

Time 551

Chapter 551: I told you to scram!

Shun Long wasn't surprised when he heard this voice and saw the customers instantly stepping to the side and opening a path for 2 middle-aged men and a young man to walk towards them.

He had already scanned the shop with his soul sense from the moment that he entered inside it, and had instantly sensed that 2 men at the peak of rank 5 of the Nascent Soul, as well as a man at the early rank 9 of the Spirit realm who were sitting at the shop's depths together.

Naturally, the 2 men were Dai Lim and Dai Hao, the 2 peak rank 5 Nascent Soul stage cultivators who were now walking towards Shun Long. As for the person who was at the early rank 9 of the Spirit realm, it was obviously the green-robed young man who was walking by their side.

The person who had spoken was actually the middle-aged man on the left. His expression had turned furious when he saw the old man's headless body that was lying on the ground, but the moment he saw Shun Long's yellow robes, his expression instantly changed as he suddenly halted his steps.

The middle-aged man on the right had a similar reaction as well, as he instantly realized that Shun Long must be an outer disciple of the Holy sect.

Even if he was just an early rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator, they knew that they couldn't publicly kill a disciple of the Holy sect in their shop, or there would be no place left for them within the Holy sect's territory.

After all, killing Shun Long privately during a bodyguard mission where no one would find out about it like Su Bao and Su Dong planned to, and killing him in broad daylight inside Yanzhu city were 2 completely different things.

At the end of the day, Yanzhu city was an official city inside the Holy sect's territory, and the 2 families that governed the city deferred to the Holy sect.

The moment that the 2 brothers laid their hands on him, they knew that they were doomed to be chased from the forces of both the Zhu and the Yan family until they died.

At that moment, Dai Lim and Dai Hao seemed to have realized something, as they both turned their heads towards the young man behind them at the same time.

The young man seemed to have also realized what was going on, as he nodded his head towards them with a reassuring expression on his face, before he turned his gaze towards Shun Long.

With a calm look on his face, he took a few steps forward towards him, before he said without a hint of anxiousness or fear in his expression

"It looks like you are an outer disciple of the Holy sect, right? What's your name and which family do you come from? Hmm, based on how low your cultivation is, you must be someone newly admitted to the Holy sect. Is there a feud between you and the Dai brothers or is there some other reason you are here?"

Yan Wen immediately threw a barrage of questions towards Shun Long, completely uncaring of his identity as an outer disciple of the Holy sect.

At that moment, the middle-aged man on his right immediately took a step forward when he heard this, and looking at the green-robed young man next to him he said politely

"Young master Yan Wen, neither I nor Dai Hao have ever met with him before! Maybe he is here because someone has targeted our shop?"

As soon as Dai Lim offered his opinion, Dai Hao nodded hurriedly confirming that they had never met Shun Long before, while the green-robed young man's eyes lit up in realization.

With a calm smile on his face as if he was looking at 3 jumping clowns, Shun Long surprisingly nodded his head before he said

"You are right. There has been a personal mission from the sect that requires you two to die."

As for Yan Wen, he didn't even bother to respond to his questions. Why would Shun Long even pay attention to an early rank 9 Spirit realm cultivator who suddenly starts barraging him with questions?

Dai Lim and Dai Hao's faces instantly paled when they heard Shun Long's answer, unable to conceal the fear on their faces any longer.

Of course, they weren't afraid that Shun Long would kill them, but they were terrified of the fact that the Holy sect had placed a mission on their heads.

This was the same as if a king had issued a royal decree in a mortal kingdom, ordering for a commoner to be sentenced to death!

Even if they didn't kill Shun Long and they somehow managed to send him away peacefully, there would definitely be other powerful disciples of the Holy sect who would come to take their heads in the near future!

Since the mission has already been accepted by the Holy sect, it means that the sect has researched thoroughly about them, and has already confirmed that the 2 brothers deserve to die.

Terrified, they could only turn their heads to look at 'young master Yan' for help, but they saw that his expression had also turned ugly when he heard this news.

Taking a deep breath, Yan Wen calmed himself down, and after throwing a few more looks towards the pleading Dai brothers, he turned his attention back towards Shun Long and waved his hand dismissively before he said seriously

"You can return back to the Holy sect. Dai Hao and Dai Lim are my friends, so they are also friends of my Yan family. I will personally ask my family to take care of this, so there is no need for someone like you to concern yourself with this matter any longer."

Dai Lim and Dai Hao both heaved a sigh of relief when they got 'young master Yan's' promise that he would deal with this, but young master Yan's expression was still ugly.

It was obvious that dealing with a personal mission of the Holy sect wasn't something easy to do, otherwise he wouldn't have turned so serious when he heard this.

Seeing that Shun Long had yet to leave and instead he was staring at him like he was looking at an idiot, Yan Wen's expression instantly turned ugly as he took another step forward in a threatening manner and said furiously

"Didn't you hear me? I TOLD YOU TO SCRAM!"

Chapter 552: Fighting 2 peak rank 5 Nascent Soul stage cultivators

At that moment, Shun Long's expression finally changed as a sudden wave of bloodlust erupted from his body, one that made the furious young master of the Yan family to take a few steps back in shock!

Shun Long however didn't stop, as he circulated his 'Monarch's Hourglass' to the extreme before he activated his second 'Monarch's Domain'.

The flow of time around his body instantly increased by many times, increasing his speed explosively, as Shun Long suddenly took a step forward and appeared right in front of the green-robed Yan Wen before Dai Lim and Dai Hao had even realized what was going on.

"What????"

The 2 brothers didn't even see when Shun Long had made his move, but in less than a single second, he had actually appeared in front of Yan Wen!

Extending his right hand forward with an ice-cold look on his face, Shun Long grabbed Yan Wen from the throat and lifted him up like he was lifting a chicken.

His body that was radiating endless killing intent made the green-robed young master of the Yan family tremble in shock.

He had never expected that someone would dare to land their hands on him inside Yanzhu city after he had given them his name!

"Brat! Let go of young master Yan!"

"Bastard how dare you? Quickly, let young master Yan go, or you will die without a complete corpse."

Turning his head to the side, Shun Long stared at Dai Lim and Dai Hao who were hurling threats towards him, but not only did he not let Yan Wen go, but he even clenched his hand lightly

"AAAAAAAAGHHHHH! HELP!"

Yan Wen's screams resounded throughout the shop, causing Dai Lim and Dai Hao to stare at Shun Long with furious gazes but not daring to take a single step towards him.

If something happened to Yan Wen there would be no one who could deal with the Holy sect's mission that targeted their heads.

"No! If something really happens to young master Yan, forget about the Holy sect's mission, before someone from the Holy sect even comes here, the Yan family will definitely take our heads first!"

As they came to this conclusion, the 2 brothers didn't know what to do as they looked at each other fearfully.

They knew that Shun Long was just an early rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator and they could kill him within a few seconds, but Yan Wen was already in his hands.

Even if they moved forward to kill Shun Long right now, he would be able to snap Yan Wen's neck before they managed to touch him.

Unfortunately for the 2 brothers, Shun Long didn't give a shit about them, as he stared at Yan Wen with the same cold look on his face, before he asked him

"Scram? Who the fuck are you to tell me to scram? Didn't I tell you to fuck off this shop or I will bury you along with it? Since you refused to leave... then you can die here!"

Crack!

Without another word Shun Long clenched his right hand tightly, snapping Yan Wen's neck without any hesitation.

A deathly silence instantly filled the interior of the shop as everyone inside it, regardless if it was Dai Lim, Dai Hao, or the remaining customers who had tried to escape previously, all looked at Shun Long with looks of disbelief on their faces.

"YOU BASTARD!"

"Are you crazy?"

Dai Hao and Dai Lim were the first ones to react, as they shouted at Shun Long with looks of fury as well as terror in their eyes!

They couldn't believe that he was crazy enough to actually kill Yan Wen when he had already mentioned that he came from the Yan family. And the worst part was, that he did this inside their own shop! No matter what, Dai Hao and Dai Lim would both be hunted down by the Yan family after today for failing to protect Yan Wen inside their shop.

At that moment, Dai Lim and Dai Hao's eyes both turned red as they turned to look at each other and nodded their heads simultaneously.

Dai Lim was the first one to make a move, as he suddenly took out a small dagger from his robes and rushed towards Shun Long, while his dagger aimed for the side of his throat.

As for Dai Hao, a 1.6m(5.2ft) long saber appeared in his hand, before he attacked Shun Long from the other side.

Shun Long's golden eyes instantly lit up, before he activated his original 'Monarch's Domain', immediately slowing down the speed of the 2 brothers by almost half.

However, although Dai Hao and Dai Lim's speed was reduced by almost half, the same couldn't be said about the rest of the customers inside the shop who were now in a frozen-like state.

Naturally, since even the strongest of them was only at the peak of rank 2 in the Nascent Soul, they were unable to resist Shun Long's 'Monarch's Domain' that forcibly halted the flow of time around their bodies.

Inside his domain, Shun Long was truly a king!

He could feel that as his comprehension of his Dao of Time increased, even his control of his 'Monarch's Domain', as well as its radius had started to increase as well. Shun Long believed that after he broke through to the Dao King realm successfully, his Dao of Time would obtain a qualitative change.

Staring at the attacks of the 2 brothers that were now at half of their original speed, Shun Long waved his hand, causing a pitch-black sword to appear in front of him.

Just as Dai Lim's dagger was about to reach him, Shun Long held the black sword and used blink, as he suddenly disappeared from Dai Lim's eyes.

"Brother! Behind you!"

Dai Hao shouted in horror after seeing that Shun Long had suddenly appeared behind his brother, while even Dai Lim's eyes widened after seeing that his dagger had failed to hit Shun Long's throat!

However, before Dai Lim could even respond, Shun Long slashed his black sword horizontally towards Dai Lim's waist. The peak rank 5 Nascent Soul stage expert's body was instantly cleaved in half, before it collapsed on the ground under Dai Hao's horrified eyes!

Chapter 553: Killing everyone

"BROTHER!!"

Dai Hao screamed loudly in despair when he saw Dai Lim's body lying on the ground in front of him. Unfortunately for him, Shun Long's slash hadn't just destroyed Dai Lim's body, but it had completely destroyed his soul as well, instantly killing the peak rank 5 Nascent Soul stage cultivator.

"Let's die together then!"

A look of madness suddenly appeared inside Dai Hao's eyes as he looked at Shun Long who was standing just a few meters in front of him, before he started to madly gather his energy inside his dantian.

Indeed, he was trying to explode himself, just like the leader of the 'Dark Blade guild', Tan Duyi, had done back in the 'Night star continent'.

Shun Long still remembered how Tan Duyi's explosion had managed to hurt even Little Silver back then, causing his wings to be filled with its blood!

Instantly realizing what Dai Hao was trying to do, Shun Long's serious gaze was fully focused on him, as he mumbled to himself in an inaudible voice

"Time Prison."

Shun Long could feel more than 40 percent of his qi being sapped in an instant, as he forcibly stopped the flow of time around Dai Hao, placing him in a temporary time prison!

Holding his black sword with both hands he then used blink for a second time, appearing right in front of the 'frozen' Dai Hao, before he slashed his black sword horizontally towards his abdomen.

A rain of blood soon followed suit, as Dai Hao's body was slashed in half by Shun Long's sword slash, before he collapsed on the ground barely a moment later.

Another peak rank 5 Nascent Soul cultivator died in just a single slash!

There was no mercy inside Shun Long's eyes as he slowly turned his attention towards the remaining customers inside the shop who were still under the effects of his 'Monarch's Domain'.

In the blink of an eye, 7 more corpses appeared inside the shop, lying on the ground right next to the Dai Lim, Dai Hao, and the green-robed young master Yan Wen.

After gathering their spatial rings, Shun Long stopped his 'Monarch's Domain', allowing the flow of time inside the shop to return to normal.

The slaves inside the shop who were also affected by the 'Monarch's Domain' as well, were all stunned when they saw the Dai Lim and Dai Hao's corpses on the ground right next to Yan Wen's, before they turned their attention towards the yellow-robed young man who was standing at the center of the shop.

Some of the slaves even thought that they were dreaming for a moment, unable to truly believe the scene in front of their eyes, but the thick scent of blood that had filled the shop made them realize that this was anything but a dream.

Using the black sword in his hands, Shun Long freed every single one of the slaves that were inside the shop, before he turned around and stepped past the shop's entrance, freeing the remaining slaves who were standing outside as well.

Regardless if it was the qi condensation rookies or the Nascent Soul stage cultivators, every single one of the slaves looked at him with gazes filled with respect, reverence, and gratefulness.

Only after those people had lost their freedom and were put to be sold as slaves by Dai Lim and Dai Hao, after being humiliated over and over again while enduring those gazes that looked at them as if they were nothing more than an item for sale, did they finally realize the cruelty of this world.

Shun Long ignored their reverent gazes of those people, and pointing at the distance ahead of them he then said

"You are no longer slaves, but if you allow yourselves to be caught again, I doubt that you will be freed a second time."

More than 30 cultivators all bowed towards Shun Long, before they turned around and started to run as far as possible. Especially those who were inside the shop and had seen Shun Long kill Yan Wen. They knew it was only a matter of time until the Yan family got wind of it.

However, there were some who didn't run right away, and looking at the yellow-robed young man in front of them, they steeled their hearts and walked towards him before one of them said cautiously

"Senior, that... young master Yan Wen that you killed... is really from the Yan family of Yanzhu city. The Yan family is one of the 2 biggest families in the city and they control the city alongside the Zhu family. As for young master Yan Wen, he was someone who visited Dai Hao's and Dai Lim's shop very often, and we have even heard that his father is one of the Elders of the Yan family! Even if senior is really a disciple of the Holy sect, if you don't have a powerful backing you will definitely be chased down by the Yan family! Also... thank you for saving us!"

Since Shun Long hadn't activated his first 'Monarch's Domain' before he had killed Yan Wen, every single one of the slaves inside the shop had witnessed the terrifying sight that had taken place inside it.

Thus, although these people were afraid and wanted to leave this place as quickly as possible, they still grouped together and informed Shun Long of the incoming danger.

Surprisingly, Shun Long actually smiled at them and said

"Don't worry, I already figured as much from the beginning. However, it still doesn't matter. His identity makes no difference in my eyes."

"But... he is from the Yan family!"

Those people couldn't understand why Shun Long would still dare to save them and kill Yan Wen after knowing of his identity. No matter what, they were still inside Yanzhu city. Killing Yan Wen in this place was no different than declaring war on the Yan family.

At that moment, the look on Shun Long's face turned serious as he continued

"The Yan family? So what? Is there a reason for me to be afraid of the Yan family inside Yanzhu city when I am a disciple of the Holy sect? This is still the Holy sect's territory in the end. Killing Dai Lim and Dai Hao was also a mission issued by the Holy sect itself, so why would a disciple of the Holy sect simply leave, just because Yan Wen ordered him to do so?

However, even if I wasn't a disciple of the Holy sect, I would still kill him all the same today!"

Chapter 554: Leaving Yanzhu city

The freed slaves around him, all looked at Shun Long incredulously when they heard his last sentence, but Shun Long didn't seem to be willing to explain anything else, as he turned his attention towards the small shop in front of him.

Now that every single slave had been freed, there was no reason for Dai Lim's and Dai Hao's shop to remain standing.

Holding his black, star-rank sword in his hand, Shun Long raised it above his head and infused his qi inside it, before he slashed it forward, unleashing a powerful black-colored slash.

Although the protective formations around the shop automatically activated themselves as soon as the 'Thundergod's slash' landed on the shop's outer walls, they only managed to last for a single second before they were destroyed.

The entire shop was instantly razed to the ground, causing all of the passersby to stare at Shun Long with gazes full of shock and fear. This was even more so once they noticed that he was just an early rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator.

Even some of the middle stage Nascent Soul cultivators from the crowd couldn't help but shiver after feeling the power of that sword slash which destroyed Dai Lim's and Dai Hao's shop, and were uncertain if they would be able to block it if they were the ones to face it instead.

"Who is this guy? Isn't that Dai Lim's shop that he attacked? Someone really dared to destroy his shop?"

"The slave trader Dai Lim? How is this possible? I heard that he has already obtained the protection of the Yan family, which was why he hadn't been arrested even when he and his brother abducted a woman in broad daylight a couple of weeks ago!"

"Is this guy crazy? Not only does he dare to mess with those 2 inhuman slave traders, but he actually attacked a shop protected by the Yan family?"

"No! Look at his robes! Aren't those the robes of an outer disciple of the Holy sect?"

A few people from the crowd seemed to have recognized Shun Long's robes, making the discussions around them instantly turn even more fervent.

Shun Long however simply ignored the people around him and the curious gazes that they were shooting towards him, as he raised his hand and slashed the air in front of him, opening a 2m(6.6ft) long space tear.

Under the dumbfounded gazes of the crowd, he then stepped inside the space tear before he disappeared.

As he appeared close to the city gates a moment later, Shun Long walked towards them with an unhurried pace. Since he had already killed Dai Hao and Dai Lim and completely destroyed their shop, there was no reason for him to stay in Yanzhu city any longer. He was planning to return back to the Holy city and train himself in the Dao Tower until he met Liu Mei and the rest back in the Holy sect.

As for killing Yan Wen during this mission, Shun Long was completely unfazed by it even after hearing that he was actually the son of an Elder of the Yan family.

There was no way that Shun Long would simply turn around and leave from the city just because Yan Wen had ordered him to 'scram' out of the shop. Although he didn't know what kind of influence the Yan family had inside the Holy sect, he honestly didn't care about it either.

Shun Long hadn't joined the Holy sect simply so he could lay low and slowly grow bidding his time.

He knew that his own faction alone, was going to offend many people inside the sect, especially when they joined the faction wars and started to climb in the faction rankings. Thus, from the beginning, he wasn't planning to stay low-key inside the sect.

After all, every single one of his faction members aside from himself, had actually been accepted as personal disciples by inner court Elders!

Once word of this started to spread within the sect, many powerful outer disciples would start turning their attention towards him, including some of those disciples who belonged to the top 100 factions.

In front of that, what the hell was the son of a single Elder from the Yan family?

Although Shun Long didn't know how strong this family really was, he knew that it was definitely nothing compared to the top families who lived inside the Holy city.

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At the same time that Shun Long was walking past the city gates, inside a luxurious mansion at the heart of the city, a white-haired old man dressed in green robes was sitting in front of a marble table, with a purple-robed middle-aged man sitting opposite to him.

The marble table only had 2 cups of wine and a single wine flask on top of it.

The white-haired old man had a bright smile on his face as he grabbed the flask of wine from the table and filled both the cups to the brim, before he looked at the middle-aged man sitting opposite to him and said

"Brother Yan, haven't you always wanted to drink my 'purple nectar wine'? Hehe, then let this elder brother share it with you today since I happen to be in a good mood."

The middle-aged man whom the white-haired old man called as 'brother Yan' snorted in response when he heard the old man's words, and looking at him with an envious look on his face he then said

"Senior Zhu, didn't you just call me here today to brag? Would you have shared your 'purple nectar wine' with me today if it wasn't for your grandson entering the top 600 places in the Martial Roll of Honor inside the Holy sect?"

The white-haired old man started laughing boisterously when he heard this, his joyous laughter resounding throughout the entire room as he nodded his head and said

"Hahaha! Indeed, this old man is truly blessed to have such a grandson! However, there is no need to worry. Once your son enters the Holy sect, I will personally tell Guanyu to take care of him."

Chapter 555: Yan Ning's fury

The middle-aged man's face instantly brightened when he heard this, as he laughed and emptied his cup of wine before he said in an overjoyed tone

"Then I must thank senior in advance! I have heard that Zhu Guanyu has already reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul and he can nearly fight against an early-rank 1 Dao King head-on. I am sure it's only a matter of a time until he enters the top 500 rankings of the sect as well. Perhaps in the future he will even be able to match geniuses like Zhu Rong from your Zhu family!"

The white-haired old man had a proud smile on his face when he heard so many praises for his grandson, but as soon as the name Zhu Rong was brought up, he simply shook his head and sighed before he answered in a tone that was filled with disappointment

"Although there are some chances for Guanyu to enter the top 500 rankings, it will be impossible for him to go any higher if he doesn't breakthrough to the Dao King realm! Geniuses like Zhu Rong are simply monsters in human skin who have also received the best resources of the clan. It is simply impossible for Guanyu to compete with the heir of the clan. You should understand this too since your family's Yan Bai is no different."

The white-haired old man sighed as he said this, while a look of envy also appeared in the middle-aged man's eyes when the name Yan Bai was mentioned.

At that moment, just as the old man in purple robes was about to drink his wine as well, the door of the room was suddenly opened, as a young man in green robes entered inside, along with 2 middle-aged men in purple robes who were following after him.

The white-haired old man of the Zhu family and the green-robed middle-aged man from the Yan family both turned their eyes towards the green-robed young man with stern looks on their faces, before the old man turned his eyes towards his 2 guards who seemed to have allowed the green-robed young man inside like that.

However, before the old man questioned his guards, the green-robed young man looked at the middle-aged man from the Yan family and knelt on the floor, before he said in a voice that was filled with dread

"El-Elder Yan Ning! Something terrible happened!"

The middle-aged man's from the Yan family, Yan Ning's eyebrows were raised when he heard the alarmed tone in the green-robed young man's voice, but the young man didn't care as he continued speaking with a face filled with horror

"I-It's Elder's son. Young master Yan Wen's life jade has... it has shattered!"

Yan Ning's face instantly paled when he heard this, while even the white-haired old man from the Zhu family stared at the young man who had entered the room with eyes filled with shock.

Was this a joke? How could Yan Wen's life jade shatter when he was still inside Yanzhu city? Would someone really dare to touch him inside Yanzhu city?

The life jade was a magical jade that the geniuses of the powerful families in the central region used, so that their family would know of their condition and if they were alive or if a mishap had actually happened. Everyone clearly understood that a life jade shattering could only mean one thing! That the person whom the life jade belonged to had actually perished!

If the young man in front of them wasn't wearing the robes of the Yan family, the white-haired old man from the Zhu family would have never believed what he had just heard.

As for Elder Yan Ning, his hands had started to tremble, causing the empty cup of wine to fall from his hand and shatter into countless pieces upon touching the ground. And yet, Yan Ning didn't seem to have noticed this as his eyes kept staring at the young man in front of him while a gaze that was filled with killing intent that he was unable to suppress, causing his aura at the Dao King realm to erupt from his body and shake the entire room!

The white-haired man from the Zhu family shook his head and looked at the green-robed young man who was kneeling on the floor before he asked

"What was Yan Wen's last location?"

The green-robed young man who was unable to even lift his head from the floor due to Yan Ning's overpowering aura that was now suffocating him, finally raised his head with extreme difficulty and looked at the elder of the Zhu family before he answered fearfully

"I-I heard that young master went to Dai Lim and Dai Hao's slave shop! I don't know if the young master left their shop or if something happened there!"

Yan Ning stood up from his seat while his gaze that was filled with endless killing intent was instantly focused towards the east of the city, almost as if he was trying to look past the buildings in front of him and have his gaze land directly on Dai Hao's and Dai Lim's shop as he mumbled to himself

"Dai Lim and Dai Hao's shop? Those bastards failed to protect Wen'er when he was visiting their shop? I will personally cut their heads off if they are still alive! As for the person who dared to touch my son... I will destroy your entire family no matter who you are!"

Turning his gaze towards the green-robed young man who was looking at him with the same look of dread as before, Yan Ning then said in a frosty tone that seemed to be able to chill the hearts of anyone who heard it

"Lock down the entire city! Don't let anyone leave!"

Without saying another word, Yan Ning didn't even bid farewell to the white-haired old man from the Zhu family before he soared in the sky, destroying the roof of the room without any hesitation as he flew towards the east of the city at full speed!

The people of Yanzhu city trembled when they sense the furious Dao King who was flying in the sky and was radiating endless killing intent, as they all understood that something extremely big must have happened, something that would probably affect the entire Yanzhu city!

Chapter 556: Returning to the Holy city

At the same time that the entire Yanzhu city was about to be engulfed in a storm, Shun Long had already walked past the city gates a few moments ago, as he headed towards the 'Flame Lion's' canyon right away.

Since he had no other reason to stay in Yanzhu city now that he had completed both of the missions that he had accepted from the Assignment Hall, there was no way that Shun Long would simply stay there when the Elders of the Yan family would be looking for him after he had killed Yan Wen.

Although Shun Long wasn't afraid that they would dare to do anything publicly to a disciple of the Holy sect, as that would be equivalent to the Yan family attacking the prestige of the sect itself, returning back to the Holy city was still the most important thing to do right now since he planned to spend the remaining 2 weeks within the Dao Tower advancing his comprehension of his Dao of Time. Thus there was no way that he would simply waste his time fighting with the people from the Yan family. Besides, it was very likely that the Yan family had more than a handful of Dao Kings, so fighting with them without even Little Silver by his side was impossible just yet even if he wanted to.

Naturally, Shun Long wouldn't take the long way around that would take him nearly a month to return back to the Holy city. There were only 20 days left until he met Liu Mei and the rest in front of the Holy sect's gates, and if he really spent the remaining 20 days traveling, he wouldn't be able to even make it back in time to the Holy sect, let alone train in the Dao Tower inside the Holy city like he was planning to.

Even though the 'Flame Lion's' canyon was said to be extremely dangerous and it was rumored to even have rank 6 magic beasts inside it, now that Shun Long wouldn't have to protect Ying Gui and keep his carriages safe during the journey, crossing the canyon would be much easier.

After all, even if Shun Long met with peak rank 5 magic beasts again, even if they were beasts who had stronger mental defenses than the peak rank 5 'Red-furred bear' that he had met the last time and couldn't be taken care of in one hit, he was still confident that he could injure them heavily with the poison he had concocted from the 'Soul poisoning hell grass' and kill them all the same.

Of course, if he was unlucky enough to meet with any rank 6 magic beasts, there was no way that Shun Long would even think of fighting them. He knew that it was impossible to harm them even if he threw all his remaining bottles of poison towards them. The only thing that he could do was try to run as far away as he could from them.

After all, the difference between a peak rank 5 and an early rank 6 magic beast was an enormous one!

"I only have 6 more bottles filled with the poison from the 'Soul poisoning hell grass', but they should still be enough to allow me to cross the canyon even if I meet with 2 or 3 peak rank 5 magic beasts."

With this thought in mind, Shun Long no longer held back, as he ran at full speed, leaving Yanzhu behind him to disappear in the distance.

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After running for almost 3 hours, Shun Long quickly arrived back at the canyon's entrance.

Although it had taken him 10 hours to reach Yanzhu city from the 'Flame Lion's' canyon the first time when he was riding the carriage that Ying Gui's 'Ironhide cows' were pulling, in the end, the 'Ironhide cows' were still rank 4 magic beasts. Even if they were running at full speed, they could never be compared to Shun Long's own speed.

As soon as he stepped foot inside the canyon, Shun Long immediately circulated his 'Monarch's Hourglass', causing his eyes to turn golden at the same time, before he headed towards the canyon's depths right away. He knew that he was less than 30 minutes away from the spot where he had killed the peak rank 5 'Red-furred bear' a day ago.

Even though this place was still considered to be extremely dangerous since it was still within the depths of the canyon, as long as no rank 6 magic beasts showed up, Shun Long was confident to take on even peak rank 5 beasts, which was why he dared to step foot inside the canyon by himself.

However, even most peak rank 9 Nascent Soul stage experts wouldn't usually enter the depths of the canyon by themselves without a large and powerful group, unless they were extremely desperate to cross the canyon as soon as possible!

A little more than half an hour soon passed before Shun Long arrived at the same spot where he had killed the peak rank 5 'Red-furred bear' one day ago.

Surprisingly, the bear's blood that had fallen on the ground back then had yet to dry, even after an entire day had gone by, and it had actually formed a small pool of blood on the ground instead.

Ignoring the small pool of blood however, Shun Long followed the same path that he and Ying Gui had followed the first time, as he headed towards the other end of the canyon.

Activating the second 'Monarch's Domain', Shun Long's speed instantly increased by many folds, causing his body to look like a streak of yellow lightning covered with a faint blue light as he coursed through the 'Flame Lion's canyon'.

Surprisingly, only a handful of peak rank 4 and early rank 5 magic beasts attacked him on the way, and every single one of them was destroyed in the blink of an eye.

Although the early rank 5 magic beasts were a bit trickier to handle, they were still taken care of easily as soon as Shun Long took out the black sword from the 'Stone of Time'.

In the end, not even a single one of those magic beasts managed to last more than 2 hits, and finally, an hour later, Shun Long arrived at the other end of the canyon.

Chapter 557: Returning to the Holy city (2)

The moment that he walked out of the canyon, Shun Long saw another group standing outside, staring warily at the canyon's entrance.

This group seemed similar to Ying Gui's group, with 2 small carriages and a group of over 10 guards that had completely surrounded the carriages, protecting them from all sides.

The guards all had solemn looks on their faces as they stared at the entrance of the canyon, as if they were still debating whether to enter or not.

Shun Long also noticed that most of the guards seemed to be at the early stages of the Nascent Soul, while 2 of them were actually at the early rank 4 and the peak rank 4 of the Nascent Soul respectively.

At the same time that Shun Long walked out of the 'Flame Lion's' canyon and turned his gaze towards them, the 12 guards all turned to look in his direction as well, staring at him with gazes filled with incredulity and shock.

"Did that guy really just exit the 'Flame Lion's' canyon by himself? This... don't tell me that he made it out coming from the other side..."

"Idiot, what are you even thinking about? Can't you see that he is just an early rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator? He probably just entered the canyon and walked around the outskirts before coming out again."

The first guard nodded his head when he heard his friend's words as he realized that they actually made more sense than his own guess.

Indeed, even they needed a group of 12 people and more than ample preparations just to have a chance to pass through the 'Flame Lion's' canyon. Could an early rank 3 Nascent Soul stage cultivator even survive if he entered inside by himself? Even reaching the depths of the canyon would be a far-fetched dream.

Shun Long however completely ignored the guards' hushed discussions, and soaring in the sky, he headed directly for the Holy city.

Naturally, Shun Long wouldn't keep his second 'Monarch's Domain' active after leaving the 'Flame Lion's' canyon, or even with his own qi reserves, he knew that it would only be a matter of time until he was completely exhausted.

...

2 days later, after flying at full speed without taking a break, Shun Long saw the familiar outline of an enormous city appearing in the distance, along with a gigantic mountain towering right above the city, whose peak pierced high above the clouds.

Shun Long's lips curved up when he saw the sight in front of him, as he flew towards the bustling city without any hesitation.

The line in front of the city gates was no different than 10 days ago, with thousands of cultivators queueing up one after the other, as well as hundreds of carriages waiting in line.

In front of the Holy city that had tens of thousands of cultivators entering and leaving every single day, Yanzhu city really seemed like an abandoned small village in comparison.

Unlike the last time however, Shun Long didn't wait in front of the city gates along with the rest of the people who were queueing up, and flew towards the city gates right away.

Although some people were shocked when they saw someone skipping the queue, to most of them this was a natural occurrence that they had seen far too many times to care about.

Forget about the disciples of the Holy sect, even the descendants of the powerful families and clans that lived inside the city didn't have to wait in the queue and could enter the city directly.

Although most people were angry at those big families and clans who were abusing their power to do this, no one complained if the disciples of the Holy sect had at least this much preferential treatment.

Indeed, as soon as the city guards saw Shun Long approaching the gates, they simply bowed before they stepped aside, allowing him to enter the city, just like they did with any other outer court disciple of the Holy sect.

Staring at the city in front of him that was overflowing with life, just like the last time that he was here, with countless street stalls and shops everywhere around him trying to promote their goods, Shun Long headed for the heart of the city right away.

Although Shun Long was planning to enter the Dao Tower and spend the following 2 weeks trying to increase his comprehension in his Dao of Time before he returned back to the Holy sect, he first planned to take a look at the 'White tiger chamber of commerce' that he didn't visit the last time and see if they truly had any rare rank 6 medicinal herbs for sale along with anything else.

Finally, 3 hours later, after walking around the center of the city where most of the biggest shops were located, Shun Long saw a massive building that seemed to have been made from pure white jade, with the words 'White Tiger chamber of commerce' written above its entrance.

The building wasn't as tall as the gigantic Dao Tower that spanned for more than 3.000 meters(9850ft) in the sky, but the area it covered was much wider, enough to fit 5 more Dao Towers inside it.

At the same time, Shun Long saw hundreds of cultivators entering and leaving the building at all times, but unlike the Dao Tower, there was no queue to enter inside.

Following the crowd, Shun Long had a look of curiosity on his face as he walked past the building's entrance and entered inside.

However, the scene that appeared in Shun Long's eyes the moment that he entered inside didn't look like the interior of a building, but like a whole new city instead.? A sea of cultivators appeared in his eyes regardless of where he focused his gaze at, all of them standing in front of the hundreds of counters and looking at the items inside that were put on display.

Chapter 558: White tiger chamber of commerce

Walking around the enormous hall, Shun Long started to take a look at the counters around him to see the items that they sold, but he was soon left disappointed when he realized that most of them were meant for cultivators at the qi condensation stage and the earth grade.

Whether it was the rank 1 and rank 2 pills and medicinal herbs that were for sale, or the bronze grade weapons and armor along with the yellow-grade martial skills and cultivation techniques, none of them would be used by anyone above the earth grade.

Of course, Shun Long quickly realized that this made sense as well. As an enormous city that easily housed tens of millions of cultivators, it wasn't possible for the Holy city to only have cultivators at the Nascent Soul stage and above. It was only natural that there would be hundreds of thousands if not more cultivators at the Qi condensation stage and the earth grade as well.

As for the 'White tiger chamber of commerce', it seemed that they didn't just deal with high-level cultivators but they had practically everything that one would need, regardless of their cultivation stage!

After taking one more look at this floor and making sure that there was nothing in this place that would interest even average Spirit realm cultivators, Shun Long turned his attention towards the large staircase at the end of the hall that many others walked to and from as well.

Entering the second floor, Shun Long saw another sea of cultivators inside it, but their numbers were much fewer compared to the sheer amount of people that were present on the first floor.

However, barely 15 minutes later, Shun Long realized that this floor was only filled with rank 3 and rank 4 medicinal herbs and pills, as well as silver-grade weapons and armor, none of which were of any use to the current him.

As for the Mystic low-grade and middle-grade cultivation and martial skills, Shun Long didn't even glance at them, as he walked towards the large staircase that led to the third floor.

Thankfully, the moment that he stepped foot onto this floor, Shun Long understood that he had finally come to the right place. Although this floor seemed to have less than 1000 people present, with just a look around he realized, that rank 5 and rank 6 medicinal herbs and pills were bountiful here.

At the same time, rank 1 to rank 3 gold-grade weapons and armor were placed openly for display for anyone who wished to purchase them. Although peak rank 3 gold-grade weapons were few and far between, some of them were also placed for sale on this floor as well.

As for the cultivation techniques and martial skills here, every single one of them seemed to be at the Mystic high-grade, but there wasn't a single one of them at the Saint-grade or above.

Without any hesitation, Shun Long started to stroll around the floor, purchasing every single herb that caught his interest.

In less than 1 hour, he had actually spent more than 1 million 340.000 middle-grade spirit stones, as he purchased more than 20 rank 6 medicinal herbs along with a handful of supplementary rank 5 ones that he was lacking.

With the 180.000 middle-grade spirit stones that he had found inside Dai Lim and Dai Hao's spatial rings as well as the 300.000 that Yan Wen was carrying inside his own spatial ring, Shun Long had 2 million and 355.000 middle-grade spirit stones before he entered the 'White tiger chamber of commerce'.

After spending more than 1 million and 340.000 all at once, he was left with just 1 million and 15.000 in the end.

However, even though he had spent more than half of his spirit stones in one go, the only thing that Shun Long felt regretful for, was that there weren't more rank 6 medicinal herbs available to buy.

In this past 1 hour, he had actually emptied the entire third floor off of rank 6 medicinal herbs all by himself, leaving behind groups of employees and other cultivators who were staring at him with their eyes wide-open.

Even a few rank 6 herbs that no one else wanted to buy due to their low maturity age which would make them unsuitable for pill refinement, they were also bought by Shun Long with a smile on his face, feeling that he had made a killing this time, while completely ignoring the gazes of the people around him.

After all, it was common knowledge to every alchemist that medicinal herbs had their own ages as well, and unless a herb's maturity age had reached a certain level, it would be almost impossible for someone to use it and refine pills.

Even if an alchemist really used such a herb, he would only be able to produce low-grade or middle-grade pills at most, making the herb's value plummet in everyone's eyes.

However, Shun Long didn't care about immature herbs in the slightest, as he hoarded every single rank 6 one that appeared in front of him.

Naturally, why would he care about rank 6 medicinal herbs when he could speed up the herbs' growth inside his herb garden in the 'Stone of Time'?

The rank 6 medicinal herbs that everyone else saw as trash were actually herbs that could easily be sold for 100,000 middle-grade spirit stones if they were mature, and yet Shun Long actually got them for less than half of that price.

Finally, after completely emptying the floor of every single rank 6 medicinal herb in sight, a single thought abruptly appeared in his mind

"Since the first floor corresponds to cultivators at the Qi condensation and those at the earth grade, while the second floor is meant for those who are still at the Heaven grade and those at the Spirit realm... then, since the third floor is meant for Nascent Soul stage and Dao King realm cultivators, is the fourth floor actually meant for Dao Emperors and above?"

At the same time that this thought appeared in his mind, Shun Long turned his attention towards the large staircase at the end of the hall. However, the moment that he did that, Shun Long saw 2 guards clad in golden armor actually blocking the staircase, each of them holding the hilt of a large greatsword.

The most shocking thing however was actually the aura coming from the guards' bodies! These guards were actually rank 9 Dao King realm experts!

Chapter 559: Entering the Dao Tower once again

The aura coming from the guards deterred everyone from approaching even a single step towards the staircase that was leading to the next floor.

This made Shun Long suspect that if one wanted to step foot on that staircase, then that person needed to be at least a Dao King realm expert whose strength was nearing the peak of the Dao King realm.

At the same time, he was also extremely surprised that there were actually 2 rank 9 Dao Kings inside the 'White tiger chamber of commerce', guarding the entrance of the next floor.

Even in the Holy sect, the 2 white-robed Elders who were guarding the entrance of the sect were just peak rank 9 Dao Kings as well.

Although the guards' aura wasn't at the same level as the 2 Elders of the Holy sect, making it obvious that they weren't peak rank 9 Dao Kings just yet, just the presence of these 2 rank 9 Dao Kings acting as guards was enough to scare anyone below the Dao Emperor realm.

"This 'White tiger chamber of commerce' must have a very deep background to be able to employ 2 rank 9 Dao Kings and have them work for them like this!"

Although Shun Long didn't know how strong this famous chamber of commerce really was, he could guess that their strength was probably not too inferior compared to the Holy sect! After all, even the most powerful families and clans within the Holy sect's territory wouldn't be able to use rank 9 Dao Kings to work as guards.

Seeing that there was nothing else left for him to buy from this floor, Shun Long turned around and walked back towards the first floor.

Of course, although he too wanted to enter the fourth floor and have a look at the items there, he had already noticed how everyone else on the third floor was staring at the fourth floor's entrance with the same excited looks on their faces.

However, a single look from the rank 9 Dao Kings who were guarding it quickly made those people change their minds, as they realized that that would be impossible for them to enter unless they reached the peak of the Dao King realm.

Walking out from the 'White tiger chamber of commerce' Shun Long remained standing for a few moments, as he turned his gaze towards the enormous black tower in the distance that he could clearly see even from his current location, before he walked straight towards it.

Since both the 'White tiger chamber of commerce' and the Dao Tower were located at the heart of the Holy city, it only took a few minutes for Shun Long to reach the colossal black tower. Just like the last time, as soon as he arrived here, Shun Long once again saw the huge queue in front of the Dao Tower, as hundreds of cultivators waited to enter.

Half an hour later, it was Shun Long's turn to enter the tower.? This time, he didn't need any help from the receptionists at the entrance, as he headed straight towards the third floor, since every single room in both the first and the second floor seemed to be already taken.

After choosing a random room and placing 5.000 middle-grade spirit stones inside the holes on the door, a deep rumbling sound was heard as the door started to automatically open by itself.

A room that was filled with nothing but darkness once again appeared in Shun Long's eyes, as he entered inside without any hesitation.

At the same time that he entered inside, the door of the room was closed, completely isolating Shun Long from the outside.

Waving his hand, he then took out a small orange token from the 'Stone of Time' and placed it by his side, before a small smile was formed on his lips.

Shun Long knew that he was just a step away from entering the red rank and he probably could reach it with just a few more wins, however, his goal wasn't the red rank but the opponents at the peak of the Nascent Soul stage and even the early stage Dao Kings as well.

Although he didn't know how he would fare against Dao King realm opponents using just his own comprehension of the Dao just yet, since he already knew that entering the Dao King realm meant a qualitative change especially in one's Dao, Shun Long was still eager to face a Dao King realm expert and see where he stood and how big the difference between them really was.

And yet, to fight against late-stage and even peak stage Nascent Soul stage opponents as well as Dao Kings, Shun Long had already guessed that he would need to reach at least the peak of the red rank if not the purple rank!

Right now he was still at the peak of the orange rank, and Shun Long had already noticed that the difficulty to rank up increased with every rank that he advanced.

"It doesn't matter how many fights I will need to fight. I doubt that it will take more than a week to reach the purple rank! There are still 16 days left until I return back to the Holy sect, so it should be more than enough!"

With these thoughts in mind, Shun Long sat down cross-legged on the ground and first scanned the room with his soul sense to make sure that he was alone.

Then, he closed his eyes and sent his soul sense towards the bright orange token of the Dao Tower that he had placed next to him, voluntarily connecting his consciousness with it.

The moment that his soul sense entered the token, Shun Long could feel his surroundings rapidly changing, as just like the last time, the feeling of losing control of his own body once again sprouted in his heart.

This time however, Shun Long was already prepared so he didn't feel startled by this change.

Finally, a couple moments later, he opened his eyes as he found himself inside a familiar, huge palace hall, while the figure of a young woman that was dressed in red robes was standing opposite to him.

Chapter 560: Two weeks

A week passed by in the blink of an eye, as the figure of a middle-aged man that was standing in front of Shun Long started to turn into motes of light and slowly disappear from the palace hall.

At the same time that the old man disappeared, some of the motes of light that were forming his body didn't dissipate in the air, and instead, they started to gather around Shun Long before they were absorbed inside his 'Dao token'.

In the past week, Shun Long had fought more than 60 battles inside the Dao Tower, causing the color of his orange token to change, from the original deep orange to a deep red color.

The higher his rank rose inside the Dao Tower, the more fights he needed to win to advance even further into the next rank while his opponents became even more difficult to handle.

In the beginning, Shun Long could easily fight a dozen white and yellow rank opponents without an issue, but as soon as he entered the red rank, every single one of his opponents had a Dao

comprehension at the Nascent Soul stage, causing him to feel much more pressured during the fights.

Even with his Dao of Time, he could still feel the ever-increasing pressure from the opponents around him, making Shun Long realize that the depth of one's comprehension of their Dao was equally as important as a person's cultivation base.

Of course, although he was pressured, Shun Long actually felt exhilarated, as he could clearly feel that his comprehension of his Dao of Time was increasing at an extremely rapid rate through these fights.

The more he was pressured to fight against these stronger opponents, the deeper he could comprehend his Dao of Time as well making this a cycle that he was unwilling to stop.

However, he still had to stop his challenge inside the Dao Tower more than once during the past week, both to quietly comprehend his Dao of Time as well, but also to allow his mind to rest.

After all, fighting against Nascent Soul stage cultivators with every single fight, most of whom had even comprehended their Daos even further than Shun Long had comprehended his Dao of Time placed an extremely heavy toll on Shun Long's mind.

As for the middle-aged man in front of him whose body had almost completely disappeared by now, he was the strongest opponent that Shun Long had yet faced inside the Dao Tower during the past week, his comprehension of his Dao reaching the peak of the Nascent Soul stage!

Even with his Dao of Time, at his current comprehension, Shun Long found it more than hard to defeat the old man.

If it wasn't for the previous 60 fights that had allowed his comprehension of the Dao to increase by leaps and bounds, Shun Long was certain that he would have lost against this middle-aged man.

As the last mote of light coming from the middle-aged man's body was absorbed inside his token, Shun Long saw the deep red token by his side changing colors as it slowly turned purple.

"I really had to reach the purple rank to fight against peak Nascent Soul stage opponents. Let's see where my current limits are then!"

...

7 more days quickly passed as well, as the figure of an old man who was dressed in black robes, with short white hair and bony arms and legs soon materialized in the palace hall in front of Shun Long.

Shun Long had a serious look in his eyes as he stared at the old man in front of him who was casually standing at the center of the hall with an easy-going expression on his face.

Even though Shun Long could see that this old man was at the same cultivation level as him inside the palace hall, the early rank 1 of the Heaven grade, it was obvious from the aura coming from his body, that the old man's true cultivation had already exceeded the absolute peak of the Nascent Soul!

Gusts of wind were tightly hugging his body while wind blades seemed to naturally flow around him, looking as if this old man was truly someone who commanded the wind itself with a wave of his hand.

Shun Long immediately understood that there was only one thing that explained the natural flow of wind around the old man's body.

"He is a Dao King realm expert!"

As he came to this conclusion, Shun Long's gaze turned even more serious, as he circulated his 'Monarch's Hourglass' without any hesitation, causing his eyes to instantly turn golden at the same time.

This was the first time that he had to fight against a Dao King realm expert inside the Dao Tower!

During the past week, ever since he had stepped into the purple rank, he had fought with more than 50 peak Nascent Soul stage cultivators, some of whom were even just a step away from entering the Dao King realm.

As long as they could take that one final step forward and comprehend their Dao even further, they could attempt their breakthrough to the Dao King realm at any time.

However, those were also the strongest opponents that Shun Long had faced during this time.

Even with his Dao of Time, Shun Long found himself in a tough spot when he fought against some of those experts who were just a step away from breaking through to the Dao King realm.

Thus, during this past week, he had already realized the difference between a normal Nascent Soul stage cultivator and an expert who was only half a step away from entering the Dao King realm.

Of course, his comprehension of his Dao of Time had also increased even more during the past week, while Shun Long guessed that he was probably at the same level in terms of his comprehension of his Dao of Time, as the average late-stage Nascent Soul cultivator.