

## Unfathomable 191

### Chapter 191

"Damn, traitor! As long as the ancestral council exists, the foundation of the sect remains!"

"Even if you kill me this doesn't change anything!"

Yang Guanyu shouted at the man that appeared to be the traitor from his sect. Zhang Dong and his allies were to the side, they were being watched by the nascent soul realm cultivators from three various sects. While this was happening Matt was concentrating most of his attention on healing his leg. The wound was still hurting like crazy but the holy energies were slowly removing the demonic Qi while healing.

"The ancestral council? Hehe, you should probably worry more about yourself."

The man in the golden robe replied while smirking, Yang Guanyu furrowed his brows.

"What do you mean? What did you do!"

"Do you think that you are the only sect with hidden senior elders? Use your head, why do you think that we are all here?"

The conversation in the distance continued while Zhang Dong and his comrades waited in the back.

"What do you think their intentions are, Senior Brother Dong?"

Feng Liena asked while glancing at some of the old men and women floating around.

"We can be certain that they are here to get rid of the Dark Palm sect..."

This group of cultivators must have been waiting for them for a while. They only reacted when Yang Guanyu was making a run for it. From Matt's point of view, they were probably waiting for both parties to weaken or kill themselves before pouncing on the survivor. The sudden escape attempt of the Dark Palm sect leader made them do it prematurely as only one person had died.

"Yes, they were waiting for us to tire."

Feng Liena agreed.

"Hey, stop prattling!"

One of the nascent soul cultivators shouted at the trio, he was wearing a similar robe to the first person that spoke out with the dragon gate on it.

"Or what?"

Huo Qiang answered and pushed his killing intent along with this nascent soul aura in the direction of the person. The man backed off after feeling the large man's superior aura but soon his friends moved in to back him up.

"What do you think you are doing!"

The group of five had increased to six and they started glaring at Zhang Dong and his allies, they weren't attacking just yet though. They had seen the fight from start to finish and were wary of the man that was able to contend with Yang Guanyu. Most of the nascent realm cultivators here were in the early stage and the three main ones that were now holding a conversation with the Dark Palm sect members were all in the late stage.

"That's enough Qiang."

Zhang Dong stepped in as he placed himself between his group and the new arrivals.

"Everything depends on you... what are your intentions here? If you are after the Dark Palm sect then we won't stop you, but we would like to know your intentions towards us."

Zhang Dong asked while trying to get some more information, would these guys turn hostile the moment they took care of those weakened Dark Palm members. He had already burned through most of his Qi reserves, he was holding out for the last blow against Yang Guanyu but he was unable to finish the job.

"You don't need to know, the three seniors will decide, just stay still and wait!"

Another man from that group spoke out, he was wearing one of the whiter robes and belonged to the sword sect. Matt frowned as these people weren't willing to give them answers.

'Should we wait or make a run for it? Will those people let us go just like that?'

There were a couple of ways that things could go here. In most of them, his side wouldn't be getting out unscathed. From his point of view, the powerful group of cultivators would either try to dispose of them or demand some payment. He didn't think that they would just let three powerful nascent soul realm cultivators just roam the land under their noses.

'They might even try to force some of those soul contracts on us...'

He glanced back into his storage ring and then to Spirit Spring City. The Zhang Clan headquarters were still standing and the large defensive formation was working fine.

'Think I'll have to use that to get out of here... but first I want to see what they will do to that skinny old fart...'

Zhang Dong had to place his hand on Huo Qiang's shoulder to pull him back. His red-haired friend just wanted to charge forward but he knew that fighting this sect alliance here and now wouldn't be the smartest thing to do.

"Sister Liena, Brother Qiang let us wait for now... we should see how it all plays out first..."

The two others looked at him and nodded, the group of cultivators that were around them backed away slightly but they were still glaring at them while on their guard. It wouldn't take long for the matter to be resolved as everyone felt a rise in demonic energy followed by shouting.

"YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST KILL ME, ME!?"

Apparently the talks have broken down and they were ready to fight. The Dark Palm sect elders found out that while they were talking their base was getting assaulted by similar ancestral elders from the present three sects. They were all dead set on destroying this demonic sect and taking their riches for themselves. This was all thanks to Zhang Dong that managed to divert their attention to himself.

While the Dark Palm sect was distracted, the three other sects slowly moved their masters through the borders unnoticed and waited for the battle to start. They didn't believe that Zhang Dong's side would be actually able to last for so long but they were happily surprised and could now come in and just take the rewards for themselves.

Yang Guanyu wouldn't just sit back and let himself be killed though. The old man started glowing purple, the glow was mostly concentrated on the gem in his forehead that was spitting out more and more ghastly apparitions.

"THIS CHANGES NOTHING, YOU WILL ALL DIE HERE!"

His body started changing, it expanded in size and became immaterial. The change was similar to how his disciple transformed during the Dao Festival. His monstrous appearance was much bigger and the dastardly Qi radiating off him was far grander though.

"Ha, do you think that we didn't come prepared you fool?"

The three commanding cultivators gathered together and surrounded the demonic cultivator. One of them took out a necklace that was made out of white beads. He threw it directly at the monster of a man, the moment the beads collided with the blackish purple energies they started absorbing them.

"What!?!.. are those devil sealing beads? Where did you get those!"

The bead necklace broke apart after it absorbed more and more of that demonic Qi. The round orbs that were pure white started to dim and take up a dark purplish color the more of Yang Guanyu's energy they absorbed. The man that looked more like a lanky monster with blades for fingers started shrinking back as quite a chunk of his energy got absorbed by the items.

The three leaders that were up against this demonic cultivator used this chance to attack. Each one quickly performed one of their strongest attacks.

Cheng Yang performed a lengthy chant before pushing his palm forward, a large golden hand appeared that descended on his enemy. Xu Qing roared out and punched out, a large illusionary gate appeared behind him. It opened up and you could hear a dragon's shout escaping from it followed by a surge of flames that flew at the Dark Palm Sect leader. Zhan Jie brandished his blade and with one swift move cut forward, his sword energies carrying his Dao were at a collision course with his opponent.

The attacks came from three sides and they had killing intent behind them. In his weakened state and after his trump card had failed Yang Guanyu looked around not sure what to do, his eyes moved separately from each other as he searched for a way out.

The three nascent soul elder's attacks finally collided with each other, exploding and causing everything in the area to shake. It looked like a nuclear explosion took place as a giant mushroom cloud expanded to the sides bringing around dust and destruction.

“Is he dead?”

The other members of this ambush party kept the explosion contained in the area with their spiritual energy. They looked with attentiveness at the spot that the techniques collided with themselves, hoping to see a dead Dark Palm Sect leader. What they saw though, was a slightly different scenario.

The monster of a man looked hurt but he wasn't dead. He was holding three bodies pierced by his claw-like fingers, even now they could see those bodies squirming and getting drained from their vital energies. These were the three remaining grand elders from the Dark Palm sect. Their glorious sect leader had used the confusion to pierce them in the backs in hopes of absorbing their energies to recover and it had apparently worked.

“YOU CAN'T KILL ME!”

The ambush party didn't have enough time to react as the man bolted forward in one direction, he was going for some cultivators and trying to absorb them as well. The boost in energy was apparent as his strength had apparently recovered. Zhang Dong and his allies were to the side watching, he in particular squinted with his eyes as the lanky monster was heading their way.

‘It looks like he had recovered... but his body is deteriorating... that technique is probably incomplete or he absorbed energies past his limit... he probably won't last for long.’

The group of nascent soul elders from the other sects started backing away at the sight of the monster coming their way. Huo Qiang, Feng Liena, and Zhang Dong, on the other hand, looked at each other. The three just nodded at each other and started concentrating, their Soul-beasts appearing behind them while roaring.

“IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, DIEDIEDIEDIE”

Yang Guanyu sounded more like a crazed person now, his eyes had gone fully black and he was drooling from his mouth. He focused on Zhang Dong that holding two fingers out towards his incoming enemy, the tips were already glowing with golden light while arcs of electricity crackled to the sides.

In a similar fashion as the three nascent soul elders before, Qiang, Liena, and Dong fired of their respective techniques. The three energies, red, green, and gold intertwined with each other to form an even larger attack. The giant torrent of spiritual energies looked like a massive pillar. The elemental energies collided with the incoming monster and bathed it in spiritual Qi of the three nascent soul masters.

The screams of Yang Guanyu that had transformed into a beast were heard by the twenty so nascent soul cultivators in the area. They looked with astonishment at the giant torrent of energy that washed the demonic cultivator away. He dissolved into particles and not even his nascent divinity was able to survive after this massive attack. The large column of flew upwards and into the sky, it parted the clouds and escaped into the atmosphere exploding in the distance.

The Dark Palm sect leader was no more, his grand elders slain by his own hand. There was a moment of silence, the remaining people that were in the area looked up into the sky. The energies that had detonated in the sky looked like a blooming flower which then shattered into many tiny wisps of light that scattered.

The battle was finally over, the people in the Zhang headquarters wanted to cheer for the victory but instead, their faces were solemn. This fight had ended but another one looked to be upon them. Their three new sect elders were now hovering above the mostly destroyed city, twenty or so nascent soul masters looking at them with various expressions.

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‘This doesn’t look good...’

‘I used up a lot of spiritual energy in that last attack, I don’t think I can fight those three late-stage cultivators even with the help of Liena and Qiang.’

Matt looked at his surroundings. He was hovering close to the Zhang Clan headquarters, underneath him was a desolate wrecked city that used to house ten million people in it. It was now deserted and most buildings were destroyed during the assault by the Dark Palm sect.

‘I guess I should try talking with them first... maybe not everyone is so unreasonable like those Dark Palm guys.’

Zhang Dong straightened out and placed his hands behind his back. He hovered forward while Feng Liena and Huo Qiang supported him from the back while flying half a step behind him.

“Greetings honorable Daoists, we are thankful that you have aided us in this time of need.”

He bowed slightly in a show of respect while the twenty so nascent realm cultivators approached. The previous group of six flew to the back after they saw what these three young cultivators were capable of, they were now on their guard. Zhang Dong continued talking as the group wasn’t answering him quite yet.

“As you can see we are a new sect, I’m sure we can work something out...”

Matt was even willing to pay tribute to the three sects if that got them out of this situation. Finally, the three main elders showed a reaction as they gathered in front.

“Work something out? You have a strange way of speaking friend...”

Xu Qing from the Dragon Gate sect spoke out first as before while glancing at the three people before him. They all felt that he was scanning them with this spiritual sense and they were quick to block him out. This also let the man know that these people were close to his strength.

Cheng Yang and Zhan Jie were also feeling them out. It looked like they would attack them if they showed weakness and backed off. The atmosphere got stuffy and the other cultivators waited for the decision of their leaders.

“This is quite the conundrum my fellow Daoists, these circumstances are unique...”

Cheng Yang said while placing his hands behind his back in a similar fashion as Zhang Dong. Zhan Jie didn’t reply but he had his hand close to his sword, his intention was obvious to everyone gathered there.

Matt gave out a sigh and then asked.

“Right... what are your terms...”

Xu Qing smiled at the question as it looked like the situation could be resolved without bloodshed.

“I’m sure my friends from the Demon Subduing Sect and Limitless Sword Society will agree on the usual.”

“You will sign a soul binding contract with our sects. You can keep most of your belongings besides anything at the heaven grade that will be shared among the sects. Who goes to which sect will be discussed later.”

‘Figures, they won’t let an upstart sect be created. They want to absorb us into their sect and take everything for themselves... if they see that we have immortal grade techniques there could be a problem...’

Matt didn’t know how these people would react if he tossed out one of his immortal grade cultivation manuals. Would they start infighting, or would they torture him to get his secrets?

‘Sign my life over to them or go with plan B instead...’

He looked to Feng Liena and Huo Qiang. The red-haired man was clenching his fist tightly, Matt didn’t need much intelligence to figure out that the man was holding himself back from attacking the cultivators in front. Feng Liena just held one of her fans in front of her face before giving Zhang Dong a small nod. Both of them were willing to go at it with this group of old farts if he decided on it.

‘They trust me too much on making the right decision...’

He wanted to give the two a hug for trusting in him so much but also wanted to ask where that unshaken confidence towards him was coming from.

He straightened out, his eyes narrowed slightly as he looked at Xu Qing from the Dragon Gate sect. His eyes started glowing and some lightning escaped from them for more of a dramatic effect. The older gentlemen flinched and backed away at the display of power as he noticed that this white-haired cultivator was reacting in an unfathomable way.

“Sign a soul binding contract? ... I don’t think we will be doing that, we can offer you some spirit stones and secret techniques but that’s as far as we are willing to go!”

He replied, his voice getting deeper and deeper the longer he talked as it got backed by his cultivation. While talking he made sure to grip a certain item in his hand, he had taken out this device that he had created in preparation for something like this. It was finally time to unleash its power and bullshit his way through this dire situation.

“You dare go against the three great sects?”

One of the nascent realm elders in the back shouted out clearly surprised by the outburst from this white-haired man. Xu Qing moved his hand up so that the man behind him would quiet down before asking.

“My friend, do you think you can go against our sects, we are giving you a lot of face already, don’t be unreasonable.”

The Dragon Gate sect leader didn't think that Zhang Dong would be able to come out on top. He saw him fight Yang Guanyu and thought that the man was at his strength level. That was at the beginning of the battle though, he was sure that at this point he or the other sect leaders wouldn't have a problem in winning in a one on one battle.

The only way that those three could come out on top, would be if they were hiding something. It didn't seem like they had any trump cards anymore though, from his perspective they would have used them by now as Zhang Dong had almost died during that trap formation. The two allies that came to aid him should have been the ace in the hole.

"Xu Qing, if they want to lose their life it's their decision."

Zhan Jie from the Limitless Sword Society proclaimed while moving his hand to his sword to unsheath it. He wasn't a man that liked to debate for long, he liked to have his sword do the talking. Cheng Yang gave out a sigh but he also prepared to do battle, he floated next to Zhan Jie and was also ready.

"If more blood needs to be shed, then so be it!"

"You think this will be easy?"

Huo Qiang snorted while unleashing the full extent of his cultivation. His whole body began burning up and he looked like a person made from pure fire. Feng Liena wasn't far behind as she also started releasing copious amounts of her spiritual Qi into the surroundings. The nascent soul elders that were at the early stage gulped hard, they could tell that this man and woman were also quite strong, at least in the middle stage maybe even on the cusp of the late stage.

The three sect leaders jumped back, the air around the area got filled with copious amounts of Qi and even the defensive formation in the background churned to block it from entering the Zhang headquarters.

"C-can the seniors win?"

"T-there are so many nascent soul realm cultivators there..."

The people that were hiding behind the barrier focused on their allies, this looked to be the final challenge between doom and survival. Before the battle could start though, something peculiar started happening. Zhang Dong's whole body started glowing, it wasn't the golden glow, as usual, it was more of a colorless glow.

His body slumped forward as if he was a puppet with strings getting cut. His hands and legs dangled about while he flew upwards. The cultivators from the other sects looked on with quite the interest at what was happening.

"What is he doing?"

"That Qi... it's massive... its that the great circle? How is that possible, he shouldn't have any Qi left!"

The other nascent soul seniors took up defensive stances, everyone was ready to defend against anything that this unknown cultivator was going to throw at them. His power kept rising, everyone's eyes started going wide as Zhang Dong was reaching the apex of what a nascent soul realm cultivator could be.

“Was he hiding his strength... no... what is that?”

Cheng Yang pointed up into the sky, behind the shining Zhang Dong there was someone and it was he that was radiating this power. The man looked like a ghost, he was semi-transparent and looked quite familiar to some of the people gathered there. Mostly to the ones from the Zhang Clan police unit that had visited Moonlight city before.

“Wait isn’t that that that mysterious senior...”

“Yes... what is he doing here...could he be here for...”

The glaring glow of the light started subsiding, what was left was a floating Zhang Dong with his head down low and with his body unmoving. He was radiating light and behind him stood a phantom of another person. This person looked like an old man, his beard white and lengthy. He was wearing an exquisite robe with many dragons sewed into it, his body looked in shape and he was smiling down while looking at the people below.

“Greetings young ones, I’m afraid I can’t just let you continue with this. My disciple’s life is at stake, why won’t you give this old man some face and just forget about this?”

The three sect leaders backed off, they could feel that this ghost or illusion of the man wasn’t anything simple. In their eyes, this must have been some kind of safeguarding function. This wasn’t anything new as strong masters usually gave their core disciples ways of defending themselves while they were away.

“Honorable Senior is?”

Xu Qing cupped his fists as he reevaluated the whole situation, it was one thing to battle against someone with no backing and another if they had a strong force behind them.

“Oh me? It doesn’t really matter, but if you must you can call me, Wei Hung!”

The man smiled cheerfully while replying to the question, the others took their time to rack their brains. From what they knew, there was no one by the name ‘Wei Hung’ that was known in the Empire and that was this strong. Before they could ask any more questions they felt a massive surge in spiritual energy getting exuded from that transparent figure.

“I won’t take up much of your time, young ones. As you can see, I’m not really here, this is only a sliver of my true spirit that I have left with my disciple. I hope you will let my silly disciple be. If he wishes to establish a sect on his own so be it.”

“You can have what is left of that demonic sect, I just wish for my disciple and his companions to be safe.”

“If for some reason, you cannot go along with this old man’s wishes...”

The old man paused and narrowed his eyes at the group of cultivators. Everyone shrunk down after they felt his overbearing power wash all over them. They all felt like small mice getting looked at by a ferocious lion, they were unable to utter a word or move just shocked by the display of his might.

“If you don’t, well... let us just say that the number of sects will decrease by three in this empire, understood?”



The three sect leaders turned to each other and then back to the man that was talking to them. They just nodded out of sheer fright, knowing well that there was no one close to this man's strength even back at their headquarters.

"Then it's settled! I hope we can meet under better circumstances next time!"

The man's illusory figure started flickering out and it soon exploded into many tiny particles of light. He wasn't there for more than a few minutes but he had left an impression that wouldn't be forgotten. After leaving Zhang Dong's eyes stopped glowing and he managed to awaken from his trance. His face showed confusion as he started looking around, the enemy cultivators were now slowly backing away unsure of what to do.

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People were standing with their mouths opened wide after the illusory figure of the man disappeared. His massive spiritual pressure was still on their minds. The nascent soul cultivators here were all on top of the food chain, so they knew that the senior that had just appeared wasn't anyone simple.

The gears in their heads started spinning around, trying to figure out this Wei Hung's true identity. There weren't many masters on the continent that were at the great circle of the nascent soul. Just as with core formation, there was a difference with someone at the beginning stages of it and at the end stages when they reached close to 100%.

This man had clearly shown power going beyond the beginning stages, which caused these cultivators that were at most at the late stage to be concerned. While they were thinking, that seniors disciple was floating down, his expression showing confusion.

"Wait... did my master take over my body?" What did he say?"

He looked around between the cultivators there, but wherever he looked the people from the other sects would evade his gaze, too scared to offend someone with that amount of backing.

"Senior Brother, I didn't know you had such a powerful master, now it all makes sense!"

Feng Liena moved closer, her big eyes were sparkling with admiration while looking up to her sect brother. Huo Qiang wasn't far behind as he also nodded with agreement.

"Such power! Such presence! Now that was a true master!"

Zhang Dong glanced at his two friends, his mouth twitched slightly. He knew well that the master that showed up was something he came up as a defensive measure and he wasn't a real person. How he managed to do it is thanks to the holographic technology he came up with that was slowly spreading through the city along with the cubes that stored spiritual energy.

This was also why he had moved closer to the city where the holographic projector that he previously prepared was. He purposely made his body glow in a blinding light to get everyone's attention. He then activated the device that had a model of his Wei Hung persona inscribed into it. He could control what he was saying remotely and he used the cubes that stored large amounts of spiritual energy to create the illusion of the man behind him being really strong. From the look on the three main elders faces, it seemed to have worked.

“W-well yes, that’s my master for you! No one can go against him if he makes up his mind!”

Zhang Dong laughed awkwardly while trying to hold a poker face. This little stunt had cost him most of his Qi reserves as he needed to add some juice to make it look realistic.

The cultivators from the three large sects looked at each other with worry. The leaders had to make a decision, would they risk offending some unknown entity to irradicate this upstart sect? Would the risk outweigh the gains? They only faced three enemies and this would probably be the best moment to strike, but the unknown backer was making these three leaders nervous.

“Brother Yang...brother Jie... I think this requires more time to discuss, why don’t we consult with the other elders in our sects...”

Xu Qing was the first one to speak out, he was unwilling to risk his and his sect’s life. Even if the risk was small, they could also gain new allies with these people if they showed mercy.

“Yes, that might be the wise path to take...”

Cheng Yang nodded as he replied.

“Hmph!”

Zhan Jie was the only one that looked maddened by the decision but if the others weren’t willing to risk it, he wouldn’t either.

“Zhang Dong was your name, right fellow Daoist?”

After everything was decided Xu Qing looked to Matt that was clearly the leader from this new sect.

“I hope there won’t be any bad blood between our sects, we will allow you to reside here, but we will be taking the resources from that demonic sect. Don’t think you will have anything against that?”

Zhang Dong nodded, he didn’t really care about the cultivation resources of that sect. He had the cultivation manuals from the secret ground which were far superior to anything these sects could offer. It was enough for them to be able to survive, with time they would rise above the others.

“That is fine, we don’t care about those demonic techniques or their resources. We just wish to establish our sect in peace, I’m sure we can decide on the land distribution at a later date.”

Matt moved his hands behind his back as always, his body was slowly reaching its limit as he was feeling tired. He wanted to end this and end it fast, he could think about everything else after he had rested.

“I see that Daoist Dong is a wise man, yes let us decide on that later.”

The three sect leaders nodded at each other. The siege of the main Dark Palm sect was still ongoing, there were also many large cities spread through this vast land that would be taken over. The help of these nascent soul masters would hasten everything and would lower the death count on their side. They had already spent some time here, so they wanted to resolve everything with haste.

“Yes, let us aid our brothers and sisters with taking down that demonic sect first, we will discuss everything later.”

Everyone nodded and they bade Zhang Dong, Feng Liena, and Huo Qiang farewell. The two kept staring daggers at the invading cultivators all till they were little dots on the horizon.

“Sigh...”

“We should go back, let’s keep the grand formation working, for now. We don’t know if they will have a change of heart after they discuss everything with those so-called ancestral elders of theirs.”

Matt said while gently floating down towards the remaining large structure. The two brand new sect elders agreed and continued after him, somehow everything got resolved with less bloodshed than anticipated. In their hearts, they knew that this wasn’t over though. The three sects would probably keep testing them until they saw a chink in their armor. They needed to get stronger and they needed to do it fast.

With a wave of his finger, Zhang Dong created a little opening in the barrier and gently floated into the defensive formation. His two allies went in right behind him and closed it right after. This formation was intricate enough for it to record the energy signatures of some cultivators. Thanks to that it could be opened and closed without having to fully deactivate it.

The three were greeted with sounds of cheers, everyone was shouting the names of the new sect. The three elders’ names were also called out, Zhang Dong’s was of course the most prominent one. All three of them descended down to the ground as they did the crowd finally managed to calm down.

Everyone looked to their new leader, the man that made it happen. This, of course, caused Matt to sweat bullets internally, he had to yet again act his role and straighten out. Hands behind his back and his posture straight as a sword, unnoticed to most though his hands were trembling slightly. Not because he was nervous but because he had used up almost all of his spiritual energy and was now having a hard time keeping himself on his feet.

‘I can’t show them weakness...’

He wanted to laugh at himself, here he was a big sect leader now, looking out for his face as he was unwilling to show a flaw in front of this crowd of people. His motive was a bit more honorable than this as he wanted to present himself as a powerful leader that doesn’t falter. If his people saw him stumble or throw up, they would probably see him in a worse light which would affect the morale.

‘I can do this...just nod a bit and get this over with...’

He steeled his resolve, a few more minutes should be fine.

“My sect members this battle is over but we still must remain vigilant, the other sects will probably take some time with what remains of the Dark Palm sect.”

“We require more information, we must gather up our forces and bolster our defenses. The grand formation will protect us for now but it’s not the answer to our problem.”

He continued talking rapidly while everyone was listening. His eyebrows quivered as he was close to falling asleep.

“M-my Master had bought us some time, but we don’t know for how long the other sects will remain neutral. They might test us in the future, so I expect you to not cause trouble for your sect but

remember to not show weakness. We will hold a meeting with all the senior members, we will discuss everything then.”

Zhang Dong nodded after his quick speech, talking it over more throughout later would be the best option for now. The other’s nodded without saying anything, how could they interrupt or ask questions when a senior elder like him was talking.

“There is still much work to be done, we will not be holding any banquets or victory events, it is still too soon for such things. Now go! there is still much to be done, I must retreat to my chambers to prepare!”

“Yes, Patriarch!”

“Yes, Sect Leader!”

“Yes, Senior!”

People bowed while giving him variously honorable titles, people like Zhang Jin and his two disciples were also there. Right in the front, their eyes were sparkling with so much admiration that he could probably light a football field with it if he could harness that power.

“Master!”

“Dong’er!”

Matt took a step forward while almost falling over, he had to stop himself as the people closest to him walked forward. They started praising him and he even received a firm smack to his back from his grandpa, which almost made him faceplant onto the cold hard floor.

‘Don’t you donger me you old fart, you want me to die?’

He wanted to shake his family member off and his disciples but they surrounded him from all sides. There they were, his two pupils with their mother, then there was gramps that even brought over his two wives. There were some other family members that he wasn’t sure about, by this point he had no idea how many relatives he had. He would even believe if they told him that he was somehow related to Yang Guanyu that they just killed.

“Ah yes, dear grandfather and my two disciples I bet you worked hard, but your master has to...”

Before he could get himself out of it they all moved in closer and started barraging him with praises and questions. They all wanted to congratulate the man that made it all happen why also asking about this elusive Wei Hung that was pulling strings in the background. Before they could continue though, someone interrupted them. It was Feng Liena that stood right in front of the crowd that backed off after seeing the second nascent realm master of the sect.

“Senior Dong is a busy man, we still have preparations to make!”

She covered part of her face with a fan while speaking. The people that were in a circle around Zhang Dong moved apart a bit scared of this new senior elder. They were familiar with their Patriarch but this woman was still unfamiliar to the people close to him. Zhang Dong nodded at Feng Liena.

“Ah yes, I must take care of a few things that can’t wait. Junior sister is right!”

He was finally able to leave, the people didn't dare to stop him after Feng Liena got involved as it seemed that he had some important things to tend to. He quickly walked towards his bed chambers, the corridor towards it was now empty as every able-bodied person was working.

Just before he could open the door he felt a bout of drowsiness washing over him. His vision got blurry and he felt like he was going to pass out. He buckled under his own weight and had to keep himself on his feet by placing one of his hands on the corridor wall. He slowly inched towards the door, he couldn't pass out in front of his room he at least had to make it inside where no one could see him.

He tried hard, yet he would not succeed. The battle was over and the tension was gone, his body started giving out as there was no reason to stay conscious. So he fell forward but he didn't land face down on something hard, instead, he felt like something soft had damped his descent. He couldn't quite put his finger on it, but he smelled a familiar scent of cherries. Soon everything faded and he passed out unable to hear the voice of the person that had caught him.

"It's okay Senior Brother, you can rest now..."

## **Chapter 194**

Matt opened his eyes and looked around. He was sitting on a small island in the middle of nowhere, the sun was up and it was warm. He looked to the side, crystal clear water was surrounding him from all sides and he could hear the relaxing sound of the sea. He was wearing a pair of blue swim trunks and was relaxing on a lawn chair, in his hand a tall drink with a straw.

He didn't say anything and just looked up into the sky, fuzzy white and like cotton, the clouds were dancing. This seemed a bit out of place but he couldn't remember why so he just took a sip from his drink and leaned back in his chair, not a care in the world.

"Ah, this is the life... but I think I'm forgetting something... It's probably nothing."

He closed his eyes and started listening to the calming sounds. The wind was slowly pushing the leaves of the coconut tree by which he was sitting and some birds were squawking in the distance.

The calm day was suddenly interrupted though, by the same coconut tree that he was sitting under. A pair of coconuts fell down, hitting him on the head one after another and landing in his lap. The funny thing about those coconuts was, that they weren't hard at all. The hit to the head didn't hurt at all as the two-round objects bounced onto his legs.

"Hmm?"

He grasped one of those coco fruits that weren't actually nuts. He gave the left one a grasp and could feel it squishing uncharacteristically, you'd expect one of these to be hard as a brick but no, both of these coconuts were soft to the touch.

"Something isn't right here...I should investigate!"

He grabbed both of the nuts and brought them over closer, one of his eyes opening further than the other as he stared. He moved his hand closer and gave it a flick with his finger, the coconut wobbled in an odd fashion. The moment the flick occurred, he heard some kind of womanly voice that was strangely familiar.

“Ahhhh...n-nooo!”

He backed off for a moment, astonished by strange voice after the finger flick. The feeling he got was quite pleasant, he even reached out to grasp the large coco fruits with both hands. After a moment of feeling them out, he got the strange urge to bring them closer to his own face and so he did.

‘Hm... what are these made of, marshmallows?’

“Ehhhh...w-what are you doing!”

The familiar voice was heard once more, this time it felt even closer than before. He wasn’t sure why the coconuts were talking, but they sure felt soft against his manly face. He leaned back with the two round objects against his face and hugged them tightly a silly smile on his face.

“S-senior you...you mustn’t, what if someone walks in!”

He stopped for a moment, why were the large squishy coconuts calling him a ‘Senior?’, he wasn’t even that old. Also, why did these two smell really familiar. The more he hugged the more he remembered, the more he remembered the more the beach he was in shook and distorted.

Then he finally remembered. He recalled the battle with the nascent soul elders from the Dark Palm sect and then about the other group that came to clean up afterward. The world around him turned dark and he opened up his eyes, the beach he was in was just a dream he was having.

The moment his eyes opened he saw blackness but he wasn’t blind, no he just had his whole face pressed into something. This something was immensely soft and squishy, blocking his view from all sides.

“Huh?”

He was finally awake. His hands were holding onto someone and this someone was on top of him. He could smell a characteristic perfume that one person that he knew liked to use it. He started sweating as he finally realized his transgression.

“S-senior brother....”

He slowly pulled his face back and looked up, he could see the blushing face of Feng Liena and her large blue eyes. Finally, the truth had been revealed, it was only a dream and the squishy coconuts belonged to his sect’s junior sister Feng Liena. He was in his bed with his hands around the woman, hugging her tightly. His whole face was pressed into her large bosom that was bulging out due to the fact that he was pressing into her hard.

“Uh...this is...”

The moment Matt wanted to explain himself he heard a creaking sound. The sound was his bedroom door opening, he instinctively moved his face to the side to look at who had entered. Due to this sudden movement of his face Liena gave out a cutesy high pitch sound that echoed through the entire room.

“Senior Brother my father wishes to speak with yo...”

It was Huo Qiang walking through, his father had begged him for an audience and so he was here. He wasn't alone, Zhang Jin and his two grand-kids Zhang Liu and Xue used this chance to peek in as well. What they were greeted with was a half-naked Zhang Dong, that for some reason had his robe down. He was hugging a blushing Feng Liena and looking at them with his face between her globes.

The two quickly separated but what had been seen couldn't be easily forgotten. The group of four had different reactions, Zhang Jin just nodded with approval. Huo Qiang rubbed his chin but then just gave this senior brother a thumbs up. The two youths were a bit more bashful, Liu moved his head down while blushing and used his sleeve to cover his sister's face so that she wouldn't look at their master doing naughty things.

"Take all the time you need..."

Zhang Jin was quick to react, he pulled his two grand-kids away with haste and also whispered something into Huo Qiang's ear that made him grin and retreat as well. The others had left and Zhang Dong and Feng Liena were back to being all alone with each other. The girl was facing away from him with her face covered by her hands, blushing and not sure what to do.

Matt needed some time to process what had just happened. The last thing he remembered was trying to walk to his bed chambers so that he could pass out without alerting anyone from his sect members to his moment of weakness. He didn't make it in time but he recalled feeling someone's presence there before he fully lost his consciousness. He put two and two together to get his answer.

'It must have been Feng Liena that was there, she probably brought me to my room. But why am I almost naked in my boxer briefs...'

Yes, Zhang Dong was wearing undies made by himself as he couldn't get used to what the people in this world used instead. They had various ways of covering their nether regions, some even only wrapped some cloth or used some baggy underpants. Now he was all down to his undies and in bed, was Feng Liena always this bold?

"Y-you were sweating a lot so I've tried changing your clothes S-senior Brother..."

The woman noticed Zhang Dong looking at his robeless form with confusion on his face, so she gave him a quick answer.

"Ahhh...well... uh..."

He rubbed his head slightly while quickly going through the room, he saw his robe to the side. There was a bowl with some spirit water there and a damp cloth was right next to him, it probably fell down from his forehead the moment he stuck his face between his sect sister's bosom.

"I think I have to apologize... and also, thank you..."

The woman clearly just tried to help him out, he probably had a fever from spiritual energy deprivation after the big battle. He still felt weak but he was slowly recovering. The thing that he did was probably seen as something shameful in this society, but his junior sister that was actually older than him didn't seem to mind. She finally turned around, her hands covering her eyes parted away to reveal her large blue eyes, her face slightly pinker than usual.

“You shouldn’t get up senior brother, you are still suffering from Qi deprivation, you need to rest!”

Matt looked at Liena that had recovered her composure, he did feel slightly weakened but it wasn’t anything that he couldn’t walk out at this point.

“Ah, no need. I think I’m alright now, thank you for...”

Before he could finish his sentence the woman moved forward, her head shaking in disapproval.

“No! You must rest!”

He got surprised as she raised her voice by a note and more or less ordered him to rest. He wasn’t really in the mood to argue with anyone and the danger was gone so he just nodded.

“Um, alright... I’ll rest?”

He nodded and wanted to pull the bedsheets over himself but then Liena moved closer while holding a damp cloth.

“Senior Brother before that... I think you need to get cleaned... I couldn’t finish before we got interrupted...”

“Interrupted?...oh...”

He recalled sticking his face into a large valley and just coughed into his hand.

“Finish what?”

He asked while looking to the woman, she in response took out a white cloth that was already moist from some of that spirit water. She held it up while looking at him, their eyes meeting.

“C-could you turn around, I’ll clean your back...”

“My back?”

He looked down to himself, he was indeed sweaty. Luckily he didn’t exude any kind of bad odor. He looked to the damp cloth and then to himself knowing what the woman intended to do.

“I could just wash up in the springs... there is one right there...”

He looked to his private springs where he even used to cultivate. It wasn’t far from here so he could just soak in it if he required too.

“No! You shouldn’t be walking and straining yourself, what if something happens just like before!”

Matt blinked a couple of times before nodding, Liena was uncharacteristically persistent this time around. She stared at him intensely as if she would tackle him down if he dared to stand up and go to the spring to soak in. He finally relented and nodded, she moved closer and placed the damp cloth against his wide back and started cleaning it up from the sweat.

He felt a bit strange with someone washing his back, he couldn’t remember anyone doing such things besides his own mother and that was in his early childhood. He followed the instructions moving his hands up so she could take care of all the crevices. Unbeknownst to him, Feng Liena was seriously



blushing all the way up to her ears while performing this task. Even though she was older than him, she had zero experience with men. Though as time passed she started getting more comfortable with the task.

“Junior Sister?”

There was a moment of silence between the two, he noticed that she was done with the task but for some reason, she chose to stop while placing her hand on his shoulder from the back.

“Senior brother..., thank you... for everything... for trusting in me, if it wasn’t for you...”

She suddenly started thanking him out of the blue, he felt a bit uncomfortable and not sure how to react.

“You don’t need to thank me, you also helped a lot. If it wasn’t for you I would probably not be here either.”

He tried deflecting the praise as he wasn’t good at receiving compliments. Feng Liena smiled and moved her free hand to give the man a gentle tap on the shoulder, which of course took him by surprise.

“Senior brother, you should learn to accept other people’s gratitude, even more, if it’s coming from a beautiful maiden.”

“Ahh, sorry...”

“If you’re apologetic than prove it, Senior Brother.”

“How would I prove that?”

He heard a giggle from the back and then felt the wet cloth moving away from his back. Feng Liena moved to the front a smile on her face.

“How about inviting this beautiful junior sister to some tea next time?”

She asked while slightly fidgeting, but the red on her ears didn’t go unnoticed.

“Tea?...ahh...”

He would be quite dense if he didn’t realize where this was going. He thought for a moment before nodding and looking straight into the beautiful woman’s eyes.

“It would be a pleasure!”

The two looked at each other while smiling. In the background there stood a small group of people, they were all pushing against the large door with their ears. This was, of course, his two disciples Zhang Jin and Huo Qiang eavesdropping. If Zhang Dong and Feng Liena weren’t so focused on each other they would probably feel them being there but they were blissfully unaware.

## **Chapter 195**

Zhang Dong took a sip of some green tea while still being in bed. He was looking to the side through the windows at the destroyed scenery. The whole city was trashed and only a small circular spot where the

grand defensive formation was placed remained. There was much work to be done and his face was solemn. It cleared up instantly though after he looked at the teacup in his hand.

“Tea huh?”

This was left by his junior sister Feng Liena. She was now part of the sect he was running and also part of the big three along with him and Huo Qiang. He thought to what transpired a few moments ago which put a dumb smile on his face.

‘Well... I guess she is interested in me?’

He thought back to the interaction that they just had but most of his thoughts were pulled to the moment that he hugged her while sleeping. That soft sensation against his face was hard to forget along with that nice smell that she had.

‘Does this mean that I have a girlfriend now?... What do you do with girlfriends? Wait, she only asked me out for tea...am I getting ahead of myself?’

He moved his head up and stared at the ceiling, he had agreed to go get some tea with Feng Liena later. This was akin to going on a date in this world and showing interest in a person of the opposite sex. He was someone with zero dating experience, not in his previous life or this. He had that small encounter with the merchant lady two years ago, but that couldn’t be considered as dating but more of a one night stand.

‘What do people do for fun here?’

He had no idea how relationships worked in this world, he only knew his grandfather and Huo Qiang that had many wives. They would probably not be the right people to ask about help unless he wanted to build a harem. He wasn’t really the type of person to go for such things and having multiple wives felt like the road to disaster.

‘I’m probably worrying too much about it... I should get dressed, there are many things to be done.’

His date would have to wait, the sect problems came first. There were also millions of people waiting in the woods probably hoping of returning to their homes. He needed to figure out if he wanted to still stay in this location or to move to a different area to establish a proper sect. This city was already destroyed and they had to rebuild it but the spiritual energy concentration here wasn’t really adequate for a large sect.

‘I promised them a meeting, it’s already the next day.’

He had been forced to sleep it off by Feng Liena, the woman was apparently more strong-willed than he anticipated. He didn’t want to argue too much so he decided to take the day off and just sleep it off. After a good night’s rest, he was feeling much better, his spiritual energy wasn’t fully recovered but it was enough to move around without needing others to look out for him.

He chuckled while thinking back, Liena had remained in this room and had scared other people from going in. She finally left in the morning after keeping watch, making sure that no one disturbed his rest.

‘Wonder if she will be so overprotective if she has any kids,... why am I thinking about kids?’

He shook his head while standing up, he used his spatial ring to remove a fitting white robe for himself. He would need to design some uniform sect robes for the future.

‘Hm, should I make them have different colors depending on the element a practitioner is adept at?’

He had the system with him, finding out what a person was talented at wasn’t a problem. Still, no one was really locked to an elemental proficiency as even his disciples could train up in his lightning Dao. But it was still faster to progress in something you were naturally gifted.

He called over Zhang Kuo and Zhang Ya, he had to clear up some things with his two main retainers. The two looked a bit concerned and had their heads dropped, they both knew that the time came for their punishment.

“The main crisis is over... but there is still much work to be done.”

“You two...”

He looked at them with a stern expression. The two withheld valuable information from him, they didn’t inform him about the city his clan members were going to and that it was ruled by the Dark Palm sect. Still, no one knew that they would meet some kind of crazy young master there that would then lead into a full-blown war.

Could the clash have been avoided if he knew? He felt that even if he knew, his grandfather would probably have convinced him into allowing his clan’s juniors to participate. He might have even put off his ascension into the nascent soul if he knew which would spell instant disaster. He wouldn’t have been able to go against Wu Ming or any of the other nascent soul masters, running would have been the only option then.

“You held back information from your Patriarch. Do you have anything to say in your own defense?”

The two dropped down to their hands and knees.

“We are sorry Patriarch... no Sect Leader, we deserve death!”

The two nodded, Matt raised his brow at the instant death sentence that the two gave themselves. In their eyes, they caused a massive disservice to the whole clan that almost caused their downfall. Matt on the other hand didn’t really blame them, they were only following orders that Zhang Jin gave. Those orders weren’t actually wrong as he might have caused a bigger scene if he ever went together with their small expedition.

“Death? Do you really think that I want to see more people die?”

He was slightly ticked off by their response, why were these people always so quick to go to their demise for things like making their superiors look bad.

“S-sect leader?”

“There have been enough deaths already! You two, I want you to work hard, harder than you ever worked before!. After the sect is well established and doesn’t need you, you have the permission to die, if you so wish.”

These two were talented managers, they had already lost people to this useless war. There was no reason for two loyal people like this to be sent to their deaths over a small mistake.

“Do you think you can do that? The Sect needs you!”

“Yes, Sect Leader!”

The two started smashing their heads into the hard floor tiles.

“That’s enough, go and call over all the elders for a meeting, we must discuss our next move, stop hitting the floor with your heads, it’s going to leave a crack...”

He was more concerned about the holes in his floor than about the damage these two would suffer from hitting it. They were both close to reaching the end stages of foundation establishment so they were really resistant, the floor wasn’t.

After some more apologizing and bowing he managed to get rid of his two unruly retainers. He fixed his clothes one last time and went on with the day, he moved to the large auditorium looking room where they had their meetings. His people worked hard as even before he got there almost everyone was there and waiting.

“We greet the sect leader!”

“Welcome, Patriarch.”

He got the usual greeting from his Zhang family members, the Feng clan women were quite enthusiastic as well, though the people from the Huo clan looked a bit reserved from how they handled themselves. He could see Huo Qiang waving at him, next to him was an old man that he saw before, he was even more muscular than his red-haired sect brother and the two looked alike.

Before he could start the meeting the two moved over and he got a nice smack to his shoulder from his little bro. Thanks to having his body refining upgraded, he didn’t feel the hit all that much.

“Ha ha, hard as fine spirit metal, you see that father, that’s what a real man should be like!”

Matt looked at Qiang and then to his so-called father. The man was big, but due to his musculature, he was even more imposing. He didn’t look pleased, he didn’t even bow his head at Zhang Dong which bothered most of the people from the Zhang faction.

‘Oh he looks mad... well, we did pull them into a war with the sect and it’s still unclear if we will be left alone...’

From Huo Gang’s perspective, his son was at the same level of power as this man now. He was the father of a nascent soul senior, so he saw himself above the others by association. His son was right next to him, so he felt reassured while talking to Zhang Dong.

“Zhang Clan Patriarch... what are you planning, my Huo Clan never agreed to any of this! My son isn’t the clan leader, I am!”

“Hey, you old fart, what are you talking about!”

Huo Qiang looked at his father with a frown on his face.

“Quiet, I am still your father!”

The man shouted out loud, he was obviously mad for the way this all played out. From his point of view, this was all too risky. There weren't enough nascent soul elders and he didn't trust Zhang Dong at all. He hadn't seen the immortal grade techniques either, so he had no idea why his son and so many others were following this white-haired man.

‘Uh...if I explain everything this guy will probably see reason, but...’

He did a quick scan of the room. Every person from the senior generation was here, they were all leaders and future elders of the sect. Some of them could probably reach the nascent soul level if they got the correct techniques and more time. His authority was getting questioned by this man if he pulled back he would probably look weak in front of these old fashioned cultivator types.

‘I bet he is banking on me respecting Qiang's authority and not going overboard...’

To Matt, it looked as if this man was doing some kind of strange power move. He probably wanted to show that he was the father of one of the core sect elders and that he wasn't afraid of the sect leader. Maybe he was even convinced that Huo Qiang would jump into his defense if Zhang Dong went on the offensive.

‘Maybe he thinks that I wouldn't dare to offend the father of an important ally as Huo Qiang?’

‘I guess I need to make a show of force... this is the way these old farts operate...’

He also noticed Feng Liena fuming in the back, her eyes were staring daggers into the man's back and she was ready to pounce.

“How dare yo...”

She shouted out but Zhang Dong moved his hand up while looking at her with a gentle smile. He then looked to the man while still having the same smile. Huo Gang then felt a rise in spiritual energy in the area and it was focusing on the place he was standing in.

Zhang Dong's eyes glowed with golden light and small lightning bolts started getting expelled from his eye sockets. The man felt a massive amount of weight getting put on his shoulders. He was unable to resist as he collapsed to his knees, sweating under Zhang Dong's aura. Huo Qiang was surprised by his senior brother's fast reaction and by reflex tried reaching out to help his own father. He felt a jolt to his hand the moment he leaned in, the suppressive aura was even strong enough to push him back who was a nascent soul cultivator.

“Your son agreed, that was enough at that time. I will not keep your clan here if you wish you may leave. Though, I'm not sure the other sects would allow you to do this after your association to the United Element sect is known.”

“The Zhang Clan, Feng Clan, and the Huo Clan... those names won't matter much in the future. We are a sect now and as a sect I expect everyone to work together, I might be the Sect Master but I will still consult the senior members on important matters.”

“I do not wish for this sect to eat itself from the inside as the Dark Palm sect did.”

He released the pressure allowing Qiang's father to stand up, he patted him on the shoulder while continuing to speak.

"Your son is like a brother to me, I do not wish to see you using him to further yourself. I know that you are afraid about your position and your clan's in this sect. I assure you that I will not treat your family with scorn. Everyone's place will depend on their individual achievements and nothing more!"

He finished his speech and moved over to the spot of honor at the helm.

"Well then, let us start this meeting, any questions?"

Everyone looked a bit bewildered by Zhang Dong's outburst and most of them were now afraid to bring up any personal matters.

## **Chapter 196**

The meeting finally started after the small dramatic exchange between the new sect leader and Huo Qiang's father. He was pacified now and in the corner with a stern expression on his face. From Zhang Dong's perspective, he looked to be sulking but he didn't really want to argue with the old man anymore.

"Give me a full report on the situation... I can feel that we are being watched..."

Matt could sense that there were some nascent soul elders far away but still close enough for him to sense some of their spiritual essence. They were probably keeping watch on the small locked off area, ordered by their elders. Zhang Kuo stepped forward, everyone in the room looked to him as he was going to give the report.

"As the Sect Leader says, we have sighted some of the nascent soul elders from all of the three sects that were here previously. Each one of them left a senior behind, probably to keep watch over us."

"Regarding the Dark Palm Sect, their main sanctuary is being attacked by the combined forces of the three sects. They have not yet fallen but they stand no chance against the combined strength of those three large sects."

They still had some spies that were outside Spirit Spring City that could relay some information through their communication jades. The demonic sect that was here the other day was now on the defensive. They were huddled up behind their defensive formations and fighting for their life.

"We are not sure what is happening inside as it was far too dangerous for our spies to go in closer, we can only speculate on what is happening."

"Hmm... they'll probably last a bit before they fall, what about the people that evacuated into the forests?"

"They are safe and are being guarded by some of our sect members, they have enough food and water to last them a couple of months."

Zhang Dong nodded, his people weren't in any danger at the time being which was reassuring.

"What about the city?"

“Spirit Spring City has mostly been destroyed... the Dark Palm sect bombarder everything with their cannons. The city has been leveled, there is nothing left to salvage, besides rubble.”

The Zhang Clan members were unhappy, to say the least about this turn of events. They had spent the past two years upgrading the whole city infrastructure to the peak, they had hospitals, police stations, and even a fire station all in working condition. They knew that rebuilding everything would cost a lot and their Patriarch had burned through every single spirit stone that they had saved up.

“So only the Zhang Clan main compound remains...”

Zhang Dong shook his head, not happy that two years of work went down the drain just like that. He wouldn't be getting any spirit points from his system from Spirit Spring City anymore if it was like this. He was now contemplating moving his base of operations elsewhere, somewhere with more spiritual energy.

“If the Zhang Clan needs a place to stay they can come to our Red Lotus City.”

Feng Liena interrupted while smiling at Zhang Dong, who nodded at the proposition with gratitude.

“Red Lotus City? That place is too small, we can just go to my Qingliang City!”

Huo Qiang shouted out while smacking his broad chest with his large hand, if his senior brother wanted a new base of operations he wanted his home to be it.

“Ah Qingliang City, is it?”

Surprisingly his father didn't reject the idea, instead, he moved his hands over his chest in a cross shape and nodded.

“I agree, what better place for the new sect than in Qingliang City!”

“Red Lotus City has a better location and it's closer to the Zhang Sanctuary as well, I think it would be a better option!”

Feng Maling interjected on Liena's accord as she could see that her granddaughter was fuming with anger after Huo Qiang interrupted her.

“Patriarch, why should we move, we can just rebuild the old city and make it better and stronger than it ever was! Like a Phoenix, it will rise from the ashes!”

This time Zhang Zhi shouted out, some of his clan members also nodded as they were hesitant about just leaving their old home behind. The main sanctuary of their clan was still intact and it was even protected by a very powerful defensive formation. Not even nascent soul seniors could muscle their way into it.

Matt put his hands together while nodding at the propositions. To spend resources and rebuild, or to move on to greener pastures? He wasn't sure but he was leaning into another direction than the three main forces in this room. A small shouting match ensued where the Zhang Clan, Feng Clan, and Huo Clan were trying to convince Zhang Dong of seeing it their way.

“The United Element Sect, what is it?”

He asked, interrupting everyone in the room.

"It's a gathering of our three clans?"

One of the older members called out while the others nodded.

"Is it? I don't think this sect will have a future if we are just that..."

"Do you wish to conscript more people into the sect, Sect Leader?"

Another elder asked.

"That's a given, you saw those large sects, we pale not only in the number of nascent soul cultivators, but we also have fewer core formation experts and our foundation establishment juniors aren't enough."

"I don't think we should move into any of those two cities, and neither should we remain here, we need a more suitable spot."

"Where would we find such a location, Senior Brother?"

Feng Liena asked a bit saddened that her proposition was denied.

"That is something I can't tell just yet, I must go through the lands to see..."

Matt's mapping feature had gotten a boost since he reached the nascent soul level. He could now check to see below the earth as well, he wanted to scout the area's out. He wanted to find something akin to the spiritual veins that could be found in the deeper regions in the empire. He wasn't hoping for that much but even another spirit stone mine would be enough.

He had heaven grade spiritual energy gathering formation in his library, so he didn't need a place with a high concentration of it, he just needed it to be manageable.

"It would be best if those three sects allowed us to stay at the area where the Dark Palm Sect was located but don't think they will let us."

The people nodded, the large sects had their bases located in places with strong spiritual energies. It wouldn't be odd if those clans left some of their members there after they conquered it.

"Maybe if the honorable Wei Hung acted, we could gain that land for ourselves?"

One of the Zhang Clan Elders asked the others nodded with approval while looking at Zhang Dong. In their opinion, if that strong master acted even the three sects would have to listen. Wei Hung's illusion had left a big impression on these people, they thought it was just a slither of his true might and it was already that strong, how powerful was Zhang Dong's master in person? He might have even been on par with the Azure Emperor that ruled the land!

Zhang Dong just shook his head side to side while answering.

"My master won't act unless it's really dire, he only acted when my life was in danger, I fear he doesn't care for this sect of mine. I wouldn't put my faith into him that much, personal strength is always better than borrowed one."



The elders in the room sighed out after Zhang Dong's reply. They knew those types of masters that weren't concerned about anything besides their disciples. Wei Hung was apparently one of those, only taking action when his pupil was in danger but not caring about the people involved with him or her.

"That's... understandable..."

"Regretful..."

The elders voiced their concerns but still encouraged Zhang Dong to seek out his master for help. He just nodded at the request, though he knew no help was coming as he was his own master.

"The main concern is the three large sects, Dragon Gate, Limitless Sword, and Demon Subduing... we don't know what they will do but I don't think they will let us have any of the more bountiful lands."

"I agree with Senior Brother, they probably won't allow us into the mainland that is closer to the spiritual veins."

Feng Liena responded while everyone in the room nodded. It would be quite foolish from the three powerhouses to let them reside in places with a high concentration of Qi. The spiritual veins were something that formed naturally in this world.

Cultivators in this world liked to place their sects in areas with spiritual veins with high concentration. This was also how things in this empire were constructed. The spiritual veins with the highest concentration were further into the mainland, the closest place to it was the Empire's Capital city.

The Azure Emperor lived there with his clan, he wasn't part of any sect but that didn't matter if you were the strongest person around. His clan had many powerful experts and even if they had fewer people than some of the sects they excelled in quality over quantity.

"Yes, they just might make us remain in these lower lands where the spiritual energy isn't high enough to produce nascent soul cultivators..."

Everyone nodded, that was the likely scenario and they wouldn't be able to go against all three of those sects even if their three nascent soul elders could contend with the opponents.

'Hm, the improved versions of the techniques are superior which mostly means that they require more spiritual energy to cultivate in.'

Matt rubbed his chin, he needed to get his sect into a good location, otherwise it would take decades until they achieved anything.

'Should I sneak into their territory and raid their spirit stone mines?'

Matt didn't really want to do risky things like that, even with a spirit stone mine converted into points he couldn't produce that many nascent soul masters, unless he dropped a grade with their cultivation manuals.

"Yes, that is probably what they have planned but not like we can do anything about it."

Zhang Jin commented from the side with a frown on his face.

The meeting continued well into the night. While they had Zhang Dong's attention the other members from the new sect were sure to ask him many questions. Some of them were even trying to reel him into their families with marriage proposals. This of course earned the scorn from the Feng Clan side of the sect.

They went over the death reports and decided on giving all the warriors a proper send-off. Their families would be getting some monetary compensation and could even get a position as a disciple.

Further discussions were halted as no one knew where their new base of operations would be. They needed to plan the internal structure of their sect and also needed to build the proper facilities to house the outer, inner, and core disciples.

They decided that a merit-based system with incentives would be the best. Every new disciple would be put in an age bracket and tested. The average recruits would be outer disciples, above them were the inner disciples with more privileges and even further were the core disciples that were the true elites.

They didn't go into much detail about the merit system and rewards as no one knew how much resources they would have to spare.

"Then it is decided, we will wait till the situation with the Dark Palm sect is resolved, we will bolster our defenses and me and the two Grand Elders will continue cultivating in preparations."

Zhang Dong went with the term 'Grand Elder' just like their enemies did as it was something easy to follow. Soon enough everyone dispersed and went to prepare for the future tasks of making the sect.

While Zhang Dong was heading out he came across his female grand elder, she was apparently waiting for him. She gave him a smile, her face beaming as she just stared into his eyes.

"Ah, yes!"

He straightened himself out a bit, it was time to get some tea. The future was uncertain but it also held many wondrous possibilities.

## **Chapter 197**

The days passed and the news about the Dark Palm sect issue reached everyone in the land. The word of a new upstart sect taking them out and that the three similar-sized sects that were close by were now besieging their Harmonious Peaks. Everyone was curious about the new upstart that had formed but even more curious why it hadn't been eradicated by the three powerful sects.

The Dark Palm sect was in shambles, some of the peaks had crumbled before the combined might of the enemy alliance. The ancestral elders did their best to keep the defensive formation working but they were at an impasse. They were trapped in a defensive battle, unable to flee and far too old to last a prolonged battle against multiple nascent soul masters at a similar level.

Without much else to do, Zhang Dong and his allies had to wait. They cultivated with diligence, increasing their understanding of the newly gained Dao they were cultivating in.

The tensions were high, no one knew what would happen. Everyone was on edge, preparing for the worse while trying to bolster their personal might.

With more time passing news of the evil sect's demise reached their ears. After two months of continuous struggling, the demonic sect was announced vanquished. The ancestral elders were all slain and everyone associated with the evil sect was sentenced to death.

As it goes with large sects like these, there were many stragglers left outside. There were just too many members to eradicate and not enough time or manpower. There was a slight chance that someone could try taking revenge on the three sects but it was highly unlikely that they would succeed. The best they could hope for is a quiet life in the lower levels or being taken in by other sects while hiding their identity.

The war was finally over. The giant sect was no more but life continued. Demon Subduing Sect, Dragon Gate Sect, and The Limitless Sword Society they were the true winner of this short war. They had used the confusion that began with Zhang Dong's appearance and managed to vanquish a long time rival.

They all wanted a piece of the pie now, the alliance wasn't one that was built of friendship or necessity, it was built on profit. Any one of them could have been in the Dark Palm Sect's place if things went differently. They didn't voice it but everyone knew that they would betray each other at a moment's notice if it proved profitable and safe.

Back at Spirit Spring City or what was left of it, Zhang Dong was sitting in the lotus position. He was in the Dimensional Regalia along with Huo Qiang and Feng Liena. The three of them used this opportunity to strengthen themselves, they did some light sparring while increasing their cultivation bases.

'Mmm... it's not as easy as it used to be...'

Zhang Dong grumbled while opening his eyes. When he was in core formation he could just progress with the help of the ambient Qi energies in the surroundings. Now it was different, his progress was slow and going at a snail's pace. Even after two months had passed he had barely managed to push his cultivation past 1%. At this pace, he would reach the middle stage realm in about 16 years.

He gave out a sigh and decided to take a walk, sitting around for hours while just taking in energy was still a boring past time. Luckily as a cultivator, he entered a type of cultivation trance that made the time seem to pass faster.

The floating island had gotten larger than before as well. He had convinced both his friends to donate some spiritual energy each day along with him. Three nascent soul cultivators that had immortal grade cultivation methods were infusing this island with their power now. It went from a couple of kilometers in diameter to close to twenty. With high-quality Qi it was growing steadily and could now truly be used as a secret space of the sect.

Before plans to further this place could come to fruition they still had to resolve one problem.

Zhang Dong didn't interrupt the others with their cultivation and stepped out, which was just in time to hear someone running up with haste. He could tell with his spiritual sense that it was Zhang Kuo.

"Is there any news?"

The man looked a bit more frantic than usual, his body temperature was also higher and he was clearly sweating.

“Yes Patriarch... the Dark Palm Sect... is no more!”

Zhang Dong nodded, this was about the time he thought it would take for them to get through their defenses. He straightened out while giving his reply.

“Any word from those three sects? Did they send someone or made any demands?”

Kuo nodded at the question and gave a swift reply.

“Yes my lord, they have actually sent word, although...”

Zhang Dong could see the man clench his fist tighter as if something was bothering him, his body language was making him look angered.

“Good, what do they want? What are the terms?”

Kuo took out a jade slip and presented it to his Patriarch. Zhang Dong raised his eyebrow before scanning the jade slip with his spiritual sense. He was actually expecting them to send someone in person to do some negotiating, he received a message via jade mail instead.

“Hoh? I kind of figured this much but they don’t take us very seriously, do they?”

Zhang Kuo nodded while taking the jade slip back. The three sects gave their terms, the United Elements sect would be allowed to exist but they were to remain in the regions previously occupied by the middle-sized clans. This meant that they wouldn’t actually be getting any land that was previously used by the Dark Palm Sect. They were also required to pay a large sum in spirit stones or other resources like herbs or weapons. The explanation given for that was that it was a payment for the land they were graciously given.

“Mmm, you can leave.”

Zhang Kuo nodded and left, Zhang Dong on the other hand was just glad that it was now over. Even though it looked like their new sect wouldn’t go far, he knew that things weren’t all that bad. He still had all those high-level techniques and he had his system. With him being the sect leader he was now the proud owner of a vast tract of land. Many people lived there, many people that if treated right would give him many spirit points which he could spend to improve his techniques even more or even increase his own cultivation or from his sect members.

It was time to stabilize his new faction. Even though the other sects weren’t taking them seriously, he preferred that. It was easier to go against someone that was underestimating you.

‘I bet they fear my Wei Hung persona more than they fear me. They will probably place spies all around the place to keep watch over us. Well not like it matters...’

Thanks to the Medallion treasure he was content. No spies would be getting their hands on their cultivation manuals, he had ways of catching those types of people. The screening process that he was planning to implement would catch them in the act, only loyal disciples and elders would be allowed inside, growing in power through the years until they were strong enough to break away from the shackles.

He continued walking outside, his gaze on the still destroyed scenery. He had come to this world over two years ago, he was slowly integrating himself with the people. He sometimes asked himself about why he was even going so far. There were many occasions for him to just leave, he would have been safer as a solo act but he decided to stay.

He never felt like he had a purpose in his life before this. He lived his life alone, he didn't depend on others and no one else depended on him as he led his boring life of going to work and playing games. Somehow he ended up in here, many times stronger than an average man and many times over his head.

He somehow managed to survive until this point but he attributed it to luck and his system. Going forward he wanted to further his relations with these people. They were quirky and strange but somehow they grew on him. He was slowly growing into the role of a leader, caring more for his people than his own well being.

He floated up into the sky, going past the defensive formation that opened a little hole for him. He didn't go unnoticed from his sect members that offered him bows.

If he was an original resident from this world he would have been quite maddened. The three other sects just dumped their demands on him without giving any space for negotiation. This would be considered a big blow to the face for the entire sect and could even evolve into a full-blown reason to go to war with.

Zhang Dong on the other hand didn't care as much for this so-called face. Regretfully, he was still a flawed human and sometimes he would feel like being petty. He closed his eyes and released his spiritual sense into the area making it travel far and wide to find someone.

It didn't take long for him to spot his target, his enhanced system map made it appear as a dot. He opened up his eyes and without much warning bolted into that direction. His colossal nascent soul immortal grade aura blasting into all directions as he kicked up a storm.

"What is the Patriarch doing?"

This was the thing the people down below were asking themselves. They just saw their leader take off in a certain direction, one of the more informed elders from the sect took a moment to realize where Zhang Dong's destination was.

"Oh no... why is the leader going towards that person... I must report this to the other two grand elders!"

He took off running while sweating profusely.

Zhang Dong on the other side was close to arriving at his destination which was a person. The moment he arrived he could see an old man wearing a Dragon Gate Sect robe. The man was very old and was looking at Zhang Dong with a frown on his face and with a raised eyebrow.

"What is the meaning of this?"

"Oh? What do you mean honorable elder from the Dragon Gate Sect? Can't I greet such an esteemed senior from such a profound sect in my own lands?"

The man was even more confused than before. He was a nascent realm practitioner left here by his sect leader to keep an eye out. He was now trembling slightly as Zhang Dong's massive overbearing aura was causing him distress, from the look of things this man had come to cause trouble.

"Why don't we invite your other two friends?"

It didn't take long for the leftover elders from Limitless Sword Society and Demon Subduing Sect to arrive. Both of them were on guard and unsure of what this man was up to. They were all early stage, nascent soul cultivators, ones of the weakest from their sides as the more prominent ones had left to help in the war efforts.

"What do you want! Are you trying to go against us?"

They didn't take out their weapons but they were on guard. Zhang Dong just smiled while hovering in mid-air, his aura becoming even more overbearing after the three had gathered together. He was someone who jumped realms, even at the early stage his Qi was above a middle stage practitioner. If he added his empowering technique on top of that he could contend with late-stage cultivators.

The three started feeling dizzy, he was clearly too much for them to handle. They saw this man fight during the war and he was at the level of their own sect leaders, without them around they didn't feel confident.

"Why the long faces? I've just wanted to greet you, three esteemed friends. Just trying to be a proper host, you are in the United Element Sect's lands, even your leaders agreed to this."

He nodded while the three men shrunk back. He was clearly threatening them with his aura while saying those friendly words and the three were smart enough to get the memo. Don't get overboard in my land was the message he was trying to give.

"Don't think you look interested in tea... how about I escort you to the borders, they aren't that far, think they start off at Jade Grass City."

The three were getting crushed under the overbearing pressure and knew well that this man wasn't willing to negotiate. They just nodded and turned around, he at least made some sense as the war was over and it was considered rude to have other sects come to your lands uninvited.

"We shall leave, but don't be unreasonable, your sect might not last long otherwise!"

The three snorted while leaving, Zhang Dong just remained in mid-air while smiling he even waved them goodbye. His waving hand changed into a fist with a middle finger raised, no one really knew what this hand gesture meant though.

With a resounding sigh, he then turned around, there was more work to be done.

## **Chapter 198**

Not much came from Zhang Dong's little power move. The three sects set up their new borders and kept their word while taking all of the best lands that the Dark Palm sect possessed. What the United Element sect was left with were the usual middle-sized cities that were previously ruled by clans like the Huo or Feng clan.

The new sect had to momentarily pause their spiritual formation as the power cubes were slowly running out of juice. There were spirit gathering formation set up to lower the burden on them. Regretfully they couldn't keep up with the Qi usage this grand formation had as it could keep most of the nascent soul realm cultivators at bay.

The main base was left with Feng Liena while Huo Qiang had to be moved closer to the border region as a defensive measure. Zhang Dong on the other hand was now flying around the large piece of real estate that he has graciously received from the three sects.

"Still nothing..."

He gave out a sigh, he made sure to fly as close to the ground as possible. He did it so that his mapping feature could pick up on spots below the ground that were high in spiritual energy. He had been on it for a week now just zig-zagging between locations while hovering half a meter above the ground.

To his dismay he wasn't able to find anything worthwhile, the best thing he came across was a tiny spirit stone pocket that wouldn't be more than a million spirit points if he converted it. It could be used to pay the high taxes that the other sects were putting on them, so it wasn't all bad.

Zhang Dong stopped and was looking at his new 3D map. He could see his movement patterns, he was sure to inspect all the places and he even made sure to have the borders selected so he didn't anger the other sects by going into their territory.

"I was hoping that I'd find something by now..."

He rubbed his glabella in concern. He wanted to create his new sect home base somewhere new, somewhere where there was a lot of spiritual energy for the sect disciples to flourish. He would even take a spot where there are some other resources like herbs that could be used for pills at this point.

He stared at his map once more and then looked at the scenery, he ended up in a forest area. The trees could be seen for kilometers without end. He blinked while thinking back to the past, he knew this area.

"Hey, isn't this..."

Part of his lip raised itself into a small smile, he remembered this area. This was where it all started, the same forest that he appeared after being stuck in this world. He had flown all the way back here while being preoccupied with looking at his system map.

The memories flooded in, he recalled getting scared of an angry looking horned bunny. The creature looked quite ferocious for a first-timer, recalling it now just brought a blush to his cheeks. He wondered if the people from that tribe were still living here, he released his spiritual sense into the surroundings as he tried finding where that old village of the Tatar Tribe was.

"Found it...but..."

He furrowed his brows, he had located the place where he spent a couple of weeks at hunting monsters and grinding points. The problem was that he could feel some uncharacteristic Qi signatures there. For one thing, there were people at the foundation establishment stage as well as someone at core formation there.

"Could they be..."

It didn't take him long to figure out who these people were. He took off with haste worried about the outcome if he didn't interfere. Luckily he detected that there was no bloodshed just yet, he would probably make it in time. He was hiding his presence so the cultivators below wouldn't notice him, the moment he arrived he could see a scene playing out.

The Tatar Tribe people were getting rounded up into the middle of their square. They were surrounded by a group of mean-looking cultivators from all sides, the auras of these people were far too strong for the Qi condensation tribesmen. For the moment he just listened in, wondering what those people plan was.

"Senior... we have gathered all of these lowly commoners."

The cultivator that looked to be in charge nodded after another person came over to give him a report. It was an old man that was wearing an eyepatch and looked slightly beaten up. The people were wearing black robes with a familiar symbol of a dark palmprint on their backs. They were obviously remnants from the destroyed sect that had somehow escaped into the lowest region.

"Well done, take their clothes, then kill them all. The old sect is gone and we must remain hidden from that upstart sect..."

Zhang Dong continued to listen as the man in charge gave his instructions. The plan was to take this village over, the Dark Palm remnants would use these tribesmen's clothes and live like them in this small village. They probably didn't think that anyone would find them all the way here were most respectable cultivators never showed up.

Which wasn't such a bad plan all things considered. They were from a hunted sect, they could either disperse and go about as rouge cultivators or set up a base of operations. Unless a nascent soul cultivator or at least a core formation elder appeared, they would probably go unnoticed while hiding their aura. While the order to kill and strip was given, one of the tribe youths shouted out.

"You won't get away with this, The mighty Lord Dong will eradicate you all!"

Matt wanted to cough after hearing his mighty tittle. He did a quick scan of the name of the person that just shouted out and was surprised that it was the silkypants youth that he had met before by the name of Yang Rong. Next to him was another youth that nodded with approval while yelling. His name was Cheng Yun and he was also someone that he knew from back in the day.

"That's right!"

"Lord Dong? Do you think Zhang Dong from that upstart sect will ever come to a shit hole like this?"

The senior from the group laughed and so did the people from the Dark Palm sect, no one expected a nascent soul elder to ever come to an area with a low amount of spiritual energy like this was. There was a reason why the tribe people were considered the weakest in all of the empire. Their location was in a place where cultivating was extra difficult.

"Now stop talking, this will be all over soon!"

The Tribe's people started shouting out, they were unwilling to die here. There were hundreds of people gathered here and they would be put to death so that these renegade cultivators could escape their



death sentence. The tribe's people were being held back by the suppressive pressure of these superior cultivators and they couldn't move.

They could only sit together while trembling, indignity in their eyes. They looked at the various faces of the people that were pulling out swords and sabers. This looked like it was going to be it for them, the women and children weren't even going to be spared in this massacre.

But just as the sobbing started something unusual occurred. The pressure that that murderous group was giving out suddenly stopped while they themselves stopped in their tracks. The people from the Tatar Tribe were baffled by the display as the cultivators stopped mid-stride.

"What is this?"

They asked aloud while standing up, the Dark Palm remnants were clearly unable to move and alive. They could see them sweating and their brows were twitching.

"Hello there people of the Tatar Tribe, we meet again."

The villagers heard a voice coming from above, it was very familiar as it belonged to someone that had left an impression on everyone here. They all glanced up and saw a man in a white robe descending, his white hair was fluttering in the wind and he had his hands behind his back. He looked like a god descending from heaven, he even had some kind of unearthly glow about him that seemed to be golden.

"B-by the moons, it's the honorable Lord Dong!"

One of the tribe members finally managed to shout out while all the others were still slack-jawed. The answer to the unmoving evil cultivators was right before them. This man had come to aid them in their time of need and he did it once again just like two years ago.

"It's the Lord!"

"The Mighty Dong!"

"Yeah!"

Everyone cheered out while Matt was kind of contemplating if he could get some kind of pseudonym. It wasn't odd for powerful cultivators to change names, maybe he could find something more fitting and not be referred to as large genitals anymore.

He moved his hand up, instantly everyone quieted down while bowing in respect. Zhang Dong descended right to the ground and looked at the Dark Palm sect remnants that were being all held back by his nascent soul realm power.

"Quite a gathering of scumbags if I do have to say so myself, got anything to say for yourselves?"

He stopped some of his aura from seeping out allowing the Dark Palm cultivators to speak out. What he got in return was a lot of pleading shouts.

"No please honorable senior it was all Shi Tao's fault, we couldn't go against him!"

"You bastards, you want to pin all the blame on me now!"

“Yes venerable Daoist, it was all him we couldn’t go against him, no one wished to harm these good people!”

The lower realm cultivators were quick to blame their leader for everything, he was the sole core formation expert in the group so he was an easy target to shift the blame to. Zhang Dong just shook his head side to side.

“I hope my sect doesn’t become like you...”

“I should kill you all here right now, you wanted to murder all of these innocent people here, women and children included.”

“Lucky for you, my sect is in need of ‘free’ labor at the moment, you will spend the rest of your life working in mines.”

He had also found pockets that had some mineral deposits scattered here and there. The metals there weren’t anything all that special at most usable for earth grade materials but it was still a source of revenue. He would cripple all of these evil cultivators and they would spend the rest of their life working as slaves.

“F-free labor senior?”

“Slaves, you will be slaves. Death would be too easy of a punishment for the likes of you. You will have a lot of time to repent.”

The Dark Palm remnants trembled in indignation. Their plan had failed and now a future worse than death awaited them, slaving away god knows where while getting whipped and abused.

Zhang Dong brought out his communication jade and informed his sect members about the issue. They still had some flying ships so they could transport these people. After taking care of that issue he turned to the large group of trembling people. He waved his hand forward and they all started floating up into the air and towards each other.

They started shouting out, pleading for mercy but Matt wasn’t going to be lenient with them. A giant share of electricity surrounded the group of cultivators, shocking them with golden lightning while destroying their foundation pillars.

The Tatar Tribe’s people looked with shock and awe at the bright light show. They were astonished by the power this man possessed, to them he was getting closer to a godly being than to a man. They all dropped down to their knees and started bowing at the display of his might.

“These guys shouldn’t be a problem for you anymore, so please tie them up until people from my sect arrive to pick them up.”

He dropped the charred and twitching cultivators down to the ground, they were all passed out and their cultivation path was broken. A child at Qi condensation level was now stronger than them.

## **Chapter 199**

Matt was feeling a bit uncomfortable right now. He was surrounded by people from all sides. His sect members would need at least a day to get here and he felt that just leaving without a word would be a tad rude.

“So... long time no see?”

To his question there was no reply, the people were bowing face down and with their butts raised into the air. They were probably afraid to meet the gaze of the man that almost single-handedly took out the Dark Palm sect.

Zhang Dong just wanted to facepalm but instead, he just nodded and gave a more compelling order. He knew from his experience how people like this operated.

“Rise up, that’s enough.”

The people slowly moved their heads up, their eyes were uncharacteristically sparkly. He could tell that he was getting revered by this group. From their standpoint, he was one of the most powerful experts in the whole empire, a nascent soul realm master. He had also aided them in this time of need and previously saved the Chief’s son from a powerful monster.

The first man to get up and walk up to him was the old Tribe Chief, he didn’t change all that much in these past two years, maybe a wrinkle or two here or there. He clasped his hands in respect once again before finally opening his mouth.

“Honorable Senior, you have aided us once again, how can this Tatar Tribe ever hope to repay you?”

While the chief was speaking the rest of the Tribe people started standing up. Yang Rong and Cheng Yun that he met before were side by side. They had apparently buried the hatchet and Yang Rong in particular had grown up to be a respectable young man that was on his way to be the next Tribe Chief.

“Ah, You don’t need to repay me, just live your life, as usual, it was just luck that I was close by while all of this was happening.”

Zhang Dong glanced at the charred Dark Palm members and was brought back to reality. He didn’t have time to exchange more pleasantries with these people. He had to map out the area and find a good spot for his sect to flourish.

“But I shouldn’t linger, I didn’t come here to play around.”

He wanted to leave but the Tribe’s people couldn’t let such a chance slip by. This was a powerful nascent realm master, they wouldn’t have a second chance like this in their lifetime. They needed to somehow lure him in and maybe accept one of the youths as a disciple.

“Please Honorable Senior Dong, we must hold a giant feast, why don’t you rest and let us show you some gratitude?”

The village chief glanced to the side at some of his people that were quick to pick up on his scheme. They sprung to action fast, they surrounded Zhang Dong even closer and started begging him to stay, they were a lot of young ladies even mixed in to appeal to the man’s male side.

“Please Grandmaster won’t you stay?”

“Won’t you stay to enjoy our tribe’s best foods?”

“Please let me be your disciple, I’ll offer my kowtows of respect!”

“Do you need some servants for your travels, I’m sure the youths would be helpful, take as many as you want!”

“My daughter is a good cook and she can clean, she would be great as a maid for you my lord.”

Various people started clamoring for his attention. If they had even one of their family members work for this man their status would skyrocket.

Matt raised his eyebrow at the Tribe’s people. They were moments away from getting massacred by the evil cultivators. You’d think that no person would be able to make a quick 180 after a traumatic event like this but here they were.

He got reminded of how tough people in this world were. When they saw an opportunity to further their cause they went for it. He knew well what this was about but he needed to quench their enthusiasm. He had no time to stay here, he even remembered what happened last time. They sent him a group of young girls to his quarters as a bribe. He was in the middle of courting Feng Liena so he didn’t think this would be appropriate.

‘Wonder what she would do if she found something like that out...’

He was a bit curious if the woman would be jealous or envious. It wasn’t strange to have multiple wives in this society so would she care if he had any flings? He on the other hand was an old fashioned modern type of man, that would rather have one warm woman than ten lukewarm ones.

“Stop, let me speak.”

Everyone quieted down after the white-haired man raised his hand while speaking out.

“I don’t need any more servants and I don’t need any disciples.”

“I also really don’t have the time so I’ll be leaving.”

He started floating up to the people’s dismay. They knew that they couldn’t keep this person here but they just had to try. They kept their eyes on his magnificent form almost as if they were hoping to get a cultivation boost from it.

He then vanished from their sight, almost like a blur as he took off into the deeper parts of the forest. Everyone from the Tribe was saddened that they couldn’t real him in.

“What a shame... if he took one of our girls as a concubine no one could go against this village.”

“Or if he took one of our boys as a disciple, we would be the greatest tribe!”

The people chatted it up almost forgetting about the charred Dark Palm sect people. The same that were still out cold and they would probably take a few hours to get over their shocking experience. The only reasonable person was the Tribe Chief that immediately ordered his people to get some rope and tie up the evil cultivators. They might have been crippled but that didn’t mean that they couldn’t escape into the woods.

Zhang Dong had moved forward into the forest but he had seen something odd. While passing the village from the top he noticed his name being mentioned on some signs. After further investigation, he figured out what it was.

The bathhouse he previously used had his name added before it. There was something about it being a secret ground for cultivation. He could feel some residual Qi in the water that was probably left by him when he cultivated for the first time. He had caused lightning to descend from the clouds which was enough to make this a desired spot for cultivation for these Qi condensation tribe people.

"I should sue them for copyright infringement!"

He flew away but he didn't realize how far his presence here had changed the place. The secret cultivation ground was just one thing. The Tribe even hosted sightseeing tours. They took people to where he fought the tentacle faced monster and told the tales of his gallant adventures. They also let people stay at the building he lived for those weeks at exorbitant prices.

His mind was preoccupied with the strange Tribe that was going crazy for him so he didn't notice that he had arrived at the place that started it all. He came to a halt and saw the damaged tree stump from where the miniature version of cthulhu sprung from.

"Hey... this brings me back..."

He moved towards that leftover stump, it was in bad shape as the monster burst from under it, destroying most of the tree in the process. He was still wondering if this was some kind of tutorial area and if the monster was a pre-planned encounter. He could have also been unlucky arriving at a bad time.

"This thing sure pulled a fast one me..."

He remembered running away in fear even though he was much stronger than the creature. He was inexperienced and unable to use his techniques to their full extent. It took the Tribe's people getting in trouble for him to finally man up and face the creature. In the end he just overpowered it with his powerful body and lightning.

While reminiscing about the past he realized that he had come far. He had managed to somehow bumble his way into a leader's position. Going from a shut-in to a sect leader which was comparable to kings from his old world.

He snapped out of it, this was no time to remember the good old days. He still needed to find a good location for his sect to set up shop. He looked to his system map while disgruntled as he didn't expect to find anything worthwhile in the lowest of the low regions that he was in now.

"Hm?"

His eyes went wide as he noticed something out of place. There was some kind of signature here and it was right below him. He was standing right next to the tree and the open field that he was transported to at the start of his journey. Could this have something to do with it, was his question.

This was quite a strange signature as it didn't show up normally. It looked like a giant black spot and it was right below him. The blackness spread throughout his system map. It made it seem as if something was blocking out the signal from reaching there.

He had to investigate, it was a highly unusual sight and he had reasons to believe that it had something to do with his arrival here.

"This looks sketchy..."

He didn't like this, the spot below him wasn't that far underground but even he couldn't feel anything there when he used his spirit sense. If he didn't have this graphical interface he would probably never have spotted this anomaly.

He steeled his resolve and dived down into the rocks below. At his level of power, he could force his way down the hard ground but at a slow pace. He burrowed his way while lighting the path with his golden aura, eyes glued to the map.

Zhang Dong could see that there was a naturally formed cavern leading to one of the blacked-out parts. He descended into it and burst through the wall. He came out in a large cave, the area lit up the moment he came through from his shiny aura.

There was nothing out of place with this corridor so he followed it towards his destination. The splashing of water echoed through this place as it was some kind of naturally formed underwater passageway. The further he went in the closer he got to the black spot on his map.

Finally, he arrived at his destination, the black spot in the area revealed itself to him. It was an out of place obsidian wall. He moved closer to it, it was clearly nothing that had formed naturally as it was way too smooth.

"A wall?"

He placed his palm on it, it was really polished and the light he was exuding was bouncing right off of it. It looked man-made as if someone placed or carved it here. This strange wall was clearly made of a different material than the ones in the corridor. It looked like hard obsidian.

He knocked on it with his knuckles and noticed that this material was very resistant. Normally a simple knock on some rocks from someone with his strength would have caused some cracking.

He decided to form a fist for his next test. He inserted a small amount of spiritual energy and punched out. The hit landed on the black wall and the whole place shook, the wind pressure alone from his hit caused the normal corridor to quake and tremble.

The obsidian wall stood without a scratch though, he felt like a normal person punching an iron wall. His hand was even trembling and he didn't even leave a dent on it.

"What is this made of..."

He wondered if he should put all of his power into another punch but before he could do that the wall started lighting up. Some strange symbols appeared which glowed blue and a light shot out that enveloped his whole body.

‘Scanning in progress, please remain still, intruders will be eliminated.’

He heard a strange robotic voice call out to him. A small orb appeared out of the wall and started scanning him from top to bottom. He had activated some kind of mechanism, it talked about elimination if he was deemed an intruder. He could only put up his defensive bubble and hope that it wasn’t powerful enough to cause him harm while he waited.

## **Chapter 200**

The strange device that came from the wall performed a full body scan on Matt. He tried blocking it out with his cultivator aura along with his barrier bubble but to no avail. The scan seemed to go through all of his defenses and he was unable to do anything about it. Soon he heard the robotic voice again as it was finishing up.

“Error...Subject number 80082...error...deceased...”

The strange light started flickering on and off, it was red in hue while saying the part about the subject number but then it changed to green.

“Error...Overseer identification number 6893, identified.”

“Welcome, Overseer. Have a nice day. ”

The light flickered out and the sphere object that was scanning him absorbed itself back into the wall as if it was never there. The walls started rumbling and a human-sized door appeared before him.

“Subject number 80082?... Overseer?”

He had no idea what the robotic voice was talking about but he was really curious about what was inside. The walls were robust and he didn’t think that he would be able to force his way out of this place if he got stuck. This made him a bit concerned and halted his progress inside.

“I know this is incredibly stupid, but...”

He knew the risks but for some reason, he didn’t feel like there would be something dangerous inside. He felt that the status of Overseer that this machine gave him would keep him safe. Why it was calling him that way was still unknown to him.

He made a step towards the wall and then another until he vanished into the door. The door closed itself after him as if it was never there in the first place.

Matt felt a certain lack of ground under him and he quickly used his floating ability. The whole place quickly lit up and he was greeted with a large spherical room with not much in it.

He appeared out of a random spot in the wall, these doors could probably be formed in any location.

The whole place looked like an abandoned hangar, the walls were made from that black substance that he couldn’t budge with his current power level.

The most interesting thing was right in the center, it looked like a floating cube and it was similar to the one he saw back in the secret ground. The cube was spinning around by itself while radiating faint light, even from here he could tell that this thing wasn’t simple.

“T-that’s... that’s an immortal grade item!”

The moment he got in here he could feel the massive power radiating off that small thing. How could something like this evade everyone’s detection was his question.

“It must be these walls...”

He looked at the inner walls of this spheric space. There were many inscriptions etched into them that were clearly working. This place was a large array and it was hiding this floating cube from the other people in this world. The question on his mind was why was this cube being hidden and what did it do.

“How many spirit points can I get from this thing if I absorb it... a hundred million? a billion?”

He had no idea how an immortal treasure would be counted by this system. This cube was clearly storing a lot of energy inside of it and it seemed to be powering this whole place.

There was also another question on his mind, will the person that this thing belongs to notice if he just took it. Also, does this place have something to do with him being transported to this world?

He strained his eyes and looked at the intricate etchings on the walls. He had some knowledge about teleportation gates and arrays from the secret ground. Maybe if he could decipher this formation he could come to some kind of conclusion.

“As I thought... it has some similarities to some of the teleportation arrays in those books but it’s many times more complex...”

He tried placing his palm on the black walls with the arrays, but his system wasn’t willing to analyze this so he had to give up on that possibility.

He started trembling at his discovery, this meant a lot. He came to the realization that someone or something had yanked him from his original world and placed him here. This grand teleportation formation was directly over the spot he appeared here over two years ago, this was too much of a coincidence.

He tried theorizing about the point of this all. He had somehow placed the strangeness of being brought over to a xianxia world to the back of his head. He attributed it to being some kind of game and his Tranquil mind had made him not worry.

Now from this evidence, he believed that it wasn’t a game. He started thinking that his own world, his home was out there and he could perhaps go back. He thought to his family members that he left and to the time he had spent there.

‘Do they think I’m dead? What happened to my original body? What is this system anyway?’

He had a myriad of questions now, ones that couldn’t be easily answered. He felt like his original body might have remained in his old world. His soul might have been taken here and placed into this Zhang Dong that might have actually been a real person before. The possibility of this being a created world by some higher being was also out there.

He decided to move towards the cube that was floating around and radiating massive amounts of Qi. Maybe if he examined it with his system he could come up with something. He focused on it and looked



for an answer, to his surprise his identification skill wasn't able to identify this item. Even more, he was getting a jumbled mess of characters over this particular cube.

For some reason he felt drawn to it, he moved his hand towards it with his index finger outstretched. The moment his finger was one centimeter away from the floating object a tiny spark of energy flickered. His body came to a halt and he felt like he was deep under the ocean. His ears started ringing and he was close to passing out.

"Ugh..."

He couldn't pull his finger away instead, his body jolted forward and grasped the whole floating cube which made it exude more energy. This energy was going directly into him, he was lighting up like a Christmas tree, glowing in bright white. Matt felt his bones rattling and his teeth gnashing as a massive amount of pure energy was pushed into him.

Just as his body felt like it would crumble under the pressure something occurred. The massive force was somehow redirected towards his dantian. Something in there started absorbing the enormous energy wave that the cube was trying to inject into his body as if trying to destroy him.

The whole place went dark and the floating cube that was giving out copious amounts of light shattered into many tiny pieces while being grasped by him. Matt himself fell down and landed on the cold hard ground which was composed of the obsidian material.

"Hey, you okay there, friend?"

Matt slowly opened up his eyes, he felt like he was run over by a truck. To his surprise someone was now talking to him, his vision was blurry but he could make out an outline of a figure. If it was a man or a woman he didn't know, the voices also switched between low and high pitched.

"I don't have much time, so listen well."

"Don't worry, the overseers won't notice you just yet, I'll be sure to block the signal."

"I need your help."

"You must gather more .....c....s ...so...ble....to....bzzzzz"

Before his vision could focus the person talking to him fizzled out of existence. It felt like he was talking to him through a really bad microphone with a lot of static and he couldn't make out the last part of the message at all.

He slowly stood up, he didn't know who that person was or where the energy that he was somehow absorbing went. His system wasn't showing any more spirit points than he had. He looked all over the place but he was now in total darkness.

He infused some energy into his body to produce a light source. From what he could make out the cube had shattered into dust, there was nothing left. It was clearly the power source for this place but now it was gone, he feared that he would be stuck in here as he probably couldn't break the walls.

"Damn what was that?... was that some kind of hologram?"

He had more unanswered questions now, why did he get drawn into grabbing that cube. The moment he got closer he felt like he should touch it. He didn't even get the opportunity to put on some gloves.

Then there was the strange voice that called out to him, it sounded like a man but he wasn't sure. He wanted him to get him something, but he wasn't sure what. This all started after the secret ground encounter and after he absorbed the cube that was there.

'Does it have something to do with these cubes?'

He wasn't sure if he could trust that person. Wherever that energy went it wasn't him, there might be something stuck in his dantian getting nourished by it. His mind made him think about a certain movie about aliens, he really didn't want to end up with someone bursting out of his dantian.

He tried scanning his body, looking into all of his parts even into his nascent soul but he couldn't find anything. The only thing he had to go off of were these energy cubes.

'Does that mean there are other people like me here? Or there might have come here before me...'

He racked his brain about the purpose of spiriting people away to xianxia styled worlds but he couldn't think about anything worthwhile. The more important thing was getting out of here. He hovered over to the spot he came from and managed to find it thanks to his good memory.

He placed his palm on the hard surface and gave it a good few knocks to no avail. He then kicked it with all his might and to his surprise, there was some kind of reaction as the intricate array symbols started glowing.

He thought for a second and then placed his hand on the surface. He then started infusing the wall with his own spiritual energy. After a certain point, the door sprung open and he quickly jumped outside into the previous corridor. The whole thing was lacking a power source but was still in working condition. He had enough juice to at least make this part of the structure move and let him out.

'I guess it still sees me as this overseer thing?'

He was now back outside. He had gone in with a lot of questions and came out with even more. This whole expedition had proved to be a big fat failure. He didn't find a place for his sect to stay as and now he was having an existential crisis about being played with by some kind of higher being.

He was almost ready to take off and return home but then he felt something. He had to pull up his map once more to examine it. After the cube was gone the whole area became visible. Right below him was another surprise, there was a large spiritual vein buried deep underground and it was exuding copious amounts of spiritual energy.

He put two and two together and came to the conclusion that this device was probably hiding this source of spiritual energy. The cube might not have even been the source of energy, it was probably siphoning it from the spirit vein.

Zhang Dong gave out a sigh, he had decided to bring his sect over here. One of the reasons was this newly discovered vein the other was that he didn't want others to discover this teleportation array. He needed to examine it further and with his sect on top of it, it would be a lot easier.