

Time 711

Chapter 711: Ambush

Shun Long could feel that he was traveling inside the space tear for more than an hour, covering an immense distance in the process, before his blurry surroundings finally started to turn clear.

The courtyard of the Grand Elder had completely vanished, as the disciples of the Holy sect found themselves in the midst of a huge forest, with massive trees that were towering in the skies being present everywhere around them.

As soon as it left the space tear, the 'Darkness Eagle' raised its head proudly towards the sky and let out a deafening screech, that completely terrified the surrounding magic beasts inside the forest.

The entire forest seemed to have fallen silent, as the aura of the early rank 7 'Darkness Eagle' made the magic beasts around it instantly shiver in fear.

However, this silence only lasted for a few moments, before another terrifying roar erupted from the depths of the forest in the next moment, as an aura that was even more powerful than that of the 'Darkness Eagle's' came along with it.

The Grand Elder's expression immediately changed when he sensed this overpowering aura, as a serious expression appeared on his face.

The 'Darkness Eagle' could feel that this aura was hundreds of times stronger than its own, causing its natural instincts to quickly kick in.

Flapping its wings, the 'Darkness Eagle' immediately took to the sky, transforming its body into a mass of darkness as it tried to leave the forest as quickly as possible!

Shun Long knew that this was the natural ability of the 'Darkness Eagle'.

It allowed the eagle to increase its defense and speed to the level of a middle rank 7 magic beast for a short duration of time.

As a magic beast, the 'Darkness Eagle's' senses far exceeded that of a human's.

It knew which enemies it could fight against, and it could clearly sense that the entity in the depths of this forest was extremely terrifying, and was far beyond the level of what it could handle.

However, the 'Darkness Eagle' had only managed to fly for a thousand meters in the sky, before a wind blade that was more than 100 meters long suddenly emerged from the depths of the forest, flying towards the eagle at an unbelievable speed.

The enormous wind blade managed to effortlessly chop all of the gigantic trees that blocked its way in half, as it appeared right behind the 'Darkness Eagle'.

The 'Darkness Eagle' screeched for the second time as it tried to increase its speed and get out of the range of this wind blade.

It could clearly feel the sensation of death that it hadn't felt for countless years boring down on its neck.

It wasn't just the 'Darkness Eagle' itself, but the outer court disciples and even the inner court disciples who were sitting on its back that could also feel this sensation.

At the same time, the look inside Shun Long's eyes turned serious as he prepared to summon Little Black from the 'Stone of Time', to take him, along with Liu Mei and the rest away from this place.

Shun Long could feel that the aura coming from this attack was so much stronger than the 'Darkness Eagle's', that it had probably even exceeded the standard of a middle rank 7 magic beast and had most likely reached the peak of rank 7, if not even the early rank 8!

This meant that this attack was equivalent to the full-powered blow of either a peak-stage Dao Emperor, or even a Sovereign realm expert's!

Even the pendant that Liu Mei had received from Elder Xuan most likely wouldn't be enough to protect her from such an attack.

At that moment however, the Grand Elder's body suddenly disappeared from Shun Long's side, appearing right behind the 'Darkness Eagle', and in front of the gigantic wind blade.

"GET LOST!"

The Grand Elder roared angrily, as he took out a small, wooden-like shield from his spatial ring and raised it in front of him.

The Grand Elder's shield looked old and damaged, but at that moment, the countless runes and patterns on the shield's surface lit up one after the other, before the terrifying aura of a peak rank 9 Dao Emperor erupted from the Grand Elder's body and entered the shield.

The wooden shield immediately expanded, covering an area of more than 100 meters that made it look like it could easily block the enormous wind blade.

Indeed, although the Grand Elder was pushed back for a few dozen steps, he had actually managed to block the 100-meter long wind blade!

And yet, just as the disciples and the few inner court Elders on the 'Darkness Eagle's' back were about to rejoice, expressions of terror covered their faces in the next moment.

Another wind blade that was similar to the first one appeared from the depths of the forest, heading towards the Darkness Eagle as well.

By now, the Darkness Eagle had already managed to cross a distance of more than 1000 miles and was close to the forest's exit, but it still wouldn't make it in time if it wanted to leave the forest.

The Grand Elder's face turned extremely serious, as he raised his shield with a grave expression and moved forward to block the second wind blade.

Although this shield in the Grand Elder's hands looked old and half-broken, it was actually the Grand Elder's strongest weapon, a 2-star shield.

2-star weapons could only be made by formation masters whose cultivation had reached the Sovereign realm, and their might was simply incomparable to 1-star weapons.

Infusing his qi inside his shield for the second time, the Grand Elder roared once again, as his shield collided with the gigantic wind blade.

Expressions of horror appeared on the faces of the disciples and even the inner court Elders who were sitting on the 'Darkness Eagle's' back when they saw the following scene.

The projection of the Grand Elder's shield instantly shattered, as the Grand Elder was sent flying backward like a meteor, before the wind blade kept heading towards the 'Darkness Eagle'!

Shun Long saw that the eagle barely had enough time to turn its body to the side slightly, before the wind blade landed on its back, causing a fountain of blood to spurt through the air, as the enormous trees below it were dyed a bright crimson color.

Chapter 712: Wind Dragon?

The 'Darkness Eagle' let out a painful screech as it tried to keep itself in the sky and fly forward, while a huge gash could be seen on its back near its left wing.

The wound was actually so deep, that even the eagle's bones could be seen clearly, and if the eagle hadn't moved to the side in the final moment, its heart would also have been slashed by the wind blade.

However, the eagle knew that if it stopped even for a moment, the monster inside this forest would send out another wind blade, and the eagle definitely wouldn't be able to survive a second attack.

The 'Darkness Eagle's' intelligence wasn't any lower than that of a human's. It already knew that the only reason it had managed to survive the first wind blade, was thanks to the Grand Elder's shield that had blocked more than 90 percent of the power behind the attack.

And yet, that 'weakened' wind blade had still been enough to pierce through the eagle's defenses, even after it had activated its natural ability that had raised its defense to the level of a middle rank 7 magic beast.

Indeed, there wasn't enough time for the entity inside the forest to send out another attack, before the 'Darkness Eagle' flew past the forest's entrance at full speed!

It was only then that the inner court Elders and the disciples on the eagle's back finally heaved out a sigh of relief.

A few moments later, the Grand Elder's figure could be seen flying out of the forest as well, as it appeared on the 'Darkness Eagle's' back as well.

The Grand Elder sat right next to Shun Long, and although there weren't any wounds on his body, from his pale face one could easily guess that blocking those 2 wind blades wasn't easy even for someone like him.

If he didn't have his wooden shield, the Grand Elder wasn't confident in blocking even a single one of those wind blades, despite the fact that he was a peak rank 9 Dao Emperor!

From this, one could guess how terrifying the strength of the entity inside that forest really was!

Turning around, the Grand Elder took a look at the forest behind him that was turning smaller and smaller in his eyes, before he said in a complaining and yet relieved tone

"We were really unlucky this time. I was hoping we would have teleported closer to the Northern Sovereign's city, but we ended up in the Wind Dragon's forest instead..."

As he finished speaking, the Grand Elder took a look at the old wooden shield in his hand, before he stored it back inside his spatial ring.

Although the projection of the shield had shattered after taking on the second wind blade, the wooden shield itself wasn't damaged in the slightest by the attack.

It was only its projection that was created by the Grand Elder's own qi that had been shattered from that second wind blade.

"Wind dragon?"

Shun Long asked in surprise as he looked at the Grand Elder.

Shun Long had clearly noticed the fear inside the Grand Elder's eyes as he looked at that forest, but his mind instantly focused on the words 'Wind dragon'!

Nodding seriously, the Grand Elder kept staring at the forest in the distance before he explained in a serious voice

"Indeed, inside that forest is a Wind dragon. No... it is more accurate to say that it's not really a true dragon but a 'Wind wyrm' instead!

However, even though it's not a true dragon, its strength is too terrifying and has reached the peak of rank 7 long ago.? Although it's just a peak rank 7 magic beast, there are extremely few magic beasts who can fight against it on the same level.

As for Dao Emperors... even a peak Dao Emperor won't be able to take more than few blows from that Wind wyrm without a star-rank weapon!"

The Grand Elder's voice was solemn as he explained this while Shun Long nodded his head in understanding.

If there was a true dragon in the central region, most likely every peak power in this region would have done its best to hunt it down.

Dragons were exalted magic beasts, but even in the Immortal Dimension, only those dragons who came from the Dragon Realm or those who were protected by members of their senior generation would dare to stroll freely around the world.

Those few dragons who happened to be born without any protection, like Little Black, would either be hunted down and be enslaved, or they would be killed for their precious body parts.

As for those dragon sub-species like a 'Wind wyrm', Shun Long knew that although they were considered to be rare magic beasts as well, their strength or the preciousness of their bodies were nowhere close to that of a real dragon's.

Of course, that was only when the wyrms were compared to actual 'Legendary rank' magic beasts like real dragons.

In reality, even Bai Liuxian's peak rank 7 'Hellfire crow' would only be at the same level as a Wind wyrm.

At the same time, Shun Long also understood why the Grand Elder seemed to have struggled so hard, that he was only able to take on 2 attacks from the Wind wyrm.

No matter how thin the wyrm's bloodline was, it still contained small hints of the bloodline of a real dragon.

Most likely, this Wind wyrm that was already at the peak of rank 7, had enough strength to fight off even an early rank 1 Sovereign realm expert!

The Grand Elder then took out a bottle of medicinal pills from his spatial ring, before he tossed a handful of pills inside the 'Darkness Eagle's' mouth.

Although these pills weren't enough to fully heal the 'Darkness Eagle's' injuries, they were still enough to stop its bleeding and allow the eagle to keep flying forward.

A moment later, as Shun Long kept staring at the huge forest behind him that had turned into a small dot that had almost disappeared into the distance, Little Black's calm voice sounded inside his mind

"Master, the beast core of the Wind wyrm is probably the only thing that can allow that panther to reach the rank 7."

Chapter 713: The King's Palace

Shun Long was stunned for a second, before he nodded his head calmly a moment later.

The same thought had appeared in his mind as Little Black's when the Grand Elder said that a Wind wyrm was living inside that forest.

Shun Long knew that to the current Little Black, the beast core of a peak rank 7 magic beast was useless.

Even if it was the beast core of a peak rank 7 Wind wyrm, the difference was practically nonexistent.

However, to Little Silver, this was probably its only chance if it wanted to reach the rank 7 in its life.

Reaching the early rank 6 was already the limit of what a 'Silver-winged panther king' could normally reach.

Even though the current Little Silver was a peak rank 6 magic beast and had already surpassed its normal limits, reaching the rank 7 was going to be nearly impossible.

After all, what Little Silver needed to breakthrough even further, was the beast core of a powerful rank 7 magic beast of the wind element with a powerful bloodline.

The beast cores of most other magic beasts, even those of most peak rank 7 magic beasts wouldn't be enough to allow Little Silver to breakthrough to the rank 7.

Only the beast cores from magic beasts that had the potential to reach the early rank 8 or above, like the Wind wyrm, could possibly allow Little Silver to reach the rank 7 in its life.

After all, the ancestor of the Wind wyrm was most likely a Wind dragon, allowing the wind wyrm to have some of the bloodline of the Wind dragons inside it.

Even if its bloodline was extremely thin, the Wind wyrm could reach at least the early rank 8 in the future.

However, even if Shun Long wanted to obtain the Wind wyrm's beast core right now, he knew that it was nothing more than a fool's dream.

The Wind wyrm had already reached the peak of rank 7 and had even managed to send the Grand Elder flying with just 2 attacks.

Unless Little Black broke through to the peak of rank 7, there was no way to deal with a magic beast that was even stronger than peak Dao Emperors and had the strength of an early rank 1 Sovereign realm expert!

Shun Long decided to put the matter of the Wind wyrm's beast core to the back of his mind for now, and wait until Little Black reached the peak of rank 7 as well.

By then, killing a peak rank 7 magic beast would be extremely easy.

The 'Darkness Eagle' continued to fly forward, covering a large amount of distance with every flap of its wings, and finally, 3 hours later, the outline of an enormous city could be seen in the distance.

The Grand Elder smiled lightly as he looked at the huge city ahead of them, before he turned to look at Shun Long and said calmly

"This is the Northern Sovereign's city, the biggest and most influential city in the north of the central region. This city can be said to be the true cornerstone of the northern region and is the place where the Northern Sovereign usually lives as well!

Originally, this is where the teleportation formation was supposed to take us, but unfortunately, the location where we appear will always change every time we use the formation. Thankfully, that location will never be more than 100.000 miles away from the city. Unfortunately, this time we landed in the midst of the 'Dragon Wind's forest'..."

At that moment, everyone understood why their situation ended up being so dire after using the teleportation formation.

No wonder they appeared inside the 'Dragon Wind's forest'.

So the place where they were teleported to was up to luck.

Looking at the Grand Elder, Bai Longtian asked curiously

"Senior, who is the Northern Sovereign?"

Liu Mei and the others looked at the Grand Elder as well.

Everyone had the same question in their minds as they had never heard anything about the Northern Sovereign's city before.

"The Northern Sovereign... she is the strongest person in the entire northern part of the central region.

In reality, the central region itself is simply too enormous and is actually split into 5 parts. The northern part, the eastern part, the southern part, the western part. and finally, the central part. Those 5 parts together make the whole of the central region.

The powers living in the center of the central region are usually the strongest powers in the entire region.

Ancient and powerful clans like the Bai clan also have their base in the central part of the central region.

As for the other 4 parts, among all the powers in the northern part of the central region for example, the strongest power would definitely be the Northern Sovereign's city.

The Northern Sovereign's city is also the city that's closest to the 'King's Palace'!"

As the Grand Elder finished speaking, the 'Darkness Eagle' changed its course slightly, flying towards the south of the 'Northern Sovereign's city'!

Shun Long stared at the outline of the enormous city in the distance, with a somewhat curious look.

He was indeed interested in taking a look at this Northern Sovereign's city where countless experts would most likely gather there, but the opening of the King's Palace was the most important thing right now.

Indeed, the Grand Elder didn't look like he had any intention to stop at the Northern Sovereign's city, as the 'Darkness Eagle' kept flying forward.

An entire day had passed as Shun Long's group traveled on the 'Darkness Eagle's' back, before everyone's eyes seemed to have lit up simultaneously.

Shun Long and the rest didn't need the Grand Elder to tell them that they had arrived in their destination, as everyone stared at the unique scene ahead with wide-open eyes.

Everyone could feel their heartbeats that had started to rise uncontrollably, as their gazes all landed on the pitch-black thunderclouds that had blotted out the sky in the distance in front of them.

Purple sparks of lightning were crackling around the black thunderclouds, while thousands of lightning bolts seemed to be descending from the sky every few seconds, all of them landing on the dilapidated black palace below them that seemed on the verge of collapse!

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The black thunderclouds had blotted out the sky as they covered a distance of more than 1000 miles around the black palace.

And yet, despite being struck by the purple bolts of lightning over and over again, the half-destroyed black palace still stood tall in the midst of the unending thunderstorm.

It was a bizarre sight that Shun Long and the rest had never seen before.

The lightning didn't seem to let up for even a moment, looking as if it was determined to destroy the palace.

The 'Darkness Eagle' hesitated for a moment, but it still moved forward as it flew towards the black palace soon after.

Of course, that was mostly because the purple lightning seemed to be concentrated towards the depths of the palace, otherwise, the eagle wouldn't dare approach this region even if it was a peak rank 7 magic beast!

The Grand Elder sighed as he looked at the black palace ahead of them, before he said in a low voice

"It looks like it will still take a few more days until the lightning around the entrance of the King's Palace fully weakens. The other powers should have already arrived by now, while we are probably among the last ones to get here."

The 'Darkness Eagle' seemed to have received an order from the Grand Elder as it suddenly increased its speed, entering the region of the black thunderclouds without any hesitation.

Shun Long and the others could see the terrifying purple lightning bolts that descended from the sky as they landed on the ground around them.

Each lightning bolt was thicker than an adult human's thigh while their destructive power had left the ground charred. And yet, none of those lightning bolts managed to hit the 'Darkness Eagle', as the gigantic eagle agilely avoided them all and kept flying towards the King's Palace!

Less than a minute had passed before the eagle had already crossed the distance, and had arrived just 300 meters away from the black palace's entrance.

However, as soon as it reached this area the 'Darkness Eagle' abruptly stopped, as it didn't dare to move forward any longer.

Although the distance between the Holy sect's group and the black palace was just 300 meters, these 300 meters couldn't even be passed by peak rank 7 magic beasts, let alone the 'Darkness Eagle'.

The purple lightning bolts that were raining down from the sky had completely sealed off the area around the King's Palace!

"Grand Elder, it looks like the lightning bolts here have yet to weaken. This is probably the deepest part that anyone can reach right now." The white-robed old woman, Elder Mao Jing looked at the Grand Elder and said in a solemn voice.

The Grand Elder nodded his head seriously as he stared at the area in front of him for a few moments, but just as he was about to speak, his expression suddenly changed, as he quickly narrowed his eyes and turned his gaze towards the west.

The figure of an old man dressed in black clothes could be seen streaking through the sky, as he headed towards the Holy sect's group at an unbelievable speed.

It was obvious that this old man's speed had far exceeded the speed of the 'Darkness Eagle', and was more than just a single level above it.

Even when the 'Darkness Eagle' had used its innate technique to escape from the Wind wyrm's attacks earlier, its speed was many times lower than this old man's.

In the next moment, everyone from the Holy sect's group could clearly see the figure of the black-robed old man standing in the sky above them, as he stopped just a few meters away from the 'Darkness Eagle'.

It was a bald old man whose height had exceeded 2 meters (6.5ft) and was even taller than the Grand Elder himself.

This black-robed old man who had no hair on his head stood in the sky, and examined the Holy sect's group calmly.

Everyone could sense a terrifying aura coming from this person's body that made even the 'Darkness Eagle' unwilling to fight him.

The old man's eyes scanned the Holy sect's group, and a moment later, his gaze landed on the Grand Elder before a stunned look appeared on his face.

The old man suddenly laughed as he looked at the Grand Elder, before he called out in a voice full of joy

"Hahaha! Kang Wen, it's really you? You old fart, you finally decided to come out from your seclusion?"

The Grand Elder looked at the black-robed old man in front of him and his expression finally relaxed as he nodded his head and said

"Han Xu, I haven't seen you in a while. It seems that you have managed to reach the peak of the Dao Emperor realm as well in these past 20.000 years."

The black-robed old man named Han Xu smiled and nodded his head proudly as he said

"Indeed, among the Dao Emperors in the northern part of the central region, I can now claim to be among the top 5 in terms of strength!"

Shun Long and the rest of the outer court disciples and even the inner court disciples had no idea who the person in front of them was, but the inner court Elder of the Holy sect who were sitting on the 'Darkness Eagle's' back all recognized this black-robed old man and stood up to pay their respects.

After all, this old man in front of them was even stronger than their head Elder, Sun Wen, and was now at the same level as the Grand Elder!

Looking at Han Xu, the Grand Elder asked curiously

"Han Xu, what are you doing here?"

Shaking his head, Han Xu looked at the Grand Elder and said calmly

"Haha, I sensed the aura of an early rank 7 magic beast approaching, so I came here to check which sect had arrived."

Han Xu then pointed towards the direction he had just come from and continued

"Kang Wen, the Northern Sovereign, and the other seniors all waiting over there. It's probably best if you go and greet them as well. After all, we will all enter the King's Palace together and there are many seniors present here this time."

The Grand Elder thought seriously for a moment, before he nodded his head and said

"Alright. Han Xu, you lead the way."

Han Xu's lips twitched slightly, but he still nodded his head as he led the way for the Grand Elder's group, while the 'Darkness Eagle' followed behind him.

Although Han Xu believed himself to be one of the top 5 Dao Emperors in the northern part of the central region, he still had a lot of respect for the Grand Elder.

After all, the Grand Elder of the Holy sect had made his name in the central region thousands of years ago, and was considered to be among the top 3 Dao Emperors in the northern part of the central region!

A few moments later, Han Xu had led the Grand Elder's group to an area around 500 meters away from the entrance of the black palace.

After they arrived here, a huge group of people dressed in different clothes appeared in Shun Long's and the rest's eyes, as most of them were either sitting on the ground, cultivating with their eyes closed, or they were talking to each other.

Of course, although this seemed to be one large group of more than 3000 people, in reality, the people in this place were split into many different groups as well.

It was just like how the members of the Holy sect sitting on the 'Darkness Eagle's' back were considered to be one group, but they were also split into outer court disciples, inner court disciples, and the inner court Elders.

Even the outer court and the inner court disciples of the Holy sect were split into their own groups, let alone this group of people that all came from different sects and powers throughout the central region.

"Kang Wen, senior Northern Sovereign, and the others are all here. Come with me." Han Xu said as he turned around and looked at the Grand Elder, before he pointed his hand towards a certain group of people far ahead.

It was a large group of more than 10 people that no one dared to approach carelessly.

Nodding his head, the Grand Elder first had the 'Darkness Eagle' land on the ground in a large, empty space on the ground, before he turned around and looked at the outer court and the inner court disciples on the eagle's back and said seriously

"You are free to do whatever you want for the next few days, but remember to avoid offending others for no reason. This isn't our Holy sect's territory any longer.

Although our Holy sect isn't afraid of trouble, there are many people who come to the King's Palace, not just from the northern part of the central region, but from the powerful forces throughout the entire central region as well!"

The outer court and the inner court disciples nodded their heads seriously as they got down from the 'Darkness Eagle's' back, and most of them sat on the ground to cultivate.

The Grand Elder then threw one look at Shun Long and said smilingly

"Brat, don't create too much trouble while I'm gone. I will come find you in a while and tell you a few more things that you need to know about the King's Palace. Wait for me to go and greet senior Northern Sovereign first."

As he finished speaking, the Grand Elder looked at Han Xu and said

"Han Xu, let's go."

Han Xu was surprised as he looked at the Grand Elder, before a deep look appeared in his eyes as he stared at Shun Long curiously.

"Is this kid Kang Wen's personal disciple? I should pay more attention to him then."

As this thought appeared in his mind, Han Xu took one last look at Shun Long, before he nodded his head and turned around, as he led the Grand Elder towards a certain group in the distance.

Shun Long, Liu Mei, and the rest stared at their surroundings curiously as they got down from the 'Darkness Eagle's' back, before Xingyi looked at Shun Long and asked curiously a moment later

"Brother Long, where should we go?"

Shun Long smiled as he looked at Xingyi and the others and said

"Let's enjoy ourselves a bit until the King's Palace opens."

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Shun Long didn't pay any attention to the Elders or the disciples of the Holy sect around him, as he led Liu Mei and the others towards an empty spot not far away from the 'Darkness Eagle'.

Waving his hand, 5 small meditative cushions appeared in front of him, along with 5 small wooden jugs of wine.

Liu Mei, Xingyi, Jiang Chen, and Bai Longtian, all sat down on the meditative cushions around Shun Long and took a jar of wine each, without any hesitation.

After spending nearly 2 years within the Holy sect's territory, Jiang Chen and the rest all knew by now, that Shun Long's wine was indeed the best wine in the entire Holy sect.

Thus, every time they had a chance to drink together, they would always be looking forward to drink Shun Long's wine.

In reality, nobody knew that to create a single barrel of wine, Shun Long needed to use dozens of rank 6, as well as more than a hundred rank 5 and rank 4 medicinal herbs and blend them together, before he left the wine inside his herb garden for more than 500 years.

Every single medicinal herb had been blended together seamlessly, drawing out their most fragrant and potent qualities.

Of course, neither of those conditions were hard for Shun Long, but it would be impossible for anyone else to replicate this.

Even if someone knew the medicinal herbs required to make this wine, it would still be impossible to create it unless their level of understanding in alchemy had exceeded Shun Long's own.

Indeed, as soon as the lids from the 5 wooden jars were removed, an intoxicating fragrance spread out from the jars, assaulting Liu Mei's and the others' senses.

At the same time that Shun Long and the rest started to drink, the 'Darkness Eagle' that was sitting on the ground with its eyes closed seemed to have sensed something, as it turned its attention towards Shun Long's group.

Normal eagles had an almost non-existent sense of smell, but how could the senses of an early rank 7 'Darkness Eagle' be compared to that of normal animals?

The eagle stood up and started to walk towards Shun Long's group a moment later, attracting the attention of the inner court Elders and the disciples who were sitting a few meters away from it.

"Eh? What is the 'Darkness Eagle' doing?"

"It looks like... it's heading towards Shun Long's group!? Could it be that the Grand Elder sent an order to it?"

The eagle arrived in front of Shun Long and the others in the blink of an eye, and stared at the wine jars in their hands as if it was looking at a treasure that it had never seen before.

Its eyes glimmered for a few seconds before it turned its gaze towards Shun Long, and surprisingly, the early rank 7 magic beast suddenly let out a pleading whimper.

Liu Mei, Xingyi, Bai Longtian, and Jiang Chen were all surprised when they saw this scene.

An early rank 7 magic beast... was pleading right in front of them?

Magic beasts were famed for their cruel and bloodthirsty natures, so how could the 'Darkness eagle' act like a puppy in front of them?

However, although Liu Mei and the others were all surprised, the inner court Elders felt as if an explosion was taking place inside their minds at that moment.

They knew that the Grand Elder's 'Darkness Eagle' was an extremely arrogant magic beast that didn't even look at early stage Dao Emperors as its equals.

It didn't even respect middle stage Dao Emperors since it could escape from them at any time using its innate technique.

If it wasn't because of the Grand Elder, a peak rank 9 Dao Emperor taming it, the 'Darkness Eagle' wouldn't have even allowed the Elders of the Holy sect to sit on its back while they traveled.

And yet, this very same 'Darkness Eagle' was pleading an outer court disciple for the wine in his hands?

At the same time, inside the 'Stone of Time', Little Black opened his bright blue eyes and stared at the eagle with a cold look of displeasure.

If the eagle could see the look inside the eyes of the black dragon, it would be unknown if it would have collapsed on the ground trembling in fear, or if it would have directly lost consciousness.

Nodding his head, Shun Long patted the eagle's beak and said with a calm look

"Alright. Consider it as thanks for letting us travel on your back then."

Another jar of wine appeared in Shun Long's hands in the next moment, before Shun Long placed it in front of the gigantic eagle.

The eagle immediately lowered its head and stretched out its tongue, allowing it to bathe inside the jar and taste the bright red wine inside, before letting out a cry of pleasure.

This time, it wasn't just the Elders and the disciples of the Holy sect who were startled by this, but even some of the surrounding powers not far away from the Holy sect once they heard the excited cry of an early rank 7 magic beast.

At the same time, the old man who was second in seniority from the inner court Elders present opened his eyes and looked at the 'Darkness Eagle', before he asked in a low voice

"Is that kid's wine really that good? Even the Holy city's best wine, the 'hundred-herbs wine' isn't that alluring to magic beasts of the 5th rank, let alone rank 7 magic beasts!"

While the inner court Elders and the outer court disciples who had yet to smell this fragrance had started to question what was going on with the 'Darkness Eagle', Xingyi's master, Elder Mao Jing let out a regretful sigh in her heart as she looked at Shun Long.

Indeed, he had more of that wine, and not only was he drinking it along with Xingyi and the others, but he even gave a jar to the Grand Elder's magic beast.

Elder Mao Jing had smelled the fragrance of this wine before, from that wooden barrel that Shun Long had given to the Grand Elder as a gift when they were all back in her room inside the Refinement Hall, and just the fragrance of the wine alone had even made a peak rank 6 Dao Emperor like her swallow her saliva.

Mao Jing wanted to desperately taste that wine, but after taking a single sip from the barrel, the Grand Elder had refused to give her even a single drop.

Of course, Mao Jing knew that she could ask for a jar of wine from Shun Long, but she didn't have the face to do that.

She knew that Shun Long most likely hated her after how she had treated him that day in her room, and it wouldn't be surprising if he refused to give her even a single jar.

A few hours had passed, and Shun Long and the rest had emptied more than a couple jars of wine as they waited for the King's Palace to open.

During these past few hours, a few of the inner court Elders wanted to approach Shun Long and ask for a jar of wine, but the murderous look they received from the 'Darkness Eagle' gave those Elders second thoughts.

The truth was, that the Holy sect had more than 20 inner court Elders, which meant at least 20 Dao Emperors!

However, from the Elders who had tagged along this time, aside from the Grand Elder, the strongest one of them was Mao Jing, while the other powerful Elders like the head Elder, Sun Wen, or Liu Mei's master Xuan Jiao, as well as Jiang Chen's and Bai Longtian's masters, they had all stayed back in the Holy sect.

Since the Grand Elder was going to leave the Holy sect to visit the King's Palace, the rest of the powerful Elders needed to be present in case anything important happened back in the sect.

Thus, from the Elders who had come to the King's Palace with the Grand Elder this time, most of them were just early-stage Dao Emperors, and they were actually afraid of an early rank 7 magic beast like the Grand Elder's 'Darkness Eagle'.

Although the eagle wouldn't really really kill any of them since it was the Grand Elder's magic beast, none of them wanted to risk losing face by irritating it and getting beat up in front of everyone else present.

At the same time, in these past few hours, a few lightning bolts had also landed in this 'safe area', causing the inner court Elders of the Holy sect to take action quite a few times, saving the outer court and the inner court disciples by dragging them away from the area where the lightning was about to strike.

Only the inner court Elders were fast enough to react and protect anyone from those purple lightning bolts.

Even those blue-robed, inner court disciples of the Holy sect who had reached the peak of the Dao King realm, would have probably died if it wasn't for the inner court Elders saving them just in time.

Thankfully, none of the lightning bolts landed near Shun Long's group, allowing them to keep enjoying the wine in the midst of the never-stopping flashes of purple lightning around them.

Of course, if a bolt of lightning really threatened Shun Long's group, the 'Darkness Eagle' would be more than enough to protect them.

Finally, just as night was about to fall, the Grand Elder's figure could be seen flying from the distance, as he headed towards Shun Long's group with a proud smile plastered on his face.

Surprisingly, next to the Grand Elder, the figure of an extremely beautiful woman in silver robes could also be seen, as she calmly flew towards Shun Long's direction as well.

Chapter 716: Meeting the Northern Sovereign

A moment later, the Grand Elder and the silver-robed woman had already appeared in the sky above Shun Long's group, before the Grand Elder looked at Shun Long and laughed loudly, as he said with a smile on his face

"You little brats, it seems that you were enjoying yourselves while this old man was gone."

The Grand Elder had caught a whiff of the wine's scent coming from the wooden jars as soon as he arrived, and immediately understood, that this was the same wine that he had gotten from Shun Long as well.

Although the Grand Elder was joking when he spoke just now, he truly felt a little bit of envy in his heart towards Jiang Chen and the others, for being able to enjoy the wine like that.

After tasting Shun Long's wine that night inside the Refinement Hall, the Grand Elder couldn't bear to drink the rest of it, despite having an entire barrel of it.

After all, to an expert like the Grand Elder who could enter seclusion for a few thousand years in one go, a single barrel of wine wasn't going to be enough to last him even for a thousand years, even if he drank it sparingly.

However, before the Grand Elder could speak again, the silver-robed woman by his side took a look at the group of 5 outer disciples in front of her, her gaze eventually landing on Shun Long, as she then asked curiously

"Kang Wen, is this the genius of your Holy sect who has comprehended 2 supreme Daos?"

The stunning silver-robed woman had naturally noticed the changes in the Grand Elder's expression when he had spoken just now.

She could easily notice that although the Grand Elder seemed to be speaking to the entire group of 5 in front of him, his eyes would always end up focusing on the short-haired young man in the middle at the very end.

The Grand Elder was quickly brought back to his senses once he heard the silver-robed woman's voice, as he looked at her and nodded his head seriously, before he answered in a somewhat proud voice

"Senior Northern Sovereign is right. This kid is the biggest genius that my Holy sect has seen in the last 100,000 years! In terms of potential, I am certain that even Chen Kang can't compare with him!"

"Ohh?" The Northern Sovereign exclaimed in surprise as she looked at Shun Long with a renewed look of curiosity.

Although she didn't know much about the disciples of the Holy sect, the Northern Sovereign knew of Chen Kang's name.

After all, Chen Kang wasn't a nobody, but an extreme genius who had already reached the Dao Emperor realm a while ago.

Within the northern part of the central region, Chen Kang had already made a name for himself, and he was even rumored to have inherited an immortal-grade cultivation technique that suited him greatly.

Although others weren't clear whether that was just a rumor or not, the Northern Sovereign knew that it was the truth.

Many Dao Emperors and even some Sovereign realm experts from the northern part of the central region also believed, that with an immortal-grade cultivation technique and the supreme Dao he had comprehended, as long as he didn't perish, Chen Kang would definitely become one of the strongest Sovereign realm experts in the northern part of the central region in the future.

Perhaps he could become even stronger than the sect master of the Holy sect himself.

Even the greatest genius of the Yang clan, Yang Hui who was ranked 1st in the Martial Roll of Honor, took Chen Kang to be his only opponent within the Holy sect.

In Yang Hui's eyes, only someone like Chen Kang would be strong enough to fight him in the future.

Unfortunately, Yang Hui didn't have a chance to spar with this greatest genius of the Holy sect just yet, since Chen Kang was already a core disciple whose status was even higher than that of most inner court Elders.

Naturally, Yang Hui who was just an outer court disciple couldn't compare with him.

Besides, Yang Hui himself was just an early rank 4 Dao King!

However, Yang Hui believed that after obtaining an immortal-grade cultivation technique from Bai Liuxian, things would be completely different.

After breaking through to the Dao Emperor realm himself, Yang Hui was confident that even Chen Kang wouldn't be strong enough to defeat him.

The Northern Sovereign already had a general idea of the geniuses in the Holy sect, which was why her interest was so piqued after hearing the Grand Elder compare Shun Long to Chen Kang.

In reality, the Holy sect could only be considered a medium-sized sect within the northern part of the central region, and it wasn't a power that would normally warrant the attention of a powerful figure such as the Northern Sovereign's.

However, the Northern Sovereign had known the Grand Elder for more than a hundred thousand years, which was why she was familiar with the inner workings of the sect.

After hearing that a genius who had comprehended 2 supreme Daos had appeared in the Holy sect, the Northern Sovereign had decided to come and take a look personally.

Shun Long and the rest were also surprised when they heard that the silver-robed woman next to the Grand Elder was actually the Northern Sovereign.

They had all heard from the Grand Elder about the Northern Sovereign and understood, that this beautiful silver-robed woman in front of them was truly considered to be the overlord of the northern part of the central region.

Of course, Shun Long wasn't surprised that the Grand Elder admitted so readily that Shun Long had comprehended 2 supreme Daos.

Shun Long was already prepared for it after revealing his Dao of Time in the Martial Roll of Honor tournament.

He knew that sooner or later, people would find out about him, and something like that was effortless for a figure like the Northern Sovereign.

The Northern Sovereign had a profound look in her eyes as she looked at Shun Long, Liu Mei, and the rest, as she suddenly said a moment later

"I heard from Kang Wen that you are planning to enter the City of Immortals after breaking through to the Dao King realm."

Shun Long looked at the Northern Sovereign and nodded his head calmly, before he cupped his hands and answered

"Senior is right. We are indeed planning to enter the City of Immortals after we finish our breakthroughs."

At that moment, the Northern Sovereign took a step forward and appeared in front of Shun Long so fast, that it looked like she was even faster than Shun Long's 'blink', before she said in an extremely grave voice

"Forget about the City of Immortals! Stay inside your Holy sect and cultivate for a few thousand years! By then, as long as you are sufficiently talented, you will even have a chance to become a Dao Emperor without too much trouble.

I can guarantee you that, if you enter the City of Immortals before reaching at least the late stages of the Dao King realm, it won't matter if you have comprehended 2 supreme Daos or not, you will definitely die before even reaching the 'immortal trials'!"

Chapter 717

The Northern Sovereign's words made everyone around her descend into silence.

"Senior..."

The Grand Elder looked at the Northern Sovereign with a somewhat troubled gaze, but the Northern Sovereign simply waved her hand and said dismissingly

"I won't say anything more. Whether these kids really want to enter the City of Immortals or not is up to them. I will naturally not hinder them if they want to die.

This was merely a warning due to my relationship with your Holy sect. What you choose to do from now on is none of my business.

However, Kang Wen, you should also have a certain degree of understanding over the dangers inside that place. Anyone below the late-stage Dao King realm is simply an ant there, while only peak-stage Dao Kings will have a chance of surviving in the depths of the City of Immortals!"

The Grand Elder nodded his head solemnly without speaking.

Just like the Northern Sovereign had just said, the Grand Elder indeed knew a few things about the dangers inside the City of Immortals.

However, he wasn't planning on saying anything to Shun Long and the others about it, before they finished their breakthroughs to reach the Dao King realm.

Besides, the Grand Elder himself was also a bit scared in his heart whether Shun Long could really succeed in his breakthrough.

Having comprehended 2 supreme Daos was indeed enough to allow Shun Long to be called a monster, but the Grand Elder knew that the Heavens were always fair.

The higher one's talent was, the harsher the Heavens would be on them!

Every single one of those monsters who had appeared throughout the central region and had comprehended 2 supreme Daos in the past, were said to have faced terrifying Heavenly Tribulations.

The Grand Elder only knew of a single genius who had comprehended 2 supreme Daos and had survived his Heavenly Tribulation!

Whether Shun Long could really achieve the same feat... was actually uncertain!

The Northern Sovereign threw one last look at Shun Long and the others, before she waved her hand and said

"I have other matters to attend so I will leave you to it.

Kang Wen, I will see you inside the King's Palace!"

The Northern Sovereign's silver robes fluttered with the wind, and without another word, her figure suddenly disappeared from the spot she was standing on, almost as if she had never been there in the first place.

After a few moments of silence, the Grand Elder finally regained his senses, as he stared at the Northern Sovereign's figure that had already disappeared and said in a low voice

"Perhaps she is right. Perhaps the City of Immortals is indeed too dangerous."

Shaking his head, the Grand Elder turned his eyes towards Shun Long and the rest, and his expression quickly returned to normal as he said to himself

"It doesn't matter. Let's focus on the King's Palace for now. The matters of the City of Immortals will come later! Although it is a good opportunity, it is not worth dying for it."

Waving his hand, the Grand Elder then took out a small meditative cushion from his spatial ring and said on it, before he said to Shun Long and the rest

"You brats! Sit down! I will explain to you how the King's Palace works."

After Shun Long and the others all sat down on their meditative cushions, the Grand Elder took a deep breath and said

"Just like I told you the last time, the King's Palace is a miraculous place that allows one to sense the existence of the Daos even clearer compared to the outside world.

Forget about Nascent Soul stage cultivators like you, even Dao Kings and Dao Emperors, and even Sovereign realm experts can benefit after training inside this place.

Once you enter the palace, you will immediately be able to sense the existence of the countless Daos around you.

Additionally, the deeper inside the palace you manage to get, you will be able to sense the existence of the Daos around you even more clearly than before.

However, no matter what you do, don't get too close to the depths of the King's Palace!

The closer you get to the core of the palace, the more concentrated the purple lightning bolts will become in that place.

It's not uncommon for even Dao Emperors to die after being struck by those lightning bolts, and have their souls disperse!

Additionally... there is one more important thing that you have to take note of.

This time, a few powerful geniuses from the central part of the central region will also enter the King's Palace along with everyone else.

Among them is a certain young lady, whose status even exceeds that of the Northern Sovereign's.

In the past few hours, I saw that even the Northern Sovereign herself was acting respectful to that young woman and didn't want to displease her.

After asking senior Northern Sovereign, she told me that that young lady is the personal disciple of an old monster who has exceeded the Sovereign realm, and is only a step away from becoming a true immortal!

That person is a true expert who stands at the peak of the central region and the cultivation world.

Even the Northern Sovereign is wary of that senior and doesn't want to offend his personal disciples!

No matter what you do, you must not offend that young lady or even I will be unable to protect you!"

The look inside the Grand Elder's eyes was extremely grave as he said the last sentence, almost as if he was cautioning and pleading Shun Long at the same time.

After a few moments of silence, Shun Long cupped his hands and bowed slightly towards the Grand Elder, as he said in a sincere voice

"Thank you, senior!"

No matter what, Shun Long had an extremely favorable impression of the Grand Elder.

The Grand Elder had done everything he could to keep Shun Long and the rest safe.

Nodding his head, the Grand Elder didn't say anything else, as he sat down cross-legged with his eyes closed, as he waited next to Shun Long and the rest for the King's Palace to open.

Finally, 5 days later, the lightning around the palace's entrance seemed to have thinned out so much, that the King's palace could finally be seen clearly.

Chapter 718: Entering the King's Palace

As the bolts of purple lightning around the entrance of the King's Palace disappeared, the figure of a beautiful woman dressed in silver robes appeared in the sky above everyone else, before the Northern Sovereign's cold voice entered everyone's ears in the next moment

"The King's Palace is now open! Since all of you are already familiar with the rules, I won't explain anything this time. Remember that you only have 1 year to stay inside the palace. Let's go!"

The surrounding experts from the many powers throughout the central region all nodded gravely when they heard the Northern Sovereign's warning.

They all knew that a year after the opening of the King's Palace, they had to leave the palace whether they were in the middle of a breakthrough or not, or their lives would be in danger.

The lightning around the King's palace would definitely reach its peak state a year after the opening of the palace, and by then, even experts who were just a step away from becoming true immortals could lose their lives if they forcefully stayed inside the palace instead of leaving.

Even the Northern Sovereign who was a peak level Sovereign realm expert didn't have any confidence in surviving these bolts of purple lightning.

Shun Long and the rest of the disciples of the Holy sect had already heard about this matter from the Grand Elder, and knew that they could only spend a year inside the King's palace.

As soon as she finished speaking the Northern Sovereign threw one last look at the experts below her, before her figure shot towards the entrance of the King's Palace at an astonishing speed.

However, to the experts below her, it was clear that this wasn't the Northern Sovereign's full speed, as she was still wary of the random lightning bolts that would descend from the sky every now and then and strike the area around the palace.

Although the King's Palace would no longer be considered a sealed region for the next 1 year that would follow, the danger of the purple lightning bolts wasn't any lower than before and was still enough to instantly kill even Sovereign realm experts, forcing even the Northern Sovereign to tread carefully.

After all, it was only because of the lowered intensity of the purple lightning bolts, that the many powers throughout the central region dared to step foot inside the King's Palace and even bring their disciples and descendants along with them.

The Grand Elder turned to look at the outer court and the inner court disciples of the Holy sect behind him, before he said in a serious and somewhat solemn tone

"The Elders will protect you all until we enter the King's Palace, but after that, you will have to rely on yourselves. If your luck isn't good enough and you end up being struck by the purple bolts of lightning, you can only blame yourselves."

The outer court and the inner court disciples all nodded gravely in response, while a serious look had appeared on Shun Long's face as he looked at the Grand Elder.

Everyone understood that the inner court Elders wouldn't stay by their sides to protect them after they entered the King's Palace. If someone was unlucky enough to get struck by one of the purple lightning bolts, then that person would surely die without question. Even the inner court disciples who were already at the peak of the Dao King realm weren't exceptions to this rule, since they wouldn't be able to react in time and protect themselves.

Only Dao Emperor realm experts like the inner court Elders could possibly save them from those purple lightning bolts.

However, the inner court Elders needed to comprehend their own Daos as well after entering the King's Palace. How could they find the time to babysit these outer court and inner court disciples?

After a moment of silence, the Grand Elder suddenly threw a glance at Shun Long who was standing next to him before he continued

"There are no specific rules that you need to follow after entering the King's palace. Whether you want to stay in the outer region or try to approach the inner region, it is up to you. Of course, the deeper inside the palace you head, the better you will be able to sense the existence of the Daos around you. There is only one thing that you need to take note of after entering that place... no matter what, don't try to reach the core region of the palace!"

Shun Long and the rest, as well as the other outer court disciples around them, were all stunned when they heard the Grand Elder's solemn warning, while the inner court disciples and the Elders of the Holy sect all nodded their heads seriously as they looked at the Grand Elder.

For those inner court disciples who had been to the King's Palace in the past, as well as the inner court Elders, this was already common knowledge.

Even the inner court Elders wouldn't dare to approach the core region of the King's Palace, and they would only stay in the inner region instead along with the inner court disciples.

Seeing that everyone had heard his warning, the Grand Elder nodded and looked at the inner court Elders behind him before he said calmly

"Since everyone is ready, follow me!"

Without saying another word the Grand Elder then shot to the sky before he waved his hand, causing a wave of his qi to surround Shun Long's body, as well as Liu Mei's, Xingyi's, Jiang Chen's, and Bai Longtian's bodies, before the 5 of them started to fly towards him uncontrollably.

Without any hesitation, the Grand Elder carried the 5 of them, as he flew towards the dilapidated black palace in the distance.

Chapter 719: Inside the palace

The Elders of the Holy sect all nodded their heads, as each of them carried an outer court and inner court disciple with them before they followed after the Grand Elder.

As for the early rank 7 Darkness Eagle, the Grand Elder had ordered it to stay behind and not approach any closer to the King's Palace.

BOOOM

BOOOM

BOOOM

The sound of the purple bolts of lightning descending from the sky entered everyone's ears, as the group of Elders from the Holy sect approached closer and closer to the entrance of the King's Palace.

It was only at this moment that the outer court disciples of the sect understood, why Dao Emperors were the only ones who could approach the black palace in front of them.

The closer they got to the entrance of the palace, the more concentrated the purple lightning bolts around them seemed to become.

The moment that the Grand Elder had arrived just 100 meters away from the entrance of the King's Palace, Shun Long and the others all saw more than a dozen of purple lightning bolts striking down towards them from every direction.

Whether one wanted to advance or retreat, the purple lightning bolts seemed to have blocked off every direction.

The group of inner court Elders behind the Grand Elder were already struggling to protect the 2 outer court and inner court disciples that they were carrying with them, as they did their best to hurriedly dodge the purple lightning bolts that were coming in their direction while slowly advancing forward.

However, the Grand Elder didn't seem to be having too much trouble as he easily protected Shun Long's group of 5, and a few moments later, he had already arrived in front of the gates of the dilapidated black palace.

The entrance of the King's Palace had clearly been bombarded by the purple lightning bolts for countless years and had already been destroyed, allowing anyone to enter inside as they pleased.

A few moments later, once they entered inside the palace, stunned looks appeared on the faces of the 10 outer court disciples who were carried by the 10 inner court Elders, while even Shun Long and the rest were all rooted in place as they stared at their surroundings in complete silence.

The interior of the King's Palace was in an even worse situation than its exterior as the walls of the palace looked to be on the verge of collapse, and yet, nobody paid any attention to this.

The moment that the Grand Elder had carried them past the entrance of the King's Palace, Shun Long and the rest could sense as if they had entered a completely new world.

Shun Long could feel that his surroundings were completely different from the outside world, and without even meditating, he could still sense the countless Daos that were present everywhere around him.

This was a natural feeling that he had never felt before, one that filled his heart with excitement.

The Grand Elder nodded his head with a smile on his face when he saw Shun Long's and the others' reactions, before he said in a calm voice a moment later

"This place can be considered the outermost region of the King's Palace. Whether you want to stay and cultivate here or head deeper inside the palace, that's up to you."

As the Grand Elder finished speaking, he threw one last look at the outer court and inner court disciples in front of him, before his body turned into a blur as he headed deeper inside the King's Palace.

The inner court Elders looked at each other and nodded their heads before they followed after the Grand Elder, leaving the outer court and the inner court disciples behind.

The truth was that in this outermost region of the King's Palace, the purple lightning bolts that could be seen everywhere previously were now almost nonexistent. Aside from a few sparse lightning bolts that would rain down from the sky every now and then, this area was indeed much safer than the area outside of the King's Palace.

The inner court disciples nodded their heads soon after the Elders had left, before they too headed deeper inside the King's Palace.

This wasn't the first time for these inner court disciples inside the King's Palace as each of them already knew their way around the place.

These inner court disciples clearly understood, that staying in the outer region of the King's Palace wouldn't be enough for them if they wanted to breakthrough to the Dao Emperor realm!

Soon, only Shun Long's group of 5, as well as the rest of the outer court disciples of the Holy sect were left behind.

And yet, even though the Elders and the inner court disciples had already left, Shun Long wasn't in a hurry to make a move just yet, as he observed his surroundings calmly without speaking.

Just like the Elders of the Holy sect, there were many other Dao Emperors from the various powers of the central region who had left their descendants or disciples in the outer region of the King's Palace, while they themselves headed deeper inside.

After a few moments of silence, Shun Long turned his gaze towards Liu Mei and the rest and said with a smile on his face

"Let's go. Since we are already here, we should have a look at the inner region of the King's Palace as well."

As soon as he finished speaking, Shun Long immediately circulated his 'Monarch's Hourglass' without any hesitation, causing his eyes to instantly turn golden.

This action startled the few outer court disciples around him who had yet to leave, but Shun Long didn't pay any attention to them, as he led Liu Mei and the others deeper inside the King's Palace.

Although most other Nascent Soul cultivators and even Dao King realm experts wouldn't be able to react to the bolts of purple lightning that would attack them from the sky in time, sneak attacks like that were the last thing that Shun Long feared.

With his golden eyes, Shun Long had enough confidence to walk inside the King's Palace unhindered, almost as if he was taking a stroll in his own garden.

Chapter 720: Breakthrough?

"Hey, look at those people! Have they gone mad?"

"Which power do they come from? Don't tell me they aren't afraid of the lightning here!"

"Ignore them! If they have a death wish, leave them be!"

Shun Long's group attracted quite a bit of attention as they headed deeper inside the King's Palace.

This was only natural since most groups would walk slowly and would stare at the sky above them in trepidation, afraid that the purple lightning bolts would annihilate them at any moment. Even the groups of peak Dao Kings, like the inner court disciples of the Holy sect, would have to be careful of the purple lightning, but Shun Long didn't seem to care about that at all, as he led Bai Longtian and the others deeper inside the palace.

Shun Long could sense that the deeper inside the King's Palace he entered, the clearer he could now sense the myriad of Daos around him.

However, Shun Long had also noticed, that with each step he was taking towards the depths of the palace, he could also feel a faint invisible pressure that was coming from his surroundings as it bore down on his body.

This natural pressure was extremely bizarre and it seemed to have originated from the very Daos themselves, hindering anyone from walking any further.

Naturally, it wasn't just Shun Long who was feeling this pressure, but everyone else who had entered inside the King's Palace as well.

With every step that they took towards the depths of the palace, Jiang Chen and the rest could all feel the ever-increasing pressure that was blocking their way, slowly becoming even stronger.

However, it still wasn't enough to stop Shun Long's group.

After all, even normal peak Nascent Soul cultivators would be able to resist this level of pressure easily, let alone Xingyi and the rest.

...

Just an hour had passed from the time that Shun Long's group had entered the King's Palace, before Liu Mei's body suddenly trembled, as she abruptly stopped in her tracks.

Xingyi and the others all noticed this sudden change as well, as everyone else halted their steps and turned their attention towards Liu Mei.

"Mei'er."

Shun Long was the first one to move, as his body immediately vanished, appearing right next to Liu Mei almost instantly.

However, just as he was about to touch Liu Mei's body, a sense of lethal danger filled Shun Long's heart, as he quickly retracted his hand without any hesitation.

At the same time, a pitch-black aura erupted from Liu Mei in the next moment, instantly stunning Xingyi and the others.

"Brother Shun... don't tell me that..."

Bai Longtian's words were stuck in his throat as he looked at Liu Mei with a look of clear disbelief in his eyes.

Jiang Chen and Xingyi were equally shocked when they saw this scene in front of them, while Shun Long nodded his head before he answered

"Right! Mei'er is breaking through!"

Liu Mei's condition attracted quite a few envious looks from the nearby disciples who were walking close to Shun Long's group and were also heading towards the depths of the palace.

Everyone who saw this scene could easily guess that Liu Mei had suddenly gained insights and was already breaking through to the Dao King realm! For someone to have a breakthrough just an hour after the opening of the King's Palace, it was only natural that it would attract the envy of the people around them.

"Master, this isn't surprising. Cultivators of the Dao of Death don't struggle too much in their Dao comprehension. The real question is whether she can survive the Heavenly tribulation or not."

Little Black's voice had turned somewhat serious as he stared at Liu Mei from the foggy space inside the 'Stone of Time'.

Although Shun Long was slightly surprised by the sudden changes around Liu Mei, he knew that Little Black was right.

Since Liu Mei's cultivation, the purity of her soul, and her Dao comprehension had all reached the peak of rank 9 in the Nascent Soul, she wouldn't have too much trouble taking the final step to begin her breakthrough to the Dao King realm.

After all, the Dao of Death was different from most other Daos, and was rather special in terms of its Dao comprehension. For Liu Mei to gain insights into the Dao of Death, all she needed to do was absorb the death aura around her.

Although there was no dense aura of death in this outer region of the King's Palace, Liu Mei who was already half a step away from breaking through had managed to obtain a spark of insight and had now reached for the door of the Dao King realm.

No matter whether she wanted to or not, her breakthrough was about to begin.

Seeing Liu Mei unconsciously move her body and sit on the ground with her eyes closed, Shun Long didn't hesitate as he sat down in front of her and waved his hand, as he took out a wooden, silver-colored guqin from the 'Stone of Time' and held it with a serious look in his eyes.

Shun Long knew that Liu Mei's breakthrough to the Dao King realm wouldn't just involve the Heavenly Tribulation, but the negative side-effects of the 'Blood Absorption art' as well.

During her breakthrough to the Nascent Soul stage from the peak of rank 9 in the Spirit realm, Liu Mei had almost died back then, when she and Shun Long were both participating in the third test of the Holy sect.

Naturally, Shun Long was already aware of the dangers of the 'Blood Absorption art' and wasn't going to leave things to luck this time.

Jiang Chen, Xingyi, and Bai Longtian, all moved as well, as they spread around Shun Long and Liu Mei, forming a triangle-shaped formation around them.

Although the chances of someone interrupting Liu Mei during her breakthrough were extremely low inside the King's Palace, especially considering that Liu Mei didn't have any enemies outside the Holy sect, if someone really had any malicious intentions, the 3 of them weren't going to let that person get close to Liu Mei and ruin her breakthrough.