

## Unfathomable 391

### Chapter 391

“Dong’er are you sure that this is safe...”

“I’m not sure... I guess half and a half?”

“Only half? Maybe we should try it on another sect member that isn’t as old as this old man.”

“Just be quiet and let me concentrate, I need to do it with someone that I’m more familiar with before I continue with the other sect members...”

“P-please be gentle...”

“Don’t worry I will... this might feel a bit strange so please bear with it...”

“Ahhh... it tingles...”

“...”

“What are you two doing in there!”

A confused-looking Zhang Liena burst into a hastily manufactured cave opening. There she saw her husband and his grandfather. The old man was bare-chested and in a lotus position and Zhang Dong had his hand on his back.

“Oh...”

“Is something wrong Liena? Is the Soaring Dragon Sect attacking?”

Zhang Dong called out while breaking his concentration. He had managed to cleanse every expert’s impurities with the help of his system. This didn’t mean that everyone would be able to reach the next level just like that.

Normally what they would do, was to give a person that could potentially progress some pills and also time. But time was not something that they had as they could be attacked at any moment. Thus Zhang Dong decided to lend his energies to help people progress faster.

Zhang Jin was part of their inner circle and his body was similar to his own. Through these similarities, he wished to test how well he would be able to nourish his cultivation up. It seemed that he had forgotten that he had promised to give his wife a call when he was finished with the initial cleansing stage.

“I’m sorry, I was just too busy with work, how are you?”

Liena started blushing a bit, he wasn’t sure what this was about but it seemed that she misunderstood something. Zhang Dong could just move over to place his hand on her cheek.

“Don’t worry, I won’t vanish like last time.”

“It wasn’t like I was worried or anything...”

She started blushing even more and Zhang Dong could feel that his wife's body heat was increasing. But before he could lean in for a hug and maybe something extra he heard someone chuckling from the side.

"Oh, don't mind me, pray continue with what you were doing, I bet you two have a lot of catching up to do, don't mind this old man being here!"

Liena quickly moved away from Zhang Dong after hearing Zhang Jin commenting from the side. The old man just started laughing which caused the matriarch to stare at him with intent. To diffuse the situation Zhang Dong decided to quickly speak up as he didn't want to have his grandfather being mutilated by his lovely wife.

"Um, I'll be stuck here for a little bit, is there any word from the spies outside..."

"That is the surprising part, it doesn't look like they are attempting anything but we didn't have any spies placed directly in their sect, the closest one was by a nearby sect but it has been quiet..."

"That does sound odd... you'd think that they would be making a big deal out of losing so many elders and ships, could they be silencing the news so that they don't lose face?"

Zhang Dong asked while contemplating. A few days have passed since the attack but no news of any retaliation had reached them. If another large force would be getting formed it would not go unnoticed.

At most, the Soaring Dragon Sect could teleport through a gate to a closer location before attacking. Such a large undertaking would be noticed before they reached their borders as the sect had done well at placing their people at strategic locations throughout the whole empire.

"That's a possibility, maybe the word hasn't reached them? Wang Long vanished without losing a trace and we took care of the rest, we even managed to catch all the stragglers that fled into the forest."

Zhang Jin chimed in while Zhang Dong tried to come to a conclusion. What would be the reason that would make that sect wait?

"Maybe they want to act, but can't for some reason? Maybe they truly fear the Azure Emperor and the Heavenly Crane sect..."

This was the only logical conclusion that he could come up with. If it was true then he would not need to worry about being attacked any time soon. Maybe if Wang Long was the sect leader they would be attacking instantly but he didn't seem like someone that worked well in a team. To him, his sect brothers and sisters were nothing but pawns.

The Patriarch that was his grandfather would probably think everything through before coming to a decision. Blindly going against someone that managed to slay that many nascent soul masters was not something that should be taken lightly.

"What worries me is what the Azure Emperor and the Heavenly Crane Sect will do, gramps do you think they might aid each other?"

"I don't think that's a possibility, the great three never saw eye to eye, they would sooner aid us before giving a hand to the Soaring Dragon Sect."

Zhang Dong nodded, the more turmoil that they caused for the Soaring Dragon Sect the happier the other two would be. They probably wished to snatch the mainlands that were in the center of the empire for themselves and only then worry about the United Element Sect.

“Well, there is no use to worry, we can only look towards the future, gramps get back into position, we need to get you into the nascent soul level, or was there something else?”

Zhang Dong looked at his wife and just shook her head. While he was glad that she was worried about him to the point of paying him a visit here, it was not the time for a family get-together.

Soon Liena left the cave and was greeted by her grandmother.

“See, I told you that he would return, my husband, isn’t so easily killed. It’s best that you don’t mention that you wanted me to remarry.”

“Yes, that would be best...”

Feng Maling nodded while also sweating a bit. She had gone through this cleansing procedure about five years before but this one felt a bit more intense. The other elders that were in the great circle level were all on the ground and meditating.

“But Liena, do you really think that it’s wise to stay? I understand that you want to listen to your husband but I worry about the future of this sect, what if we...”

“No, he is the Patriarch, without him there would be no sect, if you doubt him then you can just leave, no one will stop you.”

Feng Maling was glared down by her granddaughter and started chuckling.

“Your love for him didn’t waver one bit, it might have only gotten stronger, fine I’ll put my faith into the young Patriarch, if we falter then we shall pass on from this world together.”

The old woman nodded and was about to join the other core formation experts before feeling something. She together with all the others looked to the cave into which Zhang Dong and Zhang Jin vanished.

“What is that...”

The ground started to rumble and the cave opening that was being guarded lit up in blue. There was clearly something happening inside but no one dared to enter. They were told by the Patriarch that there would be strong energy fluctuations during the change and that they should not interrupt the process or it might cost Zhang Jin his life.

“Everyone, let us give the Patriarch some space.”

Feng Maling called out to the people that were sitting around and trying to get their own cultivation in check. They all nodded and quickly put some space between themselves and the small mountain that they had set up their training camp.

A tremendous amount of energy filled the area and it continued to rise well past the levels of what a core formation expert would be able to produce.

“By the ancestors, is that old idiot really going to progress?”

Feng Maling’s eyes bulged out as she hovered next to her granddaughter that had helped her move out of the range of this energy.

“If my husband said that he would be able to do it, then he will be able to do it!”

Liena on the other hand just nodded while smiling. She started looking around to see a forest of astonished faces. Everyone’s jaws were agape at the demonstration here. It was clear that they weren’t sure if the Patriarch’s plan would work. After five long years, a chunk of them had forgotten how big of a miracle worker Zhang Dong was.

They would remember after this day that their leader had the golden touch. The mountain exploded with another burst of energy that approached the level of a nascent soul master. This wasn’t a gentle transformation, no, from inside the mountain Zhang Jin’s screams could soon be heard.

“Bare with it, we are almost there!”

Shouted Zhang Dong before the closed-off mountain blew its top. A pillar of deep blue escaped from it that formed a fountain of water. This burst of clear blue transformed into a mighty serpent with wings that gave out a mighty roar.

“H-he did it!”

The old grandma could not believe what she was seeing. Inside of this water dragon stood a half-naked Zhang Jin. His age started getting to him these past five years but now he looked like a new man. Even some color returned to his hair after he achieved this new level of power.

When they looked up they could see Zhang Jin floating up in the air. Behind him was Zhang Dong who still had his palm on his grandfather’s shoulder. It looked like he was constantly helping the old man with his new transformation and only pulled back after it was done.

“T-this... I feel a hundred years younger!”

Zhang Jin was ecstatic as he shouted out. His aura spread through the area and brought the core formation elders to their knees. Luckily Liena was there to block it, otherwise, some of them would have blacked out instantly.

“You old fool, get a hold of yourself, you’re not the only one here!”

Feng Maling shouted out in anger but only when Zhang Jin got smacked to the back of the head by Zhang Dong did he realize what he was doing.

“Oh... excuse this old man, I must have lost myself...”

“Yeah... you should go meditate and check if your cultivation is stable, it does look like your nascent soul is stable but you’ll need some time before you can make your soul beast appear.”

Zhang Dong nodded and then looked down at Feng Maling.

“Okay granny, you’re next, then I’ll start with the rest of the elders, please decide on the order yourself.”

Everyone nodded while looking with sparkly eyes at the floating Zhang Jin. To them it was a miracle in the making, to allow them to reach this level of power Zhang Dong was a true saint to them.

## Chapter 392

“Elder Wang? Is there a problem?”

“You must apologize for my behavior, Lord Qing Long but I need to tend to some family problems.”

“Is that so?”

Three men were drinking spirit alcohol with each other in a wide-open room. All of them were holding small cups made from white jade in which there was some glowing liquid inside. This was the purest spirit that would be quite deadly if drunk by an ordinary cultivator.

One of them was the Soaring Dragon Sect’s Patriarch, Xuan Wang. He was a man known throughout the whole empire as he was part of one of the big three. Next to him sat someone that was his equal, Tao Guan the Patriarch of the Heavenly Crane Sect.

The two were both having a conversation with the leading cultivator, the Azure Emperor Qing Long. While this conversation continued the Soaring Dragon Patriarch was given a transmission through his communication jade.

“Lord Xuan, Can’t this family matter not wait? Isn’t it rude to bring such matters up while we are discussing our alliance?”

Tao Guan commented while covering part of his face with a fan. On the back, there was an intricate pink design of a crane that was the staple of his sect.

“Lord Tao, it’s fine, family is very important, I’m sure Lord Xuan wouldn’t bring this to our ears if it wasn’t important.”

The man called the Azure Emperor just waved with his hand in a bored fashion. He looked the youngest from the group of three but this didn’t mean that he wasn’t just as old as the other two top cultivators in the empire.

Wang Xuan’s face twitched slightly but he was able to hold it in. For a moment he looked at the old man holding the fan. It looked like he wanted to say something but with the Azure Emperor being so close he decided not to. Soon the old man from the Soaring Dragon Sect went away which left the other two behind.

“With lord Xuan’s absence, I propose that we postpone the talks for a few days.”

While the Azure Emperor asked this, it was clear that he wasn’t really hoping to get any confirmation from the other cultivator next to him. He was clearly already standing up to leave even as he gave his proposition.

“Then I will return to my quarters.”

Tao Guan nodded as it seemed to be over and along with everyone else in this wide chamber he began to leave. While the three top cultivators were discussing their retainers were spread out through this large chamber. Only when their leaders walked over to them could they stand up and leave with them.

“Patriarch.”

A group of scholarly men in similar white robes greeted the old man. It was clear that this Patriarch of theirs was slightly maddened by the way the Soaring Dragon Patriarch acted.

“What is that idiot thinking, what is so important that he would make such a scene?”

He posed this question to the group with the intent of them giving him an answer. One of the scholarly men walked up and started whispering into the Patriarch’s ear. After a moment the old Patriarch moved the fan over his mouth and nodded at the group before leaving without giving a reply.

As the two elders were walking away the Azure Emperor retreated behind his throne and back to his own room. Inside he found his wife that was in the process of feeding a baby.

“Are you finished, my Emperor?”

“Not quite my love.”

“Is there something wrong? Are they perhaps plotting something to bring my Emperor down?”

The woman smiled at the blue-haired man while holding their offspring in her hand. The man’s stone-cold expression seemed to melt away the moment he laid eyes on his wife and the future of his clan that she was holding in her hand.

“Hah, when are they not plotting to bring me down? Still, Wang’s outburst was strange indeed, what could shake that old monster up so much?”

“Wahhhh....”

While the Azure Emperor was talking the baby started crying. The man revered by the whole empire looked at the small child. He started fumbling about in a panicked state while not knowing what was the reason for such an outburst.

“My Emperor, it might not be the right moment to bring up politics while the child is trying to eat.”

“You speak the truth, my wife, I should consult the royal guard.”

The woman just smiled while picking the small boy up and cradling him around. Soon the man walked away to perform his duties. The royal guard was just the word for his inner circle of retainers. He needed to get to the bottom of this strange predicament. Was the Soaring Dragon Sect in some trouble and if this could potentially endanger the empire’s future.

“Ah, whatever would I do without you my wife~”

The Emperor chuckled while giving his wife and crying child a big hug. Then he soon left to get to the bottom of this debacle. The empire was his to run and he needed to know everything that went on in it.

“My Emperor, I am here to serve.”

In another chamber, a group of powerful cultivators was assembled. The Emperor took a seat to overlook his men and the meeting started.

“I don’t think I have to remind you about the dire times we face. The barrier between empires is wavering, we don’t have time, we need to know where their allegiance lies.”

War was coming and the Azure Emperor was aware of this. This was information that very few had knowledge of, it was something that was left behind by the other Azure Emperors that came before him. Now it was finally up to him to make use of it.

For many hundreds of years, he had made preparations. The other two sects might have been strong but the Azure Empire had been here long before those two came to power.

Once every hundred thousand years the barrier between worlds would come undone. He knew that his was not the only Empire in this large world. There were others and they would come to test them.

It was an old prophecy passed around through time immemorial. It had survived to this day and after certain predictions came true it was clear that the day that the massive war started was upon them.

While the people here were fearful of the unknown empires that could emerge from other sides of this barrier there were also hopeful. There was a limit to what they could learn here and the top cultivators felt that they were at an impasse that they could not go through.

The nascent soul level had not been broken but the knowledge of a stage above it was widespread. It had become nothing more than a legend that sometimes was confirmed due to the existence of a handful of immortal grade treasures.

The knowledge to progress into this legendary immortal stage had been long lost. The nascent soul masters had tried everything but to no avail. Even those that turned to demonic rituals were unable to place their foot inside this fabled realm.

Now they were somewhat hopeful that the answers would be given to them in the other empires. Maybe if they gained the knowledge from other places it could complete the piece of the puzzle that they were trying to finish for all these millennia.

For this to work, they needed to overwhelm their enemies with their might. While the Azure Dragon Clan had been training for all these thousands of years for this very day, it didn’t mean that they wanted to do everything themselves.

There were other forces in this empire that they would utilize first before they used their trump cards. First came the lower level sects that were situated closer to these barriers between empires. They would be the vanguard and would test their enemies first.

They knew that the curious cultivators would be unable to resist the temptation of journeying into the unknown lands. If they managed to battle their way inside without much resistance it would just show that the other side was ill-prepared.

On the other hand, if the opposition showed itself to be far above their predictions they might have to choose a more reserved battle strategy. The middle reaches that they resided would be almost impossible to breach by any force.

The old grand formations left by the ancestors dipped their toes into the immortal stage, unless the opposition could match their defensive capabilities they would be able to outlast any prolonged siege. Even if the empire crumbled around them, they would be secure in their lands where they could sustain themselves indefinitely.

The borders would close up in time and then they could establish themselves as the leading force once again. They would either conquer or be forced to be watchers while their own empire crumbled into dust and their people became nothing more than slaves.

This would be something that the Azure Emperor was willing to risk. As long as the Long Clan survived the empire could flourish again in the future.

While the secret meeting continued, in another location a certain angry-looking Patriarch was looking at a peculiar message.

“How could this be? What has transpired back at the sect?”

“We don’t know Patriarch, our communications attempts have not been fruitful, it is as if ...”

“As if what? There is no one there to answer? Did that bastard crane lie to me? Is he and the Azure Emperor working together against my Sect?”

The old man asked while kicking over a table. An attendant that was standing next to him continued to speak.

“Our ships have not been seized, there has not been any increased military activity in the vicinity of the Long Clan, It does not seem that they are aware of this either.”

The man tried to calm the Patriarch down as it was now, they had not been attacked by any of the other two great powers. Their large armada of ships was still on standby outside and their powerful nascent soul elders were still ready to engage in combat if there was an order by the Patriarch.

“Our defensive formations are impenetrable, even if a spy made his way inside our sect they would be unable to work the formation, only the Patriarch and the next in line can...”

“Wait, what did you say?”

The man was grabbed by his shoulders by the old Patriarch that started shaking him around.

“P-Patriarch? Only you can work the grand formation fully... Did I say something that offended you?”

“No, the latter part!”

“A-about your successor? But the young master would never...”

The Patriarch pushed the man out of the way while looking out into the distance a bad feeling washing over his old bones as he looked at a certain communication jade that he didn’t use yet. This one connected him to his grandson that had been pledged in as the next in line to the sect’s throne, Wang Long.

## **Chapter 393**



“Please, take a break, it has already been a week, you look pale...”

“I’m fine but you might be right... if the enemies come I won’t be able to offer them much resistance like this...”

A somewhat shriveled-up Zhang Dong was looking at his lovely wife Zhang Liena. She had come bearing some homemade cooking with spirit energy-packed foods.

“Elders, we will postpone the transcendence till tomorrow, I must rest.”

Zhang Dong looked at a smaller group of elders that was composed of less than twenty. He had been working hard on helping most of them pass into the nascent soul stage but he was slowly reaching his limit. The white seed that now powered his cultivation gave him a lot of energy but it also had its limits.

“We understand Patriarch, we will await your return.”

All of them were still in the pocket dimension. After blowing up several mountain tops with the nascent soul realm boost they decided to set up an open-air version. He would just sit with the cultivator in the middle of a special formation on an altar and boost them up.

The process was not really that hard as somehow his new cultivation allowed him to forcefully insert his dao into people. This Dao would mix with his target’s cultivation and fill out the holes in it.

He wasn’t sure why but the Dao Seed inside him had those properties. It was able to boost the lesser Nascent Souls to flourishing and only required a set of spiritual energy. Through this, he was already able to create thirty new nascent soul elders from the core formation experts that they brought here.

They were still only early stage cultivators but their foundation was solid. Thanks to the system’s cleansing feature and the high grade cultivation methods that their sect possessed, the elders would be much stronger than regular nascent soul masters.

They would be able to rival middle stage nascent soul masters in a one-on-one battle. Then due to the sheer number, they would be able to team up in formation attacks to compete with stronger foes.

“Thank you, whatever would I do without you... but uh... you don’t need to feed me yourself...”

Zhang Dong had returned outside the dimensional regalia. With the castle that they lived in having been destroyed and replaced by a metallic fortress of cannons, they found a different villa to stay in for now. At this very moment, he had his wife sitting in his lap while trying to feed him a piece of fruit.

“Yes I do!”

Without wanting to argue about this he opened wide and the airplane made its way into his mouth. He chomped down on the sweet treat and started chewing.

“Now me! I want to feed daddy like a baby too!”

He looked to the other side and there was his almost seven year old daughter. She had another fruit in her hand and was holding it out with some chopsticks. With a smile on his face, he just nodded and opened up to get fed.

While the two girls were all over him, the other male from the family remained seated away from the group. Zhang Dong could see him peeking out from the corner of the eye as if he wanted to say something but the moment he turned his gaze to meet his son's eyes, he averted it.

It seemed that his wife and oldest child had become quite clingy. Whenever he went they were there. If he wanted to go into the garden to meditate, they would plop down next to him and do the same.

If he wanted to eat, they would try to feed them. If he wanted to put some clothes on, they would be there to pick out the right robe for him to wear. He would not even get peace in the bathroom as they would start to bang on the door if he locked it.

While he liked that his family was showing him love and affection it was starting to get annoying. He needed to recover his spiritual energy to push his elders to the next level as their life depended on it.

"Daddy has had enough for now, how about you go play with your brother."

He petted his daughter on the head while pointing over to Zhang Jun. The moment Zhang Xiu saw her younger brother she pouted a bit.

"Jun, why are you still there, you are being rude!"

She charged off the couch that the three were sitting on and started chasing after her younger brother.

"They sure are energetic..."

While the small girl continued to chase her brother and he continued to run away, Liena still remained on top of his lap. He was finding her childish behavior quite cute but for things, to last they needed to get stronger.

"That Soaring Dragon Sect... what are they doing... they should have tried something by now..."

After a moment of silence between the two, he decided to speak out. The Soaring Dragon Sect was a big problem that required solving. Since Wang Long's appearance already a week had passed and in this week he was able to strengthen his sect to new heights. Even though they all expected the giant sect to react in some way, they didn't. There was no declaration of war, they didn't try to get the other middle sized sects involved in their struggle nor did they send anyone to make any demands.

"It is unbecoming of them... did something happen? You seem to know that man called Wang Long, did he perhaps come from that other world you mentioned before?"

"Yes, he did but I'm not sure I can talk him out of this anymore..."

His wife was already aware of his otherworlder status as he had come clean to her while the first child was on the way. While that time he kept it vague she knew Zhang Dong's true name which was Matthew.

At this point in time, Matt didn't think that his fellow earthling would be able to see the error of his ways. He was convinced that this was some kind of virtual reality experience in some kind of supercomputer. On the other hand, he knew that there was more to this than a simple game.

There were many other worlds that he had seen as he tumbled through that rift in space in time. He had only visited one of them but it was enough to get the general idea of what was happening here. The question was why did these words place people from earth on them just to give them a cheat system.

“That’s fine with me, let us not give him a swift death!”

Zhang Dong’s eyes jumped up a bit as he noticed that his wife was clearly still mad. He wasn’t sure what she was thinking but probably being almost forcefully taken by some random person was not something a prideful cultivator woman like her took lightly.

“It would probably be better to get rid of him when we get the chance, I’m not sure if it will be that easy to get rid of him.”

His Ai Bob was still silent about the reason for this. The only clue he had to figure this out was the strange person he saw when he absorbed the first cube-shaped nucleus. He burned through almost all of the cubes he received from the other world so he needed a recharge.

‘I wonder if I could go check that place out for some answers... but is now a good time for it?’

He thought of the place that started this all, the place where he became untethered from the main system. It was the strange secret ground that he almost died in. It was still a mystery to him and there was still that large door that he never visited.

With the demise of the dark palm sect, he would now be able to go check it out. Even though it was in the vicinity of the other sects he was strong enough to force his way there.

He was brought on to speed about the other medium sized sects after he returned. The Limitless Sword Society had lost its leader and had been declining for a while now. The other sects saw them as an easier target and were forcing them back into their mainlands.

On the other hand, his own United Element Sect remained strong. Word of his disappearance was only getting out recently but now he could show himself again to keep everyone at bay.

He wanted to pay that secret ground a visit. Now with Bob with him, he might be able to figure out some things when he got there. Some answers and also some helpful items could be behind that large gate.

With his current strength, he might be able to get through whatever was inside. The biggest problem would be opening it back up. His sect was now much stronger so they would probably be able to get through those old monsters and tower defense stage without much of a problem if he explained the rules.

The question was if he would even need to go that far. There could be ways to get around this trial phase as he already had gone through it before.

“You are too soft my husband, such demons need to be punished! He even murdered one of his own sect elders just to flee, how could such a person be the next Patriarch.”

“Hm?... yes how could he... wait...”

While thinking about the secret ground his wife continued to talk. She brought up the murder of that elder Tong that happened. Zhang Dong knew that he did it for spirit points but what if there was more to it now?

“Wait... the Soaring Dragon Sect has been quiet for some time right?”

“Yes? Our spies are unable to confirm anything, the areas around the main city are being rightly guarded so they weren’t able to slip by.”

He started to get a bad premonition. As Wang Long has already slain one elder for points, what if he decided to continue with the trend? While the system mostly worked as a cash shop it was also able to directly increase one’s cultivation. What better place to get points than at a massive sect with many nascent soul masters, treasures, and beast alike?

“That bastard wouldn’t... right?”

Zhang Dong mumbled to himself while getting up. If he was right with his theory the person that he had thought a week ago might be going through a massive strength increase. While he was trying to increase his sect’s all-around strength the enemy went for a different approach.

“He wouldn’t? Is there something wrong?”

“I don’t know yet... I need to talk to Zhang Kuo!”

## **Chapter 394**

“H-how could you do this... hundreds of years of planning...”

“Oh hey there old fart, do you like what I did with the place? Give me a moment, I just need a little sip.”

Wang Long was holding a person’s head in his hand while staring deep into their eyes. The person was motionless and by the robe, he was wearing it was clear that he was of high status.

A ray of dark purple light escaped from Wang Long’s eyes and entered the man’s eye sockets. His body started convulsing and spasming in random directions as the dark light took over it. In a matter of seconds, his body turned into a dried-up husk that quickly dropped down to the ground next to other similar husks that were once powerful cultivators.

The dark light that escaped Wang Long’s eyes soon returned to its master. It entered back through his mouth and revitalized his body increasing his cultivation by a small fraction in the process.

“Ah, I should have gone with the demonic cultivation a long time ago, do you know how much easier it is to cultivate with it? Just a little suck and I improve, no more pesky meditation for this guy!”

Wang Long chuckled while looking at Wang Xuan, the current Soaring Dragon Patriarch. The old man’s face was pale as he looked around. Above him was a giant black dragon whose wings were glowing in dark purple light. Even now he could feel his own nascent soul being drawn to these wings as his grandson’s soul beast was clearly absorbing the souls of everyone in the vicinity.

“Why Long’er... why would you destroy the Sect that brought you up? We were meant to be the new Emperors!”

Wang Long stuck a finger into his nose as the old man continued to talk but it didn't seem that he cared much.

"That old questline? I never liked it in the first place, I didn't think it would have worked anyway, I was always better at playing solo."

Wang Long laughed while looking at the large number of points he had gathered through this short period of time. After the Patriarch left the sect he had decided to get rid of his faction. There were no rules against killing your own people for points and points is what he needed.

There was not much to it, he was a trusted sect member feared by all. His plan consisted of having the strongest elders visit his peak one by one till almost all of them were dead. Before they could figure out that he was killing them it was already too late.

The sect reserves, the council of old elders was also there. It was composed of the oldest nascent soul elders that had retired from the sect life. They were there to only act as a last resort as their life energy was slowly fading.

Luckily for Wang Long, they were put in an induced slumber to keep them alive for long. They would only be awoken to perform battle tasks that required a large powerful force before returning back into the underground below the sect grounds.

With some secret techniques that the Patriarch had given him, he was able to operate the grand formation. This formation was also responsible for awakening these old monsters and also keeping them hidden away.

The large chamber where they slumbered was something that was shown to him by the current Patriarch, Wang Xuan. This show of faith would be this Sect's undoing as the only people that had a reasonable chance to take him out, would not even get a chance to fight.

When the deed was done and almost all of the powerful elders were taken out, he continued with phase two of his plan. He ordered everyone to return to the sect at once, with the help of the formation he would be able to trap them here, and with his newfound strength that he gained from killing so many monstrous cultivators he could not be stopped.

The points that he had received were spent to gain some new and improved immortal grade abilities. He threw away his old method that was similar to his enemies. After seeing Zhang Dong absorb his lightning he knew that it would be an uphill battle anytime they met.

Instead, he decided to go with one of the demonic techniques. The one he chose was the Abyssal Devouring Scripture. It allowed him to feed on people's souls and Qi to make them his own. With every devoured soul his soul beast would increase in size and his cultivation would be pushed towards a new point.

After going through his whole sect he was already on equal footing with the strongest cultivators that this empire had to offer. This didn't mean that he was going to stop, there were more people living here, he could still get much stronger before fighting his opponent.

"Questline? What are you talking about... Tong was right about you... I should have never trusted you."

“Blah blah, you just figured that out, old man? I have to thank you though, if you never left the sect I would have probably never been able to go through this plan so easily, thanks for giving me the keys to the formation, it came in handy.”

The old Soaring Dragon Patriarch looked around himself and could see thousands of bodies on the ground. All of them were dried-up corpses of his fellow sect members. Women, children the elderly, no one was spared from Wang Long’s demonic technique.

“You damn monster! I will not show any mercy to a foul wretch like you, as long as I live the Soaring Dragon Sect can recover!”

His cultivation exploded causing the ground to rumble and split apart. Wang Xuan’s cultivation peak was at the great circle of the nascent soul. He along with the Azure Emperor and the Patriarch from the Heavenly Crane sect were believed to be the top three cultivators of this empire. Even when going against Wang Long he didn’t show fear as he still believed to be stronger.

“Haha, not so fast old man, do you really think that I wouldn’t come prepared for you?”

Wang Long had learned from the previous encounter that there was strength in traps. While his new cultivation level was strong he was not that eager to test it out against an opponent as strong as this Soaring Dragon Sect leader.

The spot that he had lured him over was something that he prepared beforehand. With so many points that he gained, he had a myriad of choices that he could pick from. Most of his spirit points were burned through into his own main cultivation level.

The system had a bad ratio if a person wanted to go with that path but it was not impossible. Wang Long was not someone that worried about life so from his perspective he could always grind for some more spirit points and ignore regular cultivation altogether.

“Activate, abyssal prison!”

Wang Long pointed at the ground and before Wang Xuan could power up fully he was tossed into a strange demonic dimension. The whole area around him went dark and shackles made of dark purple energy started appearing from all directions.

“Where did you learn this? Did you partake in some demonic teachings?”

Wang Xuan let his cultivation explode in an attempt to force these shackles made of demonic energy away. Behind him a dragon made of pure gold appeared, its size even larger than the soul beast that Wang Long was controlling.

The soul beast gave out a large roar which was followed by an explosion of golden heavenly light. This energy blast causes the shackles to burst into tiny particles of dark light.

“Hah, do you think that this was all?”

Wang Long’s voice echoed through this dark dimension that Wang Xuan was trapped in. The shackles made of demonic energy continued to come at him from all sides.

The shackles had various tips, some were in the shape of sickles, while others looked like rusted over nails. The golden dragon continued to radiate the heavenly light but with time the sharp shackles started connecting with its scales. The nails rammed themselves into the beast's flesh while others wrapped themselves around its appendages.

Quickly Wang Xuan felt strength leaving him, he realized too late that this strange dimension was sapping away at his vitality. Now with his soul beast shackled he was unable to exert more of his energy to getaway. He realized that if he noticed sooner and just prioritized escaping there would be a chance but now it was too late.

“Wang Long!”

He called out in anger as he flew towards where his grandson's figure flashed. A giant spear in his hand appeared while his whole body was surrounded by a golden glow.

“What are you looking at? I'm over here.”

The spear connected with something and the darkness subsided. What it was embedded in was a leftover steel statue of one of the older Patriarch's. Just as it was split apart he felt something grab his shoulder from behind.

This was followed by all of his strength leaving him as Wang Long activated his energy absorbing technique that he had bought from the System Store.

The old man's dried-up husk slowly fell to the ground. Along with it came the statue under which he was buried. The last thing that he saw before his death were the vacant eyes of his grandson that he had fostered to this day.

This signaled the end of the Soaring Dragon Sect, its Patriarch slain by his own kin. There were still a few leftover members in the further regions of the empire that were not able to return but their base of power was in ruin.

Wang Long floated over the landscape slowly while taking in the sights. All of the peaks were in ruins and there were no people left alive to tell the tale. The plan to take over the Empire was over and it died along with Wang Xuan.

“Hm, that went better than I expected, what should I do now...”

The grand formation that was shrouding the whole sect came undone and revealed the destruction within. He knew that in time people would realize what he did but would probably not be able to point fingers at him.

“This sect is done but there is still more...”

With a little nod and soon his body vanished from this silent battlefield. The massive dragon that was hovering above ground was nowhere to be seen and nothing but death and destruction was left.

Soon the news of the behemoth of a sect vanishing in just a few days would reach the ears of every important party around the empire...

## **Chapter 395**

“Is this information correct?”

“Yes Patriarch, our spies have been on the site of the incident and this information is slowly spreading through the Soaring Dragon Sect’s lands...”

“Is that so... you can leave.”

“As you command, Patriarch!”

Zhang Dong looked at an information jade with the intelligence report of what transpired at the Soaring Dragon Sect. It had been already two weeks since the incident with Wang Long and to this day he did not return.

The preparations that his sect was performing for another battle seemingly went to waste as one of the big three was no more. It was all in this report, the place where the sect used to stand was nothing more than a ghost town.

It was apparently covered in some dark demonic energy that was hard to pass. The scouts from his sect had fake identities as members of some local clans or merchants. They couldn’t get too close due to their lack of cultivation but the word was spreading fast.

It was clear to Zhang Dong that this had been something orchestrated by his fellow earthling, Wang Long.

‘That bastard must have switched to demonic arts to quickly increase his cultivation...’

He was aware of what his counterpart was doing. The system shop was known to him and he had gone through its sections to know what kind of abilities Wang Long picked up.

While he had ignored that certain demonic art section, Wang Long certainly didn’t. Those arts allowed a person to suck away their opponent’s vitality while making part of it their own.

These arts were clearly designed to level up faster if a person didn’t have any moral qualm in killing everything around themselves. These abilities incentivized wanton slaughter but also became weaker if the user didn’t perform enough heinous acts.

Being a person that likes to sleep at night he ignored that section of the system shop. He went in the opposite direction with the holy arts and his current divine cultivation method.

‘Previously that idiot had a similar cultivation method as I did before, he just went with the more offensive lightning variant...How many spirit points did he have to spend to totally redo his own cultivation?’

This was probably another reason why Wang Long went with the demonic cultivator variant. As he stood before he wouldn’t be able to harm Zhang Dong with any lightning-based attacks. On the other hand, Zhang Dong didn’t have any way to absorb evil dark energy which Wang Long was probably using.

Holy arts and Dark arts were opposite to each other. While he could purify demonic beings and was resistant to the corrosive nature of those energies, it was the same for Dark practitioners.



Wang Long would be able to counter his holy Qi with his newly gained dark Qi. In the end, the stronger one would win as both of these energies countered each other. That is if he ever got to fight him as it stood now there was no sign of the murderous young master that had caused the demise of his own sect.

“They are starting to call him the demonic dragon.”

While Zhang Dong was thinking Zhang Jin commented from the side. His wife and his red-haired friend Huo Qiang were also there as well as a certain granny that used to look like a baked potato. Ever since she stepped through into the nascent soul level her looks got revitalized.

A nascent soul master could live up to a thousand years. Sometimes longer if they used life-improving techniques. Whenever one that was old made it through this cultivation wall they regained some of their previous looks. It wasn't that much but the old woman now looked more as if she was in her late fifties than the late seventies as she did before.

“Do we need to be worried about this renegade? The whole empire will be after him, he will have to escape to the fringes of the empire unless he wants to be chased till the end of his life.”

Zhang Jin continued as he saw this as an absolute win. From his perspective, the sect was the true enemy that they needed to face. With it gone, the single demonic cultivator didn't pose much of a threat.

“That would be nice but I don't think our little demonic friend will be that easy to find...”

In Zhang Dong's mind, it was safer when Wang Long acted in a larger group as his location was known. Now on the other hand he would be impossible to find as he also had access to a myriad of disguising techniques that the system store could give him.

“Does he possess a similar technique to the one that you taught me?”

Zhang Dong nodded at Zhang Jin's question which made the old man rethink his old stance.

“But even if he can hide, not like he can get through into our sect while you are here, isn't that right Dong'er?”

“I should be able to detect his presence if he ever entered the range of our sect, that is true but...”

While it was true that his faction system was able to detect invaders he had to actually be here for that to work. Then there was the problem of his enemy being able to farm an almost unlimited number of spirit points by killing the citizens of this empire.

If he just decided to bunker up then Wang Long could reach an immense amount of power. If he could contend with such a strong demonic cultivator was not something he wanted to bet his trust into. His new cultivation was kind of strange and he wasn't sure how to progress it without absorbing an astronomical amount of spirit stones, souls, and lightning energy.

“Is there something bothering you, my husband?”

Asked his wife as she was not really aware of Wang Long's strange system. To them, the enemy would need to hide himself for many years for this to blow over. Even if he was to emerge with the current state of their sect there was nothing to fear.

"You worry too much senior brother, with so many elders achieving a breakthrough, not even the Azure Emperor could take us likely!"

Huo Qiang also put in a word in this small tactical meeting. He continued to help the elders with their breakthroughs and now they possessed a large force to be reckoned with.

"I'm not sure if having these many nascent soul elders will be such an asset if this Wang Long is in the picture."

"What do you mean by this?"

They asked while Zhang Dong started explaining.

"We aren't going against a simple foe, Wang Long possesses a strange technique that allows him to absorb the strength of the enemies that he slays. Through this he can reach new heights in a short amount of time, this is also why he was able to eradicate a huge sect like that so quickly."

The reports that they were getting didn't really mention how the young master managed to destroy the whole sect. They could only speculate that he had prepared some demonic ritual beforehand or that he was some old monster in disguise that devoured the sect from inside while the Patriarch was at the meeting with the Azure Emperor.

Zhang Dong knew the truth though, he had done it mostly by brute-forcing his way and getting spirit points from killing all those elders. The new demonic cultivation helped but it was all thanks to the system that he was able to do it quickly.

Now his own United Element Sect had a large number of nascent soul masters. He knew that if he just let them fly around the empire they would just be harvested for spirit points by his enemy.

"Such a technique exists? He must have really made a pact with some kind of demon... or might he be some kind of demonic rebirth?"

While the others speculated he just nodded as he was really unsure of what he should do. Either he would remain here and help his sect members get stronger or he needed to head out to hunt this monster down.

The new improved cultivation that he had made him stronger than a regular great circle nascent soul master. His opponent managed to slay the Soaring Dragon Sect's Patriarch who was one of the most praised masters in the whole empire.

Demonic arts were quite strong against traditional cultivators. Zhang Dong that was able to not be affected by a large chunk of those techniques would have a better chance than someone that wasn't versed in the holy arts, even when they were slightly stronger than him.

"The sect formation has been reinforced and the elders are progressing, I will aid them in materializing their soul beasts but then..."

He stopped himself while looking at his wife. While he wanted to head out in search of this demon before it was too late, he was still a father. What if he died or was wounded in the process of his chase? What if his sect that was looking suspicious was attacked by the two other leftover powerhouses in the empire.

Wang Long was a big threat but there was also the Azure Emperor and the Heavenly Crane sect that he needed to watch out for. With how they were able to counter the Soaring Dragon Sect's attack they had also gained infamy. Wang Long's name was spreading like wildfire but so was his.

Even though they wanted to keep it hidden word spread that Wang Long set out to the United Element's Sect. A lot of people saw the parade of flying ships going to one location but they never made it back. It didn't take them long to put two and two together.

The name Wang Long was infamous throughout this empire. Many beauties fell to this man's lustful ways and never made it back to their own homes. Now that Wang Long was a wanted man, people weren't afraid to make their run-ins with him public.

Even now he was getting reports of people popping up even in his own region that had a bone to pick with him. People even started to pull in a reward for anyone that would be willing to take the demonic cultivator out. Wang Long was slowly becoming the most notorious criminal throughout the whole empire.

"First let me help the elders with their soul beast, then we'll decide on our next step."

He rubbed his chin and was about to stand up from his chair but without warning, Zhang Kuo burst in through the door. Before he could be reprimanded by the people inside, he started shouting out.

"Patriarch you must forgive me for my rudeness but this is the direst situation. The ... The Azure Emperor wishes to speak with you!"

### **Chapter 396**

'Well, this is an interesting turn of events... I have to go, don't I?'

Zhang Dong was sitting in his office that had managed to survive the last attack on the Sect. On his table was an actual parchment that was handwritten with quite the formal invitation. The place that he was invited to was the Azure Emperor citadel, a huge castle in the middle of this country.

His own little sect ground was at the far reaches of this whole empire. It was a place mostly ignored by other sects and only with his knowledge he had turned it into a high quality cultivation spot.

This was all thanks due to the large spirit vein that they were harnessing down under this ground. They had managed to keep this secret under wraps and didn't suffer any attacks from the other sects.

The Azure Emperor's castle was right under a similar spiritual vein. He and the other large sects were in close proximity to it. All three of them had divided this spot amongst each other while also placing a huge dividing wall in between their lands. Due to this barricade, the other sects were not aware of the Soaring Dragon Sect's fall until it was too late.

'Is this going to be another trap or are they trying to seek a new ally?'

From Zhang Dong's perspective, he was being called over there for the sole reason of being able to defend himself from the abrupt attack. They were also the last faction to be in contact with Wang Long before he lost his marbles.

'Could they be thinking that I did something to Wang Long that made him turn into a demonic cultivator or something?'

This would be a dire situation for him and the whole sect. If the other two giants got the idea that he was somewhat able to turn someone into a demonic cultivator, they could try to eradicate them. There was no proof that something like that happened though so it was somewhat a far-fetched idea.

'I still need to have some kind of escape strategy... there is no telling what these cultivators will blow out of proportions.'

Strength was still paramount in this world. If they judged him to be a threat to them, they could come up with any strange excuse for conflict. As long as they looked like the just side they could go through with an attack. He would not be surprised if he found himself in some trapped formation after he arrived at the Azure Emperor's house.

'Though if they are planning to capture me, they will probably strike before I get close to their base.'

From his perspective the two leftover superpowers weren't yet taking him seriously. This would be something to measure his and his sect's worth. Thus if he managed to arrive at the castle he would probably be safe as he didn't think that the Azure Emperor would bring an active threat over to his own throne room. That is unless he was trying to lure him into his home ground and was seriously thinking of taking him out right there.

'I still have my escape feature, I should be able to escape from there even if they activate some trapping formations, isn't that right, Bob?'

'Affirmative.'

'You sure haven't been talking much lately or have been that useful since I got back to my sect...'

Bob his AI partner, didn't seem to do much besides answering his rudimentary questions. Then when he asked something more specific he never did seem to have a proper answer. In the world of sword and magic, he was more helpful.

This was somewhat understandable as Bob was a new function of his system. His system was depowered after a while and even with his new cultivation realm, it wasn't quite recovered.

"Your thoughts?"

"You mustn't go, it must be a trap!"

Replied his lovely wife that had also gone through the letter.

"That's a possibility but we can't go against the Azure Emperor's wishes, his decrees are final in this Empire and you know this."

Commented Zhang Jin as a rebuttal to Zhang Liena's outcry. It was clear to the old man that after Zhang Dong had returned his wife didn't wish for him to leave again.

"I don't like to agree with the old fart but there is not much that we can do..."

"Not you too granny..."

Feng Maling was also here as she was part of the family. He had asked all three of them to come here as he needed to reach a decision. The letter stated that he was to come alone and that after he arrived at the capital city he would be escorted by someone inside.

"If I don't go they will see it as treason, I'm not sure our sect can handle Wang Long and both the Azure Emperor's wrath at the same time."

While the Soaring Dragon Sect was gone, there was always the danger of Wang Long popping up unannounced. This would be a good chance to get some friends in high places. If he could somehow get the strongest cultivator in the Empire to aid him, it would be very reassuring.

"But what if they throw you into a dungeon, try to torture you for information, what if..." "Liena please stop, I get it... but I don't think I can talk myself out of this."

Zhang Dong stood up from his seat and moved over to his worried wife.

"If I don't do this we will be forced into a defensive battle with the whole Empire, if there is a chance for a diplomatic resolution of our problem, don't you think that we should try?"

"But..."

"Don't get me wrong, I don't trust that Azure Emperor either I'm not going in blind, if something happens I intend to escape."

"You intend to escape from the Azure Citadel? I know that you have improved since you were gone, but even you wouldn't be able to take the whole Long clan on..."

Added Zhang Jin as he wasn't convinced that his great-grandson would be able to easily escape from.

"Do you remember the time you encountered that elder from the Dark Palm sect?"

"Elder Ming?"

"Yes, that one, what do you think of my arrival at that time?"

"Yes, you did materialize through a strange portal..."

Zhang Jin looked at Zhang Dong with a raised eyebrow as he tried to recall that encounter. His grandson did somewhat appear in a strange fashion through an even more mysterious portal. It did not seem to require any formation to work but he rationalized it by his grandson's crafting knowledge.

"Do you mean?"

"Yes, I do have a way of escaping and now I don't really need a portal."

To convince his family that he would be fine he decided to bring out a monitor that was thankfully in his office. On it, he brought up a room where his disciple Zhang Xue and his children were.

“Can you see that doll little Xiu is holding?”

The screen was quite large and the group of adults could clearly see a very intricately made doll that looked like a small jade beauty in Zhang Xiu’s hand.

“Yes, I see it but what do you intend to...”

Before Zhang Jin could ask the question Zhang Dong vanished from the spot before him. Liena and him flinched a bit as they could tell that he used some strange technique to disappear.

They started looking around and soon discovered that the screen was showing another person. This person was Zhang Dong and he was waving at the camera.

“I didn’t feel that any Qi was used, how did he do that?”

The life in the sect had been somewhat peaceful so Zhang Dong never had to use the system’s teleportation feature before. It was a waste of spirit points as he could already fly and travel anywhere within minutes. Thus his wife had never experienced him teleporting anywhere in such a fashion and was also confused.

“Here, Xiu’er said that she wanted to eat some cookies also here.”

Before the people inside Zhang Dong’s office could speculate on how he got in the room where his daughter was, he returned.

“Hm?”

Liena looked down at the item that her husband was holding and recognized it as the toy that her daughter was playing with. This little demonstration demonstrated his teleportation ability which he intended to use if he ever needed to escape.

“I don’t require gates to teleport, if there is trouble I will instantly flee before they can activate any trap formations. Even if they do, this technique isn’t affected by regular teleportation jammers.”

Teleportation wasn’t something new in this world and there were ways to insulate buildings from such techniques. This didn’t take the system’s feature into consideration as it could go through such places with a small increase to the spirit points it required.

“I plan to use the Argonaut for this journey. The ship will stay afloat outside the Long Clan’s land and if something falls through during that meeting I will escape into the ship.”

He started explaining that his technique had some limitations and he would be able to escape into his flag ship. He didn’t go into detail but thanks to his faction system he was able to teleport himself to large flagships like the Argonaut.

The closer it was to him the fewer points he would need to escape. He had no idea how many anti-teleportation formations the Azure Emperor had so he needed to lower the spirit point cost to the absolute minimum.

“I hope that this will give you some peace of mind.”

Liena looked at the doll in her hand and had to agree that it was the one that her daughter was using. Soon a consensus was reached of him going into the lion’s den. He was to leave quickly as the meeting was in a week. With the Argonaut’s speed, this would be about the amount of time that he would require to get there. Even with the ship’s high speed, the Empire was huge and traveling was still a hassle.

After getting everything ready he started packing. Zhang Liu would be coming with him on the voyage as he was also someone that he could teleport to. On the off chance that something went wrong with the faction teleportation feature, he would go with the portal he had used all those years before.

“Take care.”

“I will.”

Without alerting their children and while keeping the fact that the Azure Emperor gave a decree to meet with Zhang Dong he boarded the ship.

‘I hope this goes well, why can’t I ever catch a break...’

Zhang Dong frowned as he thought his luck was abysmal. People in this world could live for a thousand years and everything that has happened to him didn’t even take ten. Now with new problems arising he wasn’t sure that he would have any more peaceful days ahead of him, not until he got rid of Wang Long.

## **Chapter 397**

“Master, we will be arriving at the location in thirty minutes.”

Zhang Liu delivered the message to his master as he was glancing outside the window. After a moment of silence, Zhang Dong began to speak.

“Liu, if for some reason I don’t make it back, I’ll leave my family in your care.”

Liu was taken aback by his master’s words and he instantly started panicking.

“What do you mean master, of course, you will return and you will lead our sect to victory as you always do!”

The young man raised his fist and Zhang Dong could see that unreasonable amount of faith that Zhang Liu was putting into him. He would probably not get to him if he wanted to explain his system and that it was mostly just pure luck that he was alive at this moment of time.

It all started that fateful day in the secret ground. If he didn’t succumb to his own pride and inflated ego after gaining some strength that he didn’t work for they wouldn’t be here. His system went bonkers as he barely survived that encounter which in turn brought Wang Long over here.

If he managed to finish that test then he would have been able to live his life peacefully. Though he would be still quite ignorant to the real ways of this world. The cubes would have not been discovered and other disasters could have been triggered.

Now on the other hand the system bearer was Wang Long. The creator of this system and world was ignorant of his existence. The question now was if the watcher of this world would get involved if Wang Long went on a rampage.

'I can't really wait and see, god knows how many people would die before this character decided to show up.'

There was also the possibility of a world reset. The demon lord from the world his summoner friend was in almost went through it. If Wang Long caused a world upheaval the person watching this world could come to the decision of restarting it.

What that really meant was not something Zhang Dong knew but he was sure that the lives of his loved ones would be at stake. That was not something that he could allow, the problem was getting to a level above what this world was limited to. He saw it in that other world and he was lucky enough to come from one that had a higher ceiling.

Now with a new kind of cultivation, he was hoping to bust through that ceiling. When he did that he would probably not need to fear any of those overseers.

He had a little theory of why he was able to achieve this new breakthrough in power. One of the reasons was that he was able to increase the size of his soul which allowed him to fuel some of it. The other reason was his little expedition into the other worlds.

When tumbling through that connection through worlds he came in contact with some strange energies. These energies were purer than what he could see in this world or in the other. During his travels, he might have absorbed some of this energy which was now being focused in that white seed.

His body had been transformed through the years of cultivation as well as was his soul. It craved energy to grow stronger and even without him focusing on cultivation it would try to absorb ambient Qi from the area it was in. Some of that could have made it into his body and it had altered the cultivation he now had.

Now he only needed to foster and cultivate that seedling till it could sprout. What was inside this little seed was a mystery but it would certainly be something that put him above the nascent soul level, a new undiscovered cultivation realm.

"Don't misunderstand me, Liu. I don't intend to just lie down and die but you are the only person I can trust with this... I'd mention it to Qiang but he would never retreat from a fight."

Zhang Liu wasn't the strongest cultivator but he could trust him to follow his orders. Huo Qiang would probably go down faster in a fight than try to flee himself. His wife was already strong but she would also prioritize the children over fighting. That left a few other people that he wished to join them if push came to shove.

"Just follow the escape route that I prepared for you, at the safe house you'll be able to survive for hundreds of years."

The place that he prepared for his closest family was buried underground. After some testing, he was able to gather some samples from the wall that was blocking off the cube that he found under his sect.



He was then able to produce some small samples that would even block out his system. It wasn't perfect but as long as the system user didn't get too close, he would be unable to see anything.

The possibility of Wang Long flying around to look for things deep underground wasn't that high. There they would be able to remain without the need to go outside for a very long time. Still, if the world was reset then his idea would only give his family some time before the unavoidable end.

For this reason, he had to go see the Azure Emperor. He needed some help, it was impossible for him to go around this giant empire to search for one man. Wang Long probably already had some kind of disguise that would make him hard to find.

The only thing he could look for would be the disappearance of young women. His counterpart would probably not be able to get over his sexual addiction so where there were beauties he would probably go there. This was also something that he wanted to bring up with the Emperor.

"But master..."

"No buts, I hope that you will follow your master's wishes."

Zhang Dong smiled at Zhang Liu who could only cup his fists together and bow. Luckily the master-disciple relationship was paramount here and he could trust Liu to honor his wishes. The young man was quite strong for his age, with time he would also be one of the most powerful cultivators in this whole empire. That is if he had enough time to spread his wings.

"Well then, let us not keep the Azure Emperor waiting. Tell the captain to remain on standby and not cross into the Long clan region under any circumstance!"

"Yes, master!"

When he was trapped and unable to teleport back into the ship, it would be unwise for his sect members to try to rescue him. Even with this large battleship, they wouldn't make it far inside.

The ship's large engines started to give out less of a hum as they started to power down. The flying ship that was cutting through the skies like a massive sword soon emerged. It descended and showed itself but was quickly halted.

"So those are the fabled Azure Gates? They sure like to build them big in this world..."

Before Zhang Dong stood a massive wall that stretched all the way up into the clouds. Even someone that was capable of flight would have a hard time getting over this barricade that was the entrance to the Long Clan's lands.

The Long clan was more or less the equivalent of the royal line in this Empire. They would decide on every new Azure Emperor that would be trained to become the strongest cultivator here. With their superior techniques and cultivation materials, they were able to hold onto the crown for many millennia.

No one even remembered the time when someone other than a member of the Long clan was the Emperor. To them there would never come anyone close to the current Emperor, the two other large sects might change but the one leading the country would not.

“I will be off then...”

“Please be careful, master, we will remain here as you ordered!”

Zhang Dong nodded at his disciple while slowly rising up into the air. The walls that went up into the sky had strange depictions of some mythical beasts and dragons that were in a battle for dominance.

Now when he arrived there was a large gate. Below this gate was a whole bustling city filled with millions of people on this side and even more on the other. This was the border city through which he needed to get through first before he arrived at his true destination.

The massive ship that just appeared out of the clouds was sure to attract a lot of eyes. Even though this city was part of the Long Clan, the ship that Zhang Dong was able to produce with his sect was a marvel of engineering. The sight of the massive metal airship was something to behold and everyone down below could not avert their gazes from it.

‘That must be the welcoming committee.’

While the Argonaut started floating back to not scare the locals a group of cultivators approached him. There were five of them and they were all nascent soul cultivators of varying degrees of strength with the weakest being a middle stage one and the strongest at the late stage.

From the looks on their faces, they were a bit taken back by the large ship that emerged from the clouds. Zhang Dong made sure to use his technology to try to evade detection. This was not done out of malice, no.

He just wanted to see if the Azure Emperor troops would be able to detect his ship before it landed. Now he knew that their detection capabilities weren’t up to par with his sect’s technology which might boost his prestige during this coming debate.

There was no way of him knowing what they really wanted from him. Would they question him about Wang Long or would they just try to throw him into the dungeon if they deemed him too much of a threat?

“Honored Zhang Dong from the United Element’s Sect?”

“Yes, that’s me.”

Zhang Dong nodded while clasping his hands. The five nascent soul elders looked at him with curiosity in their eyes. Even before they spoke out he noticed that they were trying to examine him with their spiritual sense.

Due to his strange cultivation realm now he would be hard to read. His aura was not of a nascent soul elder nor of a core formation master. It had changed since he entered this new transitional stage even if he allowed them to take a peek they would probably not be able to measure his true power.

They could only take his flying capabilities into consideration and think of him as a nascent soul master that was too strong for them to read.

“By the Emperor’s decree we are to escort you to the Azure gates, there you will be escorted by the inner elders.”

'Inner elders? I guess these guys are just some outer sect elders?'

This made him raise a brow as these people might have been weak for their cultivation realms but they were still very high for an outer sect elder.

"I will put myself in your hands then my fellow Daoists."

He just nodded and followed without asking too many questions. This was also a good opportunity to see how the top clan in the empire operated, for now, they got some brownie points for being respectful.

'I hope the inner clan elders will be just as cordial.'

### **Chapter 398**

'So this is what the top of the Empire looks like?'

Zhang Dong looked up at the giant wall that even with his enhanced vision he couldn't see the end off. It was truly immense, how long something like this took to build was probably astonishing.

The place that he would be entering supposedly survived the trials of time. The Long Clan that ruled this Azure Dragon Empire was apparently something that stuck with it through many millennia. They were the undisputed champions of the land now even more, after one of the large sects disappeared.

The Heavenly Crane Sect that was around the same prestige as the Soaring Dragon Sect was somewhat in a bind now. While previously the big three could not really act out against each other, now it was different.

Qing Long the Azure Emperor could now take over everything if he really wanted. With the Soaring Dragon Sect being gone the Long Clan could overpower the Heavenly Crane Sect. It would take some time but without a third party looming over their shoulders to strike when they were weakened, it was now possible to take the initiative.

But Zhang Dong's elders informed him that this was not really how the Long clan operated. They gave their subjects a degree of freedom to fight it out with each other. They would probably sit back and watch from behind these walls till another Soaring Dragon Sect arose to fill in the gap.

There was far too much land to occupy by one faction. From Zhang Dong's perspective, it was probably smarter to focus on a couple of high quality spots than to spread themselves out.

In this world, one nascent soul master could take out a full battalion of core formation cultivators. Only if they were in possession of some high quality battle formation that boosted their strength past this master would they stand a chance.

Even then, the master could easily flee and prolong the fight. Such battle formations took a lot of training and even one person falling behind could cease to be. Thus it was better to focus on quality over quantity.

The land he was on was still only the border town that divided the commoners and royal members of society. For the people living in this empire, it was an honor to go past those dragon gates. Some would

even abandon their families if they could become a member of the Long clan, even being a retainer was enough for other kingdoms to fall.

“I’m not sure what you have heard about the Emperor but best you be on your best behavior, you will not speak unless spoken to, don’t meet the Emperor’s or his aid’s eyes, I don’t think I need to explain to you what angering the Emperor could entail for your sect?”

While slowly floating towards the gate one of the elders from his escort started giving him ‘advice’ on how he should behave in front of his Emperor. It seemed like it was natural that Zhang Dong should be put in his place as he was just some random sect Patriarch from a rural area of the empire.

It didn’t seem like these people were seeing him as much of a threat for now. While the escort was composed of some strong nascent soul elders, they were clearly not the strongest fighters on their side. The most powerful man here was at the level of the nascent soul late stage elders that attacked his Sect.

The man called Tong would probably wipe the floor with all of them here and even Huo Qiang could take him with a slight boost from the faction system. This would be a good moment to let his aura spill to show them that they shouldn’t underestimate him but the smarter option was to do the opposite.

The more they underestimated him the more freedom he would be given, if they decided to spring a trap they would probably not prepare something lesser from which he could escape from.

“I will heed your advice fellow daoist but could you answer my question?”

The old man frowned a bit as he got interrupted by then nodded as they still had some time.

“Do you perchance know why the Azure Emperor has summoned me?”

The man just shook his head as he replied.

“No, The Azure Emperor has his reasons, those reasons are not for someone like me to know.”

Just as he expected the men here were just following orders and would be out of line if they actually asked for the reason. He could clearly tell that they were also perturbed by his appearance

Finally, they arrived at the giant gate that looked like it would require some titanic creatures to open it. But while he was stuck looking at the massive construction the people from the escort beckoned him to the side.

“Why did you stop, come this way.”

“Ah, we aren’t going through the gates?”

The group of elders looked at each other and then back at Zhang Dong before giving out a chuckle. They seemed to be some kind of inside joke but they still were cordial enough to not laugh out loud.

“The Heavenly Azure Dragon Gates are not for such trifle exchanges.”

The man answered while they descended down to the ground, there he found something that he was familiar with, a teleportation formation. Quickly it started making more sense to him, he was but a single man and opening this huge gate only happened when something like the Argonaut needed to pass through it, not a single Patriarch from a country Sect like him.

The group of elders looked quite smug after Zhang Dong's comment. It was clear to him that after it they saw him as someone uneducated and that didn't know his own worth.

"Please step into the teleportation array."

They were even quite condescending while asking for him to stand in this teleportation formation. It was as if they thought that he was unaware of such formations. This might have been true to other Sects as even they mostly only had access to teleportation gates that were easier to manufacture.

Even he had to agree as the ones back home were all teleportation gates and he used his system's features to go around the building process. This didn't mean that he was not aware of the ways of constructing one of those. Now when he was able to see a working model he would be able to copy it over if the need ever arose.

To get things to move along they didn't comment and remained docile. He was going into the belly of the beast so it was better to not antagonize the natives yet. Soon the formation lit up and his whole body was surrounded by a bright white glow. In a matter of seconds, his body vanished from the area with the elders that escorted him remaining.

"Was this person really the one that fought back that demon Wang Long?"

"If the rumors say... but he didn't seem that powerful."

They all looked at each other but soon flew away to monitor the large ship that was floating somewhere above in the clouds. Even though they were just making fun of the country bumpkin that arrived they were still baffled by the capabilities of that ship. This was the first time in a while that someone managed to sneak up on them.

As he vanished the elders that escorted him looked at each other with puzzled expressions and one started speaking out.

"Didn't that man look familiar?"

"Yes... could it be!"

\*Bzzzzp\*

After a bright flash of light, Zhang Dong found himself in another location. While a normal person would be disoriented he had his system map to help him out. With it, he could see that he was tossed into a quite far away location from the initial border town. The jump to his ship would still be possible as he was in the area on the map that belonged to the Azure Emperor.

The first thing that he noticed was the nice breeze at his new location. What he expected to see was some dark hidden chamber with nothing but stone. Instead, he was in something similar to a gazebo formed of blue azure dragons.

On the ground he was standing in he could see an intricate array formation that was even more complex than the one he came through. It was quite miniaturized and hard to understand, so without enough time to go through it he ordered Bob to take a snapshot for later use.

Later he could examine the lines in all intricacies but for now, he realized that he was being watched. He felt a presence of a person before him but his attention was still elsewhere as he noticed the splashing of waves behind him.

From what he could see he was in a summoning array that was placed on some tropical island. The weather was quite perfect and sunny. He could hear birds singing and the wind was gently moving the tree leaves around.

Soon he took a step forward and descended through a laid-out path. This path was composed of pure gold and it was clear that he was supposed to follow it to his destination.

While continuing forward he kept looking around. It was very hard to ascertain anything here, there were many strange contradicting energies everywhere. Powerful beasts loomed somewhere in the distance along with many strange trees filled with fruits that he had never seen before.

One of such trees drew his attention when he passed next to it. The fruits that it possessed looked like golden peaches and they radiated an odd holy aura. As a person poised in such energies he strayed from his path due to this opportunity. While he knew that it would be rude he just had to check this tree out.

It only took a couple of steps to arrive at this tree. Its trunk was radiating a strange presence while the unsuspecting golden fruits remained devoid of any Qi.

“Interesting...”

While he stopped staring at the tree he finally heard a voice call out to him. It was quite alluring and reminded him of his own wife.

“I would advise the dear guest from eating or touching the nirvana fruit, you will suffer a most gruesome of faiths if you do.”

Zhang Dong turned his head to see quite the voluptuous young beauty that looked more like an exotic dancer than a cultivator.

“I can’t?”

“This one will not stop the guest but please reconsider.”

Zhang Dong looked at the woman again and could see only a smile. In reality, he knew what eating this fruit would entail for any normal cultivator. Luckily for him, he was not an ordinary cultivator.

The only thing keeping him from eating this treasure was that it belonged to the Azure Emperor. The woman here didn’t say that he couldn’t eat it, so this was enough for him to quickly grab one and begin munching.

“Wait! You mustn’t, the Emperor will be...!”

The woman’s eyes went wide as she noticed that her visitor didn’t understand her words fully.

“The Emperor? Hey, you did say that I could eat it, don’t bring him into this!”

Zhang Dong on the other side just gave out a burp as if nothing out of the ordinary happened.

“H-how...how can you still be alive after consuming the nirvana fruit!”

He just shrugged while looking at a second one that wasn't far from it.

“Uh... is this a bad time to ask for a second one?”

### **Chapter 399**

The nirvana fruit was its name. Its taste was supposed to be one of the sweetest in the world but also one of the deadliest. If a person was to ingest this fruit without any preparation they would suffer a fast death. The moment the sweet nectar of the fruit reached their insides they would start to burn up.

To this day there were few people that could suffer through this fruit's condensed Qi. It would instantly cause the person that consumed it to burst up in flames of bright light. There would be nothing left but white ashes that radiated an eerie divine glow.

For this reason, the woman that Zhang Dong met up with was close to collapsing. He had managed to devour the whole fruit without batting an eye.

“H-how could this be...”

“It's a bit too sweet for my tastes but not that bad.”

Zhang Dong smacked his lips as he licked up the juices from his mouth. Even when he tried to consume it all, the fruit was a bit too juicy and some of it dribbled down to the grass below. The moment it did a massive white glow of light burst forth while leaving a zone of deathly white ash behind in its wake.

“Hey, are you alright? Would this be a bad time to ask for another one?”

Zhang Dong asked while looking up into the tree. There weren't that many fruits left there as it was clearly something rather rare. While a normal person would probably die rather quickly from ingesting this pure holy energy, he was able to absorb all of it into this golden core.

This was truly a nascent soul treasure of the uppermost level, it was even closely approaching a level above it. It was hard for Zhang Dong to resist the temptation of ingesting a massive amount of holy energy like this. The woman clearly didn't deny him the fruit so he decided to quickly gobble it up before she changed her mind.

“Huh, what? Another one? Stop this instance, put your hand down!”

Zhang Dong was about to reach out for another fruit while he had the chance. It would be somewhat impolite to eat another one when the woman said otherwise. There was also the thing with her tossing herself in front of the tree and pulling out her weapon to defend it.

“How could you desecrate the secret garden, spit out the fruit this instance!”

“Spit it out? But you said that I could have it?”

“I... I didn't think you would eat it! Give it back!”

The woman had long black hair and looked like your everyday jade beauty, the only thing that was characteristic were her deep blue eyes and a strange golden gem in the middle of her forehead.

“I’m sorry but I don’t think you’d want the remains of the fruit after I’ve eaten it... how about you have this instead.”

The woman looked at a fruit that Zhang Dong pulled out from the spatial ring. While he had to clear out his spatial ring before arriving here he still came with some necessities that would be fine to smuggle into the inside of this clan.

“T-that’s just a regular peach! How can that replace the sacred Nirvana fruit?”

“Is it a regular peach? How about you look again...”

“What are you babbling about? It’s clearly a normal ... !”

Soon the peach that he pulled out started glowing with a golden sheen. Soon a similar aura to that of the fruit that Zhang Dong had eaten sipped into this regular peach. Something like this didn’t go unnoticed as more people started popping their heads from within this garden.

A group of ten beauties in similar dancer-like robes stood around him while he was holding a glowing peach. They were all pointing their spears at him and he was starting to think that he was transported into a certain Amazonian island.

“W-what did you do?”

“Nothing... I just gave the peach similar properties to that nirvana fruit. Regretfully it’s not as potent but should be fine for lesser cultivators to eat, the taste should be the same as well.”

After consuming the Nirvana peach he was able to analyze it. By infusing a somewhat ordinary spirit fruit that he got from his sect’s garden he was able to create a lesser version with his own power. It would not hold a candle to the original but could be mass-produced and would still give people quite the boost of holy energies.

“Catch.”

He threw the peach to the lady that was first to meet him. The woman dropped her own spear and almost fumbled in catching this new treasure. She quickly glanced at it and after analyzing it she was left speechless.

“T-this...”

Soon the other women gathered around that peach and started looking at it with much interest. After passing it around between themselves they came to some kind of consensus. They even started talking. One of them even proposed to take this fruit and him to the clan apothecary’s for investigation.

“I wouldn’t want to interrupt your debate but wasn’t I supposed to meet the Azure Emperor?”

“He is right, we must fulfill our mission.”

From what he could tell all of these beauties were nascent soul cultivators of various levels. The one that he met first was the strongest while the others kept shadowing the two. It was clear that they were the backup if he decided to be rowdy.



While she looked to be in her early twenties Zhang Dong knew that he was looking at someone that was above the age of Feng Maling. It was unclear to him how the old woman was able to keep her youthful appearance but there were many ways that even he knew about.

One would be using a disguising technique like the one he taught Zhang Jin. Then the only way to measure a person's true age would be their Qi that with age did change slightly. He on the other hand had his system that could pinpoint the ages of people he examined without much hassle.

"If you want more fruits, I could prepare more if you just supply me with peaches..."

The women looked at the strangely glowing fruit that they were handling and then went back to Zhang Dong who just smiled back at them. After absorbing the nirvana fruit his holy energies were already part of his cultivation.

When he used them up they would quickly regenerate after some rest, he could actually fashion far more of these treasures if they just let him eat more of those fruits.

It didn't seem that he had the trust of these beauties as they pointed their spears at him. He just moved his hands up as if he was being aimed by guns and started walking.

Now with another escort, he was unable to wander anywhere to see the sights. Soon they left the forest and arrived at a beautiful gate. This one as all the rest was made from some kind of bluestone that radiated a strange aura.

Dragons and serpents were clearly the motives of this garden of Eden-like island. The place they arrived was a large villa and from within he could hear a gentle zither tune. Someone was playing a slow emotional melody. What was strange about this tune was how it had a limited range and with a little step back, he found himself unable to hear it.

'Interesting, this must be some kind of sound-canceling formation, I wouldn't be surprised if this island isn't some kind of illusion.'

Zhang Dong looked up into the sky and found the sun's glow a bit strange. If he compared it to where it was before he entered this place, there was a difference. From this, he could make the conclusion that this could be inside of some sort of treasure like the Dimensional Regalia through which he would have a harder time to escape.

'The teleportation feature is still there...'

He glanced at his system window to see if he could still teleport out to the Argonaut. If nothing was grayed out it meant that he would be able to click it. The women that were guarding him could be considered the top experts of the empire but they were not his equal.

'Let me see this Azure Emperor.'

Now after stepping through the threshold of this gate he felt an even more protective barrier. It was clear that they were taking their defenses quite seriously and that for the unsuspected cultivators acting out here would be quite deadly.

"Wait here."

The group of amazonian jade beauties came to a full stop right after entering through the entrance to this beach resort villa. By how the gates looked a person would expect a giant castle behind it but instead it was a house made from bamboo. He could even hear some kind of stream flowing behind it and after spreading his senses there was also a hot spring.

‘Did I arrive at an old Japanese inn or something?’

They made him wait for a few minutes thanks to which he had some time to examine all of the formations in this place. His eyebrows started twitching as even his own place could not compare to this. Even for him, it would be quite hard to figure out a way to escape on foot.

The women were clearly only able to get in through some kind of trick. Either the formations were attuned to their Qi or they were in possession of something that acted like a key. Even if he managed to get it, he would probably not be able to use it.

“The Emperor will now see you.”

Zhang Dong nodded while he received the stink eye from all the women here. It was clear that they didn’t trust him but for some reason, this Azure Emperor didn’t seem that alarmed.

He expected to be padded down more thoroughly or be placed in some large room and be surrounded by a hundred guards before he got to talk with the big boss man. On the other hand, he found himself on some island resort that his grandparents would probably love to spend the rest of their life in.

“Please take off your shoes.”

After coming through the entrance he noticed another beauty sitting there. She had more of a mature look and made this look like an inn out of a Japanese anime. After going through it he wandered inside and the more he walked the more he realized that there was something not right here.

Finally, at the end, the doors were slid open by two beauties that were guarding the door. Inside he finally saw the Azure Emperor, his face was buried in a lap of another beauty that was tending to his years.

‘I sure hope this isn’t what I think it is...’

He gulped as he checked his system window, he was ready to lay an egg if he discovered that the person before him was another world traveler.

## **Chapter 400**

Zhang Dong looked at his system window with narrowed eyes. The person that he was looking at had quite the blue hair that was similar to the color of the sky. He was enjoying a lap pillow from a stunning beauty that was somewhat unique when he compared her to the other women on this island.

She looked a bit more exotic, her skin tone was more natural than all the pale jade beauties that were on the island and her hair color was a ruby red. She even had a gem in the middle of her forehead that was of the same coloring.

Both she and the Azure Emperor luckily didn’t seem to have Japanese names. By what they were doing it made him think of the four heroes he met in the other world. They were clearly performing the fabled

lap pillow ear cleaning combo that he had seen so many times in anime shows when he was still on earth.

Long Qing the Azure Emperor seemed to be quite relaxed as this woman that was called Long Chunhua was tending to his ears. This was not something that he had tried with his own wife as he didn't want to have Liena looking at the inside of his ears and digging for wax.

From the look at his place, he came to a conclusion, either this Azure Emperor really was another player or the whole Long Clan came to be thanks to a person like him. This option made more sense as he knew that people like him existed already.

With the appearance of Wang Long, it was also clear that the new players were quickly replaced. Probably when Wang Long died he would also cause someone else to come to replace him. How long the other person took to get here was unknown to him but he was more interested in the procedure that got them here.

He didn't think that he replaced a person that was named Zhang Dong. This wouldn't make sense as he went through a character builder and also decided on a name. His theory was that this system implanted some vague memories of him into some people.

His backstory was of a young man leaving the clan for over ten years to train up. Besides Zhang Jin and a few other family members, not many people had interacted with him. But with Zhang Jin's word as the highest elder there, no one else could complain. He wouldn't feel surprised that if he pressed the old man for specific things in his youth Zhang Jin would not be able to answer them.

"Dear, your guest has arrived."

The woman was the one to look up to him. Her bewitching ruby eyes were hard to evade, if Zhang Dong was not a married man he would probably be instantly smitten by this woman's gaze. It seemed that the Emperor had aimed high.

There was a certain lack of other female caretakers here. When he thought of someone like an Emperor an image of a large harem popped into his mind. It didn't seem that there were any other women here besides this one and the ones outside seemed to only be part of the guards.

"Eh, already? Don't they live at the end of the empire?"

"Yes dear but our new friend arrived a few days early~"

"Ah is that so..."

The Emperor that had his head turned towards the woman's crotch finally flopped around to reveal his face. The moment Zhang Dong saw the Emperor he noticed the deep blue eyes that were a stark contrast to the wife's fiery set of pupils.

'Is that him? He does somewhat look the part but...'

Zhang Dong looked at the man's face and could see that he was very handsome. His eyebrows were quite sharp and the jawline was something that could be envied. But on the other hand, he looked kind of wishy-washy and sleepy, like he thought this was somewhat a bother.

While he was standing he also noticed some malice coming to him from behind. It had been a while since he had come face to face with something that outranked him. This was probably the only man in the empire that he should bow his head to but instead, he was standing upright and looking down at him.

The women guards that were standing behind him clearly didn't like this fact and started moving towards him. They drew their spears and were about to point them at him but before they could utter the words 'You dare' the Empress looked at them. One look from here was enough to make these two guards back off, they lowered their heads and soon closed the room doors while removing themselves from it.

Now he was finally alone with these two people. It looked like the woman beside the Emperor had a lot of power. Her presence was undeniably fierce and her cultivation realm was just as high as the Emperor's was.

While he had the time he continued to look around. From what he could tell there were no protective formations here to speak of. These two were probably perfectly confident in their own skills to defend themselves against any foul play.

The two were wearing somewhat more Japanese-style kimonos. The woman was somewhat more revealing than it was probably originally designed to be. Her legs were revealed and her ample cleavage was bouncing about even though she wasn't moving too much.

If it wasn't for Zhang Dong's tranquil mind technique his eyes would probably be wondering about to inappropriate places. This could already cost him his head as he would be caught looking in a naughty fashion at the emperor's wife.

Finally, the two parted and the young-looking Emperor stood up. While standing he was about the same height as Zhang Dong. It was a bit uncanny as the two men looked somewhat similar, while the man was down on the ground it went unnoticed but now when they were looking at each other, their similarities could be noticed.

The long hair, the sharp eyes, and the chiseled jaw, if he wanted he could probably pass for a cousin. It seemed that the Azure Emperor was also of the same mind as Zhang Dong. The moment their eyes met he started to examine his whole body.

His blue eyes glowed with powerful light as he tried to use his spiritual sense for a scan. He found this deed somewhat difficult as Zhang Dong was able to successfully deny the invasive treatment. While this could upset the Emperor he thought that he had enough freedom to assert himself here.

"Oh... very surprising indeed... you are also very young..."

The Emperor looked to his wife who was properly sitting to the side and looking at the whole scene. The woman had realized what her husband was doing and was also somewhat surprised.

"Oh my, this young man does look like the one we were looking for but dear, don't you think you are being rude?"

"Ah yes, excuse me, what was it? Zheng Pong?"

“Zhang Dong dear.”

“Hah, I knew that, I was just testing you for my love!”

The man in question just stood there as the Emperor couldn't recall his name. The two seemed like some kind of newly wedded couple as they continued to look at each other with loving gazes. This made him wonder if he and Liena ever acted like this in the presence of others.

While this would cause a regular cultivator to be alarmed to him it just made these two be more down to earth. He expected the strongest person in the Empire to be someone with a stick up his behind but instead, he felt more like a goofball.

“Come, my friend, this is not the place for this discussion!”

Zhang Dong wanted to clasp his hands to do a proper greeting but the man stopped him. With a snap of his finger, a different sliding door on the side opened up. Behind him was another sliding door which slid to the side right after and this phenomenon continued for a few seconds.

This was obviously not something simple, he that was versed in spatial formations could tell that this one was of a very high caliber. The Japanese-styled inn that this was supposed to be didn't seem that large but this tunnel that formed went on for about a hundred meters.

The two didn't elaborate too much as they got up and left towards the tunnel. Zhang Dong looked around him but didn't find anyone urging him forward or to ask about what was happening.

The whole thing was already strange, they were treating him like some kind of friend that came over to play some checkers. The Azure Emperor was relaxed and the woman next to him just smiled without saying much either.

‘I sure hope this tunnel doesn't bring me outside the teleportation range.’

The range was quite huge as he was able to get to his sect all the way from the other empire's border. But if they traveled somewhere a bit further away than that, he would be stuck there with no way to escape.

Were the two leading him into some kind of dungeon for questioning? Was he in danger? The two didn't feel that antagonistic and didn't even care for proper decorum. It was strange that the guards were still outside and no offense was taken when he didn't bow properly.

Still he took a step forward, his gut was telling him that he didn't need to be afraid of this man here. The biggest question here was why they were leading him to.

The moment he stepped through the threshold of the first door he felt it. The dao of space was strong here and the area was clearly distorted. Even though this tunnel didn't seem long, each step that he took could take him hundreds or thousands of kilometers in this direction.

For this reason, he brought up his system map to track his movement. Just as he had suspected as he continued to walk the map terrain started shifting dramatically. Even the system had trouble keeping track of him.

The people that walked in front of him seemed to disappear into the distance. Their bodies became distorted but this didn't cause him to lose his cool. He knew well how these sorts of passages worked and just continued to walk at his own pace.

After what felt like an eternity he felt that he had gone past the space warping effect of this tunnel. He was really far from his initial starting point but still in the vicinity of the Azure Dragon Empire.

"Welcome my friend, you can't believe how long we had waited for this very moment, with your arrival this Empire will be victorious in the coming war!"

"The what now?"

He heard the Azure Emperor's words echo through this cavern and soon the lights went on. The chamber he was in was quite spacious and in the middle was a large holographic projection of the whole empire, it was suspiciously similar to the one that his clan members were using all those years before during the tower defense trials.

Soon it dawned on him what this could be and why the Azure Emperor had led him here. When thinking back to how these game-like worlds operated the answer was clear. It seemed that he had triggered a new event that would plunge him into another big mess.