was covered in a mist of blood and his injuries were extremely severe. He mainly helped his companions withstand the attacks, but his cultivation technique and bloodline were clearly unique. The more severe his injuries were, the stronger he became.

Right now, he didn't care about his injuries. He had completely gone crazy and was extremely violent. There was only killing in his eyes and nothing else.

The dwarf Wang Chen also went all out. His entire body was covered in lightning and the canopy above his head formed a life lantern of lightning. His speed was incredibly fast.

In fact, his body was also rapidly changing. Gradually, he was no longer a dwarf but had grown taller and transformed into a youth.

However, his entire body was covered in black totemic tattoos that seemed like seals. In that moment, they were unlocking one after another, forming an even more terrifying aura and fluctuations.

With every totem seal opened, there would be an additional nonhuman figure beside him.

There were dozens of figures of Light Race, Rock Demon Race, and Buppha Race.

The Smoke Clone was also there to provide assistance, fighting to the death alongside them against the two black-clothed guards with eight palaces.

Each of them took out their magic treasure fragments, and while they were still no match for the two black-clothed guards, the three of them spared no expense and heavily injured them. In the end, they managed to stall the two black-clothed guards.

Kong Xianglong's side was even more awe-inspiring. The golden dragon behind him roared and his whole body was like a god descending into the mortal world. Blood-colored cloth also appeared beside him and shrouded the surroundings. He was fighting the three half-step Nascent Soul cultivators by himself.

Despite being only at the Golden Core realm, he showed no signs of weakness when besieged by three half-step Nascent Soul cultivators. In fact, he emitted an unparalleled aura of dominance.

"This is the monstrous team of this generation from the Sword Holding Palace!"

One of the black-clothed guards let out a cry of alarm, and the others began to feel fear creeping in as they scrambled to escape the scene.

However, before they could escape far, they started to cough up black blood and their bodies rapidly began to decay, turning into pools of blood.

Xu Qing's attacks continued. The Golden Crow let out a joyous cry and continued to devour. Xu Qing's bizarre nether hand also continued to enter one Heavenly Palace after another.

Unfortunately, the speed of his attacks couldn't compare to his poison.

When he killed 19 black-clothed guards, there were only seven black-clothed guards left.

Three of them were fighting against Kong Xianglong, while the other two were fighting against Shan He and the others.

There were two more people, whose bodies had also rapidly rotted. Despite being more than halfway decomposed, they walked towards Xu Qing step by step, before finally kneeling down with a loud thud. Their eyes were filled with despair and horror, yet they still spoke with fanatical voices.

"Master, please accept the gift that our Black-clothed Guards offer you!"

As they spoke, they opened their Heavenly Palaces and took out their golden cores, handing them over with both hands.

Xu Qing waved his bizarre nether hand. After absorbing them, the two black-clothed guards each raised their hands in endless horror. They pressed their heads together in an extremely orderly manner and bent them forcefully.

Cracking sounds echoed out as their heads turned and were twisted off.

Even after they died, their faces still retained a smile.

Killing was not a source of fear for those present, as they had all taken many lives. But the sight of the people rotting away and the bizarre manner in which they suicided were far more chilling and unsettling than straightforward acts of killing.

Hence, this scene instantly caused all the living friends and foes to tremble in their hearts as they looked at Xu Qing.

At that moment, Xu Qing was standing on the blackish blood pool. There weren't many corpses in the surroundings and most of them had turned into blood.

The Golden Crow behind him shone and let out a loud and clear sound. Its phoenix feathers drifted with flames, creating a peerlessly beautiful scene. At the same time, a gust of wind blew over and lifted Xu Qing's hair, revealing that pair of calm eyes that showed no emotions.

Stepping on the bloody pool, Xu Qing walked toward the two black-clothed guards with eight palaces who were stalled by Shan He and the other two.

His speed became faster and faster. The Third Heavenly Palace in his body rapidly shook and emitted a suction force, causing all the Poison Restriction aura here to quickly gather around him.

His surroundings turned black at a speed visible to the naked eye. Boundless black fog enveloped him that contained countless little black bugs.

Amidst the changing expressions of Shan He's group and the shock of the two black-clothed guards, Xu Qing appeared before them.

He instantly approached a black-clothed guard with eight palaces and covered the latter with the black fog.

Outsiders couldn't see anything in the fog and their perception couldn't enter either. They could only hear rumbling and screams coming from inside.

As a result, the opponents of Shan He and the others were no longer two people with eight palaces but one person. The situation instantly reversed.

After the amount of time it took for an incense stick to burn out, when Kong Xianglong tore a half-step Nascent Soul cultivator into pieces, Shan He and the other two had also completed their kill.

As monstrous geniuses, although they were inferior to Kong Xianglong, they still possessed peak combat strength of the seven palaces.

The three of them joined forces and used all their trump cards. They risked being heavily injured and finally killed the black-clothed guard with eight palaces.

As this person died, a mournful cry rang out from the black fog Xu Qing was in. After that, the sound of footsteps rang out and Xu Qing's figure walked out step by step.

There was a strange glint in his eyes, as though he was thinking.

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His entire body was covered in injuries.

The injuries on his body were severe. His chest and heart area were badly mangled, and there was a hole in his abdomen. One of his legs was twisted, and a large piece of flesh was missing from his neck, as if it had been bitten off.

There was also blood at the corner of his mouth, and his arm that was holding the dagger hung unnaturally.

As he walked, blood spewed from his mouth and he tossed the crushed eyeball to the ground.

The poison fog behind him churned and instantly surged toward him, entering his body.

As the poison fog dissipated at a speed visible to the naked eye, it finally revealed the aftermath of the battle behind Xu Qing. A figure was now standing there in the clearing.

It was none other than the black-clothed guard with eight palaces who had been swept into the fog by Xu Qing.

More than half of his body had rotted, and his stomach was cut open. His Heavenly Palaces had collapsed and all of his golden cores had been taken out.

In his one remaining eye, disbelief still lingered.

Shan He and the others cast their gazes upon Xu Qing, each of them with a glint of admiration in their eyes.

Xu Qing also looked at them and spat out another mouthful of blood as he spoke softly.

"Sorry for the wait, it was a bit difficult to kill him."

As Xu Qing's voice echoed, the corpse of the black-clothed guard behind him collapsed onto the ground. With Xu Qing's current combat strength, it was naturally difficult for him to kill the black-clothed guard with eight palaces.

In a fight for survival, any and all kinds of means would be used. Xu Qing's neck was viciously bitten off by the other party, leaving a large piece of flesh missing.

However, the gains from this battle were also huge.

In addition, he had sensed the aura of the red moon on the other party's body. This was also the reason for the pensive look in his eyes when he walked out.

However, now wasn't the time to think about this. Almost at the instant Xu Qing walked out, a mournful cry rang out from the sky.

The second half-step Nascent Soul cultivator's neck was forcefully twisted off by Kong Xianglong.

The eyes of the last half-step Nascent Soul cultivator were filled with extreme horror.

He wasn't only frightened by Kong Xianglong, but also the cruelty of the other Sword Holders. Without any hesitation, he turned around and fled.

Kong Xianglong laughed sinisterly and chased after him. Xu Qing calmly lifted his hand and straightened his twisted leg before giving chase as well.

This scene caused Shan He and the other two to show even more approval. They were also heavily injured but no one cared now. They rushed out, their killing intent even more intense than before.

Since they were returning the greeting to the black-clothed guards, they naturally had to kill them all to comply with the etiquette.

This place wasn't far from the border to begin with. Hence, the moment the half-step Nascent Soul cultivator saw the border, Xu Qing and the others caught up to him.

The five of them attacked at the same time and with Kong Xianglong suppressing the enemy, there was no suspense...

As a thunderous boom echoed, the body of the half-step Nascent Soul cultivator collapsed and shattered into pieces, raining down blood on the surrounding area.

The instant he died, a violent aura spread out from the Holy Wave Race's territory outside the boundary. A figure rapidly approached and a furious roar echoed.

"Sword Holders!"

Seeing this, Kong Xianglong suddenly shouted.

"Call your father."

"This place is the territory of our human race's Fenghai County. Any nonhuman Nascent Soul cultivator in the Holy Wave Region who takes half a step in will be killed on the spot by the Taboo magic treasure of Fenghai County!"

"Come, you f*cker!"

With that, Kong Xianglong turned and ran. As for Shan He and the other two, they had already run hundreds of feet away while he was talking.

As for Xu Qing, his movements were even faster than theirs. He was already 1,000 feet away...

Everyone sprinted rapidly.

Outside the boundary, the figure that arrived suddenly stopped and transformed into a middle-aged cultivator of the Holy Wave Race who was wearing a black-clothed guard's Daoist robe.

His expression was extremely ugly. He gritted his teeth and stared coldly at the backs of Kong Xianglong, Xu Qing, and the others. The killing intent in his eyes rose intensely.

However, in the end, he still didn't dare to step past the border!

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Chapter 554: A Cup of Turbid Wine, Drinking in a Group (1)

Xu Qing ran very quickly.

As soon as he sensed the overwhelming aura approaching from outside the boundary, he wasted no time in fleeing.

This was an instinctive reaction he had developed after doing many big deeds with his captain.

Shan He and the others were not far behind, showing that they too possessed keen instincts.

Only Kong Xianglong was a little slower because he spent some time saying those words.

Xu Qing felt that Kong Xianglong was actually somewhat similar to the captain to a certain extent. It was just that the captain was slow because of greed, while Kong Xianglong was clearly doing it for his posture.

Xu Qing sighed with emotion. He felt that it would be great if the captain could join them. However, there was nothing he could do about this. This group of people clearly didn't trust the captain.

The group of them sprinted rapidly, pushing themselves to their limits. They ran tirelessly until the sky began to brighten, and by then they had covered a considerable distance. After confirming that the enemy didn't chase after them, with a sigh of relief, they slowed down and finally came to a stop on a grassy plain.

They had done too many things that night.

This was especially so after the battle with the black-clothed guards. Every one of them was in an exhausted state.

At that moment, as they relaxed and lay down, all of them felt their bodies go limp and were unwilling to get up.

It was the same for Xu Qing. Although the injuries on his body were recovering, the mental fatigue was still very intense.

Shan He's blood qi dissipated and he felt a sense of weakness churning within him.

Night Spirit returned to her original form and lay there as though she didn't have much breath left.

Wang Chen wailed as he drew seals on himself, as though he was afraid that if he drew too slowly, he would cause a huge problem.

Kong Xianglong was also panting. However, he was clearly more relaxed than the others. Looking at Xu Qing and the others, he suddenly laughed louder and louder.

The three of them looked at each other and laughed loudly as well. A sense of joy filled their hearts, but as they laughed, they grimaced because of the pain from the wounds.

Xu Qing also smiled.

"It felt good killing them!" Kong Xianglong waved his hand and took out five bottles of wine. After throwing the bottles to the others, he raised it high.

Xu Qing lifted the wine bottle. Shan He, Wang Chen, and Night Spirit were all the same. The way they looked at Xu Qing was no longer as distant as before. Instead, they revealed a friendly expression.

"Let's drink!"

Everyone took a big gulp. After they put the bottle down, they laughed again.

However, as they drank, they thought of the youth who dreamed of becoming a Sword Holder and sighed.

Just like that, time flowed by.

Regardless of whether it was the wine, laughter, or sighs, the distance between them was quickly closed. The friendship between people would often form after experiencing some things together.

Especially when they made mistakes together...

"When we return this time, we're probably done for. We'll definitely be locked up by the Palace Master. In fact, those close to the Holy Wave Race will even spread some rumors, especially the Yao family."

"Sigh, everyone, keep a low profile during this period of time after we return." Kong Xianglong stood up and stretched his body as he spoke to everyone, especially when he looked at Xu Qing.

"Xu Qing, you should be in an even worse state. I understand the Palace Master. As a Pawn of the Prison Department, the Palace Master will definitely punish you more." Kong Xianglong blinked.

"That's right. Xu Qing, you're done for."

"Sigh, but Xu Qing, you have to think this way. As a Pawn, you're locked up in the Prison Department. This experience must be very beautiful."

Shan He and the others joked around with Xu Qing. At the same time, they were also watching Xu Qing's reaction.

They didn't have any ill intentions. This was how they acknowledged each other and how brothers got along.

Xu Qing's expression was calm as he calmly spoke.

"The Pawns in Area D are all my colleagues. I'm very familiar with them. If we're really imprisoned..."

Xu Qing glanced at Kong Xianglong and the others and spoke seriously.

"I will simply be returning home. I welcome you guys to be locked up in my house."

As soon as Xu Qing finished speaking, Kong Xianglong silently took a sip of wine. Shan He and the others smiled bitterly and sighed gloomily. However, the gazes they used to look at Xu Qing became even friendlier, especially Shan He. He coughed and spoke in a low voice.

"That Xu Qing, can you lock me up in a cell guarded by a female Pawn..."

Before he could finish speaking, he was kicked by Wang Chen.

"Ignore him. There's something wrong with this fellow's brain. What's so good about female Pawns? Xu Qing... When the time comes, make an exception and arrange a cage with more female prisoners for me."

Wang Chen's eyes lit up with anticipation.

At the side, Shan He wasn't convinced and replied with a few sentences. Very soon, the two of them started arguing.

This scene was very different from when Xu Qing had seen them before. Clearly, everyone had many faces, and it would change depending upon whether the other was a stranger or a friend.

Night Spirit swept a cold glance at them with disdain in her eyes. She then took out a handful of flesh melon seeds and ate them.

Kong Xianglong smiled at Xu Qing and asked about Xu Qing's divine art.

"Xu Qing, your poison is indeed potent, but what really intrigues me is your ability to make your hand transparent. You forcefully entered the other party's Heavenly Palaces and pulled out their golden cores. This cultivation art... is extremely bizarre!"

As soon as Kong Xianglong spoke, the three of them also looked at Xu Qing. They were also curious.

When Xu Qing heard this, he didn't hide anything. He lifted his hand and waved it. Immediately, his right hand became transparent and appeared in front of Kong Xianglong.

"This is a cultivation art imparted by my master. It has a certain relationship with the Bizarre Fiend Race."

Kong Xianglong sensed it and praised.

"After this cultivation art is fully mastered, you will probably be able to make your entire body enter this state." After saying that, he seemed to think about it.

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"If it's the Bizarre Fiend Race, I'll give you a gift later. I killed one of them before and it left something behind."

After saying that, he saw that Xu Qing seemed to be about to speak. Hence, he smiled and waved his hand.

"No need to refuse between brothers."

Upon hearing Kong Xianglong's words, Xu Qing glanced at him and nodded. Then, Shan He and Wang Chen joined in the discussion. They didn't hold back and showcased their own cultivation techniques, without hiding anything.

This inspired Xu Qing greatly, as he gained more insights into the spells of the three great sects. He was particularly intrigued by Night Spirit's demon transformation technique.

"The demon transformation technique is a unique technique of the sect. It's said that this technique has an extremely long history. However, due to the sect's rules, I can't say much. You can learn it yourself." Noticing Xu Qing's curiosity about this technique, Night Spirit spoke while eating the flesh melon seeds.

"I can tell you simply that cultivating this technique isn't difficult. What's difficult is that you have to comprehend the sect's great demon totem and move it in your sea of consciousness. When you reach a certain level, you can use the demon transformation technique to transform it into the great demon."

She even displayed it.

Xu Qing's mind shook. He thought of his Ghost Emperor Mountain. To a certain extent, his Ghost Emperor Mountain could also be seen as a great demon.

In that case, if he mastered the demon transformation technique, wouldn't he be able to make use of this cultivation art to manifest the Ghost Emperor Mountain?

This method was much simpler than what his master had said.

Xu Qing was instantly tempted.

"If you like it, then go and learn it." Kong Xianglong smiled.

"The three great sects have a close relationship with the Sword Holding Palace, so they have an agreement with each other. Any Sword Holder can spend a certain amount of military contribution points to learn spells from the three great sects."

This was the first time Xu Qing had heard of this. He nodded in interest, already making plans to learn this demon transformation technique when he returned.

At that moment, it was almost noon. After resting and recovering for a while, everyone got up and started to hurry onward.

The journey back was smooth, without any unexpected events. Kong Xianglong and the others became more familiar with Xu Qing during the journey. It was only before the last teleportation that Kong Xianglong spoke to Xu Qing in a low voice.

"Xu Qing, I'm not trying to sow discord but let me remind you. Be careful of your eldest senior brother. I don't think he's a good person."

"That's right. Chen Erniu has a shifty look on his face. With his ten feet of light, I will think it normal if he betrays us one day." Shan He also looked like he deeply agreed.

When Xu Qing heard this, he spoke seriously.

"My eldest senior brother and I have experienced many life-and-death situations. He's one of the people I trust the most."

Kong Xianglong didn't say anything else and patted Xu Qing's shoulder. As the light of the teleportation shone, everyone's figures disappeared.

When they reappeared, they weren't directly in the Sword Holding Palace but in a valley not far from the county capital.

There was a small teleportation array there that was usually hidden. It was Kong Xianglong's secret base.

This was Kong Xianglong's plan and his experience.

He felt that if they appeared through the teleportation array in the Sword Holding Palace, there would definitely be a record.

Hence, he chose to teleport to this valley. This way, the risk of being discovered would be lower. Moreover, after a few days, they could deny that they had just returned.

"I secretly set up this place. Until now..." In the valley's teleportation array, Kong Xianglong smiled and spoke to Xu Qing and the others. However, before he could finish speaking, the teleportation array instantly activated on its own.

At the next instant, everyone's figures disappeared. When they reappeared, they were already in the teleportation array on the square in the Sword Holding Palace.

As they appeared, everyone panicked. They saw the Palace Master standing outside the array with a solemn expression that seemed to contain a haze as he coldly looked at them.

Clearly, what Kong Xianglong thought of as a secret array formation had long been modified by the Palace Master. He had also specially waited for them here.

Kong Xianglong's body trembled slightly, and Shan He and the others also felt guilty. Xu Qing lowered his head and was prepared to be reprimanded and punished.

As a Sword Holder, it wasn't a small matter to disobey the rules in a mission.

However, after waiting for a long time, the Palace Master still didn't speak. Hence, Xu Qing lifted his head slightly and noticed that the Palace Master's gaze was sizing up each of them carefully, as though he was checking their injuries.

Xu Qing wasn't the only one who lifted his head. The others also lifted their heads in surprise.

Looking at the gazes of the five people in front of him, the Palace Master snorted coldly.

"What are you standing here for? Aren't the others teleporting? Hurry up and leave!"

With that, the Palace Master turned and left with a cold expression.

It was as though he had come this time to see if their injuries were too serious. At this moment, he discovered that all of them were energetic and lively, so he was relieved.

"Strange!"

"There's actually no punishment!"

"Is he concerned about us?" Everyone looked at each other in surprise. At that moment, they hurriedly walked out of the array formation and dispersed.

Xu Qing also heaved a sigh of relief. He looked in the direction the Palace Master had left in and suddenly felt that the other party wasn't that unreasonable. Hence, his body swayed and he left the Sword Holding Palace.

At that moment, in the Sword Holding Palace, Yao Yunhui and Zhang Siyun were heading out.

Yao Yunhui was very dissatisfied with her son's position. She had invited Zhang Siyun's grandmaster, Deacon Sima, many times but the other party kept on refusing.

Hence, she had no choice but to personally come and talk to him today.

Now that the conversation was over, she was about to leave with Zhang Siyun when she suddenly saw Xu Qing leaving.

Zhang Siyun also saw Xu Qing and disgust appeared in his eyes. However, he didn't notice his mother's expression. When she stared at Xu Qing's back view, she actually looked a little dazed.

Yao Yunhui stopped in her tracks. Recently, for some reason, every time she thought of Xu Qing and wanted to scheme against him, a thought would appear in her mind, telling her to think more about Xu Qing's good points.

This thought kept rising in her heart, entangled with her disgust for it. It grew deeper and deeper until it finally turned into dense complexity.

Noticing that his mother had stopped in her tracks, Zhang Siyun couldn't help but look over. He discovered that his mother's expression was constantly changing, so he was a little worried.

"Mother..."

Today, Yao Yunhui was wearing a black cloud skirt. It contrasted with her snow-white skin and made her look even more moving.

This was especially so for her perky breasts and long legs that were faintly discernible under her dress.

She had a slender waist and jade-like legs. Even though she had stopped in her tracks and didn't move, she still exuded an indescribable temptation.

Coupled with the beautiful curves of her waist and butt, all of this caused her cold face to hide endless enticement, like a fire sealed in ice.

At that moment, she looked at the departing Xu Qing. As the complicated emotions in her heart churned unceasingly, she actually muttered for some reason.

"Yun'er, do you think Xu Qing looks a little like your father?"

Zhang Siyun's body trembled and his expression changed drastically.

His eyes were wide open and an indescribable shocking wave rose in his mind. It was as though a million heavenly lightning bolts had exploded in his mind in unison, resounding through him as he cried out involuntarily.

"What did you say?"

After Yao Yunhui finished speaking, she sensed that something was wrong. Her expression turned cold as she spoke gloomily.

"They're both trash."

After saying that, Yao Yunhui let out a cold snort. A look of disgust appeared on her pretty face as she quickly left.

Her long dress outlined her graceful back view. As she twisted her waist, it attracted the gazes and souls of many Sword Holders in the surroundings.

When Zhang Siyun heard this, he heaved a sigh of relief and wiped the sweat that had broken out on his forehead.

This was the first time in his life that he felt a sense of relief when he heard his mother scold his father.

At the same time, in the air above the county capital, another person also saw Xu Qing's departing figure.

This was an old man.

He stared in the direction Xu Qing had left in with a dumbfounded expression. He rubbed his eyes forcefully and widened his eyes to confirm it. His heart couldn't help but tremble.

"This... this..."

"This is too f*cking unlucky!"

"Why am I seeing this little bastard here!!"

This person was none other than the old man from Panquan Road. He had come to the county to purchase some supplementary items needed for Ling'er's inheritance and didn't have much contact with the outside world recently. Now that he was done buying and was about to leave, he saw Xu Qing.

After the disbelief, the old man also shivered and felt incomparably grateful.

"Fortunately, I didn't let Ling'er follow me!"

"I can't let Ling'er know that this evil brat Xu is here!"

The old man from Panquan Road gritted his teeth fiercely and left quickly, afraid that Xu Qing would notice him.

"I won't come to the county capital again!"

Outside Of Time

Chapter 556: Bizarre Nether Transformation (1)

Xu Qing returned and immediately used his voice transmission jade slip to inform Fairy Zi Xuan.

This was Zi Xuan's request to him and Chen Erniu on the way to the county capital from the Eight Sects Alliance.

After all, they were in foreign lands and danger could descend at any time. Zi Xuan's true mission in guarding the branch sect was to add another layer of protection to the Sword Holders of the Eight Sects Alliance.

The voice transmission ended and Xu Qing returned to his Sword Pavilion. He didn't enter immediately but checked the surroundings. After confirming that there were no traces of his arrangements being triggered, he walked in.

This was a habit that had been engraved in his bones.

In the Sword Pavilion, Xu Qing took a deep breath and recalled the entire process of this mission, analyzing if he had done anything wrong. It was only when night fell outside that he ended the review.

However, the figure of the youth lying on the verge of death in the killing array was deeply engraved in his memory.

"His father should be that true spy..." Xu Qing mumbled.

He didn't know if that mysterious spy treated the youth as an abandoned pawn to become one of the diversions that concealed his tracks.

Or maybe there were even more existences like the youth.

Or perhaps, the spy intentionally made himself a target to mask the true information he wanted to transmit and hid it among others.

Everything was unknown.

Xu Qing thought for a while before shaking his head. After that, he recalled the black-clothed guard with eight palaces whom he had killed.

"With my current combat strength, I can kill cultivators with eight palaces if I go all out. However, for the nine palaces... it will be difficult." Xu Qing fell silent. He knew that the combat strength of the eight palaces was basically the limit of the vast majority of four life fires aptitudes.

Of course, there might be even more monstrous existences among them. Although they hadn't opened the 121st magic aperture, they might have grasped two emperor-level cultivation arts or possessed life lanterns.

Such a person had the possibility of possessing the combat strength of nine palaces.

"Other than that, there's a high chance that those cultivators who have reached the limit of the Heavenly Palaces will also attempt to break through and step into the Nascent Soul realm." Xu Qing's eyes revealed a hint of contemplation.

It wasn't that easy to break through to the Nascent Soul realm, so many people at the extreme of the Golden Core realm were in the Nascent Formation realm. The process was a little mysterious, so they were mostly known as half-step Nascent Soul cultivators or fake Nascent Soul cultivators.

Xu Qing had also made a judgment about this fake Nascent Soul's combat strength through this mission.

"It surpasses the eight palaces and nine palaces and is infinitely close to the ten Heavenly Palaces!"

"I'm still too weak. I have to speed up my cultivation. Also, I have to make a trip to the Demon Transformation Sect as soon as possible to learn the demon transformation technique." Xu Qing felt that if his analysis wasn't wrong, the demon transformation technique could to a certain extent manifest the Ghost Emperor in his sea of consciousness.

"I wonder how much the Ghost Emperor can enhance me after manifesting." Xu Qing's heart was filled with anticipation.

"I hope everything goes smoothly. If that's the case, perhaps I'll have a Ghost Emperor Palace in the future!"

"My limit is ten Heavenly Palaces. I've already completed five of them. As for the remaining five... the Sword Palace can be considered one. If this Ghost Emperor Palace is possible, I'm short of three choices."

Xu Qing thought about it.

"Oh right, there's also the intrinsic mosasaur."

Xu Qing took a deep breath and ended his analysis and contemplation.

"Then, the most urgent thing in front of me now is military contributions. I took half a month off previously and there are still seven days left. There's no point in returning early."

Xu Qing's eyes revealed desire. Whether to learn the demon transformation technique or go to Mount Morning Glow, he needed military contributions.

Everything depended on military contributions.

"There should be quite a lot of military contributions for this mission but it's still not enough..." Xu Qing took out his command sword and began to search for missions. Very soon, he found a capture mission in the county capital.

He checked his injuries and walked out of the Sword Pavilion to earn military contributions.

Just like that, days passed.

Xu Qing had never heard anyone mention the follow-up to their mission.

He didn't know who the real spy was, nor did he know if the other party had been successfully rescued.

Everything came to an end as the mission ended.

Seven days later, Xu Qing, who was immersed in earning military contributions, received a urging from the Prison Department. His vacation was over.

Hence, he could only stop earning military contributions and go to the Prison Department to work early in the morning.

As he walked on the steps of the Prison Department, Xu Qing felt the familiar coldness. He greeted the few Pawns from Area D he encountered while still pondering about the military contributions.

When he reached the entrance of D132's cell, he pushed the cell gate open and walked in.

After not coming for half a month, the prisoners here were no different from before.

The cloud beast was still eating its tentacles, and the human woman was still coaxing the straw doll in her arms to sleep. The old man from the Painting Race had a kind look in his eyes as he shouted good morning. The millstone was spinning. Only the head's eyelids rolled back and sighed.

"It just stopped for half a month. Why are you back again?"

As usual, after Xu Qing expressionlessly checked the prisoners one by one, he returned to the place where he had been meditating. Just as he sat down, he suddenly frowned and looked around.

Today, he didn't see the little boy.

This situation was a little abnormal. In his memory, every time he came, the little boy would be the first to appear.

"Where's the luck?" Xu Qing lifted his head and looked at the cage where the Painting Race's old man was.

The old man from the Painting Race bowed and spoke in a low voice.

"Luck... there seems to be a problem. I haven't seen it for a few days."

Xu Qing frowned and spread out his perception throughout the cell. He then got up and searched every cage.

Finally, he stopped in a corner and saw the little boy lying there on the verge of death.

[Outside Of Time](#)

Chapter 557: Bizarre Nether Transformation (2)

The little boy's body was very dirty. Its body was blurry and at the same time, it revealed an unprecedented weakness.

Its condition wasn't good. It seemed to be in great pain and its body continued to tremble.

Upon noticing Xu Qing walking over, it slowly lifted its head. Its expression was extremely dispirited and it almost couldn't open its eyes. However, it still revealed a smile to Xu Qing and tried its best to stand up to follow and continue protecting him.

However, it couldn't do it anymore. In the end, it could only look at Xu Qing helplessly. It opened its mouth as though it wanted to say something but couldn't.

Compared to its usual liveliness, the little boy at this moment made one instinctively feel pity.

Xu Qing's expression changed. He sat down and observed the little boy carefully.

He gradually realized that the source of the other party's agony was a swirling wisp of black gas writhing within its body.

This black gas was affecting and changing the little boy.

The shadow and the Diamond Sect's ancestor also appeared. The former sized up the little boy curiously while the latter revealed a solemn expression.

"Master, according to the books I read, I can roughly guess its situation."

The Diamond Sect's ancestor spoke in a low voice.

Xu Qing looked over.

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"It has been tainted. It must have encountered some unclean things somewhere."

When the little boy heard this, it nodded weakly.

Seeing that his guess was true, the Diamond Sect's ancestor knew that it was time for him to perform. Hence, his expression was solemn as he bowed to Xu Qing.

"Master, according to my experience, lightning can suppress all unclean evil things. If Master allows it, I can try to use my heavenly tribulation's lightning to purify its pollution."

Xu Qing fell silent. He didn't understand luck and didn't know what to do to help the little boy relieve its pain. However, he thought of the Palace Master.

"Does the Palace Master know of your existence?" Xu Qing asked softly.

The little boy nodded.

"Does he know your current state?" Xu Qing asked.

The little boy weakly raised his hand and gestured. Xu Qing frowned. He couldn't understand.

The shadow suddenly spoke.

"It seems... saying that the Palace Master... helped it to ease... recover quickly..."

The shadow clearly had similar experiences in this aspect, so it vaguely understood some of it.

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The little boy nodded lightly. Its body seemed to have become even weaker and its eyes were slowly closing.

Xu Qing fell silent and looked at the distressed little boy. He allowed the Diamond Sect's ancestor to give it a try.

Upon getting the approval, the Diamond Sect's ancestor immediately raised his hand. Red lightning appeared in his palm, and he released a trace of it on the little boy.

As the lightning fused into it, the little boy's body trembled. A trace of black gas was destroyed.

Seeing that it was effective, the Diamond Sect's ancestor used more lightning. Very soon, the black gas in the little boy's body continued to decrease and its sense of weakness slowly dissipated, beginning to recover.

This method couldn't remove the root cause. There was still a wisp of black gas in the little boy's body that couldn't be dispersed and was still spreading out more.

This still alleviated its pain. Hence, very soon, the little boy stood up happily and circled around Xu Qing.

Looking at the trace of black gas in the little boy's body, Xu Qing felt that this matter wasn't that simple.

However, since the Palace Master had already sensed it, this matter wasn't something he could handle.

In reality, that was indeed the case. When Xu Qing arrived at D132 again the next day, the little boy had completely recovered. The black gas in its body was completely gone and it was in its usual cheerful self.

Everything returned to normal. Xu Qing also began his daily routine of working during the day and earning military contributions at night.

Despite his consistent efforts to earn military contributions, he remained far from reaching his goal. However, one night as he was preparing to set out for more contributions, he received a voice transmission from Kong Xianglong.

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"Xu Qing, are you in the Sword Pavilion? If you're there, I'll look for you. The military contributions from the previous mission have been released."

Xu Qing's spirits were lifted.

Very soon, he saw Kong Xianglong flying over from the Sword Holding Palace.

Upon seeing Xu Qing, Kong Xianglong laughed and threw a storage bag at Xu Qing.

"There are two items inside. One is the military contributions certificate. I've already helped you record and verify it. You only need to fuse it into your command sword to add the corresponding military contributions."

"The other is the gift I promised you. Also, I've been pondering over your offensive methods during this period of time. I think that if you incorporate the anomalous substances into your bizarre nether hand, its might will be even greater. Moreover, the bizarre nether hand's origin is nonhuman race to begin with, so if you do this, you need to balance the anomalous substances in your body. This is my suggestion. You can give it a try later."

"Let's not talk about it. I have something to do and have to make a trip to the Prison Department. Sigh, the Palace Master has summoned me, so I have no choice but to go." Kong Xianglong sighed. After cupping his fists at Xu Qing, he hurriedly left without waiting for Xu Qing to say anything.

Looking at Kong Xianglong's back view, Xu Qing thanked him inwardly. He then cupped his fists and bowed.

After returning to the Sword Pavilion, he opened the storage bag. There were indeed two items inside. Other than the military contributions certificate, there was also a blue ice cube.

There was a heart sealed inside!

This heart was translucent. If one didn't observe carefully, it would be very difficult to notice it. Moreover, it wasn't dead and had a hint of vitality.

Xu Qing's eyes narrowed. He recognized that this was the heart of the Bizarre Fiend Race.

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Xu Qing wasn't unfamiliar with the Bizarre Fiend Race. Back then, he had captured one alive and refined it.

In reality, it was also this matter that gave Old Master Seventh inspiration for the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art.

This refinement also allowed Xu Qing's body to possess the foundation to cultivate the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art.

[Outside Of Time](#)

Chapter 558: Bizarre Nether Transformation (3)

After that, through Huang Yikun's fingers, Old Master Seventh's inspiration had the possibility of being realized. In addition, there was the Bizarre Nether Heart of Sima Ru and countless sects' similar Dao Seizing techniques, finally forming this Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art.

Therefore, in theory, the heart of the Bizarre Fiend Race could strengthen the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art.

However, the number of bizarre fiends was too small. Moreover, with Xu Qing's current cultivation, there wasn't much meaning in using the heart of a Foundation Building bizarre fiend. He needed the Golden Core realm's Bizarre Fiend Heart.

This heart that was sealed in the blue ice was from a Golden Core realm bizarre fiend.

Xu Qing lifted his head and looked in the direction Kong Xianglong had gone to.

To him, this gift was very heavy.

After a long time, Xu Qing retracted his gaze and looked at the ice. Determination appeared in his eyes as he circulated the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art. His arm quickly turned translucent.

Without any hesitation, he extended his right hand into the ice.

It pierced through the ice and grabbed at the Bizarre Nether Heart!

The moment they came into contact, Xu Qing's body trembled.

The Bizarre Nether Heart that was sealed in the blue ice emitted an intense struggle. One could vaguely hear a furious roar echoing in Xu Qing's mind, revealing madness. However, Xu Qing ruthlessly grabbed the heart and forcefully suppressed this repulsive force.

The Bizarre Nether Heart dissipated at a speed visible to the naked eye. A while later, it completely disappeared and was fused into Xu Qing's cultivation art.

At the next moment, a large number of mixed memory fragments appeared in Xu Qing's mind, rumbling in his mind like a storm.

They were the remnant memories of the owner of the Bizarre Nether Heart.

It also contained crazy emotions, as though it wasn't willing to be devoured and wanted to disperse Xu Qing's sea of consciousness. However, as Xu Qing let out a cold snort, the Ghost Emperor in his sea of consciousness emitted an intense light.

At the next instant, these memory fragments were crushed like rotten weeds. After they dissipated, Xu Qing's Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art circulated on its own.

Gradually, not only did his right hand turn translucent, but his left hand... also began to change at this moment.

An hour later, Xu Qing took a deep breath and lifted his hands.

Both his arms were translucent.

This way, when he used this Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art against enemies in the future, he would be even more agile and his absorption speed would be faster.

Looking at his hands, Xu Qing revealed a satisfied expression as he thought of what Kong Xianglong had said about condensing anomalous substances.

"Poison should be fine too," Xu Qing mumbled.

"That's not appropriate either. That's equivalent to telling the enemy that I'm good at the Dao of Poison. Moreover, the effect of my poison spreading out is even better... Of course, this can occasionally be done. It can be used to confuse others and make them pay attention to my hands, ignoring the poison that permeates the surroundings."

Xu Qing was about to change his train of thought when his voice transmission jade slip suddenly vibrated. The first thing he heard was a long sigh.

After that, the captain's resentful voice echoed.

"Little Qing, you have changed."

Xu Qing started.

"You can abandon those female cultivators after fooling around, but I'm your Eldest Senior Brother. You can't do this."

"We agreed on brotherhood and to travel together in this life, but in the end, it was only me who thought so..."

The captain's hidden bitterness seemed to be able to penetrate the jade slip and permeate Xu Qing's Sword Pavilion.

"Eldest Senior Brother..."

Xu Qing hesitated for a moment. Just as he transmitted his voice, the captain sighed again.

"If it wasn't for the fact that I was in the Office of Merit Records and saw that your military contributions had suddenly increased by a large sum, I wouldn't even know..."

"It's fine, Junior Brother. Eldest Senior Brother wishes you well. I hope that you and Kong Xianglong will have a blissful relationship for a hundred years..."

Xu Qing felt that the more Eldest Senior Brother spoke, the more nonsense he spouted. Generally speaking, this meant Eldest Senior Brother had a request. Hence, he calmly spoke.

"Eldest Senior Brother, are you short of spirit stones?"

"Little Qing, in your eyes, is Eldest Senior Brother such a person?!" In the jade slip, the captain snorted coldly.

"Alright, Eldest Senior Brother. Since you don't lack it, forget it." Xu Qing was unmoved and calmly spoke.

"Cough... Don't, don't, don't. Actually, its not much." In the jade slip, the captain coughed dryly. He was indeed short of spirit stones.

Outside Of Time

Chapter 559: The Mysterious Great Void World (1)

"It's mainly because the cost of buying information is quite high. However, Little Qing, don't worry, it is all spent on where it matters the most!"

The captain's awkward laughter spread from the jade slip.

"Listen, if I pull this off, we'll be rolling in riches. Even if you go on ten perilous missions for a decade, you won't be able to match my success this time!"

"Therefore... I need your sponsorship, Junior Brother."

The captain's voice was filled with pride and anticipation for the future.

Xu Qing was also a little curious when he heard this. With his understanding of the captain, this matter was really possible. However, the degree of madness would definitely be extremely great.

Hence, after some thought, Xu Qing agreed to the spirit stone sponsorship.

Currently, he had enough spirit stones, but what he needed was military contributions. As a result, after a brief exchange with the captain, he had intended to send them to the captain or arrange for the other party to pick them up. However, he was unaware of the captain's busy schedule tonight.

Hence, the two of them agreed to meet at the Demon Transformation Sect tomorrow.

Xu Qing also informed the captain that they could utilize military contributions to gain access to the cultivation arts of the three great sects. The captain's interest was piqued upon hearing this.

"There's such a thing? I haven't heard of it."

"I understand. From the perspective of the Sword Holding Palace, they don't really want to see that the Sword Holders under them are all from the three great sects. It's fine now, but there will be some hidden dangers in the future in the long term, so they didn't publicize the information about using military contributions to learn from the three great sects. However, out of magnanimity, they didn't stop it either."

"However, from the perspective of the three great sects, they naturally hope that all the Sword Holders are related to them. Hence, they allowed the imparting of cultivation arts."

"However, generally speaking, the Sword Holding Palace is the dominant force and the three sects are bound to it. This should also be the way of survival for the three great sects."

The captain's analysis was comprehensive. When Xu Qing heard this, he nodded. He felt that what the captain said made sense.

After the two of them agreed on a time tomorrow, the captain ended the voice transmission.

After putting down the voice transmission jade slip, Xu Qing continued to ponder about the enhancement of his hands from the Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art.

"As for fusing anomalous substances... Actually, there's no need for me to limit myself to anomalous substances or poison." Xu Qing thought about it. As the Third Heavenly Palace in his body trembled, the power of the Poison Restriction spread out and fused into his hands.

In an instant, his hands emitted a dense poison intent. After that, the poison transformed again, forming anomalous substances that belonged to him.

After the Fourth Heavenly Palace shook, Xu Qing's hands turned purple. The power of the purple moon permeated his hands at this moment.

"With such a change, the enemy will be unable to guard against me in a life-and-death battle. At critical moments, I'll be able to deal a fatal blow."

The way Xu Qing thought about problems had always been to start from concealment and surprise. This was related to his growth from when he was young and also the style of the Seventh Peak of the Seven Blood Eyes.

A night passed as Xu Qing adjusted his Bizarre Nether Dao Snatching Art. The next day, Xu Qing didn't go to the Prison Department. Instead, he applied for three days of leave and went to the Great Void Demon Transformation Sect.

As one of the three major sects in Fenghai County, the location of the Great Void Demon Transformation Sect was located in the southwest direction of the county capital and occupied a large area.

There were many teleportation arrays around it, allowing the true sect territory that was some distance away to maintain a close relationship with the county capital.

There was only one mission for the branch sect here, and that was to serve the Sword Holders.

When Xu Qing arrived, he saw many Sword Holders entering and exiting. The captain had long arrived. He squatted not far away and waved at Xu Qing as he ate an apple.

"Little Qing, over here."

Xu Qing walked over.

The captain threw an apple over.

Xu Qing caught it and took a bite before passing the spirit tickets to the captain.

Looking at the spirit tickets, the captain was incomparably excited. After taking a big bite of the apple, he spoke mysteriously.

"Junior Brother, don't worry. According to my plan, it won't be long before we can do something big."

"How high is the risk?" Xu Qing asked.

"There's no risk at all!" The captain looked confident.

Xu Qing nodded. He understood that this meant that the risk was incomparably great.

"Let's not talk about it anymore. I'm going to look for Wu Jianwu. This guy spent a lot of spirit stones to carry out a Sword Holder substitute assessment through my connections. Today, he's going to carry out the emperor's heart inquisition. I gave him some of the materials I used back then last night and made him feel that his money was well spent."

The captain stood up.

"I'll go take a look at the results and see if he also got ten feet!"

The captain's eyes revealed anticipation as he left excitedly.

Xu Qing silently glanced at the captain's back view. He felt that the captain must have a grudge with Wu Jianwu. Otherwise, why would he scam someone twice in a row?

After watching the captain leave, Xu Qing entered the Great Void Demon Transformation Sect.

The Great Void Demon Transformation's branch sect, which was established in the county capital, had a ring-shaped overall appearance. Under the encirclement of circles of buildings, it formed a Great Void Formation that was unique to the sect.

Every building was carved with strange-looking ferocious beasts. Some were sinister, savage, and some were calm and auspicious. Most of them were creatures of the forbidden zones, but there were also some nonhuman races.

However, in the Great Void Demon Transformation Sect's understanding, they could all be used as demon seeds.

The place to learn the demon transformation technique was in the magic impartation hall.

This hall wasn't a hall in the usual sense, but rather a series of stone cubicles, each independent and isolated from the others.

There were a hundred of them.

After spending a certain amount of military contributions, Xu Qing was politely brought here by the Great Void Demon Transformation Sect disciple. He chose a cubicle and walked in.

In the cubicle, Xu Qing saw the array formation carved on the ground and a stone tablet.

The stone tablet wasn't very old and didn't contain much sense of passage of time. However, the runes on it exuded an ancient charm.

[Outside Of Time](#)

Chapter 560: The Mysterious Great Void World (2)

Clearly, this stone tablet was copied and not truly an isolated item.

However, to be able to be placed here, it must be a unique item that didn't affect one's comprehension of cultivation arts. Hence, after Xu Qing checked, he sat down cross-legged and took a deep breath as he looked at the stone tablet with determination.

"The military contribution points required for comprehension are quite high. I have three days of comprehension time. It's best if I can succeed in one go!"

"I hope this demon transformation technique matches my judgment and can allow my Ghost Emperor Mountain... to materialize."

Xu Qing didn't hesitate. His perception spread out and fused into the stone tablet in front of him.

The instant he came into contact with the stone tablet, he heard roars that seemed to come from ancient times echoing in his mind.

These roars grew increasingly intense, drowning him like a storm. His body trembled and he could sense an eruption of teleportation power.

This was completely different from the comprehension experiences he had previously. Xu Qing opened his eyes and what appeared in front of him was nothingness.

The place he was at was no longer the enlightenment cubicle of the Great Void Demon Transformation Sect. He had actually been teleported into the body of a translucent fish.

This fish's body was 100 feet long and some parts were covered in black runes. On them were depictions of crying faces, and faint cries echoed from them as it floated forward in the void.

There was also a green lantern in front of the fish that emitted a dim and eerie light. In the void, it was like a ball of ghastly ghost fire that was guiding the way.

Xu Qing's mind shook. This scene was beyond his expectations. Just as his expression changed and he stood up from the fish's body with a sense of vigilance, an ancient voice reverberated in the fish's body.

"A trial-taker of the demon transformation technique."

"The place you're going to now is the true place of comprehension of the demon transformation technique."

"That place... is called the Great Void World."

"The Great Void World is an extremely mysterious world fragment that our sect's ancestor accidentally discovered. You will complete the contract with the Great Void World there. Once you succeed, you will have the ability to transform into a demon from now on."

"The demon transformation technique doesn't need comprehension, it only depends on the contract."

"What you really need to comprehend is the demon body that will be transported into your sea of consciousness in the future after you succeed in the contract. The principle of demon transformation is actually to borrow the power of the Great Void World to help you materialize the demon. That's why... there's such a contract."

"The signing of this contract doesn't necessarily mean success. There's a high chance of failure. Moreover, the Great Void World is cunning. Whether you can successfully sign the contract in the end will depend on your luck."

"However, please remember that this is a top-secret of our sect. It can't be divulged to outsiders. Those who violate it will be punished!"

"Regardless of success or failure, after you enter the Great Void World, you can return here by silently chanting 'Return to Fish'. I wish you good luck."

Xu Qing's eyes gleamed. He could tell that this ancient voice wasn't only transmitted to him. From the other party's tone, he could tell that it was a voice recording.

Just as Xu Qing was thinking, his eyes suddenly narrowed. He saw an incomparably huge statue of a one-eyed being in the distant void.

There was a gaping hole in the stone statue's chest.

The stone statue's face was blurred, with only its open mouth discernible. From a distance, it looked like the entrance to another world.

The fish Xu Qing was in leaped up and arrived in front of the stone statue.

After the translucent fish's body twitched, it spat out a bubble. Xu Qing's body entered the stone statue's mouth in this bubble.

At the next instant, what appeared in front of Xu Qing was a world that exceeded his imagination.

The world was shrouded in a thin fog, accompanied by eerie whispers that echoed through the mist. What made it even more eerie was a massive white object.

The first thing that caught Xu Qing's attention was creases that were like a wave. After that, it grew larger and larger until the white object was completely revealed.

It was a huge brain!

Not only were there creases on it, but there was also a clear central groove. At the same time, there were two slightly smaller brown cerebellums beside the dark-colored brain stem.

It floated in the fog and one could see veins that looked like blood vessels and nerves under it, like messy tree branches.

This brain wasn't unique in this world of fog.

Xu Qing's pupils contracted. There were a lot of brain trees in the fog. They were all moving in the fog. At that moment, hundreds of them had appeared in his surroundings and there were even more in the depths of the fog.

The overall number couldn't be counted.

Moreover, every brain tree here was squirming and whispering.

"There's another one."

"Shh, lower your voice. Don't scare him away."

"There's another one in the distance. I wonder if they know each other."

"I don't know, but this one looks delicious. I heard that the Void Race is going to war. We have to be careful."

"Come, choose me. Let's sign a contract."

"Do you want to transform into a demon? I can help you achieve it, as long as you... give me a portion of your memories."

"Any memory can be sacrificed to me. As long as I'm satisfied, I'll sign a contract with you."

All the voices seemed to be speaking in a low voice. It was extremely bizarre.

Xu Qing's expression was gloomy. This was the first time he had encountered such a comprehension of a cultivation art. As he coldly looked around, a brain tree floated toward him.

"They're all lying to you and want to eat you up. Sign a contract with me. You just need to raise your hand for me to touch. I only want a small portion of your memories. Give them to me. I'm so hungry. Hurry up and give them to me..."

The brain emitted a mental voice that was filled with desire and greed. As it spoke, the brain was still squirming rapidly.

"Don't believe it. It has deceived many people. Previously, it ate a companion of yours until he lost all his memories and forgot to sign a contract with it."

"Yes, it's very cunning. If you choose me, I'll only eat a little. Give it to me."

"Choose me... I'm so hungry. I want to eat. If you don't give it to me, I won't let you leave!"

The sounds in the surroundings instantly increased. Dozens of brains headed straight for Xu Qing and surrounded him. They revealed desire but also unconcealed malice and greed.

Xu Qing fell silent as he recalled the ancient voice on his way here.

This was a strange fragmented world called the Great Void. One could activate the demon transformation technique by signing a contract with this place. From what he was seeing now, the way to sign a contract was to let one of the brain trees eat a portion of his memories, and moreover, it had to be satisfied.

This was the cunning part. Whether they were satisfied or not, they had the final say.

"Memory..." Xu Qing narrowed his eyes and suddenly looked at the brain that emitted the most malice as he spoke softly.

"I choose you."

As he spoke, Xu Qing lifted his hand.

The constantly squirming brain instantly arrived and touched Xu Qing's palm.

"Then, which memory do you want to give me..." As the voice rang out, an unholy and greedy consciousness headed straight for Xu Qing's mind. However, it didn't seem to be able to take the initiative to choose and needed Xu Qing to release his memory to it.

"I'll give my memories of D132 to you. Let's see if you can remember and taste the things I can't remember." Xu Qing's eyes were cold as he spoke softly.

At the next instant, the brain that came into contact with his palm suddenly trembled.