

## Unfathomable 241

### Chapter 241

Zhang Dong looked as Zhan Jie's body was splitting apart. A mountain that was right behind him was in a similar fashion parting to the sides. He had done an overhead downward slash that parted his opponent along with the skies and scenery behind him.

This was a slash that was the crystallization of his past efforts. He put his entire being into it and had vanquished his foe almost instantly.

He floated there without saying anything as he knew that Zhan Jie was no more. The sword strike reached deep and could even sever someone's soul. There was no escape for this man, his soul had been cut and was slowly dissipating.

Zhang Dong looked at the man whose life was slowly fading away. He had a complicated look on his face while stretching his hand forward.

He made a grasping motion and the spatial ring of the man that he had slain flew towards his hand. This wasn't all as the leftover swords, broken or intact started to fly towards him. They all quickly vanished into the ring that they came from after its new owner ordered it.

The blades might not have been the best quality but there were a lot of them. He could use them to bolster his sects army or use the metals for resources.

He looked at the people below. The fight was over and his faction was victorious. He could see widespread destruction. The flying ships that battled with the Argonaut 1 were all destroyed. Turn to timber they were smoking down on the ground below or in the process of falling.

Compared to the ships the rest of the cultivators looked better. The large cannons of his Gungnir class ship weren't that great against small fast-moving targets.

The Argonaut was the first of its kind but more were in the works. He chose to go with the Norse mythology and named the type after one of the god's fabled weapons, a spear. For all intensive purposes it was now tested and tried, the opposing sect had no way of piercing this large treasure's force field.

The scared people from the Limitless Sword Society trembled. Their sect master was slain in a one on one battle, something that he prided himself in. From the three sects that surrounded Zhang Dong's lands, he was seen as the strongest combatant. Now his two identical parts were slowly falling down to the ground below.

"Listen to me people of the Limitless Sword Society! Your leader is dead, will you surrender peacefully or will you resist?"

The only people left here were at most at core formation level. The two elders that lost their soul-beasts to the particle beam were long gone. Matt didn't have the time or resources to go chase after the duo.

He needed to get back to New Spirit Spring City to his wife and kids. Then there was the problem with his favorite squid faced monster he needed to take care of.

He still wanted to give these people a choice. He wasn't one for senseless killing but this attack was a clear declaration of war. He couldn't just let these guys go without any type of punishment. If the tables were turned he would either be dead or turned into some kind of slave. Maybe even used for cultivation materials if they performed any kind of demonic arts.

"You have two choices!"

His booming voice filled the area while the cultivators on swords shivered in fright. They were unable to move as the nascent soul aura from both Zhang Dong and the Argonaut was radiating in all directions.

"Submit and accept a soul binding contract. You will swear to never harm my sect ever again and you will also abandon your current one. You may keep your lives this way and live them out..."

Zhang Dong's aura rose up, even more, the cultivators below were pushed down, unable to raise their heads.

"Or you will die here... never to go back to your loved ones... I will grant you a swift death, this is the only thing I can promise you!"

He still wasn't comfortable with needless slaughter. There was no incentive from the system to get points either, the spatial rings would be taken anyway. If they were adamant in their beliefs and sect ties, then he would have to go along with his second option.

He was hoping to not stain his hands with more blood. If he wanted to change this world into something less dangerous then he would have to lead the change. He would need to show that mercy was also an option.

However, he still couldn't trust these people so the soul binding contracts would be needed. Luckily as a nascent soul expert, he could bind these people quickly if they just lowered their defenses.

"W-we can live?"

"You aren't going to kill us?"

The people from the Limitless Sword Society were baffled by the option they were getting. Normally the losing side would be eradicated without any questions being asked. It was normal to get rid of every single enemy cultivator from an opposing sect.

People in this world liked to be sure that nothing would come back to bite them. There were times when survivors from a defeated sect survived and after many years came back for revenge. Even one person that raised himself to the nascent soul level could cause a massive blow to any sect.

So it was seen as wise to snip the problem at the root and not let anyone develop. Even turning enemies into slaves was a strange offer. They still had their cultivation and could coax their offspring to take revenge later in their life. This was also why everyone here was surprised by the offer that looked too good to be true.

"How do we know that you aren't a lying senior?"

One of the people asked while Zhang Dong slowly descended towards the Argonaut.

“Do I have a reason to lie? You are at my mercy, you can try fleeing but you all know that there is no escape! Your elders left you as disposable pawns, now decide, will it be death or life!”

Zhang Dong pointed up to the sky and storm clouds started to form. They covered the whole sky in a dark blanket while churning with power. This was a wide-area attack that would discharge lightning bolts at everyone in the vicinity.

He wasn't joking around, they needed to decide as he couldn't force them to sign soul binding contracts. This had to be done with the approval of the person agreeing to it. If they declined he would have to eradicate them. This lightning storm would be strong enough to turn core formation cultivators and below into ash.

The cultivators from the Limitless Sword Society looked at the mass of clouds above them. They could feel the power radiating from them and were clearly scared. Finally one of the people stepped forward, his voice shaky.

“I... I want to live... I have a daughter and family... even if I can't return to the sect I can still aid them...”

It was a forty-something looking person and he looked ashamed. This was normal as surrendering to another sect was seen as something akin to treason. The other cultivators looked to the man and finally, they started speaking out.

In the end, more than half of them agreed to the soul binding contract but the rest refused. This sect wasn't perfect but it did have some people that were loyal.

“Traitors! We should fight to the end!”

“Why should we fight if the elders abandoned us? Don't be stupid, agree to the senior's preposition and live!”

Some of them started arguing with each other and some even switched over. Still, there were many that didn't falter and believed in their sects might. Even if they fell today their brothers and sisters would avenge them.

Zhang Dong on the other hand knew that it probably wouldn't be the case. The people on the top had a certain way of operating. After he defeated the leader the other nascent soul elders would back away out of fear.

Zhan Jie was chosen for that spot for a reason. The reserve elders were mostly below him in strength with maybe a few matching him and maybe one or two above him. They would certainly not risk their lives and fight the person that easily defeated one of their strongest fighters. Unless it was a battle for their lives they would now seek a diplomatic solution.

There was also the rumor of Zhang Dong's sect being a proxy sect of the Divine Fist Sect. Which just added to the problems of going against them.

“You have made your choice, I will uphold my part of the bargain.”

Zhang Dong gave out a sigh while spreading his aura everywhere. The people that agreed lowered their guard and accepted this aura inside of their own being. He shackled their souls and bound them to his will.

These people that had made the contracts would be at his mercy. Even if they reached a higher realm than he did, their souls would shatter if he wished it to be. Zhang Dong could also place various restrictions that would activate automatically if he so desired.

The people that were soul-bound moved to the side. The others were still shaking in their boots and awaiting their demise. The nascent soul auras kept them in place while the storm churned.

While bathing in the lightning bolts the cultivators still hoped for their elders to return. Maybe if they lasted a bit longer their council would come to the rescue. Their bodies turned to dust and floated back to the earth below as it was over. The storm soon dispersed, a clear blue sky upon them as it signaled the end of this tragedy.

The leftovers cultivators were ordered to deliver a message to their sect before abandoning it. Zhang Dong would let them say their farewells to their families but that would be all. He wasn't sure what he should do with these people quite yet but he didn't need slaves for the time being.

He returned to the Argonaut and was welcomed by the old potato of a granny. She looked at him with an odd expression on her face but didn't comment on what had happened. He knew that she was probably against letting this group go as in the future it could cause an unforeseen problem.

"Return to your posts, we will be returning home at full speed, I will supply the ship with more power."

Zhang Dong noticed that the blond girl and her maids were looking at him with gaping mouths from the side. He gave them a little nod before departing towards the ship's engine room.

He went through the narrow corridors that could barely contain his larger frame and he finally arrived in the engine room.

This was a large room that had the power source for this ship. In the middle was a small item that looked like a decahedron just floating around. It was encased in thick crystal and connected to many tubes.

These tubes were slowly pulsating with light while connecting to the walls of this room. Through them, the power was guided into various devices of this ship.

This was a special kind of mineral that could store massive amounts of spiritual energy. It could also recharge itself to some capacity but was mostly infused before each flight.

Zhang Dong moved into a lotus position and started concentrating. This device had been drained by the Gungnir cannon by a large amount and needed some charging. He would infuse it with his lightning while the ship flew home.

"I need to hurry..."

## **Chapter 242**

Zhang Dong set himself before the engine unit of the Argonaut 1. He sat down in the lotus position and started gathering all of his spiritual energy. Golden lightning bolts started appearing all around this closed-off space in a matter of moments.

These beams of energy started pelting the floating device in the middle of the room with their might. The decahedron item that was the main battery started spinning around and the tubes connected to it began absorbing the newfound power.

The captain of the ship sat down in his seat while one of his crew members spoke out.

“Captain, the ship’s power is quickly rising, it’s going to go over 100% soon!”

“The Patriarch is aiding us, activate all the engines. We will be heading straight towards New Spirit Spring City at full throttle!”

The people on the bridge nodded, the person responsible for activating the ship’s bonus thrusters moved a large handle forward. The whole ship shook violently as it jolted forward.

On the outside, the massive Argonaut 1 was surrounded by a blue shield. It started flickering with some lightning and even turned gold due to the new power source. The whole giant ship then shot forward like an arrow.

Zhang Dong wasn’t willing to wait here as the word of him slaying Zhan Jie had probably reached everywhere. There were other people watching over this battle which would spread the news faster.

This was a good turn of events as it would give other sects something to think about. The Limitless Sword Society Patriarch was a famed swordsman. This same swordmaster was bested in battle by a relatively unknown master. This validated Zhang Dong’s strength even more than the battle he had during the banquet.

The person in question wasn’t bothered by the rumors that would be spreading. He just wanted to get his people back to his sect grounds. He couldn’t leave this ship unprotected in enemy territory and they did need to go through the lands of other sects. The same three sects that had destroyed the old Dark Palm Sect.

Even with this power up the ship would need some time to return to the borders. Zhang Dong could teleport back home, but unless it was really necessary he needed to power the ship for it to go faster.

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While the giant behemoth was causing widespread panic the life of the new recruits back at the sect continued.

Cheng Yun and Yang Rong were done with getting their basic body refining technique. To their surprise, there wasn’t just one technique for everyone. There were multiple ones and supposedly they were picked out by the sect to fit their bodies. Yang Rong was now sitting in his dorm room with his brother. He thought back to the time that he first entered the brand new library. He still could remember the goosebumps that he got after seeing it.

Firstly, the building was truly humongous. It had several levels but the first floor was the largest area of them all. This floor that the junior Qi condensation disciples were allowed in had a staggering amount of manuals in it.

Yang Rong was slightly scared that he would be unable to pick a good manual for himself. He also didn't know how to spend his merit points, there were just too many options to choose from and he had no one to point him in the right direction. His old brother from the tribe was in a similar situation.

Luckily for the two, the United Element Sect elders had thought about the confusion that the new disciples would have. There was also a limited number of techniques a person should learn. There wasn't time to master it all, it was better to specialize in something than be average at everything.

But how would they know what they should specialize in?

Normal disciples needed an experienced teacher to figure such things out. Unless they were born with a specific obvious talent they would need to go through years of training to just figure something like this out.

In this sect, things were a bit different. At the new library building, the juniors were greeted by another hologram. This one explained to them how they would be able to procure the correct cultivation books.

There were multiple screens spread out at the library's entrance. These screens were the newest addition to the sect's resources and worked akin to computers. They had a limited usage as they were only for picking out books from the database.

The person needed to have their merit emblem scanned by this machine and it would first show them their statics. After they activated this machine they could pick out books for themselves. Some as the free ones they received just needed to be chosen. If there wasn't enough stock the books would be printed out by a printing device.

There was also an option of direct knowledge insertion into the disciples' minds. This type of knowledge transfer required the use of points but could aid people in understanding difficult techniques.

This wasn't the interesting part of this machine. The thing the disciples found astonishing was how it proposed manuals to them based on who they were.

This was all possible thanks to the extensive scanning that was done in the beginning. The sect had a whole database on the disciples. The library software could see what the people were good at and could propose techniques that fit their disposition.

With this, they didn't need to pick out skills at random or ask the teachers to point them in the right direction.

This also saved them from spending their hard-earned merit points on expensive techniques. They could end up getting something that they had no talent for and wasting their time and merits.

Cheng Yun ended up with a Qi condensation manual for people good in the earth element. The library system pointed out that he had 87% proficiency in that element and his second-best one was fire at 67%.

Yang Rong on the other hand was the exact reverse of this tribe member. He had 89% fire element capacity while only having 57% in earth and all the other ones were below 50%. He was now focusing on techniques that mostly belonged to the old Huo Clan.

This had saved the two youths a big headache down the line as the two wanted to follow in the Patriarch's footsteps. They were both going to go with lightning element techniques. To their dismay, they both had bad compatibility with it. After long consideration, they decided to go with the things they would be good at.

They could now see that it was the good choice. After acquiring their Qi condensation manuals they were already making progress. After the first day, they were coughing up black blood and sweating dark green liquid from their pores.

The new line of techniques was already removing the impurities from their bodies and making them stronger. They felt like they could mercilessly beat up their old selves from a week ago if they tried now.

"So regrettable... the Patriarch's lightning techniques look so overpowering and stylish..."

"I agree... but Grand Elder Qiang's are also fine, he is supposedly the second strongest member from our sect! You at least have Elder Qiang... I don't think there is anyone proficient with the earth element at the grand elder level in the sect..."

Cheng Yun grumbled while hovering a small rock above his index finger.

"That's true... maybe you can be the first one to make it there junior brother."

The two laughed while moving down from their beds. It was time to head out towards the sect, there was much for them to do besides cultivating in their dorm rooms.

They could visit free lectures where teachers would help them understand their Dao paths. They could also go to the training areas like the gym. These two quite liked to perform muscle training and due to the Patriarch's more muscular form, they wanted to achieve a similar physique.

There were a lot more people with the same idea than others might expect. At the gym, there were many people pumping iron. This was also quite a novel experience for everyone here. Mostly at other sects, the disciples were left lifting heavy uneven stones. Maybe just holding them above their head at uncomfortable positions.

There weren't many factions that studied the art of muscle training. Most of the students performed stamina raising tasks without getting a full-body workout every day.

In this sect, a strong body was the basis of your cultivation path. With the help of specialized pills the juniors could replenish themselves each day and continue working on the other. There was no need to wait for recovery and they could push their bodies to the limit.

This was another day like that. Cheng Yun and Yang Rong were doing this together as they were advised. Everyone was supposed to get something as a spotter. This person would aid the person that was lifting heavy weights if it became too much.

Yang Rong was laying back with a metal bar in his hands. On the sides were circular weights of the exact same size. He was doing some bench presses while Cheng Yun hovered his hands away from the bar slightly. When Yang Rong's arms began to tremble it was the time to push on and cheer.

"One more senior brother, you can do it!"

Yang Rong's face started getting red as he pushed and pushed. His hands began shaking furiously as he gave his all. Cheng Yun was focused on the bar ready to grasp it if something went wrong.

If his brother wasn't able to lock out his joints he would need to aid him. If he dropped this heavy bar with the weights down he could injure himself. Luckily he managed to push through and rack the heavy bar back onto the bench press rack.

The two then exchanged places and Yang Rong started spotting Cheng Yun instead. The cling of metal against metal was heard in the whole area. The gym was filled to the brim and some people were even forced to wait.

Most of this building was filled with sweaty men. The women mostly came here to use the squatting racks. The body refining techniques that they possessed used a lot of kicking movements and less punching techniques.

The sect had to separate the males and females in this building. The men couldn't help to stare at the junior and senior sisters. They were wearing form-fitting leggings while performing the heavy lifts. A lot of men had discovered a new found love for those work out clothes after seeing them in action. They tended to promote the rear end of the female form quite a bit.

"Did you know, our Patriarch had gone to the other sects on some kind of official business..."

"Oh, do you know what it was about?"

While working out some of the junior members that were resting started talking. Words of Zhang Dong's expedition was already reaching the ears of this sect. The news was spreading at a rapid pace through the entire empire.

"Think there was some trouble? But our Sect leader easily bested someone in an arena battle... Think it was someone wielding a spear? I'm not really familiar with the other nascent soul masters..."

The youths had sparkles in their eyes while mentioning their sect leader. In their minds, it would be a great honor for them to get noticed by him. Still, the news of him fighting other sect leaders was a bit scary. The youths weren't feeling confident in their own abilities quite yet. It was too soon for them to go into war with other sects.

Soon the aforementioned leader would return and more news would be spreading. Not of a war or a tragedy but the arrival of a new life instead...

## **Chapter 243**

A group of guards was making their rounds on top of a steep wall. This wall seemed to stretch for kilometers and there was no end visible in sight.

They all were kind of bored and not really keeping much attention to what was happening around them. It was nothing new, they did this multiple times for years. There was no reason to push themselves, doing the bare minimum was enough.

Due to this, they were all a bit slow on the uptake when it happened. They heard a strange rumble and then the whole place began to shake. The thick bricks on the walls started cracking from some kind of pressure.



This was indeed strange as these walls were reinforced and had lasted without taking any damage for multiple years. The soldiers looked around while moving their spears and bows forward. Soon they saw something in the distance.

“W-what is that? Quick, we need to alert the elder!”

Before they could react they felt a massive oppressive force wash over them. This was clearly a nascent soul aura and it was coming off from the approaching object.

The soldiers on the walls were mostly cultivators in the foundation establishment realm. They were even on the weaker side of that. People that were forced to perform tasks like this were mostly ones that failed to advance further.

This was a border region between two sects and they were the first defense as well. They were mostly here to man cannons that had a power similar to core formation elders.

But now they were a bit preoccupied with trying to resist this massive pressure. They were even unable to fire at the fast-moving object that was speeding towards them.

Suddenly an elder appeared that could actually move. He looked out into the distance and narrowed his eyes. The moment he realized what was coming his way he started to sweat.

“M-make way!”

He called out while flying to the side. He realized who the faction coming was and had decided to let them through.

A massive iron fortress that was covered in golden energy pushed on without stopping. There were no words exchanged between the people at the border wall and the passing forces.

The moment they flew over the wall it started crumbling apart and even more, cracks appeared. No attacks were needed, just by being there this object was causing massive destruction in its wake.

“E-elder... we need to report back to the sect, our Demon Subduing Sect is being attacked!”

A man on a sword appeared and flew over to the only nascent soul cultivator that was there. The elder looked at the core formation master and narrowed his eyes. He moved his hand up and promptly smacked the other man’s head.

“S-senior?”

The man held his hurting noggin while being flabbergasted.

“You fool! Do you know who that was? Do you want to get me killed like that idiot Zhan Jie?”

The nascent soul master started cussing out his junior in front of everyone. The lower cultivators didn’t know why but the man had a reason to be like this.

He received the notice that Zhan Jie had intercepted Zhang Dong from the United Element’s Sect. Both of them had thought but who won was now clear.

This left the Demon Subduing Sect in a bind. Should they aid the Limitless Sword Society and go against the new rising power? Or should they wait this out and take a more passive approach?

This was also what the Dragon Gate Sect Patriarch was thinking about. While the decisions were being made in the background Zhang Dong was still seated in the engine room.

They had just arrived at this Sect's territory. If they flew through it they would arrive faster at their home turf. He was slightly worried that they might have gotten attacked, he felt the nascent soul cultivator on the outside. He backed off quite quickly and didn't even shout at them, this kind of showed him this sect's stance.

While giving it all to power this power-hungry beast of an engine he was looking at his system screen. His wife was part of his sect so he could see her status. It showed him various things along the lines of potential and devotion.

This wasn't what he was interested in though. She had a certain trait in that large table which was the indication for her pregnancy. The worrisome thing was that it had 'Imminent' written next to it.

He wanted to teleport there right this instant but was afraid to leave the people of this ship alone. He was in the territory of a sect he had shaky relations with. If he just left the Argonaut could be captured. The ship had a lot of firepower but that was against other large targets.

Hitting even an early stage nascent soul cultivator was hard. Even worse when there were multiple cultivators firing back. This sect had at least ten of those nascent soul elders flying around in these lands. If they let them be like the one at the border region was debatable.

Zhang Dong needed to force it through with all his might. He took out a handful of pills from his spatial ring and munched them down.

He felt invigorated after swallowing these high grade pills that he himself had made. With the boost of spiritual energy, the ship flew even faster.

The people on board weren't having such a grand time. The ship wasn't constructed to take this much power. The gravitational forces that the huge ship had to go against also exceeded the advised limits.

Most of them were glued to the floor and unable to move. The Captain was still sitting in his large chair but his whole body was sinking into it. His cheeks looked squished and his eyes were closed as he tried not to pass out.

The people weren't in danger but some of them were passing out while unable to handle the increased speed.

The ship turned into a blur in the sky, stopping it now was practically impossible. ....

"Uhhh... that was a strong one..."

Feng Liena was laying back in a large bed while grasping her tummy. There were other sect members in the room with her.

There was a large intricate formation drawn on the ground with the bed she was on in the middle of it. There were several cultivators sitting in strategic locations giving out a similar holy aura to that of Zhang Dong's.

This was a previously prepared birthing chamber prepared by the greatest medical minds and formation experts that the sect could muster.

The previous birth of the young lady was already a miracle and the Matriarch was bedridden for weeks afterward. Zhang Dong had chosen to prepare for the second time, his wife was adamant about getting another child even when he was against it. He was fine with one miracle but was afraid of the consequences. Feng Liena on the other hand wanted to have another go at it.

This had been prepared beforehand to make the second attempt much smoother. There was a little problem as the formation required Zhang Dong to be there. Otherwise, it wouldn't work at full capacity.

He was the only one with pure enough holy energies to make this process halfway safe. The others hadn't progressed in their Dao enough and were only core formation cultivators. Feng Liena on the other hand was a nascent soul master, someone greatly above their power level.

"Mwomy..."

A small child was in the room, holding her was Zhang Jin. Other members from both the Zhang and Feng Clan were still in the room but most were outside.

"Don't worry, mummy will be alright, daddy will come back soon..."

Feng Liena replied while looking at her daughter that was in her grandfather's hands. She was sweating profusely, she had gone through this ordeal once before but this time it was even worse.

The whole room was glowing with faint golden energy. The runic symbols pulsed with faint light as the whole structure was still missing its main battery.

"Yes, we need to leave your mom, for now, you'll have to play with grandpa for now."

Zhang Jin smiled while looking at Feng Liena. She was close to giving birth and he couldn't let the small child witness something like that. The child sniffled a bit as she was carried away.

"What of my husband?"

Feng Liena asked while gritting her teeth, she could feel that something was wrong. The previous experience wasn't this bad, she had a tough time staying awake. She also denied the usage of any painkillers afraid that they would affect the child inside her belly.

"The Patriarch was stalled during his return by the Limitless Sword Society leader..."

One of the maids explained what transpired and how Zhang Dong needed to slay Zhan Jie during his return. The news was troubling as her husband reassured her that he wouldn't be seeking any trouble.

"At least he is safe, he will have some explaining to do when he returns."

Feng Liena chuckled while another jolt of pain ran through her body. She couldn't help but scream out in pain. The people around her were quick to react, they inserted all of their spiritual energy into the holy

formation. With the influx of the healing energies the pain slightly subsided and the Matriarch was brought back before she could pass out.

Soon another jolt of pain ran through the woman's whole body. This time around her whole body convulsed while giving out a menacing aura. The energies inside her body were going berserk due to the birth.

The oppressive aura caused everyone in the room to shiver. Some of the lesser cultivators even passed out instantly.

Suddenly a portal of bluish light sprung open right beside the bed that Feng Liena was shuddering in.

A panting Zhang Dong walked out, it looked like he was in the middle of swallowing something. He was sweating all over quite uncharacteristic for a master of his level. He had somehow managed to push the ship towards his own territory and appeared here to aid his wife.

The moment he entered the entire formation churned with power. The whole room turned into a golden spectacle. The people could finally let out a sigh of relief as the Patriarch arrived.

"What took you so long."

Feng Liena replied in a weak voice while Zhang Dong grasped her hand. A pleasant feeling washed over her instantly as her husband shared the burden with her. His face contorted slightly as he transferred most of the pain that his wife was feeling towards himself.

He wanted to give his wife a hug but he needed to move into a specific location in the room. Some of the maids moved in place and took care of Feng Liena's needs while he squatted down.

He placed himself in the center of the formation and began inserting his holy energies into it. The room lit up once more, many tiny golden fireflies appeared and started dancing around. They all gently flew around Feng Liena's belly and started slowly falling onto it. The moment they did they were absorbed, their healing energies aiding in the birth.

Seconds turned into minutes and minutes turned into hours, soon the whole process had taken over a day. The people outside were pacing back and forth.

Everyone that was closely related to the sect Patriarch and Matriarch was here. Their disciples and close family members, even close friends like Huo Qiang. All of them were worried as this birth was a special one.

They all waited patiently without saying anything. They could feel the powerful energies coming from the room within which gave them a reason to rejoice. They knew that Zhang Dong was working diligently, soon they would be adding a new member to the Zhang family.

## **Chapter 244**

"Have you heard?"

"About the banquet?"

“Yes, the ship the Patriarch left on arrived the other day, he apparently killed one of the sect leaders that we were subservient to...”

“Do you think we will be going to war?”

Two sect members were talking to each other. Rumors had reached everywhere now, the death of Zhan Jie was no small matter. It could be the prelude to another extinction event like a war.

“What are you two mumbling about!”

Another female member from the sect walked out to interrupt the conversation.

“Stop talking about nonsense while the Matriarch is...”

The woman didn’t get to finish her sentence as the whole area around them rumbled. The people here were tasked with watching over security around the Patriarch’s mansion. In it, the Matriarch was apparently giving birth to her next child. The whole process had already lasted through a few days.

Suddenly the clouds parted, the ground rumbled and the beasts around the whole sect started howling loudly.

Everyone in the sect could feel that something strange was happening. They all looked to where the clouds were opening. A bright ray of light descended onto the residence of their Patriarch.

Zhang Dong’s home was right up in the sky overlooking the whole sect. Due to this everyone in the whole sect and even the city could see this strange phenomenon. It was as if God himself was descending down and illuminating the path.

“What is happening? Are we being attacked?”

Someone asked while looking around. The ground was shaking, the tremors were concentrated on where the large castle in the sky was.

Suddenly a large golden beam of light shot out from this flying building. It bathed the surrounding area in its light causing the rumbling to cease. Soon a large rainbow appeared illuminating the floating castle and pointing right at the Patriarch’s villa.

“This isn’t an attack... that’s...”

“By the immortals, That’s the elusive phantasm rainbow...”

Right after the sect member could finish the rainbow started shifting in scope. It became larger and larger, finally turning into a huge rainbow dragon that gave out a ferocious roar. The image of the beast soon faded and the clouds closed themselves up as if nothing had transpired. The people that witnessed this strange occurrence had their mouths agape.

“Was that the Empyrean Rainbow Dragon?”

Everyone shook violently while looking up into the sky.

“This is truly a good sign, a dragon has been born, it must be the Patriarch’s child!”

The people started rejoicing in the streets. A strange phenomenon like this meant a couple of things. First that the child that was born this day was blessed by the heavens. It also signified that the youth would be quite the character and should be primed to become a powerful master. That is if he managed to reach his true potential.

While the regular cultivators were cheering in the streets Zhang Dong was still sitting down in the middle of the array formation. All of the other aids that he had trained for this occasion were passed out. This was fine as everything was now over and the child was born.

His current appearance wasn't that great. He looked as if he had lost some weight during this process. His long hair was disheveled along with his robe that was drenched in sweat.

Even though he was tired he used the rest of his strength to stand up. He moved forward towards the bed that his wife gave birth in. He moved his hair to the side and straightened himself out.

He could see a tiny person rolled up in a towel being held by his wife. She looked even more tired than he was but she was still conscious. She was looking at the tiny person that just escaped her belly.

"Congratulations Patriarch, it's a healthy boy."

One of the nurses told him as he moved closer. He could hear his son crying his little eyes out. He was given a smack to the bottom by the nurse as he took his first breath.

Zhang Dong moved closer and looked at his newborn child. He did a quick examination to check if the boy was healthy, to his surprise he was more than that.

'Heavenly Body constitution?'

He could see his son's statics and they were quite pristine. His potential was a whooping A++, the highest that he had ever seen in this world. He also possessed a special constitution, from what he knew such a boon would hasten his progress.

He would be primed for the heavenly Dao, which was something he himself was good at. He did practice the Heavenly Lightning arts, this meant that his child took after him more than his mother. This was the reverse of what happened with his daughter that was more inclined towards her mother's Dao.

"He has your eyes."

Zhang Liena called out weakly while looking at Zhang Dong. He had momentarily stopped moving but after hearing his wife he moved closer and grasped her hand.

"You think so?"

He looked at the little munchkin that came out of his lovely wife. His skin color was a bit more inclined to her's. He did have his eyes though and also the white hair color that Zhang Dong was known for. This might have been the effect of having that rare constitution though.

"Do you want to hold him?"

Liena asked in a tired tone, even though she was a nascent soul practitioner she was quite tired. This birth was a lot harder than the previous one and it was probably due to his son's special trait. Nothing good came easy in this world.

Zhang Dong gently grasped the wrapped up baby that was still crying and was sure to hold his head up. This wasn't the first time he was holding a newborn so he wouldn't be making the same mistakes again.

He looked at his son and the little one looked back. The moment the two eyes met the child quieted down. The little baby looked very interested in the man in front of it. Soon the child started closing his eyes, probably tired after bawling for so long.

The Father just smiled at the tired little potato. He then waved his hand around and his gentle aura spread throughout the room. The bed that Feng Liena was resting in was lifted up from the ground. Zhang Dong took off to another room to get some privacy, some of the maids following after him as they needed to tend to the new baby.

After some alone time with his new family member, the child was left with his mother to rest. Zhang Dong on the other hand headed out of the room. He needed to tend to his other child, Little Xiu was still waiting outside with her grandfather and the others.

He made sure that his wife and child were tended to and then he left. When he opened the door outside he was greeted by his close friends and family. Zhang Jin, Xue, Jie, and Liu were there as well as Huo Qiang and even Zhang Zhi had come to pay his respects.

He could tell that the latter had recently broken through but it didn't seem that he had yet reinforced his cultivation. This was an unwise move but the man wanted to show his respect to his Patriarch.

"We have heard the good news, congratulations Dong'er."

Zhang Jin was the first one to speak up. Zhang Dong nodded and could see his grandfather's two main wives next to him. For this occasion, they weren't even fighting, which was truly something uncommon.

"Dada!"

He plucked Zhang Xiu from the ground and placed her in his arms. His daughter giggled as he gave her cheek a big smooch. After some head patting, he turned to face the others.

"Congratulations Master."

He nodded a couple of times as people started to congratulate him on the success.

"How is the child?"

"He is fine, he is sleeping with his mother, both of them went through a lot... don't think it would be wise to try this a third time..."

Zhang Dong laughed weakly to himself. After this birth, he came to the conclusion that it would be dangerous to have a third child. From what he knew it was already a miracle that Zhang Liena was able to bear two kids.

Nascent Soul masters were built differently than lower-ranked cultivators. They were walking spiritual energy generators, akin to nuclear reactors. Their bodies had to be in tune with the world around them.

A pregnancy brought chaos to their bodies, the spiritual energy was thrown into disarray. This caused danger to the unborn children, even during the months of pregnancy Zhang Liena needed to stop cultivating. She focused all of her attention on the child inside her belly, keeping it healthy while trying to keep the energies in her body in check.

It would be possible for both of them to perish if she suffered some kind of injury or shock. This is also why Zhang Dong had told her that he didn't want any more children. The pregnancies seemed to be getting worse and the next time he might not be able to do anything about it.

"He also has quite the special constitution... I noticed some kind of omen outside..."

He was focusing on keeping the array formation working so he couldn't see the rainbow dragon too well. The people outside were quick to inform him of the joyous sign.

"Empyrean Rainbow Dragon?"

Zhang Dong nodded as he also knew what that meant. He also knew that a favorable sign like that could also spell disaster.

It showed that his son was special and if nurtured well would be one of the strongest cultivators in the world. This was a good thing for the sect, who wouldn't want to have someone like that on their side?

The problem wasn't his sect but the others. If they got wind of something like that they could react poorly. Something like assassination attempts might happen. Some of them might try nipping the bud before it can bloom.

"We will have to increase the security around here..."

"Don't worry Master, I will protect him with my life!"

"Me too!"

Both Zhang Xue and Liu moved forward, their eyes were sparkling as they already fell in love with his daughter. He always could use good seniors to help his children out in the future and these two were very reliable and trustworthy.

"Well that's reassuring, I bet little Jun will love his senior sister and brother when he grows up a bit."

Zhang Dong patted Liu's shoulder and then Xue's while walking around with his daughter in one arm. This was a joyous occasion and he was quite tired. There wasn't much time to rest though, he still had some problems to contend with.

He had promised Fang Meili and her grandfather that he would help them. He knew that the location of the Divine Fist Sect's main city was further away. Fang Heng would take longer to arrive there than he did while flying the Argonaut. That time should be very soon though, he needed to check if he activated the beacon.



It would be great if he could get some sleep before that and also if he could eat. He was popping spirit replenishing pills for the past few days while controlling the healing array.

“Jun? Have you decided on the name already?”

He got brought back to reality by Zhang Jin’s question.

“Yes, Liena decided beforehand.”

He smiled while walking, he wasn’t good with the names of this world so he left it to his wife. He also didn’t want his child to end up with a name like he did.

For the time being, he headed out to get some rest, after eating some and showing the baby to his daughter he would need to check up on the Divine Fist Sect situation.

## **Chapter 245**

Two days had passed since the new life’s arrival. The people in the city were still in the middle of a large party. Because of the birth of the Patriarch’s son, the sect let even the citizens have a blast.

They sponsored drinks and food to the masses so that everyone could enjoy this happy moment. The people rejoiced and as proper citizens drank themselves silly till they all passed out. Probably a lot more lives were conceived that night but that was a story for a different time.

It was the middle of the night, the sounds of laughter and music could be faintly heard outside. A white-haired man was walking through a long hall. He was wearing a loose robe and some casual slippers. They were the kind that a person would wear at home, unseen by praying eyes.

This was Zhang Dong walking towards a certain room. He was holding a tray with some food on it, a bowl with rice porridge that consisted of spirit rice. This was food specifically prepared for Zhang Liena. He preferred meat dishes to the rice ones but his wife liked something more traditional.

The large door parted as Zhang Dong opened it up with his nascent soul aura. He walked inside while the entrance gently closed behind him without making much of a sound.

“Dwady~”

On the inside of this room, there was his whole family. His small daughter Xiu was to the side and looking at her baby brother with a finger in her own mouth. She turned to her father when she noticed Zhang Dong entering.

“Yes, it’s me, your daddy!”

He just smiled back while slowly walking towards his wife. Zhang Liena was actually looking quite healthy, thanks to the healing formation the whole procedure went rather well. Her body’s energies were still slightly in disarray after giving birth but she was recovering her strength at a steady pace.

“Here have some porridge, it has some regenerative properties and is made with seven-star spirit rice.”

The tray that the bowl was on made a clicking sound and four legs appeared out of it. It then floated over to Zhang Liena’s spot and placed itself right in front of her. She had a nice large white spoon on it and some napkins as well.

Zhang Xiu looked at the floating tray with sparkles in her eyes. She was at that age where every day there was something new to behold.

Zhang Jun, her little brother was right next to the larger bed in which Zhang Liena was in. He was fast asleep in his crib. He had just finished eating his own meal and now it was his mother's turn.

"Dwady, dwady!"

"Ah, yes yes."

Zhang Dong chuckled after looking down at his little munchkin. He used some of his spiritual energy to lift up his small daughter along with some stuffed animals in the room. He made them slowly float around the room, his daughter was quite fond of flying around. She might have gotten it from him as he also enjoyed this ability the most.

"Thank you."

Liena called out while moving her hand over to the white spoon. Her husband took one good look at her and grimaced slightly. He could tell that she hadn't fully recovered and that breastfeeding the child was probably the most she could do.

After taking one bite and gulping it down her hand started trembling. He could see Liena straining herself a bit while trying not to show her discomfort.

"Here, let me help you..."

This bed was quite large, there was enough space on it for him to comfortably sit down next to his wife. He took the white ceramic spoon and took some porridge onto it. He then guided it towards Liena's mouth while smiling.

"Say Aaaaaa~"

Liena blushed a bit but didn't resist. She felt a bit reserved about being babied so much but let Zhang Dong feed her. She opened her mouth and took the food in, as she chewed she could hear the voice of her daughter from above.

"Ahhhh...!"

Zhang Dong looked up and could see his toddler flailing her arms around in all directions while staring at them. He realized what she was trying to say and made her float towards the bed.

"Want some too?"

"Yesh!"

Zhang Dong looked to Liena for a moment and their eyes met. Both of them chuckled while he scooped up some porridge. He guided it towards the child's mouth while making airplane noises. Zhang Xiu opened her mouth wide and chomped down on the tasty porridge that was quite nutritious.

Some of the liquids ran down Xiu's cheek as the spoon that they were using wasn't made for kids. There was a bit too much in it for that small toddler to enjoy without it getting a bit messy. The mess was promptly cleaned out with a handkerchief that floated from the side.

‘Having something akin to telekinesis does make your life easier...’

He chuckled to himself while giving the rest of the food to his wife. One bite was enough to fill up Xiu’s small tummy. This porridge was specially made for Liena so too much of it could prove bad for his daughter as it had too much spiritual energy in it.

The body of a young child would have trouble handling such a thing if she ate too much. Luckily her father was a nascent soul master who had some ways of dispersing the excess into the surrounding.

“You’re doing well my dear husband. But it feels like I’m also getting treated like a child.”

Zhang Liena giggled some more while watching the empty bowl of food and tray float into the distance.

“It’s good to be spoiled from time to time, you should enjoy it my cute wife!”

He replied while disrobing. He set the velvety fabric to the side while revealing a set of boxers underneath. He had recovered after draining his body of a lot of his vital energies and was back to his prime physique.

He then scooted right beside his lovely wife, his hand going right under her head as he assumed the big spoon position. Liena just waited and snuggled up next to him, the two hadn’t had the pleasure of sharing the same bed in some time as he was busy at the banquet.

Little Xiu wasn’t left floating in the air either. The small toddler was also brought over to sleep with her parents and right between the two. Both of them gave their child a smooch on the forehead before relaxing. So ended the day with the whole family spending the night together.

There were some rough patches here and there as the newborn did wake up during the night. After a quick diaper change and some hugs he was all fine though.

In the morning Zhang Dong slipped out from the room while his wife and children still slept. He slowly closed the door so that they wouldn’t notice and gave some instructions to the maids.

He finally headed out to take care of some business, the issue with the Divine Fist Sect was still out there.

He looked at a circular-shaped object, this was a second teleportation beacon. This device would create the portal instantly if the one that he gave to Fang Heng was activated. The problem was that it wasn’t and it had been close to a week since the day he saw them off.

He needed to make a decision, to either wait for it to activate or go there directly. He also was apprehensive about leaving while his wife wasn’t fully recovered. She was surprisingly healthy but she would probably be out of commission for at least a week.

A lot of things could happen in a week. The Cthulhu monster variant that was probably there could come out of hiding any moment. He wasn’t sure how strong it was, the more he waited the stronger it would become and the more potential deaths could occur.

For now, he decided to wait and meet up with the other person involved. He had left Fang Meili in the Argonaut with her maids without saying much and he needed to get her settled in here. He was now heading her way, she was brought over to the west wing of his mansion.

His house was more of a castle than a mansion though. It had to even be divided into four wings and one central square in which there was a large garden with a pond and even a hedge maze.

‘That girl has to be worried about her grandfather. She had to see her people be murdered and then be smuggled away here. She also almost died in that competition...’

He recounted what he knew about the girl’s predicament in his mind. If he was in her situation he would probably be terrified. Unknown place, unknown people everywhere, and no strength to getaway.

‘At least she came with those two maids, hope she doesn’t feel too alone...’

He walked through the long halls of his mansion while some of his maids greeted him. This place required a small platoon of servants to maintain. He was against getting a huge house like this, it was a waste of resources in his opinion. The sect could use this space for something more useful.

He had to relent in his opinions as the sect leader had to have the most exquisite looking abode. He also earned quite a bit of money himself so he could afford it. He still didn’t like to stand out like this but he had gotten used to it.

He continued walking until he saw a certain person waiting for him.

“Greeting Master.”

What he saw was a beautiful young woman with pure white hair just like his. She was one of those fabled beauties that could shake kingdoms and cause wars. Some people labeled her as the most beautiful woman from the sect but in his opinion, that spot was reserved for his caramel skinned wife.

This legendary beauty that had a giant fan club in the sect was his disciple and went by the name Zhang Xue. He had called her over as he had a small task for her.

“Greetings, let us walk.”

The girl nodded and remained a step behind her master. She was more of the silent type compared to her brother that was more energetic. That one had mellowed down after the years as he had to now take on the role of the elite senior brother.

He was proud that these two had become respectable adults but they still had their weaknesses here and there.

“You’re probably wondering why I called you over Xue. I have a small task for you.”

Previously he would ask people for favors but nowadays he changed his conduct to fit more this world’s standards. Asking your disciples for favors wasn’t something a respectable master would do. They only needed to give them tasks and they would be carried out.

“There is a certain person that I want you to take under your wing, she is slightly younger than you but I think you should get along. She is also your cousin... we have to thank your grandfather for that...”

Zhang Xue listened to the words of her master almost tripping over her own feet at the last part.

“Y-yes? Of course Master.”

He needed someone to take care of the girl while he was out. He worried that she might be bullied while he was gone. He was free of the family and sect politics as he was the strongest cultivator here.

This wasn't the same for others though. He knew that everyone was in a rat race trying to get ahead in any way they could. They were schemers left and right, everyone wanted to rise up as high as they could.

He worried that his new relative could be shunned by some jealous sect members that would feel threatened by her arrival. She was Zhang Jin's descendant and the situation in his household was quite chaotic.

While talking the two finally arrived at the guest room. After taking care of his new niece he needed to decide on his next move. Would he stay and wait, or set out on a journey towards the Divine Fist Sect?

## **Chapter 246**

Fang Meili was pacing back and forth in her room. She had been stuck in it for some time now. After the Argonaut arrived she was finally able to disembark into the new and unknown sect.

She had no idea where her supposed uncle had gone but the people from his sect had told her that he was busy. She was stuck here throughout the whole birthing process and couldn't leave even during the festivities.

She only had the status of a guest and was confined to this room by the person that brought her here. Besides the sect leader, the other people in this sect didn't look very welcoming. During her arrival, she saw some of them looking in strange ways at her. The workers were whispering and everyone was giving her the cold shoulder.

"How much longer will we be stuck here? What about grandfather?"

She called out while glancing through one of the large windows. This room had all the facilities needed for them to live in but it was getting boring. Cultivation to fill in the time was not on her mind as she was too nervous.

"Don't worry young miss, I'm sure your uncle will return in due time. Would you like to eat something? This treasure is filled to the brim, we don't need to worry about food!"

One of the maids replied while opening a large white box. Inside the air was chilled and it looked like a closet with shelves. There were various spirit enriched food items all sorted in there. It would probably last them for at least a month without any refills.

"Yes, and we have this magical device to give us some information!"

The second maid called out while pointing at a flat square object mounted on the wall. From time to time it would activate and a fashionable lady would give out information. Not so long ago she announced the birth of Zhang Jun, the newborn son of Zhang Dong.

"If what the person said was true, then your honorable uncle is probably busy with his child. We must be patient and wait!"

"Why don't we play this game in the meantime? There is surprisingly more to it."

One of the maids pointed to a table. On that table, there was a sort of checkered patterned box. There were sixteen small figurines on each side. For someone that came from the modern world, this object would be easily identified as it was a chessboard.

Fang Meili looked at the table where the game of chess was placed. She had tried it previously and already figured out that this wasn't a simple game. A person actually had to think about their moves ahead of time.

The chess pieces even had different kinds of movement akin to lower and higher realmed cultivators. In her opinion, the king represented the hidden masters that couldn't move nonchalantly.

The limited movement showed her how the ones in power had to limit themselves. The Queen piece was akin to a nascent soul elder or maybe a sect leader that had more freedom than the old council members.

There was also a fascinating mechanic where a simple pawn could ascend to another role. When they reached the end of the chessboard it could be replaced for even a Queen! It was like a cultivator surviving through a life of hardship and finally reaching their goal.

Fang Meili gave out a sigh, even though this game of chess was interesting the maids she was with weren't worthy opponents. They weren't good at thinking ahead and just randomly placed their pieces on the board. Always reactive and never proactive.

While she was thinking about giving the game another try she heard a knock on the door. This was more or less only a courtesy knock as before any of the girls on the inside could reply the door started to open.

Meili was stunned at the appearance of the person that walked through that intricate white door. It was a beautiful jade-like beauty that overshadowed any she had previously seen. Her fair complexion was exquisite and went together with the long snow-white hair.

Her eyes looked like two blue gems, while looking at them she could swear that she could see tiny electrical arcs jumping around. Her figure was very well proportioned, her hip to waist ratio was right on point and her chest was neither too small nor too big.

She was that one in a million beauty that could make empires crumble and even old monsters would have their hearts torn asunder. For some reason, this beautiful person was walking towards her.

"I apologize for the delay."

Fang Meili was brought back to reality by a familiar voice. It was her white-haired uncle that was also quite the looker. The beauty that walked in front moved to the side after opening the door. It looked like she was opening it for her uncle to let him in.

"No need to apologize Senior Uncle!"

The girl clasped her hands and did a small bow, the two maids behind her did the same while scooting closer.

"Congratulations on the birth of your son."

She added while looking back up. She still wasn't sure about this man's motives. He brought her here after saving her from that dreadful competition. The only thing that she wanted to know is how her grandfather and her sect was doing. She didn't want to be rude and ask too many questions in unfamiliar territory.

"Thank you. You don't need to be so uptight, you are part of the Zhang family line. You'd be a branch member if we were in the old clan but so am I."

Zhang Dong smiled slightly while shrugging. She noticed a slight twitch on his face when he was talking about the family situation. Apparently, he wasn't someone of a remarkable bloodline but he did somehow end up as the sect leader. His new line of descendants would probably form the new royal-like bloodline.

"I actually came here to introduce you to someone."

Zhang Dong said while looking over to the woman that had walked into the room before him.

"This is my niece Zhang Xue, she is your cousin from your great grandfather's side."

Fang Meili was astonished that she shared the same genes as this otherworldly beauty. She didn't consider herself that beautiful even though the people around her would tell her otherwise. Her proportions were plainer and she didn't have that jade-like skin as most of those beauties had. Her hair was also blond while most people preferred pure black or pure white hair.

"Your grandfather from my side of the family is also here... but you're probably better off not visiting him..."

Zhang Dong turned his head to the side and coughed into his hand while the woman next to him held her head down. Fang Meili could have sworn that the beauty was blushing as if she was embarrassed about something. Meili on the other hand was a bit interested in this new grandfather, he was more or less responsible for this encounter.

"This isn't the reason I came here though, it's about your other grandfather, Fang Heng."

Meili tensed up the moment she heard her grandfather being mentioned. She couldn't really read too much into Zhang Dong's facial expression but from his tone, she could feel that something was off.

"I have to regretfully inform you that he hasn't contacted me since we parted at the banquet..."

Zhang Dong informed her about the situation as he didn't want to keep things hidden from the girl.

"I will have my sect members try to contact him and get more information. For the time being, you will have to remain here, I did promise to take care of you in your grandfather's stead and I'm going to stay true to that promise."

Meili was glad that the man was sharing any type of information with her. It wasn't anything good though. She had no proof if what he was telling was the truth but there wasn't really a reason for him to lie. There wasn't much she could offer him in return and he was already wasting valuable resources on her.

“Xue here will help you around the mansion and sect. You will receive an inner disciple emblem, for now, it will help you to get around the city.”

He explained a few things to her: this so-called emblem was something akin to a master key. She would be able to apparently also buy food and items with it in the city. She would also receive some other things like a communication device and even a personal bodyguard.

“Xue will explain everything to you in detail, I have to tend to some sect business so I will have to excuse myself. If word of your grandfather or sect reaches me I will be sure to send someone over to give you word.”

Meili remained quiet while the United Element Sect Leader continued to talk. It was very rude and unwise to interrupt someone like him. She wouldn't have an option to ask any questions either as he left this Zhang Xue. He made a quick exit after the short explanation.

The door closed behind him and the two girls and two maids were left in the room. She was now left with the unknown beauty, not really sure what to do. She could tell that the other woman outranked her also in cultivation so she had to be respectful.

“Junior greets senior sister...”

She clasped her hands together and did a formal bow once more. The maids mimicked their young missy.

“You don't need to be so formal dear cousin, just as Master said you are part of our family, first you should take this.”

Zhang Xue handed Fang Meili the shield looking emblem that was similar to the one the new disciples had gotten. It was one meant for inner disciples though and was a lot more intricate.

Meili noticed that this cousin of hers also possessed one of those. It was attached as an accessory to her robe. She also remembered seeing ones similar to it mostly worn on the shoulders of the other cultivators.

She also was surprised at how this Zhang Xue was referring to her senior uncle.

“Master?”

Zhang Xue chuckled while covering her face with her long sleeve.

“Yes it's unconventional but my uncle is my Master. He is the most honorable person in this sect!”

The girl looked outside the window as if she was trying to proclaim to the world that Zhang Dong was the greatest master in the whole wide world.

“Master has urged me to give you a tour of this villa, we also need to visit the sect facilities and the city. There so much to see but so little time, we must depart dear cousin!”

Zhang Xue stopped reminiscing about her glorious master and turned to face Fang Meili. The city was huge and so was the entire sect. Giving this girl a tour of all that it could offer would probably take more than a day.



“Ah of course, I will abide by senior uncles and senior cousin’s wishes.”

Fang Meili was still feeling a bit stiff, this lady here was acting very welcoming but it wasn’t so for everyone else. There could be various reasons for it but the most important thing was for her to watch out.

Even though she had the sect leader’s protection she didn’t know how far this shield would go. Even this woman here could easily dispatch her for whatever reason. She needed to be careful and respectful.

Soon the two girls left the confines of the large guest room. The two girls set out to tour the sect compound. Their senior uncle on the other hand had a big choice to make.

## **Chapter 247**

Zhang Dong left the two girls alone in the room and left. He was hoping that Zhang Xue would keep her safe and also show her around the sect. The two were around the same age with the blond girl being slightly younger.

He hoped that Zhang Xue would open up to her new cousin. He picked her as she was his disciple and he trusted her to follow his orders. He also couldn’t let Zhang Liu take the job, that disciple of his had a problem in the form of Liena’s sister to contend with.

Feng Nuana barricaded herself as his fiance and wasn’t allowing him to even interact with other women. He wasn’t sure why the younger sister was so different from the older one, but he was glad that he ended up with Liena that went by Zhang Liena nowadays.

In the old days, the women from the Feng Clan rarely changed their clan name and took in female children only. With the sect taking over now they were just regular disciples so their outlook on things had changed. Also after Liena married him she decided to change her family name to be more traditional. This caused some friction between the Feng Clan members that were afraid of losing power and prestige.

That’s why he was worried about his new niece a bit. He didn’t think anyone would do anything drastic knowing he was involved. There still were other family members in the sect that would probably see the new person as a threat.

The inner sect politics were a convoluted thing that he tried to avoid. Some people liked to make their own little factions and help them rise up to power. They wouldn’t be able to threaten his position as he was the strongest but in the lower sections of the sect, some infighting occurred.

Zhang Dong gave out a sigh while flying away, he had other things to worry about than sect politics now. Time was of the essence and he would need to clear his schedule to resolve the new problems.

The first one was the problem that arose from him offending the Limitless Sword Society along with the Yggdrasil Sect. He slew Zhan Jie their Patriarch in one on one combat and this news was already known in all of the lands.

Normally if you killed a king from another country it would result in a war. In this sect-run empire, things were a bit different. The sect leader’s position was a high one but they could still be replaced. In most

sects like the Limitless Sword Society, the decision-making process was more democratic than people might think.

Most of them had something like a council of elders in the background. They would be the ones to actually make the decisions. The sect leader was just a figurehead that decided on regular sect decrees. When it came to outside politics and diplomacy, such councils started getting involved.

This Limitless Sword Society council was probably in the midst of making a decision regarding this. There was a chance that they would take up arms and attack them. Something like that actually had a low probability of going through.

Like five years ago, it took three of the other sects banding together to take out the Dark Palm Sect. They also only attacked when Zhang Dong was keeping them busy. They only attacked after he killed a large number of their nascent soul elders.

He believed that if the other two sects refused to co-operate the Limitless Sword Society would have to take this hit to their face.

Zhang Dong already showed his hand by defeating two sect leaders in single combat. Both of them were late stage cultivators and masters at their own craft. He was also one of these masters that had learned the sword heart. This would also be something that the old nascent soul fogies would be afraid to go against.

There was also the Divine Fist Sect that was rumored to be backing him. He knew that it was impossible to place spies in his domain. Information about this not being true would probably never leak outside.

How this would play out depended on the Dragon Gate Sect and the Demon Subduing Sect. He had better relations with the sect leaders of those two sects. The one from the Dragon Gate one was actually interested in doing business with his sect.

He was even the one that held out an olive branch towards him by inviting his side to the banquet. Though Zhang Dong didn't get to speak to Xu Qing, their leader at all. He was preoccupied with the Divine Fist Sect debacle and now it continued on.

"I gave Kuo the orders, maybe the spies had figured out something from the rumors..."

Zhang Dong took off into the distance while leaving Zhang Xue and Fang Meili to figure things out themselves.

After a moment or two, he arrived at a new location. He flew down into a large pagoda-like tower that stood in a walled-off section of the sect. No one besides core disciples was allowed here and it was also manned by them.

This was a building set up for his information network. This was the place to receive new intel on other factions and even individuals.

Every strong power required an agency like this. The other sects and factions still kept sending various spies into his domain. He just decided to return the favor and create a spy network of his own.

He left Zhang Kuo as its leader, the man was one of his most trusted advisors. He had long forgiven him about the Jade Grass City incident and the man continued working to prove his devotion towards him and the sect.

Thanks to him they had a mature information network throughout their whole domain. They even had sleeper agents placed inside the three surrounding sects.

Thanks to Zhang Dong's improved disguising technique they were able to replace almost anyone they wanted. They were spies trying to infiltrate his sect all the time. It was easy to capture them and then to replace them with someone of his own people.

The great part about this technique was that it was easy to switch out their spies and even jump to a new persona if they ever got caught. The agents could even switch themselves out so that they wouldn't need to live for years in a foreign land. Never to see their own sect members or families ever again.

Most of them were quite devoted though. There were many specialized techniques they were taught free of charge. A lot of people just took this job for the guaranteed rise in cultivation. Spending over ten years at an enemy camp was nothing for people that could live for five hundred years.

This place looked more like an office building on the inside. Many TV screens littered the inside along with cubicles. The sects technological advancement was pushed in the direction that he wanted.

Being an avid gamer and procrastinator in the old days he decided to bring over graphical interfaces that he was familiar with. For Matt, it was an easier way of sharing information than communication jades.

Those were still being used but it was easier to use a monitor screen with a presentation when more people were involved. Fast learning modules were possible as well but there could be some drawbacks as headaches.

"Greetings Patriarch."

He nodded slightly at the guards greeting him. Without answering he moved over to Zhang Kuo's private office. He mostly showed up without prior notice but normally if someone wanted to see Zhang Kuo who was the chief intelligence executive they needed to make an appointment. Depending on their rank it could take days or even weeks for it to come through.

"Any word from our friends from the Divine Fist Sect?"

Zhang Dong asked after entering Kuo's office. It was spacious and the view from the windows was quite breathtaking.

The Intelligence executive was buried in paperwork that needed signing and approval. He had to read through a lot of reports that the spies sent periodically.

Zhang Dong could see Kuo standing up instantly from his large black leather chair. He looked like a CEO from a large company now and had a large luxurious office to show for it.

"We have received no news from the Divine Fist Sect. After you arrived we had our agents ask around in the other sects. Our information chain doesn't yet reach that far, I must apologize Patriarch but we have no information regarding the elder you met at the banquet."

Zhang Kuo continued with his explanation. The other sects are keeping the information concerning the Divine Fist Sect hidden. Kuo's Spies only resided in the three major sects around them as well. They didn't yet spread out into the other ones in the empire as this department of intelligence was still in its infancy.

The only thing they could go off was rumors and general knowledge. The Yggdrasil Sect had apparently moved their forces towards their borders but they were on standby.

"Are they feeling out the situation after the banquet incident?"

"That is probably so Patriarch, the death of Zhan Jie had also caused a couple of other incidents. Our spy reported that the diplomatic talks at the Limitless Sword Society are underway but for the time being it looks like they won't be able to strike. The other two sects are taking a passive approach."

This was good news for him. It was improbable that they would attack them if the other two big sects didn't form a pact like last time.

"After Zhan Jie's death the Limitless Sword Society's prestige is being questioned, some of the other factions are making moves in the background. Assassination attempts are probable, It's unlikely that their council of grand elders will be willing to make a move against us without the help of the other sects."

Zhang Kuo listed all the important things that the spy network could get but one question remained. What happened to Fang Heng, was he attacked while returning to his sect? Or was it possible that he managed to get back to his territory but still was unable to activate the teleportation beacon? It was also possible that this device was somehow damaged during his return as well.

"That is all Patriarch, I will send you the detailed report to your communication jade."

"Good job, notify me if you get any information regarding the Divine Fist Sect, even second-hand information or rumors."

Zhang Dong saw himself out after getting the quick report. His plan of teleporting to his destination would probably fall through. This left him with two options, either to wait for the beacon to be activated or go there himself.

He would need to travel there somehow while being unnoticed. The trip there wasn't that long if he flew there at top speed but it wasn't that easy. He would need to go through enemy territory. The other sects wouldn't just let a powerful nascent soul cultivator into their lands that was also the sect leader of another faction.

He would probably need to go incognito as one of his personas. Lei Yinglo might have to make another appearance. This name was already known throughout the lands. He was viewed as a powerful rouge cultivator that liked to battle demonic beasts and cultivators.

Getting past the other sect borders could be possible as a hunter. If asked he could just tell that he was going after a ferocious demonic beast that was seen in Divine Fist Sect territory. He could also try sneaking there.

The biggest dilemma for him was leaving his newborn and wife behind. She hadn't yet recovered but there wasn't much time. If that monster continued to be left unchecked it could pose a threat to the entire empire or even the entire world.

"I'll have to explain it to her..."

He flew back towards his mansion yet again. He needed to stock up on a few things and then convince his lovely wife that he wasn't going into a death trap. He didn't feel like lying to her would be a proper thing to do. He would rather disclose everything to her, breaking her trust was something that he wasn't willing to do.

## **Chapter 248**

"Cat hulu?"

"Cthulhu"

"Cthululu?"

"Cthulhu..."

"Cut-a-who?"

"Close but...you know what? it doesn't even matter..."

Zhang Dong was in the room with his wife and his son. The boy was getting nursed by Zhang Liena right at this moment while his father was trying to explain to her about his favorite monster nemesis.

He had already explained the situation at the Divine Fist Sect and now just wanted to describe the monster that he needed to face.

"Does this really require your attention? Can't we send Qiang instead, he loves things like that, he will be thrilled to face off against something that gave you trouble."

He was worried about this, she wasn't so keen on letting her husband go into unfamiliar lands to fight against some kind of occult monster. From her perspective, they could dispatch one or two nascent soul elders that they now had.

"We can even lend him Zhang Zhi, those two should be enough to handle a demonic beast."

"Buaaahh..."

Their talk was interrupted by the sound of a baby. His son Zhang Jun was placed over his mother's shoulder and performed a magnificent burp. After getting his mouth wiped he was carried over to the crib by one of the maids. She was part of the sect and a trusted member so the two could talk freely around her.

"I understand your point, but those two are a bit..."

"Foolish? Simple-minded? Dense?"

“You don’t hold back much my wife... I was thinking more in line with overzealous. Don’t think they were made for tasks requiring stealth. If we send them together we might as well just declare war on the other sects.”

Zhang Dong was afraid that those two would cause trouble. He could already see them picking fights with almost anyone they met along the way. Then if anyone even dared to speak ill about the United Element’s Sect Zhang Zhi would be the first one to pull out a sword and bisect them.

He was the poster boy for a fanatical sect member. Huo Qiang on the other hand just liked to fight. He would probably go out of his way to pick fights with other nascent soul masters if he just got the opportunity.

The sect leader here wanted to avoid things like this. His plan was to disguise himself as a wandering cultivator and travel through the territory of the other sects. He could pretend to be a core formation expert as traveling as a nascent soul master was dangerous. If someone wasn’t affiliated with a strong faction they could be seen as a large threat.

“Certainly that could happen...”

Liena frowned a bit while looking at her husband. He returned the gaze while furrowing his brows. He knew that look she was giving him, it was a look of anger with some concern.

“I wouldn’t be going if it wasn’t necessary, that monster can’t grow any further. I can always summon the elders if I get in trouble.”

Zhang Dong had a big ace up his sleeve. After upgrading his system he could summon some of his minions to his location. He didn’t even need to set up a teleportation gate. Depending on his follower’s devotion towards him he could choose to bring them over to his location.

This function required spirit points, how many depended on the devotion rating and then the realm they were in. Summoning core formation cultivators cost less than doing it with nascent soul ones even if they had lower devotion.

“Can you summon me then?”

“You? Why would I ever do that? You should rest!”

Zhang Dong raised his voice slightly at the proposition. How could he call his recently pregnant wife over to battle a dangerous monster?

“Rest? I will be back on my feet within the week, don’t look down on Zhang Liena!”

He flinched a bit as he felt her aura spike. Her angered voice was raised and caused the windows in the room to vibrate. It also caused the baby to wake up and cry in the process, luckily the maid was quick to calm the little guy down.

“B-but think of the children...”

He scratched his head not really knowing what to say. He could see that his wife made up her mind, she also was wearing a teleportation ring and could transfer herself to his whereabouts. He could of course block this function but then he wouldn’t be able to get to her if anything happened either.

"I am thinking about them. I can't have their father put himself in danger while I sit here doing nothing! The servants can tend to them!" Zhang Liena looked at him with narrowed eyes. He didn't know that she would react in this way but deep down he was glad that she cared. He knew that she should be recovered in about a week's time and this would also be the time he would need to reach the Divine Fist Sect area.

"I can just summon Qiang and Zhi, they will be more than eager to help..."

"Hah, I bet they will but you know well that I am the third strongest elder in this sect! With that little toy, you made me, I could even defeat that Idiot Qiang myself."

Zhang Dong thought back to this toy that she was talking about. He did put in a lot of blood, sweat, and tears in making it. He had created that artifact to boost his wife's fighting prowess as she had to halt her cultivation process while taking care of his daughter.

Liena was making some sense but he still didn't want his lovely wife to get involved in a brutal fight. He would probably need some help though, the last time he faced off against the monster it also had minions. This version had more time to prepare, it could have an actual army lurking in those ruins it was hiding in.

"But..."

"No buts, if you don't make a promise now, I will just follow after you myself."

Zhang Liena said while pouting slightly. She turned her head to the side as if being offended. He knew that she wanted the best for him and was just afraid that he could easily perish outside the sect.

'Sigh'

He placed his hand on the woman's head while shaking his own around.

"You know my wifey, you were a lot easier to convince in the old days."

He thought back to the times that he could just bullshit his way around most of the arguments. After living with him for so many years his lovely wife had picked up on some of his lies or exaggerations. She knew that her husband wasn't the monolithic giant sect leader that everyone thought he was. He made mistakes like anyone else, she was just worried.

"I promise to seek your aid when I get into trouble, but you must also promise me that you won't overwork yourself."

He went down to his knees as his wife was sitting on an exquisite white couch. She was in the middle of pouting and looking to the side. He grabbed her soft hand with his own and delivered a small peck to it. Liena gave out a small blush and looked down. Even though she had gotten more daring with the years she was still quite weak when he showed her some affection.

"Hmph!" She gave out a cute sound unfit for a lady her age. Zhang Dong just smiled and moved his hands around his wife. He carried her over to the bed that had a better healing formation around it.

"I'll be taking my leave now. Take care of the little ones and try to save your strength. I'll keep you informed in the usual way."

The two finally parted with each other and he walked out of Liena's room. He checked on the beacon one last time before placing it back into his spatial ring.

Zhang Dong then promptly disappeared from within the sect grounds a couple of minutes later an older looking man in a dark robe could be seen flying through the air. He looked grizzled and had many scars on his face. He decided to go with his old demon hunter persona for this mission, he used it from time to time to fight off demon beasts when he got bored.

He used a blade to fly on but his speed was several times faster than of a regular core formation expert's. While in his own sect region he could just use his full cultivation to propel himself forward. When he reached enemy territory he would need to slow down.

If other nascent soul experts felt an unfamiliar aura of similar strength they would surely fly towards it. He needed to take his time in passing through unknown lands. The other sects didn't see core formation cultivators as big threats so if he paid the toll he should be able to pass through their cities and borders.

'Haven't done this in a while... feels refreshing to spread my wings from time to time.'

He looked at the passing scenery that was quite beautiful. This world was a lot more fascinating than the previous one he lived in. People tended to flock to larger cities as many violent beasts roamed the lands. Thanks to this, nature was mostly undamaged, things like air pollution and waste products were rarely seen.

As a sect leader, he couldn't leave the premises of his main sect city. His adventuring days had been halted and he concentrated on his people. He had helped them design the city and also used his personal funds to raise the living conditions of his citizens.

His policies were seen as very magnanimous and the people living in these lands were very thankful. He had placed police units across all the major cities in the area, even where other large clans resided. Thanks to this, the order was being kept and fewer people died due to things like greed and face.

There was still much to do but it was impossible for his hands to reach everywhere. Even as he was flying through some of his lands he could see impoverished people. This mostly happened in poor villages or tribes, his sect just didn't have the capital to take care of everyone.

The only thing he could give them was the possibility of improving their lives. It was up to them to take control of their life and rise up. He was also of the mind that he couldn't make everyone over-reliant on the sect. They needed to be able to take care of themselves otherwise it would spell disaster if a calamity arrived.

He sped through the forests, it was the same one that he had arrived into this world. It spread through much of the lands and was unused due to the low amount of spiritual energy.

Thanks to this the large sects didn't bother to expand their borders here. If he used this path he would be able to keep his maximum speed up for a bit longer. Without any distractions, he passed through most of his lands. He arrived close to the border, this one was with the Limitless Sword Society.

This was the fastest way towards his new destination but would also be dangerous. He would certainly be attacked if they discovered his true identity.



“Time to sneak in...”

He covered himself in spiritual energy and dived down. The moment he approached the ground it parted. He tunneled himself down while spreading the ground with earth elemental techniques, his aim was to burrow himself out on the other side of the border. He purposely picked a spot that was far away from any nascent soul cultivators.

“I must hurry, that monster might be slaughtering that sect even at this moment. Can’t let that thing’s corruption spread outside...”

## **Chapter 249**

“Run away Little Su and take your mother with you!”

A bald man shouted while holding a large saber in one of his hands. There was an arrow sticking out of his shoulder yet he was standing tall.

“No, father!”

He was standing in front of two women, one looked to be his wife while the other one was much younger, probably his daughter. He was staring at a group of people in shabby clothes. They had weapons in their hands and were slowly surrounding this family of three from all sides.

“Not so fast old man, those two are precious goods, we can’t have them running off! Get them, boys!”

“Yes, senior brother!”

It looked like a group of small-time ruffians, there were five of them with the largest man being the leader. Due to the woman’s hesitation, their escape route was cut off and it looked like it would be over for this small family of three.

“Don’t blame us, blame yourself for coming to this place, fool!”

One of the men laughed while swinging his sword at the father. The man managed to receive the strike and even push the attack back. To his dismay, he wasn’t able to react to the second bandit who managed to stab his unkempt blade into the father’s side, blood was seen instantly.

“No! Father!”

“Honey!”

The two females screamed out as they saw the father fall to one of his knees. He used the saber as a crutch to support himself but his vision started getting blurry.

“Leave my wife and daughter alone, you bastards!”

Two of the bandits quickly grabbed the unprepared girls and held them by their hands. They had to watch their family member getting his weapon taken away with a well-placed kick. It looked like it was over and that the criminals were on top.

“Hah, serves you right. Only an idiot takes their family through these lands, what were you trying to achieve, idiot?”

The bandit leader chuckled menacingly while his men started pulling the two women away. The father tried to get up but another bandit instantly kicked him in the stomach.

“Let me go you bastard!”

The daughter cried out while biting the man on the hand that was holding her. This caused him to lose his grip, the girl tried using this chance to pull away but got held back by her hair.

“Damn slut!”

The angered man yanked her back and delivered a hard slap to her face. This caused her to groan out in pain while falling down to the ground.

“Hey be careful, don’t damage her face, we won’t be able to sell her like this.”

The leader barked out at the other man that shrunk back.

“You can have some fun with that old hag, this one belongs to me.”

The boss smirked while looking at the younger girl. He could see shock and indignation in her eyes. He was the type of man that loved to see the fear in his victim’s eyes. He licked his lips while moving closer.

The only person that could do anything was getting stomped by his junior brothers, he on the other hand was planning to enjoy this young girl to the fullest.

“Don’t worry, this senior brother is really gentle. I’ll teach you how a real man does things!”

He laughed while doing an obscene hip thrust, the young girl could only look with shock as the ugly bandit got closer. Her mother flailed around but she was far too weak to do anything, the father was already close to dying.

In her heart, she prayed for a miracle. This wasn’t how it was supposed to be, her whole family wanted to leave this godforsaken land. They were so close, only a few more days and they would have been on the border at the promised land.

This land was supposed to be ruled by a just leader. Someone that actually cared about his subjects. There was enough food for everyone, the streets were clean and his forces patrolled the areas which kept bandits like these away.

In the time of her despair, something happened, there was a rumble. The earth started shaking as if a large earthquake was upon them. The bandit leader almost fell over as even he was affected by the earth’s movement.

“What is that? an earthquake?... no... something is coming...”

The man looked to the side and could see the ground rising up about fifty meters from where he was standing. It burst open quite fast and he could see a man rising out from it. The man flew up into the air but there was not a speck of dirt on his dark robe.

The bandit leader dropped whatever he was doing as he knew that someone like this was far above him. The way that he was staying in the sky without a worry in the world showed that he was a master at the core formation level. This was someone that he could not offend.

.....

This man was Zhang Dong, he had just reached the border that his sect and the Limitless Sword Society shared with one another. He had submerged himself underground and used his system map to evade detection. He didn't really have to do this but he wanted to be sure that no stray sentries detected his presence.

After traveling several kilometers from the initial entry point he finally decided to go outside. Traveling underground was a lot slower than flying through the air even though it was safer. When he got outside he saw quite the scene, a standard robbery with attempted murder and rape.

"Is this some kind of new world record?"

He thought back to his old days when he used to fly around without any worry. He always came across people getting mugged and robbed whenever he went. He attributed it to the world just being really bloody where only the strongest survived. This was also the reason why he created his version of the police force so that he could let them handle it.

So here he was, just starting his week-long adventure and already witnessing a crime in progress. He looked down with narrowed eyes at the bandits that had clearly noticed him. He saw them on his system map, but they were at the lower end of Qi condensation so he deemed them harmless.

They were clearly too weak to be members of the Limitless Sword Society. Thus he decided to come out here as he was losing too much time tunneling as it was.

He couldn't let this go on for any longer. He could tell that one of the people that got attacked was critically injured. He started to descend towards the group of Qi Condensation cultivators, it was a rare occurrence for him to interact with weak people like them. He could already see the bandits shaking from feeling his suppressed aura.

"G-good day H-honorable Elder, can this lowly junior be of assistance?"

Zhang Dong saw the person with the highest cultivation level going straight down to his knees. He wanted to commend his quick wits, he instantly assumed the subservient position. He was only at the 5th level of Qi condensation but outranked everyone here besides him.

"Just be quiet."

Zhang Dong didn't really feel like he needed to talk to this man. He already came across many idiots like this. They used the small amount of power to walk all over weaker people but when someone slightly stronger appeared they fled or prostrated themselves instantly.

It was debatable why they ended up like this. Was it bad parenting, maybe lack of them? Did they see someone else living their life like this and just copied their ways?

Zhang Dong didn't feel like people were born evil or that they weren't redeemable. Correcting their behavior would be exceedingly difficult and there was a point of no return. He would never be merciful to people that killed without rhyme or reason.

He reached out his hand and pointed out with his finger. This digit started glowing with a golden hue. A tiny ray of light shot out from it and flew towards the collapsed man. The golden energy seeped into his body while making it glow radiantly.

Everyone here was staying quiet, they weren't sure what this master was doing to this man. They knew one thing, that if he wanted he could slay them with a tiny fart. To their surprise, the man that was on death's door started looking better. In a matter of moments, all of his wounds closed up and he opened up his eyes.

He was now healed. The man looked around confused as he had lost consciousness after getting severely beaten by the bandits. The last thing he remembered was trying to save his daughter and wife before the stomping began.

"W-what?"

"F-father!"

The daughter was the first one to react. She was still young and emotional, while the others were scared of moving while a core formation expert was around, she didn't. She hugged her father while sobbing as he had almost passed away.

"Well then, I don't have much time. Now Choose, a life of servitude or death? Ten seconds should be enough to make a decision."

The moment Zhang Dong spoke out a massive amount of killing intent washed over all of the bandits. They were pushed into the ground and could only shake with fear. They knew that this man was serious, the reason he was doing this was unimportant as he was someone far above them.

In their minds, they could only blame themselves for being too weak to retaliate. There was not much remorse in their thinking as it didn't even dawn on them that he was punishing them for the attempted murder and rape.

"I... I will swear allegiance to the venerable senior!"

"M-me too."

"Yes, we all swear to serve you!"

Not having much choice they all crumbled under pressure. The moment they agreed to the proposal they could feel something invading their very being. It was some kind of soul shackle being placed upon them and they had heard rumors about such things. If the man wished he could easily destroy their souls.

"Now you three on the other hand..."

Zhang Dong in his demon hunter persona looked at the family of three. It was strange that they were here, how did they end up in the middle of nowhere with bandits? The closest settlement was a few days away on foot for normal people and it seemed that is what they did.

"Honorable senior, please spare my family, I will also swear my life to you!"

“F-father!”

The man also went down to his knees and started begging him for his life. The wife was closely second as she also begged for their daughter’s life. It made it seem like he was some kind of evil cultivator trying to use them as some kind of test subjects or resources for pill making.

“Relax...”

He pointed his finger at the group of three. They could feel something being inserted into their dantian, it was some kind of strange energy but it didn’t feel malicious.

“I’m not going to harm you. I have given you control of these idiots here, you can do whatever you wish with them. If they try to hurt you, their very souls will rapture and break.”

He quickly explained that these five bandits would be bound to them. He on the other hand started floating up into the sky. He didn’t have time to escort these people, with these five bandits they should be fine in this low-level area.

“You there, give them an order.”

He pointed to the daughter that flinched a bit. She complied with the request telling the bandits to stand up on one leg.

“Uh?”

The men found themselves compelled to do it. If they tried resisting a sharp pain would wash over their bodies rendering them immobile.

“Well then, take care and try not to get in trouble...”

He finally took off while looking at his map. He had already placed waypoints on it after looking through the map of the empire. He would go through less populated spots evading large cities and heavily guarded locations. If he was lucky, he would arrive in the Divine Fist Sect territory within a week.

The family of three was left baffled by the occurrence. Even after the man left the bandits found themselves under their spell. It was now on them to decide if these criminals deserved to live or die.

## **Chapter 250**

Zhang Dong left the bewildered family along with the small group of bandits. He chuckled to himself as they all had silly expressions on their faces. Probably because they were all still alive after coming across someone of his caliber.

He didn’t have time to stick around and help out anymore. The reason for them being in this desolate spot was unknown to him and he would keep it that way.

Zhang Dong whizzed on his flying sword through the lands while keeping a low profile. He looked like your generic rugged cultivator with no home. The sword he was using looked shabby from the outside.

This was done on purpose to evade conflict with any other core formation cultivators. If he wore multiple high-level trinkets he could as well just write ‘Rob me’ on his back and wait.

'I seem to have forgotten how the world really looks outside my own sect...'

While flying as fast as a jet plane he had some time to look around these lands. He was now in Limitless Sword Society territory. He could see the usual low-level beasts roaming the lands which weren't anything out of the ordinary. But when he approached human settlements he noticed the disparity.

His plan was to evade them but with his nascent soul senses, he could peek at these smaller cities from afar. He did all of this without the worry of getting detected. What he saw there painted a picture of how the other sects saw their people or rather how they didn't see anyone besides their own worth investing in.

There was widespread famine and lawlessness. He could see ruffians and robbers roaming everywhere, maybe this was why that family was there. They might have been trying to escape from all of this.

The cities here were more akin to his territory before his sect took over. Even in the first large city, he visited all those years ago things weren't great. He almost saw people getting run over by a carriage. He was able to save them then, but this was only possible because of his high cultivation realm.

He was saddened by how people had to live here but he couldn't help them. He needed to finish his mission first. If he wasn't successful, bandits and robbers would be the least of their problems.

So Zhang Dong looked into the distance and flew off, this time around he used various aura hiding treasures along with ones that would make him hard to detect or even see.

It was thanks to having these with him that he was certain of continuing his journey forward without being detected.

This world was truly vast, even though he was limiting his speed he would be able to make a round trip around his old planet in less than a day. Even with that kind of speed, he would need a whole week to get to his destination.

Out of boredom, he started looking around. The weather kept changing one hour he could be going through snowy mountain peaks where there was nothing besides frozen ice and death. While in the next he was whizzing through tropical weather in a jungle area. He felt like he was stuck in a game and going through different biomes each time.

In reality, he was traveling through a vast expanse. Along with the spiritual energy changes that could alter the surroundings it all made sense. Many times did he want to stop and take in the scenery while relaxing. The forests and untouched lakes were truly breathtaking. Places like this just made him want to take his family and relax while taking a dip in one of the many giant lakes.

Regretfully most of such beautiful places remained untouched for a reason. Even now as he was passing through a clear lake he could see a massive shadow lurking below. If he lowered his altitude he would probably get attacked by the monster living in the deep below.

Human cultivators might have been strong but they were far from the strongest beings in these lands. Magical beasts were born stronger yet humans had more ingenuity to go further in their life. They were also much better at working in a group while beasts kept to themselves or at most stayed in small groups with an alpha ruling over them.

Zhang Dong made sure to activate his system map while going through these lands. He didn't have any luck in finding any of those strange dead zones. He wanted to get another of those cubes which could get him some information about the person who sent him here.

He still had many unanswered questions that needed to be asked. For some reason though, he had a bad premonition about the person behind it all. Everything was shrouded in mystery, there was also that secret ground. It was located in the Limitless Sword Society area which they poached from the Dark Palm Sect.

He was contemplating about taking this part of the land back into his territory, now after defeating their leader there was no reason not to be a bit brazen.

'I should probably look into it after I take care of Squidward, one thing at a time...'

He gave out a sigh while continuing with his journey. He passed the Limitless Sword Society area without many incidents. Along the way, he helped out a few people that were down on their luck. He did it with minimal effort, time was still of the essence.

One day passed and then another one. Soon he was deep into the empire and far away from home. He periodically sent some long-ranged messages to his wife thanks to his faction system. Communication jades and other devices didn't have enough range for things like this.

Even with it, there was a slight time delay between his direct messages. When using the system for communication it would look like a conversation through the internet. Both parties would see text popping up in front of them. He was limited to people that had their devotion above 90% for this which was only a handful. His wife was luckily one of them.

'I'm approaching the Divine Fist Sect territory, for now, I haven't encountered anything out of the ordinary.'

He pressed send and could see an indication that his wife had received the information. Regretfully there was a downside to this way of talking. The person receiving the DM couldn't respond normally. They had a limited array of emojis that they could click. They had thirty seconds to reply to his text.

'Thumbs up followed by a kissy face emoji, then a lot of heart emojis...'

Liena wasn't very good with picking out those and he very rarely used this system to contact anyone. Thus he sometimes had trouble understanding what his lovely wife wanted to say to him. This time there were a lot of hearts so everything must have been going well back home.

'There is still no reaction from the beacon even when I am this close...'

He grumbled while flying forward. He was lucky enough in evading any other nascent soul cultivators and was now only a few hours away from his destination. He hoped that he would figure out what happened to his new niece's grandfather after he got there.

Zhang Dong looked at his map and compared it to the map of the Azure Dragon Empire that he had in his possession. He was sure that he was in the right place, after getting through the mountain range that was in front of him he should be able to see the border walls.

'What is that?'

On the other side, he was forced to slow down. What he saw was peculiar. He could clearly see the fifty-meter large walls that continued for kilometers. This was a standard for keeping territories separate and wasn't the surprising thing that he saw.

'That's a lot of fog...'

Mist, white and thick. It was everywhere it was spilling over the walls even now and inching forward into this land bit by bit. Even with his enhanced senses, he couldn't see inside of this strange fog. He could feel small amounts of demonic qi coming off from it, he had a sinking suspicion that it was related to his favorite monster.

He examined everything from a safe distance, he wasn't alone here. He had discovered other cultivators keeping watch and they were not from the Divine Fist Sect. They were surprisingly from the Silver Spear Sect that he had beat up the leader of. This sect was one of the ones that bordered with the faction he was going towards.

They were mostly core formation and foundation establishment cultivators. These walls stretched for many kilometers in two directions, the nascent soul elder responsible for them would probably be somewhere in the middle of the border. He purposely moved to a spot where he could evade such an elder.

'If it's just them...'

He waved his hand around while his body rippled. His form faded out of existence as he blended with the surroundings. This was one of the new techniques that he had learned. It was a good technique for espionage as it rendered you invisible to people below your cultivation realm.

Zhang Dong floated gently towards the walls, using too much spiritual energy could give his position away. He remained standing in the air right before this strange white mist. All of his senses were telling him to not go in there. It was as if something in there was going to devour him whole.

It was too late to turn back though but before entering he turned to the side. There were some other cultivators floating on their swords. Before going in he decided to eavesdrop on their conversation. Maybe they would shed some light on it all, he was quite lucky as one of the junior members was just making a report to the commanding elder.

"Senior Elder, the evil fog is slowly progressing into our sect. No information is going through inside and the Divine Fist Sect isn't responding either... our scouts haven't returned either..."

He got the gist of it while listening to the report. It didn't answer any questions but he had a suspicion about how this strange fog worked. Luckily he was the right person for this job, maybe the only right person for it.

'I'm glad that I went with gold and not violet that time...'

He smirked while finally deciding to get in there. His body blurred for a moment and the white mist parted for a second as he dived in. The elder from the Silver Spear sect turned around to the spot that Zhang Dong dived in.

"Was it my imagination?"



“Elder?”

The man turned his head back to the junior member while nodding.

“Right, keep monitoring and await for our scouts to return. Keep your distance from this evil mist, I fear that it’s the work of demonic cultivators. I will bring this information to the sect, we must have one of the grand elder’s act!.”

“Understood elder!”

No one here would go out of their way to investigate further. Most of the people were convinced that this fog was poisonous or might affect someone’s mind. It was time to inform the higher-ups and have them act while they observed from outside.

It was progressing slowly and was keeping away from their side of the border so they didn’t have a reason to act just yet. They still hoped that the Divine Fist Sect would take care of this problem as it was coming from their lands.

Unbeknownst to them, a certain person was already inside. His appearance started to shift into a handsome man with white hair and a robe of the same color. His eyes glowed with golden light and his body was covered with the same type of holy energy.

‘I hope that I’m not too late...’