

## Unfathomable 511

### Chapter 511

“Wait...wait...!”

“Have you realized that you are not a match for me? It’s too late to turn back, your fate has already been decided and it’s to become a head on my wall.”

“No, that’s not it... your name is Phallusius ... Maximus?”

Zhang Dong asked while having difficulty keeping a straight face. After all this time he thought that he had gotten used to the strange names in this world, but this one caught him off guard. The huge muscular man looked super serious and unsure of what was happening, this made the whole scene even funnier and caused him to chuckle slightly.

“Did you just laugh at my name? You dare mock this Phallusius Maximus!”

“No please stop... Let’s just go back to killing each other and not mention our names, how is that?”

“What’s wrong with my glorious name? How could a savage like you understand our glorious culture.”

Phallusius Maximus started going on a rant, it was clear that the man never had a proper conversation in his whole life. This was probably due to no one being able to talk back to him. His strength placed him in a position close to godhood.

“Sure... next time your say that your predecessor had a name like Biggus Dickus.”

“You know the grand Emperor’s old name? Have you visited our lands before? Who are you?”

“Huh?”

He wasn’t sure if he should laugh or cry. It was clear that whoever made this world had a ten-year-olds sense of humor just like him before he transmigrated. Yet this was not the time to joke around, a bloody battle was taking place around them.

With his enhanced senses he could hear his generals giving out orders and demi-humans being blasted by the cannons. For the time being, his forces were managing to push towards the green demi-human fortress. But if this Emperor of theirs changed his targets, then they would be in for a lot of pain.

“Well then, Ginormous Phallusius or whatever, It doesn’t matter what your granddaddy was called, it only matters that this daddy here is going to kick your ass.”

Getting an opponent angrier was one of the basic battle tactics. The demi-human Emperor’s forehead and neck veins started popping up after the few choice words. The man was clearly not used to being antagonized by the people around him and very easy to anger.

His energies intensified as he slammed those two large cleavers into the ground. The purple gravity energies ripped the rocks out of the ground. He gathered those rocks around the two blades while large boulders started floating around his large frame. With each step that he took the ground started shaking and it was obvious that he was affecting gravity to make himself heavier.

Regretfully Zhang Dong needed to get in closer. His ranged attacks were all getting bent out of shape and missing. Only when he got closer could his aura cancel out the Dao of gravity enough for his attacks to actually reach this muscle idiot's flesh. Thus he charged in and quickly dodged out of the way of the downward swing that caused the earth below to explode.

After a skillful dance to the back of this armored man, he delivered a cut to the slightly exposed side. His golden blade which was clad in a thick layer of all of his three Daos was able to draw a bit of blood.

'It's shallow...'

Before he could take a double take a large cleaver was coming for his head. When moving to the side he could feel that air pressure along with the space around it being distorted. When moving to the side he was pelted by small rocks that burst to all sides.

"You think something like this will take this Emperor down?"

Phallusius laughed before sending out a giant burst of energy to all sides. This was enough to force his retreat and pancake a hundred-meter area around the demi-human Emperor. A giant circle of squished earth appeared that was uniform from all sides and perfectly flat. But after the exchange he was feeling good, even though the flesh was already mending itself back, he had managed to inject his energies into the brute's body.

'He looks fine on the outside but his soul is taking direct damage and wavering...'

This soul-sucking ability of his was the real trump card here. Without it, he didn't feel like he would be able to win. His opponent was truly a tank that could shrug off almost all conventional attacks. Zhang Dong didn't want to admit it but Phallusius' body refining skill was above his and the gravity attacks were at least equal to his lightning techniques. Then the holy arts were less effective as this man was not an evil being nor a demon that were susceptible to them.

'He might not be aware now but the more his soul gets damaged the weaker he will become...'

The two high-level leaders continued to clash with each other while generating massive shockwaves. Each time Zhang Dong was forced to retreat while tending to his wounds with the help of his holy energies. Even though he was healing himself his white robe started getting drenched in his blood.

For everyone that was looking in, it seemed like Zhang Dong was losing. All the cuts and punches that he was able to deliver to the demi-human Emperor's body were shallow and didn't draw much blood. After a few exchanges, it was the United Element Sect Patriarch's body that was looking like it had gone through a tornado.

"This has been entertaining but I grow bored of this, die!"

Finally, Phallusius started gathering up all his energies for the final blow. All of the rocks and boulders that were floating around him traveled at speeds comparable to bullets to weaken his enemy before the last blow. He expected Zhang Dong to dodge most of them but it was only a smoke screen for the main blow he would deliver.

Yet, as he was powering up those huge cleavers to slice Zhang Dong's body into four equal parts he caught a knee in the face that forced him back. This attack felt different than before, his nose was

instantly broken and he could feel the taste of blood in his mouth. His body was quickly recovering after the damage he took but the pain was real.

“A lucky blow... now die!”

The two flew past each other but yet again, an elbow found itself embedded in the demi-human Emperor’s face. Once more he was tossed to the side while being unable to deliver the finishing blow. It was as if his enemy had gained a strange power boost that made him more ferocious. The only logical explanation was that Zhang Dong was burning through his life energy to achieve a short-term boost.

“Such tricks won’t work on me!”

Phallusius continued with his assault while being convinced that his opponent would run out of steam soon enough. However, with each and every strike that was exchanged his opponent became stronger. All the hits that he was receiving started adding up and his body was also becoming riddled with wounds that weren’t healing as fast as before.

“Y-you...”

“You still haven’t noticed? I guess this is part of my luck that you’re not much of a thinker. You’ve probably never really had to exert yourself against an opponent of a similar level. But... not that I’m complaining.”

Zhang Dong was actually surprised after being able to turn things around this easily. The demi-human Emperor was truly powerful, probably the most powerful opponent that he had ever faced. Even though he was this powerful, there was one fatal flaw in the way that he fought. This was probably due to him being strong from his birth.

“What are you prattling about, I have faced many opponents, I have never known defeat and it won’t be any different now!”

While Phallusius was raging on, Zhang Dong just smirked. The brute hadn’t even noticed that he was receiving attacks to his soul. This person had naturally strong defenses, there weren’t many experts that could perform valid attacks to the souls of such experts. Thus he was probably unaware that his power levels were slowly deteriorating.

If the soul of a person was damaged in any way, it would start affecting their body. Only if the soul was balanced could a person give a hundred percent, but with even a slightly damaged soul they would start losing strength. His tactic was easy as he slowly chipped away on the demi-human Emperor’s soul to reduce his defensive and offensive capability.

‘I didn’t expect this to work so well. I thought he would catch on but he just kept coming like a mad bull...’

While Phallusius’ soul was huge and already slowly mending itself to health, the Emperor was not aware of it. As a person that was only interested in getting stronger through more conventional means, he lacked in other fields. Perhaps if he faced someone like the Azure Emperor that was also someone that was more conventionally strong he would have been victorious but as things stood now, Zhang Dong would win.

“Die... Die... DIE!”

Phallusius was seeing red as he continued to relentlessly assault Zhang Dong with all of his might. Yet all of his wild swings that were previously able to deliver menacing blows could be easily dodged by his opponent. The added gravity that was making things difficult to dodge felt like a minor inconvenience and Zhang Dong started counterattacking. For every blow that he received, he returned it fivefold.

Previously he was taking it easy and mostly focusing on damaging his opponent’s soul. Now after his plan had gone through he could wholeheartedly toss himself into the bout. Just like before shockwaves started spreading in all directions but this time around the one kissing the floor was the demi-human Emperor.

The weight of those massive cleaver-like blades could now be repelled by Zhang Dong’s smaller longsword. Suddenly a large gash appeared over the man’s chest, his armor was unable to defend him after the gravitational field wavered. With the difference in might becoming equalized the person with more skill would be victorious and in this case, this was Zhang Dong.

It was quite surprising as Zhang Dong had not spent that much time training. Normally the large man before him should have much more experience. He truly had been blessed by this world with an overpowering body and presence. Yet this would be the reason for his downfall as he had never had to compete with anyone this close to his own level.

“Y-you... you are the prey, not me ... I shall feast on your bones after I crush your skull with my bare hands!”

In a sudden act of despair, the Emperor jumped up into the sky and kept going up into the stratosphere that even Zhang Dong would have trouble following. With him came large chunks of the earth that they had destroyed. All of those giant boulders started flying up as if they lacked any weight and were quickly sucked into a dark purple orb of energy.

“... Is he doing what I think he is...”

It seemed that this would be his final attack, he would bring down the force of the heavens and probably eviscerate everything down below, that is unless a certain Patriarch used his own secret attack to stop it.

## **Chapter 512**

“That looks like a giant meteor...”

Up in the sky above him, he could see a small speck of red. When using his enhanced eyes to zoom in the tiny object turned into a massive rock formation that was above a kilometer in diameter. The demi-human Emperor had decided to drop this thing on him without worrying about his own people. If this huge object collided with the ground a large portion of demi-humans would be affected as well.

‘Has he lost his mind?’

It wasn’t really a smart plan, the meteor would take some time to get down here and he could always just dodge it. Yet there was a problem, if he decided to evade this attack then his own people would be caught up in the blast. He did not believe that the defensive formation would be able to last through the

large explosion. The golden bastion and the people inside of it had the highest chance of surviving but the ships that were flying around it didn't.

'Does he know that I will defend my people or did he just lose his mind in a last attempt at victory?'

It made sense to go after his good heart but he did not give this person any clues to believe that he would just take the meteor head-on. Either this was some kind of trap or the man was just out of ideas after the usual brute force approach didn't work. From the looks of things, the demi-human Emperor had never tasted defeat. It wouldn't be strange if he lost all of his reasoning because of this.

"You're not the only one that can work with gravity here..."

Zhang Dong shouted while pointing out with his finger. Before him, a tiny speck of light appeared that was the size of a pea. This tiny orb floated forward while many tiny orbs of light surrounded it. These light balls started to quickly rush to the center as if they were being absorbed by the radiant speck.

A tremendous amount of light was flowing into the small circular area that continuously expanded and got smaller. This was an attack that he had used in the past against a nascent soul master before he was thrown to the other world. Now with his added knowledge of magical spells that also included gravity and magnetism, he was able to improve on the idea of this pulsar-like object that could contain a massive amount of energy and mass.

The size wouldn't be nearly as large as the meteor that was slowly being finished. Instead, it would have a much higher density and comparable mass along with his combined energies. Even then he wasn't quite sure if this would be enough but luckily he was not alone in this battle.

While charging up he had notified Zhang Kuo. With the help of his whole sect, he would get rid of that massive object. His golden fortress pointed its cannons towards the sky and was ready to fire when the meteor got in range. All the other large flying ships did the same as they pointed their main cannons upwards.

The plan was simple, keep shooting at the giant meteor that carried the demi-human Emperor inside. They would not be able to destroy it but they could reduce its size. Then he would finish the job and deliver a devastating attack that would hopefully kill the gravity monster.

"GRRrrrr."

"Bahamut, I see you were victorious, could you help me out here? Go help the others, they won't be able to hold out for long if they aim the cannons at the meteor."

His familiar had finished taking out the monster horses and also eaten them in the process. While his sect started shooting at the sky this allowed the demi-human tribes to launch an attack on the wavering protective barrier.

Without the spiritual bullets raining down on them they would easily force their way through and damage the ships. His golden dragon would not allow this as he charged right into everyone. His loud roars were heard by everyone and were followed by the screams of the merciless demi-humans that were falling like flies.

'I expected them to evacuate...'

It was surprising to see people ruled by fear not evacuating from this area. It could soon turn into a giant crater were both sides suffered immeasurable deaths. It seemed that they were so frightened of their Emperor that they would rather risk staying.

When looking through Bahamut's eyes he could tell that their eyes were empty, there was nothing else that they thought about than battling. This was a contrast to the people that were fighting with him. Their eyes were filled with hopes and dreams. They had many reasons to achieve victory and all of those made them into proper human beings.

"I guess I'll have to answer their call, can't make my cute sect juniors see their Patriarch falter in the face of danger."

In the past, he would be feeling the weight of all those hopeful people crushing down on his shoulders. Yet, now it only motivated him to push on towards victory. He couldn't imagine achieving as much as he did without the people around him pushing him towards a goal. While the drive to achieve progress was still there, without his family and friends around to push him even further, the world would feel empty.

'I wonder what they would think if they knew that their Patriarch is this sentimental...'

In this world ruled by power, it was taboo to get too attached to others. Their enemies could use his family and sect members against him. Normally a person in his position would be forced to abandon anyone from his close confidants if it endangered the sect in any way. Even now in this battle, no one would blame him if he just evaded this meteor to retreat. As long as he was alive the sect would be able to survive and be renewed.

Finally, the energy blasts started becoming louder and louder. The meteor above them was truly huge and it wasn't getting much smaller. Even when the Argonaut class ships used their huge cannons they weren't able to lower its size by much. However, this was time to show of a secret weapon that he discovered while traveling here.

The Golden Dong Palace was retreating towards his location and to where the main impact location would be. Zhang Dong's body hovered upward all the way until he was right above the large golden structure. In this position, he was directly under the largest tower of the palace.

"Charge me up!"

He shouted while the roof of the large tower started gently moving. It opened up from four sides to reveal a large white gem in the middle. It was already glowing and filled with spiritual energy of the holy variety that it had sucked from the golden egg engine.

A beam of thick light shot towards the location of the small pulsar that he was creating. Instantly what was only about ten meters in diameter started expanding in all directions. With the giant infusion of energy that was part of his faction system, he was able to tremendously power up his large-scale attack.

The sphere gave out a thunderclap as it was constantly filled up with various Daos that he was capable of producing. Suddenly the sky above him darkened as the burning meteorite came crashing down on top of them. His whole sect moved under it to accommodate his technique, their belief in him being able to destroy the gigantic burning mountain above them, was unshaken.

Sweat appeared on his brow as he was slowly becoming drained of all of his energies. If for some reason his enemy remained, it would be hard to continue with the battle as before. The beam of light from the tower became thinner and thinner until there was nothing more that he could absorb. With his technique now ready, he pointed it towards the center where the highest concentration of gravity was and tossed it forward.

“Everyone, brace for impact, protect yourselves!”

With the spinning sphere of light thrown, he quickly ordered everyone to take cover. The collision of the two heavy bodies rocked the entire place. The trees that were still standing were instantly flattened along with the earth as the shockwave of the blast exploded in all directions. The demi-humans that were outside the protective barrier had no place to hide and were almost instantly eviscerated from existence.

The golden orb that Zhang Dong produced was a hundred times smaller than the meteor but it still managed to burrow inside it to reach the core. There the maddened Demi-human Emperor experienced another defeat as it rammed itself into him and quickly released all of that stored energy.

The meteor started cracking from the inside and finally erupted into many smaller chunks. These large burning boulders were pushed to the sides by the explosion that started from the middle. These large chunks flew everywhere and this also included directly below.

“If it’s not enough then ... Cleave the heavens!”

After gathering his spiritual energy and the surrounding mana he used his blade to split the heavens in half. A thin layer of sword energy flew forward and divided the already crumbling meteor into two halves. Thanks to this attack the large shards were pushed to the sides allowing his people to quickly drift to the inner side of the protective barrier that was getting a beating.

“yOu dAmN bUg!”

Zhang Dong looked towards the sky while feeling wobbly. He had burned through a massive amount of energy and his enemy was still coming. Phallusius wasn’t looking good, his left leg and arm were missing and his whole body was covered in burned marks. He looked like a shriveled-up burn victim but his body was still functioning.

In his right hand, he still had one of those huge blades that was sparkling with purple light. He was going for the kill and coming down faster than the meteor to finish the weakened Zhang Dong. Yet before he reached his nemesis a large golden dragon appeared to block his path. It opened its massive jaw and blew out a massive torrent of energy that connected with the demi-human Emperor’s body.

“Not enough, I will not die here, I am ...”

Phallusius’ body lost a few more chunks but he clung to his sword and was ready to kill the dragon and then the man behind it. Before he could reach his destination another opponent appeared. It was a massive energy fist created from plasma and fire energy that belonged to non-other than Huo Qiang. Not far behind it was a dragon made from water, an attack delivered by Zhang Zhi.

“Aid the Patriarch!”

Many other such attacks appeared and continue to collide with the demi-human Emperor's body that was deteriorating with each second. When it reached Zhang Dong there was nothing left but a half-torn torso and a bony arm.

"I..."

Before the large man could mutter his last word he was beheaded by the Patriarch's golden blade. There were no life-saving techniques involved, no demi-humans to help him in his time of need. The Emperor of the enemy faction was dead and the battle was almost over.

### **Chapter 513**

"How could this be..."

"Hah, the Emperor is dead, now it's finally going to be my turn!"

"Was that monster truly defeated? ... Hey, what are you doing?"

Phallusius Maximus had appeared like a comet and left the stage just as quickly. To the demi-human's surprise, the undefeated monster that had remained their leader for centuries was gone. No tears were shed for him, instead, this was a chance for the tribe leaders that remained alive to rise to the top.

"What are they doing?"

Zhang Kuo from inside the Golden Dong Palace looked on in surprise as the various demi-humans started attacking each other. It was chaos, everyone was split up into several groups while not paying attention to the cultivators they were fighting with.

"Are some of them fleeing back through the bridge?"

While part of the demi-human tribes remained in a frenzied state, some of the smarter ones started fleeing back to their lands. They were aware that after the person that held them together as a group was dead, they would suffer a quick defeat. It didn't matter that the United Element Sect had drained a lot of their power to defeat the Emperor, the fact that they managed to do it was enough to make them flee.

'It won't take long now, the bastion should be enough to clear them out now...'

Zhang Dong panted while devouring a handful of recovery pills. Luckily there was no one there to sneak in an assassination attempt as at this point in time he was quite weakened. The elders that were with him surrounded him from all sides to keep watch while he was quickly recovering. The monster was dead and he had fallen a lot sooner than he anticipated while also leaving behind a reward.

'Bob, what is this?'

An item floated in mid-air, it was glowing purple and radiating the Dao of gravity. The item in question was the three horns belonging to the Emperor. It seemed that this was the source of his power or perhaps his power had been transferred into them through some strange art.

'The item in question is compatible with the user's system, do you wish to absorb it?'

'I can use this in that way?'



Without the old system, he thought that he would be unable to gain anything after defeating his foes. To his surprise after defeating his foe by cutting off his head, the three horns burst forth and floated towards him as if they wanted him to accept them as their new master. He had seen these horns before but the ones that belonged to the other tribe leaders didn't behave like this.

"Patriarch, please be careful."

"It's fine don't worry, go back to our sect and aid them against the demi-humans, their forces are in disarray and they started fighting each other but this battle isn't done yet. We will push forward and secure the bridge to their lands."

He shouted out while also grasping the glowing horns, after agreeing to absorb them Bob went to work. The purple energy washed over him and was quickly integrated into his own body. To his surprise, all of the Dao headed towards the not yet bloomed seed and increased its size even further.

'Does this mean that I can't germinate this thing if I defeat more of their leaders?'

The increase in his power wasn't that large but he was given the full comprehension of the gravity Dao. When thinking back to his old system he remembered that it was possible to buy new Daos. They cost an astronomical amount of spirit points but were perhaps required to get to the next stage. After adding this one, he had four whole paths of cultivation that he had a full understanding of.

'I can increase the weight of my punches and also produce a gravity field around myself...'

He was already thinking of a few ways that he could implement his new knowledge. Some of the old techniques that he knew could be improved, even the pulsar could be condensed more to form a proper celestial body. This was however not the time to contemplate his newly gained power.

The war needed to be won, there would be enough to contemplate his next move later. Thus after grabbing the two huge blades that survived the massive explosion he headed toward his people. After he arrived out in the open, his targets were the tribe leaders that posed a threat to even the nascent soul masters here. After the large meteor fell down, the protective barrier was in shambles so now it was an all-out brawl between the two sides.

"U die 'umie!"

His first opponent was a large green-looking monster that was similar to an ogre in shape. He had a large horn on his forehead that radiated a wicked power. Yet compared to the Emperor he wasn't much. The giant club that he was holding devastated the land he walked on but if it couldn't connect with his opponent it wouldn't be of much use.

Thanks to his new gravity attribute that he had gained, it was easy to increase the weight of that club and make it even harder to swing around. The size of this monstrous opponent would be his downfall as he soon found a giant cleaver connecting with his thigh. This was followed by an arc of golden energy that went straight for his throat.

'I think I've gotten a bit stronger, is this what this scenario wants me to do? Kill the Emperors and gather all of their Daos for myself before ascending?'

It made a lot of sense, normally the person with the system would be fighting for a hundred years while gathering spirit points. Then when the main boss arrived beside the system currency they would be rewarded with a free Dao. With time they would have so many resources and easily advance to the next stage. However, what came after leaving a world like this, he did not know.

There were three other forces from the other empires that still existed. But one of them he was allied with so that limited the number of rewards that he could get. The Emerald Phoenix Emperor sounded like someone that combined both wind and fire energy while the people from the north sea would obviously be water-based. Then there was also the Azure Dragon Emperor that might also be a potential source of a reward.

While he was already looking toward the future the battle continued. Without the defensive barrier, their ships started being damaged by the demi-humans ranged attacks. Even the huge bastion was getting pelted from all sides and even attacked directly by some frenzied attackers.

Try as they might, they were not able to get through the massive golden gates and the reinforced walls. The cannon fire slowly demolished the fortress that seemed to lack many defensive features. This coupled with the infighting only brought them a fast victory.

...

“Is it over?”

After a day of fighting the demi-humans were all retreating. Now without the threat of their monstrous Emperor, they did not shy away from saving their lives. Most of them fled directly back through the bridge area while others scattered in random directions. The battle was won but it would still take some time until they captured or killed the remnants.

“They are fleeing Patriarch, should we give chase?”

“No, we shall move as we planned, take over their fortress, and reinforce our position!”

“As you wish, Patriarch!”

Zhang Zhi cupped his fists while flying into the distance. Just like with the other fortress they needed to quickly create a teleportation gate and move their engineers over. It would take some time for the next wall to be built but after it was complete they could finally rest easy. With the limited space and the casualties that the demi-humans suffered, it would be hard for them to gain a foothold again.

“Is there a problem, older brother? You should be joyful, we have met our enemies and been victorious?”

Huo Qiang appeared from the side, his clothes were almost all gone and his body was filled with wounds. He still radiated an oppressive aura of someone that had gone through a life and death experience. It seemed that his younger brother had managed to reach a new level while battling one of the tribe leaders.

“That we did but we need to look at the bigger picture, this whole war is far from over.”

“Is it about that Wang Long fellow? Don’t worry, he and the demonic cultivators will fall before us just as anyone in this Empire...”

Zhang Dong raised his eyebrow while also interrupting Huo Qiang as the conversation was going in a direction that he didn't like.

"That's enough, if someone was listening in, they would think that we wanted to conquer the Empire for ourselves."

It wasn't strange for the strong to rule above others. Huo Qiang probably just mentioned what the other cultivators from his sect were thinking. In their eyes, the sect was becoming stronger and stronger. Their Patriarch was on the level of the Azure Emperor so they were getting prideful about their existence.

"Oh, I get it, you want to keep it a secret! Don't worry, I won't tell anyone!"

"No... We are not trying to conquer the Empire..."

"Yes senior brother, we are not!"

Huo Qiang gave Zhang Dong a wink before bursting out in laughter. Some of the other elders were of course listening in. After the reaction from his right-hand man, he wasn't sure if the other idiots got the wrong idea as well. For the time being there was no time to correct them as his battle fortress was slowly moving into place and in need of repairs.

"My friend, you did it and with such ease."

"Hey there Argus, thank you for your help."

The grand wizard Argus was still here, during the battles he could see him aid his people in battle and also kill a fair share of demi-humans in the process. Now he was looking at the shabby fortress of the enemy faction that still remained.

"As I promised you can take a look around but please hurry, I will be replacing that building soon."

"You have this old man's gratitude!"

'Look at him go.'

The old man pulled out a medallion and started casting various spells but Zhang Dong didn't believe that any holy relics could be found here. He was already attuned to the energy fingerprint of the relics but could not feel even the faintest spark of energy here.

Yet this was not his problem, the magical shield would probably not help him in the coming battles. Instead, he looked towards the distant reaches where no cultivator dared to venture. The lands of the demonic cultivators were near and it was time to pay his old acquaintance a visit.

## **Chapter 514**

"Emperor, there is a matter we must bring your attention to!"

"Huh? Can't it wait? Can't you see that busy?"

Three elders were looking at a lazy Azure Emperor that was resting his head on his wife's thighs while she continued to feed him some grapes. To the side were two lovely-looking women just fanning them

with large fans. It was a strange scene as it was all happening in the throne room where some people were already kneeling down.

“So you’re just going to stand there? Fine, what is it? Make it quick and then let me have my peace.”

“Thank you, Emperor.”

One of the elders clasped his hands while stepping forward. If Zhang Dong was here he would recognise the three as they were the most important elders from the Long Clan. Even though they had a dislike of how their leader conducted himself they couldn’t really call him out on it.

“This information concerns your younger brother, Long Dong.”

“Oh? What has my little brother done this time?”

The moment Zhang Dong’s name was mentioned, Long Qing perked up and turned his head towards to old man that was talking.

“We got word that he has been taking parts in the battles with the Otherworlder, he has been successful in reclaiming most of the western Empire.”

“My little brother has been busy, he used the ancestral relic well.”

Long Qing finally decided to sit up straight and move himself to his actual throne. Previously he had occupied a large bed that was behind it.

“So, is that it? Why are you panicking over nothing?”

“My Emperor, this isn’t the issue...”

“It’s not? Explain then, and make it quick.”

Long Qing seemed bored and uninterested in what was happening in his own empire. The three elders had a hard time holding in their sighs. This wasn’t anything new to them, their leader had long since become bored of the issues in the court. The only thing that seemed to give him joy was his wife and now his brother which added a little bit of randomness to his life.

“We have been keeping a closer look at Long Dong ever since his... departure.”

The people here were all surprised that the golden palace that was kept a secret was able to vanish only a little while after finding an owner. Previously they had underestimated Zhang Dong’s capabilities and ignored what he was doing in the Empire. If he wanted to play the hero then it was fine with them.

“He has been growing his forces rapidly, even the strongest Otherworlder was not his match, if the legends speak true then this should not have happened...”

Now it was different, he could not be ignored anymore. Zhang Dong was now posing a direct threat to Long Qing, the Azure Emperor. Rumors were spreading, people liked to pit the two brothers against each other and naturally, sides would start to form.

“So my little brother isn’t weak, isn’t that a good thing? His fame will only increase our Long Clan’s legend!”

“If that only was true, Emperor...”

“What do you mean?”

“Long Dong, your brother has been performing all of his acts with his previous name of Zhang Dong... it doesn't seem that he holds out Clan to a high standard.”

Long Qing started rubbing his chin while contemplating. This was something that even he knew wasn't acceptable. When he reclaimed the lands it wasn't in the name of the Azure Emperor or the Long Clan, it was in the name of the United Element Sect. It looked like he was trying to distance himself from the Long Clan and establish his own separate branch.

It wasn't odd for large families to have branches from the main house but this was only tolerable if one side was superior. If the branch family became too strong it could cause a rift or war between them and the main family. This was what the elders here feared, Zhang Dong was becoming too powerful and influential for them to control him.

“The refugees that we had accepted are starting to return, we won't have enough people to bolster our forces for the future attacks as we had planned, we must deal with this issue now before it gets out of hand, Emperor!”

This was not a simple matter, for the Long Clan they had now only replaced the demi-human invaders with the United Element Sect. For them, the danger was on a similar level now but Zhang Dong had an actual birthright to challenge the Azure Emperor for the throne. If that happened the Long Clan would become the branch family or perhaps eradicated in the process of changing leadership.

“Now this is a problem, I'll have to talk with my dear little brother to see what his intentions are...”

“But Emperor ... “

“Quiet!”

Long Qing's oppressive aura washed over the entire throne room which even made the three prime elders twitch. This wasn't a reaction they were used to, their leader had always remained a jokester while not taking anything too seriously. Yet now his disdain was plastered over his whole face.

“I will make the decision, do not act without my approval.”

The message was sent and the people here could only bow. However, some of the elders weren't looking too happy about this decision. A lot of them were unwilling to wait for the worst possible outcome but would they go against their leader to achieve their goals?

...

“Hh... This looked different the last time I was here...”

Zhang Dong floated up in the sky, his gaze was on all the water that spread out into the distance. The land of the demonic cultivators was further ahead on a large separate island. There was a small problem, the layout of the land had changed.

“This ocean wasn't this big, it must be the northern invaders spreading it...”

When glancing at his system map he could see the red dots in the north but the largest concentration was in the northeast. Where he was going was more to the west where the fish people's presence should be lowered. However this water was giving him a bad vibe, the concentration was low but he could feel some otherworldly energy mixed in.

After spreading his spiritual sense he could feel that this alien energy was affecting marine life. The fish were acting strange, their eyes had a faint glow to them. With some more prodding he figured out the problem, it was some form of mind control.

"I never did like the sea..."

He recalled a scene from his youth where he almost drowned when he was ten. While he had not developed a fear of swimming he was still not comfortable with wandering out too far away from the shore. The sea monsters that plagued the depths could be agitated with all of this strange energy affecting them. It was like slow-working poison and perhaps even the stronger ones would eventually be controlled.

"Patriarch!"

His contemplations were interrupted by a sect member, he just nodded before a report was given.

"As you have instructed we have begun the assembly of the new wall, if everything goes well we should have a barrier within three weeks."

"Sounds about right, try to speed up the production if you can, the demi-humans could try launching a counter strike and we still have the remnants to worry about."

"Yes, Patriarch!"

The large-scale battle was over and the casualties were lower than expected. They had lost more machines and relics than lives which was always a welcomed outcome. This was all thanks to the enemy forces going into a berserk state with their leader gone and all of the infighting.

This was one of the largest problems with people being led by only strength and terror. When that person on the top was removed the people below did not have anything holding them together. There was no cause that they were fighting for together, just their own selfish reasons. Only after a new Emperor was crowned would they be able to bounce back.

If this was even possible within the next hundred years was questionable so the threat was mostly within the stragglers that now roamed their lands. Zhang Dong already heard the rumors of the old sects and clans trying to reclaim their own lands. This could have catastrophic consequences as they were usually inferior to the demi-human warriors.

'I will need to leave the bastion here as a safety measure, for now, Qiang and the other nascent soul masters will patrol the lands and that leaves me with some time to scout...'

This was a big problem, he did not want to wait anymore and go quickly push all of his forces to the demonic lands. Yet the demi-human remnants could decide to launch a counterattack to get back to their own side or to take back their old fortress. Without them worrying about the Emperor killing them, there was no way of knowing what they could do.

'It would be nice if they just settled down and stopped fighting... but they are just a wounded beast and they will certainly try to bite when backed into a corner.'

While he didn't need to go after the demi-humans he couldn't have his forces move out yet. The lands needed to be reinforced and then a squad of potential demi-human hunters needed to be established. They would stay back to battle the leftover demi-humans while his main forces traveled to the north to take care of the Wang Long situation.

'This might take another month...'

Zhang Dong pondered but he quickly decided to at least check how things were up north. Even though it was too soon for his forces to do an all-out attack, he could still perform a mission. Infiltrating the demonic lands would be quite difficult for anyone below the nascent soul level.

Even though everything was flooded, there were still various stopgaps like poison mist before the end was reached. There was a reason why the other sects stayed away from those lands. There was nothing to gain but death from going there and the resources of demonic sects didn't translate into the orthodox martial arts practices.

Without monetary gain no sect was willing to risk their life even if they could get rid of this bunch of murderers that plagued the lands. The regular sects and clans didn't trust each other, some of them would be weakened during such an assault and then probably lose their standing. Thus the biggest shield for the demonic cultivators were the orthodox ones that could not trust each other.

'I guess it's time for another little adventure...'

Before plunging himself into the unknown he decided to return to his golden palace. There he would stock up on all the necessities before venturing towards his next destination.

## **Chapter 515**

"We shouldn't 'ave come here, this was a mistake..."

A grizzled old man with a dark tan looked at a monstrous tentacle rising out of the sea and pulling his ship down. The massive storm was already a big problem but then the sea creatures were agitated.

"Captain, you said that this wouldn't happen, were the blood crystals not enough?"

"Shut yer mouth, the sea has been actin' strange these months, somethin' got the creatures spooked, me ship shall remain hidden but they spotted somethin' here, it's like must be one o' ye! Are ye hidin' somethin' that attracted the beasts t' me ship!?"

The people that looked like sailors took out their sabers and pointed them at the other group of passengers. Both sides had about the same fighting strength and it seemed the ship's captain was willing to toss the other side overboard to appease the monsters below.

"You dare go back on your promise, we haven't even reached the destination, you clearly lied to us, where is the island?"

The ship captain frowned after remembering that he had taken these people on a quick cruise to a secret island location. The island was supposed to appear once a year for a week period and had a secret

ground filled with various tests and trials. He had sold this information and fare for a lot of blood crystals that were the currency around the demonic lands.

“It should be here, I said that the sea was actin’ strange lately...”

“Excuses!”

The two leaders from each side started shouting at each other while the lackeys got ready for a fight. The only problem was that the sea creatures that were around them were already devouring the ship which made this infighting even more stupid.

“Stop this nonsense or we all will die! Please, grandfather, appease your anger this is not the time.”

A young woman of alluring proportions placed herself between the leader of the robed figures and the pirate look-alikes. She was the only one that could see the bigger picture, if they didn’t work together they would surely die.

“Meifen ... you are right, we need to take care of the beasts but then we will have a talk!”

“Aye...”

The ship captain nodded at the sailors that turned to face the dark tentacles coming out of the sea. However, even when they turned to face the monsters they were still keeping an eye out for the other party.

They were in lands without any laws or morals. Cheating between the demonic and evil cultivators was a daily occurrence. The sailors could have easily planned all of this just to kill them, the monsters that were attacking the ship could have even been part of the scheme. Yet after realizing that the ship was actually being torn apart did the party of cultivators decide to work together.

“These things... are they at the core formation level?”

Only the captain of the ship and the leader of the cloaked figures had any luck in harming the tentacles. The monstrous squid that looked like a smaller version of the legendary Kraken was just too strong for the others. All of their weapons just bounced away and couldn’t cut through the thick flesh.

The man that the young woman named Meifen called grandfather jumped forward. In both of his hands, he was holding a giant gloomy-looking scythe. The dark blood from the sea creature was dripping from it but also making it radiate more power.

“... Now!”

The man waited for the monster to pop its ugly head out. It was bulbous in shape and mostly consisted of a swarm of eyes and shark-like teeth. When it drove its mouth into the ship he used this chance to slash diagonally. The weapon he was holding burst forth with dark red energy as a massive blade surrounded by wailing souls was formed. This attack collided with the sea creature and sent it tumbling back.

Following this attack, the ship’s captain thrust forward with his heavy rapier. A sonic boom escaped from it as the blade tip collided with the monster as well. With both of the attacks hitting the creature retreated into the depths while its tentacles let go of the ship.



“That wasn’t bad for an ugly bastard.”

“Aye, no’ bad ye ole fart!”

Both the leaders started eyeballing each other once more, the monster had retreated but their feud was not over yet. Either the ship captain returned the blood stones that he took or he delivered them to the requested spot. It was a problematic decision as he had already suffered massive damage to his ship and would need these crystals to cover the expenses.

“Return the crystals, you have lied about the... huh?”

Before the argument could continue further a massive wave hit them. It came from the side where the squid monster vanished.

“Is that blasted thing still alive... no... how could this be!”

To the surprise of the people on the ship, it was something else. A giant humanoid hand rose from beneath the depths with the squid monster in it. This monster that had almost caused them to go under was handed like a little fish by the creature that just appeared.

A massive scream of pain escaped from the Kraken look-alike before it was squished before them. The giant of the depths rose up and pushed the full-sized ships as if it was a tiny boat. Its body was covered with dragon-like scales and the head was similar to a hammerhead shark. The upper body had a humanoid shape but from its back, a mass of tentacles with various horns and teeth could also be seen.

“I-it’s a leviathan? ... Why would one of these things be so close to the shore?”

The ship’s captain crumbled to his knees as he saw the gigantic monster devouring the other sea creature. A leviathan was how they described the rulers of the dark seas. They were monsters on the level of nascent soul masters and were considered stronger than their human counterparts.

“Meifen... please forgive your stupid grandfather...”

“Grandfather...”

The two family members clung to each other while looking at the beast. It was clear that they would end up inside of its belly, there was no escape. Its energy wouldn’t allow a core formation expert to fly away on a sword, there was no place to hide or run, if a miracle didn’t happen they would be quickly devoured.

This massive being of the depths looked down at the tiny beings below. It could feel the two core formation experts on the ship and it desired their spiritual energy to sustain its body. The massive mouth opened up to show off the rows upon rows of greatsword-sized teeth, the squid flesh still on it as it craved more sustenance.

Yet while everyone was trembling in fear and had their lives flashing before their eyes, something strange happened. The beast stopped right before chomping down on the ship. Everyone gathered there had a front-row seat to the stinky mouth of this large being.

It suddenly started being pulled away and rose up into the air. The monster’s lower body was similar to that of a legendary mermaid while also having a plethora of squirming tendrils. While the leviathan were

considered on par with nascent soul masters, they weren't known for their flight ability, there was something fishy going on here.

"W-what is happening... what is that purple haze around it..."

"T-there, up in the sky!"

Meifen looked up to where her grandfather pointed and quickly saw a man's figure floating up in the sky. It wasn't hard to figure out that this person was pulling the creature out of the sea but how was he doing it? The monster started squirming around but its massive hands collided with some kind of transparent barrier that continued to get smaller and smaller.

After a few moments, they could see a truly gruesome display of bones breaking. The leviathan was being crushed while floating defenseless in the air. What kind of being could do something like this to a strong creature like this? Was this the second coming of the Heavenly Demon?

...

A few moments earlier...

'Hm, this should do... can't use my old pseudonym of a demon hunter, so I need something new...'

Zhang Dong was hiding his presence while shrouding his body in the thick clouds above. Below him was a mass of water filled with various sea creatures that would give his previous self nightmares. The creatures had sharp teeth, tentacles, and eyes where they shouldn't have. Devouring each other seemed to be their only pastime and perhaps the reason why the water was a murky dark.

He had already spent a few days zooming through the air towards the lands of the demonic cultivators. It was quite boring and the only thing keeping him awake was his new disguise that he was still deciding on. His robes were of course switched out to more demonic-looking black ones with various occult-looking symbols on them.

His new persona would be a solo demonic cultivator of unfathomable power and knowledge. He could not look like a bum, instead, he decided to go for a more refined-looking elderly person. A white beard that was cut at angles to pronounce his chin was the first thing he attempted, his hair was slick and plentiful. He somewhat based it on an old meme from his old days, just an aged-up version.

For the time being, he needed to lock away his holy aura. Luckily he had gained a nice replacement with the Dao of gravity. Coupled with his spooky soul Dao he could shroud himself in mysterious purple energy that wasn't far off from what the demonic cultivators used.

'The concentration of spiritual energy here is even worse than in the lower regions.'

He had a lot of knowledge concerning the empire. The demonic cultivators used a different way to get stronger than the orthodox ones on the mainland. Instead of mostly using spiritual energy to slowly cultivate the arts, they absorbed it from other living beings. This allowed them to cultivate at the lower levels faster but halted their progress later on.

'So they turn the beasts and other humans into blood crystals that they use as a substitute for spiritual energy.'

This was the main reason for all the evil cultivators being hunted down. A lot of them infiltrated the mainland to gather humans as a resource. After partaking in the evil arts they were unable to use regular spiritual energy as a resource. They needed to instead capture other cultivators and turn them into human pills.

‘This is going to be an interesting expedition... I just have to remember to not get involved with their squabbles... Wait, what’s that?’

In the distance, he spotted a lone ship fighting both a storm and a large squid monster. Yet this was not what he was worried about, below them was a much bigger creature that was grinning for some reason and even further away there were some strange fish people.

“Oh geez...”

## **Chapter 516**

‘I can’t just leave them to die...’

Zhang Dong looked at the giant creature rising out from the depths. The people on the ship were clearly from a demonic clan or sect. They called the creature a leviathan and it was at about the power level of a middle stage nascent soul master.

Even though they were supposedly ‘evil’ cultivators, he also spotted a few people that weren’t that tainted. The people that lived in these lands were just a product of their environment, the strength they gained was mostly for survival. Some of the robed figures were also quite young, it was as if the elders had taken their disciples out for some training.

Then there was also another reason to help them which was to gain information. People from the mainland didn’t really know anything about the demonic island and the rules there. He wouldn’t be surprised if the demonic deeds of the people that lived there were over-exaggerated.

‘Not like the sects I’ve run into are really any better...’

He recalled people from the Dark Palm Sect that didn’t really act differently than a demonic cult. They used the lower clans as cannon fodder and milked them for resources. Perhaps there was a way to clear things out with these people that were forced to rely on demonic rituals and blood crystals.

Finally, he decided to take care of the leviathan, with the help of his gravitational Dao he was able to get rid of its immense weight. Hoisting it up into the air with the help of his spiritual energy was quite easy after that. Once it was out of the water he also noticed a rapid drop in the monster’s fighting capability. From the middle stage, it dropped to the lowest of the early stage.

‘Make sense that these things would be weaker when not underwater, didn’t expect such a rapid decline though.’

With how much stronger he was than the beast it was easy to just crush it with pure Qi. The sigh wasn’t pretty but he wanted to make his entrance as imposing as he could. The people on the boat were truly shocked but in reality, he wasn’t trying to impress that group, he was going for the strange beings that were hiding in the sea.

Even while he was crushing the leviathan in an imposing manner he was still paying attention to them. If his theory was correct then these were people belonged to the northernmost invaders. One of the beings there was at around the strength levels of this leviathan but not really above it.

From what he could tell these sea creatures were uncommon around these parts. Someone from the ship had commented on them usually not appearing here. There was also one thing bothering him, why were the huge sea creatures not attacking them. There were two more monsters of around the same size next to the leader, perhaps it was this leader that ordered them to eat the ship with the demonic cultivators inside.

“Hm... so you have chosen ... death!”

Zhang Dong disguised as an oppressive demonic cultivator called out toward the submerged people. The ones on the ship were quite confused and horrified as they could only see themselves as the recipients of those words. All of them almost instantly dropped to their knees as they tried to appease the scary demonic cultivator.

Yet suddenly two similar-looking sea creatures burst out from the murky waters below. Considering their body size being vastly over their intended target they produced giant waves that sent the damaged ship to the side.

Their target didn't budge though, even though he found himself in the mouth of one of the monsters, it couldn't fully bite down. He had surrounded himself with an energy shield that only caused the teeth of the monster to shatter.

“Ew... have you ever tried using mouthwash, what is that putrid smell?”

The smell was horrifying and also filled with poison. Luckily it wasn't that hard to cancel it out with the help of his shield. He released a burst of energy that made the large monster's head explode. Normally the other one should have noticed the disparity in power and ran to protect its life. It took a lot of time to grow to this level, even beasts had a strong survival instinct.

“So, your masters want me dead, is that it? It won't go the way you want it to...”

After the first monster was falling down into the water the other one attempted some kind of ranged attack. From its mouth, a torrent of green water flew his way. Instead of dodging it though, he pulled out a pitch-black longsword that he used to cleave it in half. Behind the ship with various people was in the line of fire, he still needed to ask them about the situation in the demonic lands so he couldn't have them be melted by this corrosive concoction.

His sword energy traveled further and connected with the beast. It almost split the whole beast in half but it managed to dive back under the water which caused the attack to weaken. It was an interesting sight to behold as this monster's wounds started to almost instantly heal themselves. Small black tentacles came from the sides to grasp the flesh that was falling off to pull it back together.

His true enemies didn't budge from their underwater hiding place, perhaps they were convinced that if they remained there then he could not reach them. Regretfully for them, Zhang Dong originally came from a water-element inclined clan. Even though his Dao of water was not perfect it was still above the norm.

By combining some of the water arts and the new gravity dao he started pushing the water to the side. A massive hole started to appear in the middle of the sea. He had some luck as the water wasn't all that deep and some kind of strange ruins were right beneath. The huge monster dropped down onto the regular ground with no water helping it move and behind it were several fish people shouting out commands.

"The gill-less has spotted us! What should we do oh great Nahmah?"

The person with the title was of course the leader. There was a group of about twenty people here, everyone besides the leader were around the core formation level. This looked to be something like a scouting party that was using the sea creatures as disposable weapons.

These 'people' had some distinctive looks. The weaker ones looked more like creatures from the deep with bodies covered in fish scales. Their faces faintly resembled human beings with gills sticking out from the side. They had hands with webbings between fingers but lacked legs that were replaced with a large tail. The leader, on the other hand, looked like a mermaid with the upper body of a man and the lower body of a fish.

'Hm, do they evolve to resemble humans the stronger they get?'

He couldn't really tell if the person called Nahmah was from a different species or if he was different due to his higher level of power. His appearance made Zhang Dong recall some of the old cartoons that he watched when he was young. The fish person was holding a shiny golden trident in his right hand and had a long white beard.

'Don't see any mermaids around though, all of those guys seem to be males.'

To his disappointment he could not spot any beautiful lady mermaids, instead, he was received by ugly fish people and one cranky-looking grandpa. Even though he had managed to push the waters apart he could feel that the old man was fighting him for control. After raising that golden trident there was a slight pull from the sea, he even had to use quite a bit of his Qi to counter this effect.

It seemed that he was still lacking when the water Dao was involved but while watching this man perform the strange techniques with his trident, he was already learning. There was an aura of this Dao around that weapon but it was of a lesser Dao, and it only involved the sea. Probably only the leader had the knowledge to use the higher techniques and could drop some kind of item that he could absorb later.

"Yoink."

The power disparity was just too big, without a need to use any grand techniques he managed to pull the trident away from the stranded fishman. The old man even flew for quite some time before he decided to let his weapon go. Now he and his men were in a rather panicked state.

"Hm... interesting... so this is how they control the sea creatures."

For someone of Zhang Dong's level, it wasn't hard to inspect this weapon after pushing his spiritual energy within. He was much stronger than the previous user so it wasn't difficult to overwrite the weapon. Now he was the master of this lower heavenly ranked item and it was the catalyst to control the huge sea monster.

“Grab him!”

After pointing out with the trident toward the remaining Leviathan it wasn't difficult to make it obey. The monster was out of the water though so even when it tried going towards the merman it wasn't able to catch him. It seemed that this person could actually fly like any other nascent soul master. He had surrounded himself by a water bubble and was now making his escape towards the dark sea.

Regretfully for him, before he could reach it a massive downward gravity push crushed him into the hard ground underneath. Zhang Dong would not let this person escape, they were part of the enemy invasion and he needed more information. There was no reason to kill them yet, they might turn out to be more friendly just like Argus.

‘In you go.’

After successfully containing their leader called Nahmah, he dumped him into his replica medallion. There he would contain and interrogate him later. The weaker lackeys were all dropped off into the prison cells as well. With some luck, he would be able to use them as bargaining chips later. They did attack the people on the ship first and then him directly, so he could always use the self-defense argument when asked by their leaders.

‘That's about it... The fish people aren't that important now, I need to get to Wang Long.’

Within a few moments, the danger was gone and the waters were closing up. Zhang Dong didn't sense anything worthwhile in that ruin. It seemed to have been occupied by someone at the nascent soul level. Any techniques and resources there wouldn't be worth the hassle of exploring. Perhaps later he could forward the information to his sect and someone from the juniors could examine it further if they found it worthwhile.

‘Now, what do I do about these people... I think that I scared them a bit too much...’

When looking back at the people on the ship he could see that they were spooked. All of them were down on their knees and not daring to look up. At least it would probably be easy to get the information he required from them. Thus he started to slowly float towards the group of scared people while thinking of pulling off a proper demonic cultivator persona.

## **Chapter 517**

“J-junior greets the great s-senior...”

A group of terrified demonic cultivators were looking at a true monster. The man had swooped in and killed more than one Leviathan that could destroy a whole armada of ships. Then opened up the sea to reveal the secret island they were trying to reach to eradicate some strange other sea creatures.

For some reason, he took interest in the little ship of theirs and the weak cultivators on it, which normally didn't bode well. Such beings of power operated on different rules in the demonic regions. Even if they started a feud with a powerful sect, most of the elders wouldn't take revenge for a few juniors being slaughtered. They wouldn't risk getting killed by an equal even if it was to take revenge for their faction.

The man looked strange. First, the robe was quite flamboyant and filled with strange occult symbols. Normally demonic cultivators were more reserved and hit their true power before taking action. This man on the other hand was pointing to himself as if he wanted to be identified as a madman.

Then there were his strange facial proportions, he had an oversized square jaw that looked unnatural. His body padded out of that robe which implied that he was quite muscular. Perhaps he had integrated some beast DNA into himself, from a gorilla?

His appearance was not the problem but his unknown motives. It wasn't odd for beings of power to use lesser cultivators as cultivation resources. Everyone here was already thinking about the worst possible outcome. There were only a few reasons that someone of this status would help them.

One if they were part of their clan and another for nefarious reasons. It didn't seem that anyone here knew this person so most of them were already shivering. They could only hope that their deaths would be smooth and that they wouldn't become lab rats for a madman.

"Hm..."

The powerful man started stroking that perfectly angular cut beard while looking in the direction of a young woman. The young girl had been stunned in place and unable to properly show decorum before the powerful man. She was just standing there with her knees trembling and staring right at him.

"M-meifen! P-please forgive my granddaughter, great senior, she isn't versed in the ways of the world, please appease your anger with my life!"

"..."

Zhang Dong narrowed his eyes at the crazy old grandpa that pulled out a dark-looking dagger and started moving it towards his own throat. He had only descended to ask for directions and ask about the political climate on the demonic island.

What he needed was information about the factions and the forces controlling it and Wang Long's whereabouts. If he was lucky, his enemy would have been stuck at some demonic brothel without progressing much. He was a known pervert that loved to indulge his perverted desires. The demonic lands were filled with various she-demons that could probably satiate some of them to keep him busy.

"I am sorry Meifen, forgive your stupid grandfather..."

It was a truly dramatic exchange between the young woman and the old man. She was holding back her tears and lowering her head. The man really thought that they would all be turned into blood crystals at his whim. It was better to kill himself to appease a scary demonic cultivator than to try talking it out.

"... That's enough ..."

With a wave of his finger, the dagger in the man's hand exploded and the shards were pushed to the side. The old man crumbled to his knees while apologizing instantly. They clearly thought that he was going to turn them into human pills or suck away their souls.

"Grandfather! Please, Senior, my grandfather didn't mean to speak out without your permission."

There were two sides here, one was a group of robbed cultivators from some kind of sect or clan and the others were sailors. It seemed that the latter was slightly smarter as they remained with their faces pointed towards the ground. Even eye contact could sometimes enrage the scary old monsters to go on a killing spree.

“Calm down, I’m not going to hurt you. I just require some information.”

He swished the long robe sleeves that he prepared just for the occasion. Yet his words didn’t seem to go through as everyone continued to panic.

“I see that you don’t believe me, raise your head, if I wanted you dead, then you would be already dead.”

Finally, everyone decided to listen to his intentions. Zhang Dong was somewhat surprised at the amount of fear and respect that these people had for him. On the mainland, people feared the ones in power but it was not to this extent. To them, he was like a hungry lion while they were tiny mice waiting to be eaten. It was as if they couldn’t fathom that he would not do something evil to them when he is finished.

“Do you really think that someone like me could gain anything from insignificant insects like you? The only thing that you will give me, is information.”

“I-information, Senior?”

“Yes, I have been away for many years, tell me the state the demonic lands are in, I’ve heard some words about turmoil in the empire, what has been happening.”

He could see the cogs turning in these people’s brains. It wasn’t such a rare occurrence, old cultivators would vanish for hundreds of years and cultivate. Some even vanished for half a millennia and turned the whole world upside down after discovering some immortal treasure trove. This was what he hoped them to believe at least, it would at least explain why he was asking them to give him basic information.

“If it’s information that senior desires, then we from the Onyx Moon Sect will accommodate your needs.”

“Good but first... let us get out of here, those mermaid people could come back...”

No one responded to his mumbling as they were far too afraid to ask any questions. The ship that they were on had been partially destroyed. The main mast had crumbled and it would be hard to sail back.

Zhang Dong didn’t want to remain here, there was a possibility of a force of fish people coming after them. It wouldn’t be strange if the man with the trident had some importance. His disappearance would be noticed sooner or later, thus it was better to get to the demonic cultivator island.

“This ship is in a bad state...”

“My apologies great senior, we will repair it as quickly as we can!”

The captain that looked like an old pirate with metal teeth started sweating the moment Zhang Dong looked over the ship. Yet before everyone could start clearing out the broken chunks of wood, they were told to stop.



“That won’t be necessary, just point me to the demonic island, there should be a port city there, right?”

“Y-yes senior but how...”

The captain was clearly confused but before he could pose the question he felt a massive surge of spiritual energy washing over the entire ship. It was purple in color and was formed from some strange Dao that he didn’t understand. His body hair shot up as a strange uncomfortable feeling coming straight from his soul took him over. It was the same for everyone gathered here.

“You don’t need to worry about your ship, it will reach the port in one piece, now point me in the right direction and don’t waste my time.”

While talking the ship started moving, it jolted up into the air as if it didn’t weigh anything as Zhang Dong lowered the gravity around it. With the weight lowered it was quite easy to make the whole thing float up and even reach speeds comparable to a core formation flying sword. To the people here this was a shocking display of might, making such a large boat able to float without any assistance was not possible just for anyone.

“Ah, y-yes, it’s that way...”

The ship captain pointed towards a destination and Zhang Dong quickly pushed the ship in that direction. While he had his system map, the lands of the demonic cultivators didn’t show up there. He only had some general information but needed these natives to act as a GPS for the time being.

“Now relax, none of you will die if you are useful, tell me then, who is the strongest person among the demons? Have any of the old sects fallen or has it been quiet?”

While standing at the foremost deck and steering the ship forward he listened to the old man explaining. He knew that the people referred to the strongest masters as ‘demons’, if Wang Long had appeared here he would probably be given that nickname as well.

“As you wish, Senior. There has actually been a big change recently, The Crimson Sword Demon had been defeated by a newcomer and taken the crown as the strongest. He had been given the name Chaotic Demon due to his extreme illogical tendencies...”

“Chaotic Demon... do you perhaps know how this person looks?”

“No Senior, we only know that he is a man of youthful appearance that has been probably gained by unsavory means...”

“You have to know some rumors? Could it perhaps be this person?”

Zhang Dong was almost sure about this Chaotic Demon’s true identity. It had to be Wang Long but he needed to be sure. His nemesis could have just been hiding in a brothel instead and this person was just another monster that took the recent chaos as a means to take power. Thus he produced an illusion of Wang Long’s appearance from the time that the two battled.

“I-I’m not sure Senior, I have never met the Chaotic Demon, his identity is shrouded in mystery and not many people have lived to tell the tale...”

“So you don’t know? How about you? Does anyone recognize this man’s face?”

Everyone started looking at the life-like creation that was presented before them but no one was able to answer. They were all living on the fringes of the demonic lands, it was impossible for them to have seen someone as important as the Chaotic Demon. The more important issue here was that they weren't able to answer the question which put all of their lives at risk. One wrong answer and the man would crush the entire ship with them on it.

"Really? Nothing... well that is disappointing..."

Zhang Dong frowned about the lack of information, after he dropped these people off he needed to check out the city they came from to gather more information. To him it was nothing but to them it was a fight for their survival. Finally the girl raised her head and shouted out as if her mind was made up.

"S-senior if I may speak!"

"Go ahead."

"...T-there is a person that could know what the chaotic demon looks like and he hails from my sect."

"Oh?"

He could see the grandfather sending his granddaughter several messages that he would normally not be able to hear. It seemed that the two were in quite some trouble and this was a hail mary pass from the youngster to get them out of it.

'Hm, interesting...'

## **Chapter 518**

'What are you doing Meifen? If we bring this demonic master back with us, he could destroy the whole sect!'

'But grandfather, we were unable to retrieve the treasure from the sunken temple, if we return as this the grand elder will use us as fuel for the next ritual. It's better if we use this old monster and escape...'

'You're playing with fire my granddaughter but I can't deny the truth in your words...'

'...'

'They really like to scheme in the demonic lands, don't they?'

Zhang Dong read through the hidden messages that these two quickly sent to each other. There was an old technique to send encoded sounds right next to a desired target's ear. The sound waves were encoded and impossible to hear by anyone other than the desired target. This encryption was far too hard to get through even by powerful masters, thus they didn't fear him overhearing their scheme.

This wasn't true for him though, with the help of Bob that worked like a machine the encryption could be decoded. It was presented to him as writing on his system screen, he was seeing a chat conversation between these two that intended to pull one over him.

'At least it seems that this grand elder had actually seen this Chaotic Demon before. They intend me to stall for them while they make a getaway...'

'It would be great if this old monster just killed that grand elder bastard, we wouldn't need to leave then...'

'That would be the best-case outcome, my granddaughter but please leave the talking to me, you have never been good at acting.'

'Thank you, grandfather.'

The two were only trying to survive so he couldn't fault them for going through with this dangerous plan. He did not appreciate that they were willing to have their entire sect wiped from the face of the planet though. If he was truly an old evil monster and overheard this conversation, then following the usual cultivator rules they would die for besmirching his name.

'Glad my sect isn't like this...'

He could not imagine his faction members selling each other out like this. There was a certain level of trust between the seniors and the juniors. There was also a lack of death penalties for not fulfilling tasks from senior members of the sect that would produce these types of people. It was clear that the demonic sects took things a lot more seriously than the orthodox ones.

Zhang Dong decided to skim through the hidden messages that everyone was sending to each other. It was surprising how some of them were disrespectful when thinking that he wasn't able to hear them.

'Hey, what's with that guy's chin...'

'I know... why is it so angular? And that beard looks strange...'

They were mostly commenting on his appearance that he might have had too much fun in creating. Wang Long might have even been able to figure out that it was him by the meme he took inspiration from. Yet his aim was not to meet with his nemesis but to get information about the lands. Then after returning his people could create a perfect plan for assaulting the demonic cultivators.

'I should ignore them. Will those fish people be a problem? Didn't expect them to be there, if they appear while we are transporting our army, it might be a problem...'

The captured merman was in his spatial treasure. He was able to function out of water but there were side effects. His spiritual energy started decreasing and his body also shriveled up to an extent. It was clear that he was keeping himself alive thanks to having a high enough cultivation.

'This means that their forces shouldn't be able to infiltrate the mainland, that is unless they have something to flood it instead...'

It was clear that even the stronger members of this faction couldn't live well under regular air. They needed water to remain strong and would be unable to push into their lands without going through rivers and giant lakes. Yet there was another possibility as it was apparent that these lands were becoming flooded. The sea wasn't this deep before but if it was an effect that would continue was also unconfirmed.

'Perhaps I should farm a smaller group and create a teleportation gate instead? These people live in some kind of port city, should I use their sect to hide? That might not be the best idea, they could sell me out instantly.'

One of the possibilities would be to grab some hidden land from this Onyx Moon Sect. They probably had some free space where he could create the teleportation devices. By slowly bringing in more of his people it would be possible to move the army here while ditching the sea route.

Yet these demonic sects only answered to power, he was clearly a strong cultivator but this wasn't enough. The people wouldn't risk offending the powerful demonic cultivators that existed here. The quality of the top demonic masters was higher than of the regular ones from the mainland.

They gained power by surviving horrific encounters. At the end of their journey, they were basically cockroaches with various ways of staying alive. They were powerful enough to win against their orthodox sect counterparts.

'I guess, I'll need to find a hiding place for this plan to pan out.'

'Hm... maybe this chin is too big...'

While contemplating his new plan he started stroking his short white beard. He had wondered if he should grow one but always thought that he should wait until he was older.

"So, is that the city you fare from?"

"That's right, great senior. It's the Silent Moon city."

From the distance, he could see a massive number of boats. Even before reaching the shore, they started to show up here and there. There were regular people here, not everyone was a demonic murderous cultivator. The core always consisted of the commoners that lacked the ability for proper cultivation. With how low the concentration of Qi was in these lands, these people were quite weak.

The ship covered by the purple haze was sticking out like a sore thumb. Everyone down on the ground could see it and the ones in power quickly became aware of his whereabouts. This was fine as before getting in range he scanned the entire area with his spiritual sense.

Just as he had assumed this Onyx Moon Sect wasn't all that strong. There was only one nascent soul master in the entire area. From what the old man informed him, this was their main stronghold so there would not be any reinforcements coming.

'While they only have only one nascent soul master, this sect is more similar to a clan from the Empire.'

This large island in the north of the empire had limited space. Fewer people lived here and of course, the clan and sect sizes would follow suit. This sect was considered on the tail end of the hierarchy as the stronger forces consolidated to the center of it. There he would find the Chaotic Demon and all the other nascent soul masters that were at the great formation level.

'So you require at least a nascent soul master to form a faction here, makes sense...'

Demonic clans and sects were far more bloodthirsty. The only thing being able to keep them from attacking was power and this was in the hands of nascent soul masters. They would allow the clans and sects to exist while the underlings funneled most of the resources towards the leader. They would live but would be left with scraps and probably unable to gain anything that could threaten the leader's position.

At first glance, it wasn't anything special, just a large collection of wooden houses that probably belonged to the various fishermen. The coastline looked strange, the water was reaching up to some of these houses that were flooded. This was probably due to the invaders from the northernmost reaches that could control water. He would need to monitor the situation and see if the water levels continued to rise.

Behind what looked like the fishing district was a more traditional-looking city with all the usual buildings. They didn't look to be in the greatest condition, the walls were slowly crumbling, the roofs had holes and even from here, he could see a few fights breaking out in the streets.

'I guess the demonic sects don't really care about the living conditions of the regular people.'

When it came to the mainland sects, it would be seen as a weakness if their cities were in bad shape. They needed to at least have a proper exterior for when the various strong masters visited. Even if the sect was weak it needed to look wealthy and strong from the outside. Instead, they would force the weak and poor out or try hiding them in slums. Here, on the other hand, no one seemed to care.

Then somewhere in the middle stood a large pagoda. It was the most eye-catching building of them all and also in the best shape. This was probably the residence of the sect leader and perhaps also the inner sect disciples. The welcoming committee was also already coming this way. They consisted purely of core formation masters and quite a few women were mixed in.

'Are they trying to throw demonic beauties at me?'

It wasn't strange to attempt to lower a person's guard by sexual means. It wouldn't be hard for a lady of the night to slice a person's throat during the act. Yet this only worked against inexperienced cultivators and not powerful cultivators such as him. This was more of a courtesy from their leader that probably sent them to figure out his motives.

'I guess this is it.'

Finally, he was at his destination, the large ship was lowered by him so that it wasn't that far away from a pier. As he lowered himself to the ground he thought back to his decision of acting as a being of power. Normally an infiltration mission would be done while hiding but after the last few failed ones he decided to do the reverse.

His new identity of a powerful old monster that returned from a lengthy cultivation session would keep most people away from him. He already knew that demonic cultivators wouldn't search for trouble with their equals. They would slowly examine the situation before deciding to strike.

'I can always go with plan B if things turn for the worse.'

Zhang Dong's main reason was to gather information and perhaps see if he could figure out Wang Long's whereabouts. The people that were approaching him would help him with that, even if they didn't want to cooperate. Before the powers on the island would become aware of his presence he would fade away and come back with a whole army. Then finally he could end this charade and bring Wang Long to justice.

## **Chapter 519**

“We from the Onyx Moon Sect greet the honorable senior. Our Patriarch, the great Demon of Immolation, sends his regards and hopes that you will enjoy your stay in our little city.”

‘They do like their extravagant names here, don’t they?’

Zhang Dong was hovering a bit above ground while looking at the group of kneeling cultivators. They were doing their utmost effort to accommodate him. It was the usual, never speaking out without getting permission or directly looking into his eyes. Yet they were still trying to feel him out. If he was weaker than their leader then his life might have been in danger.

“Do you wish us to guide you through our city? We have been handpicked by the great Demon of Immolation to tend to all of your needs.”

The one speaking was a beautiful young lady of around fifty years of age. She was a core formation expert which kept her looks young. The others were a lot younger and weaker. It was clear that they were an olive branch from their leader, if they died it wouldn’t be a problem.

Zhang Dong had heard and also seen that some demonic cultivators gained their power through acts of depravity. It was possible to slowly suck away a person’s vitality along with their Qi during the act. It was a less intrusive method than turning them into blood crystals but it was a lot slower. They were probably testing him to see if he would accept this gift and see how he cultivated.

“Don’t worry, I’m just passing by. One of your people mentioned that an elder could recognize the Chaotic Demon, I just wish to speak to this person and receive some information.”

“T-the Chaotic Demon S-senior?”

The crimson-haired beauty that was keeping up an alluring look, flinched. She had been clearly trained to entice people and never to show her true emotions but even then, she couldn’t hold it.

‘Is this Chaotic Demon so scary? If it’s Wang Long then he would probably go with the dual cultivation method...’

He could imagine Wang Long demanding new women for his acts of perversion. He only saw these people as AI programs that could be replaced on a daily basis. It was looking good if he could just find someone to confirm his looks.

‘He could have always changed his looks though, so I might not get any information here either...’

There was always a chance of Wang Long changing his appearance. Then there was the use of demonic techniques that could make a person look more demonic and different. There was a reason why these demons mostly looked like scarecrows with loose skin.

“Is there a problem? Was their claim false?”

Zhang Dong turned his head towards the woman named Meifen and her grandfather. They were the ones that made the offer and also the ones that were planning on escaping when it was possible.

“Elder Zhiqiang...”

The woman that he was talking with send a death glare at the old man that acted as if nothing was wrong. There was no time to exchange hidden messages at this moment and from such a close distance, it might even be noticeable. For it to go smoother he also turned towards this Zhiqiang to make him talk.

“Speak up, who is this person?”

“Great Senior, the man that you are looking for is Elder Tang Donghai.”

“Then what are we waiting for? Call this Tang Donghai over, or is there some kind of problem?”

He could see that there was a slight change in their facial expressions when this elder’s name was mentioned. It was faint but he could pierce through the veil to quickly read through their poker faces. Zhang Dong had spent quite a lot of time acting like a stoic cultivator master. It was easy for him to tell if someone was surprised or nervous.

“A problem? I fear that Grand Elder Tang Donghai might be indisposed...”

“Hoh? Is he such an important person to deny me an audience?”

To act properly to his made-up status Zhang Dong raised his oppressive aura against the group of beauties. He didn’t target only them, the ground began shaking as he used the gravitational dao along with his soul dao to make people drop down to their knees. It had been a while since he had to threaten a large group like this but luckily it was working.

“P-please senior appease your anger... w-we must ask for the Patriarch’s permission... Elder Donghai is part of the c-core elder.”

“Hm...”

The curvaceous lady started talking quickly while making her explanation. It seemed that the pair that he rescued was playing with fire. By pointing him in the direction of this Donghai person they were forcing him to go against their Patriarch indirectly. It was possible that he was part of his family, it would be hard for him not to act if it came to a direct confrontation.

‘Is this Tang guy unreasonable?’

He wasn’t really planning to start trouble, after getting his information he would just change his looks and gather more information. After examining the protective formations here and measuring the main sect ground with his spiritual sense, he had the idea of what he was against.

There would be no problem in crushing his enemies but he didn’t want to go overboard in enemy territory just yet. While the demonic cultivators weren’t that tightly knit together they would form alliances if they went against a powerful foe. Their leader could also force them to act which would complicate everything.

‘I bet they won’t go overboard, they have survived here for a long time, this wouldn’t be possible without being cautious.’

“I require information, I’m sure you’re aware that beings like be don’t have much time to spare...”

“I... I will go report to the Patriarch, that is if you allow it great senior.”

“Go then and don’t keep me waiting for long.”

“Please come this way, Senior we have prepared a place for you to rest.”

Zhang Dong just nodded as the welcoming committee split up. The main lady that was previously talking to him rushed towards the large pagoda tower. He and the others headed towards a luxurious-looking restaurant in the more expensive part of the city. When flying there he could see people lowering their heads in fright. No one dared to move and even mothers were holding their children’s mouths to not offend the unknown master.

‘That’s harsh...’

It didn’t look good, the kids were small and malnourished. It was clear that most of the resources were funneled towards the sect and the regular people were having trouble just surviving. This was a stark contrast to how people saw him or other masters in Spirit Spring City. They were happy to wave and smile at him and the others.

“Please sit down, great senior, leave your troubles behind and enjoy our great food and drinks!”

Where he arrived was a large restaurant with a plethora of servants. While everyone was smiling and acting cheerful he could tell that they were all acting. It was obvious that they were fearful of him going wild. If for some reason the food was not to his liking it wouldn’t be strange for the entire place to be extinguished together with everyone working here.

‘Is this how it always has been or did Wang Long’s appearance change things...’

His target had arrived here a few months ago. The city was standing and people were alive so he didn’t just kill everyone. Zhang Dong’s biggest fear was that Wang Long would continue to kill people to gain power. After destroying one of the great sects he had become much more powerful.

How much stronger he would get would be proportional to how many spirit points he gained. Luckily he was not the smartest, the points would probably be spent on exotic skills that might not work well together. What a person was supposed to do, was to find a good combination of skills that augmented each other. Then even above that was to actually gain experience while fighting strong opponents and not just spam ranged attacks without an end.

‘Man, they are really fidgety...’

While thinking about his next move he observed the serving staff here. All of them were on edge with their faces hanging low. They clearly didn’t want to be here, the thought of having to serve a powerful demonic cultivator wasn’t that great. If they made one mistake their life would be on the line.

This place was not in great shape, he had already spotted a few unclean spots and signs of corrosion. It didn’t seem that the other side was used to getting many visitors of his stature. All old monsters would find a region for themselves and force people to build them what they desired. There weren’t many at the nascent soul level that wandered around in search of information and friends.

Every task was left up to their juniors while they acted as the last boss. Most of the time they didn’t have to make a move. Even during conflicts, one side would just fork up some resources so that a fight



wouldn't happen. There would have to be a serious transgression to make an old monster fight another one.

'This food doesn't look to be poisoned but I'm not really hungry...'

The table was brimming with food that he wasn't touching. This was to be expected as poisoning was the simplest way to die. No one really expected him to touch it but they still had to waste all of the resources for appearance's sake. Nascent soul masters didn't require much food as they could mostly sustain themselves with water and spiritual energy.

'If it was any other place, I tell the workers to eat it instead...'

He wanted to allow the people here to just eat this food or take it to their families. However, if he started acting nice it would be quite suspicious. Either they would think that he isn't a demonic cultivator or some kind of spy from the empire.

The demonic cultivators hated the righteous ones, if he was discovered all of them would flock here to use him as cultivation material. Absorbing the spiritual energy of a proper orthodox cultivator was much better than creating blood crystals from the ones here.

'This is boring... are they really going to make me wait? ... Are they scheming behind my back?'

After arriving at the restaurant thirty minutes had passed and then soon an hour was approaching. The women even started playing on the zithers and dancing to amuse him, yet for some reason, he wasn't getting any replies. Normally the elder should have rushed here instantly to give him the information so that he could leave.

'Is this some strange power move? Is their Patriarch making me wait to assert his dominance?'

This was a possibility, by making him wait the Patriarch was putting himself above the new guest. Without knowing Zhang Dong's true power level this was quite a foolish move. Perhaps he had a faulty read on him as he was hiding his power level? Or could there be some other reason?

## **Chapter 520**

"Tang who is this person? Why did he appear at this moment? Why is he asking about the Chaotic demon?"

"I-I don't know Patriarch..."

"You don't know?"

The atmosphere in the room became stuffy after an old man's body started getting engulfed in flames. It was the Patriarch of the Onyx Moon sect that was known as the demon of immolation. He was talking to the elder that the unknown master was asking for.

"What's with this timing? Could it be a coincidence?"

The old man started scratching his chin with one of his thin fingers. Suddenly a knock on the door made him extinguish the flames that were making everyone sweat.

"Patriarch, the honored guest is waiting for you..."

“Tang, you better take care of this in secret... This person seems to have a grudge against the Chaotic Demon. We don’t know what he will do if he finds one of his bastard’s acolytes here.”

“Y-yes Patriarch, I will keep it a secret, I had my people prepare the Enticing Pavilion.”

“The Enticing Pavilion? Yes, that should give us time, let him stay there until our esteemed guest has left, don’t let the two meet!”

“It shall be done!”

...

‘Should I just storm their sect ground? This is getting suspicious did something blow my cover?’

He wasn’t sure what was happening, normally no one would make a scary demonic cultivator like him wait this long. Yet he was stuck in this restaurant that was playing gaudy music and watching some women perform hip dances. For someone with a wife that looked a lot better than this, he wasn’t quite impressed.

‘Could they think I’m up to no good and are already preparing to attack me?’

It was hard to tell as the people here didn’t trust anyone here. Demonic cultivators could turn into enemies at a drop of a hat if it suited their needs. It was hard to imagine that they would just attack him out of the blue. Yet this was not out of the question, perhaps they were preparing a trap at the next place they would lead him to.

‘If they invite me into the sect’s territory I need to be careful also I should speed this up. The less time I give them the better.’

“Enough, how long are you going to keep me here, where is that elder Tong!”

Acting like an offended master wasn’t hard. He only needed to slam his fist into the table while releasing some of that energy. With his Dao being able to affect souls his aura become even more bizarre. The people here had the feeling that their vital energies were being sucked, if they continued like this they would have their vital energies sucked out!

“P-please Senior, Elder Tong is just a busy person...”

“Is he too busy to meet someone like me? Do you want me to show you what happens to people that make me wait? Maybe I should talk with your Patriarch, what was his name again, Demon of Immolation or something like that?”

The people in the restaurant dropped down to the ground. They all knew that the person they were up against could turn them into dried-up corpses in a matter of seconds. There was no way for them to escape other than pleading. Luckily for them, the sliding door burst open and finally, a person from the sect appeared.

“Please, Senior appease your anger, Elder Tong is expecting your arrival and will answer all of the senior’s questions, I will guide you there!”

It was a young man in a lavish-looking robe. Zhang Dong could tell that he probably belonged to the core disciples of the sect. The robe was similar to the one that Meifen was wearing but it was more intricate. It was a clear distinction between their ranks.

“So you finally decide to show up and you still want me to follow?”

Yet he still needed to show his displeasure, they did make him wait. This elder Tong didn't seem like someone that he should be considerate about. If the sect leader was the only nascent soul master here then this elder should have been a pinnacle core formation cultivator at most.

“T-this...”

The young man dropped down to his knees as expected. Even though he had his head down, Zhang Dong could tell that his face was showing something else than remorse. It was clear resentment towards him that was performing the act. This young man was probably of the young master variety and wasn't used to not getting his way. Most likely he had a silvery tongue but it was impossible to use it with tons crushing down on his shoulders.

‘I'm having more fun with this gravity Dao than I expected... maybe there is another way to extract them without gathering the rare boss drops’

‘A possibility exists.’

‘Bob? How unusual for you to speak up by yourself. What did you have in mind?’

‘It is possible to gain the power of origin through absorption of the human soul core.’

‘Wait... you want me to extract it from their souls or something?’

‘Affirmative, it is possible to proceed as long as a soul core exists.’

‘Can you be more specific Bob?’

‘A soul core is what the user understands under the term soul-divinity that is formed once a nascent soul is created.’

‘I see, so I can gain insight into the Dao if I absorb souls... I'm sure I've absorbed some souls that were on that level though, don't remember gaining any knowledge. Wait, or was that because of my soul core?’

‘Affirmative.’

It was a strange sight for the people around Zhang Dong. A young prodigy appeared and was instantly forced down to his knees. Even now he was getting surrounded by a strange purple haze and getting crushed. The person performing this task though had his eyes pointing up as if he was thinking about something.

‘So, now after my soul core had formed into that seed thing, I might be able to absorb Dao's via soul divinities?’

This wasn't something that he was inclined to do. It wasn't different then what the demonic cultivators were going through. If a soul of a person was destroyed then they could not be brought back or

reincarnated. But he wasn't sure if that was even possible or not just some kind of legend. While souls and ghosts existed, there was no way of telling if something like an afterlife was there.

'Even if you reincarnate, if your memories get erased, are you even the same person... I guess this isn't the time to worry about things like that...'

He was undecided about absorbing people's souls to gain their powers but this was not the place for it. What he needed to do was find Wang Long or clues to his whereabouts. This could also be a dead end and his opponent could have already escaped somewhere else.

The initial trace was the Chaotic Demon that recently appeared and apparently turned the whole demonic island around. During his stay in the tavern, he continued to ask about this person and was told many stories. For some reason, they were mostly positive but he knew how to read between the lines. It was clear that they feared this cultivator, perhaps his influence was even strong here.

"Fine, you may have your pitiful life, now don't waste my time anymore."

"Thank you, my lord, for sparing this one's life."

The young man started bowing while showing a fake smile. Animosity was oozing from his whole being as Zhang Dong could see through that fake smile. It wouldn't be strange if he wasn't led into a trap now. Yet he wasn't worried, the people in this city would not be capable of holding him or killing him. Perhaps if multiple of their best masters ganged together they could have a chance.

'Was I always this cocky?'

Zhang Dong moved his hands behind his back and started floating a few centimeters off the ground. While following after the young man he continued to look around. Even though he was strong, there was always a chance of something going wrong. After the string of easy victories, he had been becoming a bit more confident in solving all of his issues. If he could only get to Wang Long before he became more powerful, then all of this could be over.

"We welcome the great senior!"

'So this is the entrance to their sect?'

At first, he was confused that the area was this small but after getting closer he noticed the folded space. The inside of the large tower would be much bigger than he initially assumed. Only at this range was he able to decode the various layers of formations and this place had a plethora of them.

'Is their master a formation master or something? Though he would be more of a hothead like Qiang. Usually, the Dao corresponds to how they act.'

There were certain truths in the world and this corresponded to Daos. Some personality traits were attributed to a person's mind Dao, fire for instance was usually studied by cultivators that had fiery characteristics. The wind was mostly studied by people that liked to travel a lot and the water Dao to the calm and collected.

Yet there were also exceptions, it was possible to get proficient in a Dao that a person wasn't suited for. This could be achieved with the help of treasures and magical items. This was a demonic cultivator, he could have unearthed some kind of high-level mantra that used flame energy for cultivation.

While he would struggle to go against his nature with a help of a powerful technique or item it was possible to go above the inborn limits. This was similar to how Zhang Dong's disciples had shifted their Dao towards lightning due to his involvement.

"Hm..."

"Please Senior, come in, our sect welcomes you with open hands, we have a special place prepared."

He didn't like how this place looked, there were many slaughtering and illusionary formations everywhere. If he wasn't a formation master himself he would have probably declined out of fear. If someone without proper knowledge entered this place they could find themselves trapped even if they were nascent soul masters.

"Good, lead the way."

'It shouldn't be a problem but I'm not sure that they want me here. Are they part of this new upstart faction and are testing me?'

There was a possibility of his getting attacked or poisoned after arriving at his destination. His spiritual sense was spreading everywhere but even he was having trouble getting through all the various defensive formations. It seemed that the demonic cultivators were a notch above the orthodox ones when it came to formations.

'Well then, what do you have in store for me here...'

Finally, he strode toward his destination, with some luck he could get his information and remove himself from the city...