

Worth 481

Chapter 481: Sweetheart

The Diamond Ape was bored during the period of time Wang Baole was away. The disciples were fearful and respectful of it, but that was no fun, which made it miss Wang Baole even more.

Most importantly, the puppets that belonged to it had already been broken from its toying. It had been a long time since it received new puppets, and that made his longing for Wang Baole even stronger.

Therefore, when it smelled Wang Baole's scent, the Diamond Ape was exhilarated and agitated. It roared while it sped towards Wang Baole, its cultivation level having reached mid-stage Foundation Establishment realm.

Wang Baole laughed heartily as he quickly arrived beside the Diamond Ape. Despite being smaller, his aura was far stronger than that of the Diamond Ape. However, Wang Baole had toned down the strength of his aura, and as he neared and leaped into the air, he landed on the Diamond Ape's shoulders, patting it amiably.

The Diamond Ape was so happy that it sneezed several times. It hit its chest with its fists loudly, before looking at Wang Baole dazedly.

"Understood!" Wang Baole laughed, raising his right arm before waving it. Instantly, three puppets fell out of his storage bag. The moment the three puppets appeared, the Diamond Ape was filled with agitation as it roared with excitement, hugging the three puppets tight. When it looked at Wang Baole, its gaze was even more loving than when it saw its owner.

After catching up with the Diamond Ape, Wang Baole was about to leave when the Diamond Ape suddenly smelled Wang Baole's scent and revealed a look of suspicion. Others may not understand what it was thinking about, but Wang Baole was someone who had studied the Diamond Ape. After thinking about it briefly, he instantly understood. He lowered his head and took out a beast carrier. He emptied it, and the donkey rolled out from it.

Since returning to Earth, Wang Baole had kept the donkey in the beast carrier. After all, his parents were around, and Wang Baole was worried since the donkey was rude. He would have forgotten about the donkey had the Diamond Ape not smelled the unusual scent.

The Diamond Ape stared with its eyes wide open at the donkey, snarling. The donkey, who was sleeping, opened its eyes after falling to the ground, somewhat confused. After noticing the Diamond Ape before it, it blinked and called out.

"Son!"

"Roar!"

The reply to the donkey was a roar from the Diamond Ape. However, very soon, the donkey and the ape seemed to have established a conversation through their roars, and they both seemed to like each other.

Seeing what was happening before his eyes, Wang Baole was surprised. He had wanted to continue watching on, but the delightful voice from Bunny arrived through his voice transmission ring.

“Brother Baole, where are you? I’m free now.”

Wang Baole’s eyes lit up when he heard Zhou Xiaoya’s voice, and he didn’t want to bother with the donkey anymore. However, before he left, he warned the donkey that it wasn’t to eat anything. After that, he didn’t bother with it. He held the voice transmission ring and sent a reply to Zhou Xiaoya, then charged towards the Alchemy Pavilion!

With Wang Baole’s departure, the donkey grew visibly more energetic. After exchanging roars with the Diamond Ape, the duo seemed to have communicated between themselves in some manner, and they left together with the three puppets...

Noticing what had just happened, the disciples beside them were bewildered as to why the Diamond Ape and the donkey were looking so excited and impatient...

Wang Baole’s gaze when he saw Bunny was different from last time, especially after being amazed by Li Wan’er. Right now, at the foot of the hill in the alchemy pavilion, surrounded by the medicinal plants, the back view that appeared before his eyes was pure and beautiful.

Looking from a distance, the lady’s beautiful face was facing a bouquet of flowers. She had a slim and slender figure, long hair that was tied together by a pink-colored string, and her side view was delicate and perfect.

The white skirt she was wearing shimmered in the afternoon sun, its beauty accentuated by the surrounding medicinal flowers. Complemented by a medicinal fog that was unique to the Alchemy Pavilion, one could feel a sense of haziness.

After hearing Wang Baole’s movements in the wind, which signified his arrival, the lady quickly turned around, revealing a beautiful face that carried a delightful smile. Perhaps it was due to her being in seclusion for the past few years, but her skin was glowing white like snow. The lady was young and incomparably beautiful.

It was Zhou Xiaoya!

“Wow, you’ve grown up, Bunny.” Wang Baole’s eyes lit up. After all, it had been years since they met. Zhou Xiaoya, who had now grown up, looked even cuter and prettier than before. That made Wang Baole fall head over heels as he cleared his throat and teased her.

Listening to Wang Baole’s teasing, Zhou Xiaoya shyly kicked her feet.

“Brother Baole, you’re making fun of me again!”

Despite saying so, Zhou Xiaoya felt blissful. When she looked at Wang Baole, she was filled with happiness. In her simple life, Wang Baole was the first person of similar age and of the opposite sex that had entered her life. He was also the most capable person of the same age as her that she had ever seen. She had seen Wang Baole create a name for himself on the Lower Academy Island and rise through the ranks on the Upper Academy Island.

Even in seclusion, she would occasionally take breaks to keep up with what was happening outside.

Wang Baole's name had become well known through the various incidents that had happened throughout the years. Watching the person she had given her heart to making his way to glory, it made Zhou Xiaoya, who was already filled with love towards Wang Baole, admire him even more.

It could be said that Zhou Xiaoya was a pure and innocent person. She was vastly different than the boisterous Li Wan'er, and Zhao Yameng, who was an extraordinary fairy-like being. Zhou Xiaoya didn't have lofty ambitions and was like the girl-next-door. Now, looking at the person she admired but hadn't seen for a long time, her smile was pure, and her laughter similar to a bell—filled with genuine happiness that anyone could sense.

Wang Baole was extremely relaxed looking at Bunny. It was as if he had returned to childhood times, with him bringing Zhou Xiaoya around the Dao College, passing through the days, crossing the galaxies, witnessing the sunrise, and leaving their footsteps on the hills and valleys.

To Zhou Xiaoya, simply holding Wang Baole's hand was enough to make her heart palpitate and her face blush. She lowered her head, too shy to look at him. At the same time, happiness filled her entire being.

She loved listening to Wang Baole talk about his experiences on Mars and the moon. Sometimes, she would gasp in genuine surprise. She listened intently to every word Wang Baole said and was completely immersed in his stories.

Her pureness created ripples in Wang Baole's heart that reverberated, making time appear to slow. He didn't know how the future would play out, but right now, it was bliss spending time with Bunny.

As they immersed in each other's company during those few days, they met many other people they were familiar with, such as the Pavilion Head of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion, and the Foundation Establishment realm cultivator that Wang Baole disliked for finding trouble with him. When that Foundation Establishment realm cultivator saw Wang Baole, he was extremely uneasy, greeting him from a great distance.

Wang Baole had never cared about that ex-Pavilion Head, and would naturally not bother with him now. He merely smiled and nodded his head, as if to erase all the unhappiness between them. When he left, the Pavilion Head looked at Wang Baole and Zhou Xiaoya, a torrent of emotions in his heart as he bowed deeply towards Wang Baole while looking at his back.

Other than that, Wang Baole brought Zhou Xiaoya along as they visited Chen Yutong, who had just returned from a mission. He had chosen to stay in the sect back then and was now the Elder of the Dharmic Armament Pavilion. His cultivation level had reached the peak of mid-stage Foundation Establishment realm, being just a step away from advancing to late-stage Foundation Establishment realm. Upon seeing Wang Baole, he was excited.

The duo caught up in his cave abode, with Bunny brewing tea for the two brothers. She occasionally rested her chin on her hands, looking at Wang Baole with dewy eyes, her heart filled with happiness that could be seen through her eyes. It was as if her eyes had turned into crescents, making her look extremely adorable.

When the duo reminisced about what had brought them together, Xie Haiyang came to mind!

“Xie Haiyang of the Lower Academy Island... Until now, I still haven’t figured out which high official he is close to in the Dao College, such that he could accomplish anything and everything in Ethereal Dao College...” Speaking of Xie Haiyang, even Chen Yutong laughed heartily.

“He is a businessman. Is he still in the Dao College?” The image of Xie Haiyang surfaced in Wang Baole’s mind as he recalled the first transaction between them.

“He’s no longer there. He graduated in the second year after you left for the moon. I only recognized his talent after becoming an Elder myself, and I had put in effort to locate him. However, he seemed to have vanished from the surface of Earth without a trace.”

Chapter 482: Major Event in the Ethereal Dao College

After catching up with Chen Yutong, the image of Xie Haiyang surfaced in Wang Baole’s mind. He looked at Ethereal Dao College emotionally. He understood that it was normal for new students to enter and senior students to leave Ethereal Dao College every year.

Every generation and every year was like a large wave washing the sand away. On the one hand, it was a process to provide cultivators to the Federation in the era of immortal cultivation, and on the other hand, it was a process of accumulation to gather large numbers of outstanding disciples for the Dao College. This was the tradition of the four great Dao Colleges, and this format had persisted in the four great Dao Colleges since the beginning of cultivation civilization on Earth. If it could withstand the test of time, it would definitely last until the future.

After all, this was a different format from that adopted by the sects. They each had advantages and disadvantages, but with the changing times—despite the possibility of the format adopted by the sects and the family clans surviving elimination—Wang Baole felt that the future Federation would definitely belong to the four great Dao Colleges.

There were endless conflicts within the four great Dao Colleges, but through the years, Wang Baole had already understood that the management of the four great Dao Colleges shared a uniform and determined stand.

This was the basis for the foundation for the four great Dao Colleges in this era of immortal cultivation!

That was especially so as Grand Supreme Elder Li Xingwen was about to achieve a breakthrough. To the four great Dao Colleges, that was a significant event. Even though it was inevitable that the Ethereal Dao College would rise again, to the four great Dao Colleges, having a Nascent Soul realm cultivator was still something that excited them.

Therefore, one week later, after Ethereal Dao College had sent out the invitation to the Federation, spectators from the three other Dao Colleges soon arrived in droves.

White Deer Dao College, White Deer Branch College, and Holy River Dao College... The Sect Lords and Grand Elders from these three great Dao Colleges arrived. Even the Grand Supreme Elders of each college made their way there.

At the same time, outstanding disciples from each Dao College arrived with them. According to the records on the fragments, whenever a Core Formation realm cultivator breaks through to become a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, it would result in the accumulation of Heaven and Earth power, and that would allow the disciples to train their physiques in a short period of time.

As for the factions that didn't belong to the four great Dao Colleges, they couldn't participate without the invitation from the Ethereal Dao College, despite their desire to join in. However, even the three other great Dao Colleges were unable to spectate in the same location as the Ethereal Dao College and had to go according to the arrangements of the Ethereal Dao College. The innermost region of the Upper Academy Island could only be occupied by the Ethereal Dao College disciples, as well as the Sect Lords and Grand Supreme Elders from the other three great Dao Colleges.

As for the disciples, they could only stay on the deck outside the island that was constructed by the Ethereal Dao College.

The arrival of the other three great Dao Colleges also signaled the end of the carefree days that were shared between Wang Baole and Bunny. He was called over by the Sect Lord of Ethereal Dao College, together with other senior brothers and sisters from the same batch and status as him, in order to welcome the guests from the other three great Dao Colleges.

Those who were worthy of being called over by the Sect Lord had cultivation levels that were at least at perfected Foundation Establishment realm, and most of them were ranked above Secondary Rank Three. In the Federation's system, everyone was an elite, and they knew each other. Despite not seeing Wang Baole before, they had heard about him and were extremely passionate towards him the moment they met.

Wang Baole's extroverted personality made him thrive at making friends. He was good at handling interpersonal relationships, and by simply exchanging a few sentences, he became close to the people in his batch.

Despite being a Secondary Rank Two Noble, Wang Baole wasn't the highest-ranking disciple of Ethereal Dao College. There was another person who was also a Secondary Rank Two Noble, and one other person who was one rank higher in Noble.

The former was a senior sister, and the latter was a senior brother.

The Secondary Rank Two senior sister seemed to be in the early-stage Core Formation realm, and she wasn't far from reaching the mid-stage Core Formation realm. She wasn't stationed on Earth, and was instead the Deputy City Lord of the Venus Colonial City!

She looked to be about thirty years old, and despite her looks being nothing out of the ordinary, her elegance was transformed when she smiled. She made others feel that she was friendly and approachable. After seeing Wang Baole, this senior sister, who was named Lin Yunhui, smiled at him.

"Junior Brother Baole, if you have the chance, come visit Venus. In the purgatory of Venus, there is still an old friend of yours from the time you spent in the Mystic Luna Realm."

Hearing those words, Wang Baole immediately thought of the old lady from the Galactic Dusk Sect. She was sent there after being captured by the Grand Supreme Elder.

As the memories surfaced in his mind, Wang Baole laughed and agreed. He set a time with Senior Sister Lin before being pulled away by the only Primary Rank Two senior brother in the crowd.

That senior brother was Sun Buzheng!

His name was so unique that it immediately left a deep impression on Wang Baole. This senior brother named Buzheng wasn't only the highest-ranking person amongst the disciples of the Ethereal Dao College, but also held a unique position!

He was in charge of the intelligence unit of the Federation. Wang Baole came to know about a unit amongst the other ministries in the Federation, known as the Dark Ministry, only after becoming Secondary Rank Two Noble!

The word 'Dark' was unrelated to the Dark Sect. Instead, the headquarters of this ministry was located on Pluto ¹, and their activities were always hidden from public view, which gave rise to their name.

Sun Buzheng was the Minister of the Dark Ministry, and the amount of resources and power that he held were shockingly great. His cultivation was that of a late-stage Core Formation realm cultivator!

Wang Baole was polite towards this immensely authoritative Sun Buzheng. At the same time, he was extremely curious about his department. Sun Buzheng was also very interested in Wang Baole. After pulling him away, he smiled and spoke.

"Junior Brother Baole, do you want to consider changing your position and come to Pluto? If you agree, you would become the first Deputy Minister of the Dark Ministry, and I would handle all matters of the transfer!

"The welfare in the Dark Ministry is good. Besides, if you come, you'll have access to the intelligence of the entire Federation. At the same time, this department of ours is involved in missions related to connecting with extraterrestrial civilizations... Whatever the case, I guarantee that if you came, you would be able to see the Federation and the Galactic in a new light!"

Despite being interested in the Dark Ministry, Wang Baole had no plans to leave Mars. Of course, if he hadn't gained possession of the Mars Dark Artifact, he would perhaps be tempted. However, right now, he was worried that if he did go and leave the Dark Artifact behind, accidents might happen in the future. Therefore, he could only reject the offer with a smile.

Sun Buzheng wasn't anxious either. He patted Wang Baole's shoulders, telling him that he could contact him anytime if he changed his mind. After that, under the lead of the Ethereal Dao College Sect Lord, everyone began welcoming the three other great Dao Colleges.

The outstanding disciples and the Sect Lords from the three great Dao Colleges were also acquainted with each other. Wang Baole's name was also famous amongst them, and soon, hearty conversations were taking place between the outstanding group of disciples from the four great Dao Colleges.

After almost everyone from the other three great Dao Colleges arrived. Due to the inability to estimate the exact time that Li Xingwen would achieve a breakthrough, the Ethereal Dao College had made arrangements ahead of time to gather all disciples and students to first gather inside Upper Academy Island and meditate cross-legged while waiting in silence. As for the members of the other three Dao Colleges, they were seated outside.

Looking from the sky above, one could see that tens of thousands of people were gathered both inside and outside the Upper Academy Island of the Ethereal Dao College. It was a sight to behold as everyone waited for the moment when Li Xingwen would achieve his breakthrough!

Li Xingwen didn't take long to achieve a breakthrough. In the morning three days later, as the sound of the alarm was heard in all directions and reverberated throughout the Ethereal Dao College, a groundbreaking force was produced from within the Dao Enlightenment Pavilion Mountain on the Upper Academy Island!

As the force was unleashed, a beam of light that seemed to be produced from an accumulation of Spirit Qi instantly shot into the skies from within the mountain. It went straight through the cloud layers, resulting in the production of lightning flashes in the sky. As thunder erupted in waves, the clouds seemed to be ruffled by an invisible hand, spreading in all directions and forming a gigantic spherical Qi wave.

It spread in all directions, harnessing an astonishing force that was growing increasingly louder. It slowly formed a vortex in the clouds which spun rapidly, and a frightening suction force erupted from within, causing all the Spirit Qi on Earth to be drawn towards it!

At the same time, the people in each of the cities on Earth noticed the clouds in the skies moving at high speeds. At the same time, gusts of strong winds were moving along with the clouds, together with the Spirit Qi that they carried!

If a Core Formation realm cultivator were to break through and become a Nascent Soul realm cultivator in an immortal cultivation civilization where Spirit Qi was concentrated and mature, these effects wouldn't be produced. However, on Earth, Spirit Qi was brought along by the sky, which resulted in this shocking scene during Li Xingwen's breakthrough.

Chapter 483: Leveraging on the Opportunity!

The vortex that gathered in mid-air above the Ethereal Dao College lasted for two hours, growing bigger as time went by. At the same time, a black hole sucked in all the Spirit Qi that had been dispersed in all directions, making all the spectators excited. They felt the indescribably concentrated Spirit Qi surrounding them.

The Spirit Qi was almost turning into a liquid state, resulting in a form of rain that landed both inside and outside the Ethereal Dao College. All the disciples were training at high speeds, and that was the case for the spectators outside the island as well. Even though it was incomparable to training inside the island, this was still a valuable chance to them.

At the same time, in the capital city of the Federation, Duan Muque was standing before the window of the President's Office, looking in the direction of Ethereal Dao College. In his eyes, clouds were still rolling by in the sky, but according to his senses, the aura belonging to Li Xingwen was being unleashed continuously in Ethereal Dao College—it was growing stronger by the moment. It had already exceeded that of the Core Formation realm, and to a certain degree, Li Xingwen was already a Nascent Soul realm cultivator right now!

However, he was different from an ordinary Nascent Soul realm cultivator. As a new generation Nascent Soul realm cultivator, it was extremely difficult for him to achieve a breakthrough. It could even be said that with Li Xingwen's astonishing qualities, the cultivation he possessed now would put him in a position that far exceeded that of a Nascent Soul realm cultivator if he were in other mature immortal civilizations.

In the Federation, there were fewer resources, less Spirit Qi, and weaker Stellar Sources, all of which limited his growth. However, that wasn't without its own advantages. The moment he achieved a breakthrough to become a Nascent Soul realm cultivator in that restrictive environment, he was naturally more powerful than the other new Nascent Soul realm cultivators in the other civilizations.

Right now, despite already reaching the Nascent Soul realm, he was still absorbing Spirit Qi in order to strengthen his physique, as well as to allow the disciples from the four great Dao Colleges to have more Spirit Qi to absorb!

As Federation President, Duan Muque didn't approve of such a move. That was because the Spirit Qi on Earth originated from the fragments. Even though it seemed limitless, it was finite in reality. Unless a method of replacing Spirit Qi could be found before the limit was reached, the immortal cultivation of the Federation would be ephemeral.

He was unable to accept that and therefore didn't approve of this forced absorption of Spirit Qi in order to nourish the cultivation of the later generation. However, he understood Li Xingwen as a person, as he, Duan Muque, was the current Federation President.

Therefore, after a period of silence, Duan Muque took a deep breath and retracted his gaze from the sky. He looked in the north-west direction before slowly closing his eyes, deep in thought.

In the direction Duan Muque was looking, there was a mountain range located a great distance away from the capital city. Within the mountain range was a pavilion, where a silver-haired elder sat with his legs crossed.

The elder, Feng Daogu, was dressed in a Daoist robe. The aura given off from his body far exceeded that of the Core Formation realm and was that of the Nascent Soul realm. This person was the Nascent Soul realm elite highlighted in Duan Muque's announcement, the one that had been filmed going to kill the three extraterrestrial cultivators in the video recording!

Right now, he was also looking in the direction of the Ethereal Dao College and at the clouds in the sky. He was staring in the direction of the aura that he sensed was rising up at high speeds, and he felt emotional and comforted.

"I hope that the wishes of Elder Feng could be fulfilled in this new era of immortal cultivation..." As he mumbled, the elder shut his eyes.

At the same time, Li Xingwen's advancement had reached a crucial juncture. As the Spirit Qi was accumulated amidst the loud booms, and as his breakthrough was continually achieved, all the disciples on the Upper Academy Island were shocked—their bodies trembling. The Spirit Qi here was simply so concentrated that they didn't even need to take the initiative to absorb it, as it would simply enter and flow throughout their bodies through their sweat pores!

Right now, Wang Baole was trembling vigorously. His facial expressions were changing rapidly, and a vortex seemed to have been formed where he was, sucking in all the accumulated Spirit Qi towards his body.

If he were to cultivate the Lightning Dao: Second Volume, Wang Baole would raise his cultivation level. However, after a moment of silence, Wang Baole didn't choose the Lightning Dao: Second Volume. Instead, after realizing that the entry of the Spirit Qi into his body could increase his cultivation level and also train his physique, a look of surprise appeared in his eyes.

Right now, I possess the Dark Core as well as the Lightning Core. My combat capabilities are on the level of a mid-stage Core Formation realm cultivator. However, when unleashed, my body, which was originally able to withstand this force, seems to be unaccustomed to it...

Therefore, perhaps what is most important to me right now isn't the cultivation technique required for the Core Formation realm. Instead, it's more important to increase my physical strength! Wang Baole took a deep breath and shut his eyes, looking at the green lotus inside his body. After seeing the lotus seed head that encompassed the Dark Core and the Lightning Core, his gaze fell on the main lotus seed head of the green lotus.

After obtaining the green lotus, he felt that it didn't significantly help in raising his cultivation level, but it did have a great impact on his physical body. Furthermore, in the Dark Sect ancient literature in his Dark Dream, Wang Baole didn't come across information regarding the green lotus, but he did see something about training his body.

However, all the cultivation techniques required Dark Qi, and at the same time, they could only be unleashed in the Spirit Immortal realm. Despite that, it gave Wang Baole a direction to proceed in. Therefore, right now, a thought popped up in Wang Baole's mind.

Perhaps I could make use of the Spirit Qi that the Grand Supreme Elder has gathered here to allow my body to form a core! With that thought, Wang Baole grew determined. Without hesitation, he sealed his hands, immediately directing all the Spirit Qi that had been absorbed into his body towards the main lotus seed head!

As the Spirit Qi entered, the main lotus seed head vibrated briefly before a green glow emerged from within. This glow seemed to be able to pass through his internal organs and his flesh, causing Wang Baole to turn green.

As the green glow shone, his bones regenerated, and his flesh and blood grew. His internal organs also seemed to be boosted, which resulted in his heartbeat becoming louder and stronger, eventually being thunder-like as it arrived in Wang Baole's ears!

My physical strength is increasing! Wang Baole was exhilarated, and he decided to activate the devouring seed in his body. Instantly, the surrounding Spirit Qi was being sucked towards him. Very soon, the people around him realized what was happening and immediately dispersed, resulting in him being the only one who remained. Outside his body, a bigger vortex appeared. As loud booms sounded, the Sect Lords and others from the other three great Dao Colleges all noticed the anomaly with Wang Baole and shot him concerned looks.

However, Wang Baole didn't care about that. He was now immersed in strengthening his body, and a cycle had already formed inside his body.

Absorb the Spirit Qi, integrate it into the green lotus, release the green glow, and strengthen his body!

As the cycle proceeded, the green lotus in his body shook vigorously, and it even began to grow gradually!

The more it grew, the more the green glow that emerged had an increasing effect on strengthening his body. Amidst Wang Baole's agitation, a sense of comfort that was different from when he was training his cultivation techniques could be felt outside his body. It was as if there were countless small hands touching him all over his body, which made even his skin glow green. In the end, Wang Baole, who was sitting there with his legs crossed, had become green throughout!

The sound of his heartbeat even spread out of his body in all directions, resulting in echoes being produced!

This pounding sound made the Sect Lord of the Ethereal Dao College, as well as those from the other Dao Colleges, surprised. The Sect Lord from the Holy River Dao College even gasped in shock.

"His heartbeat sounds like thunder. I have read a tattered piece of record previously that mentions that this is a realm that belonged to someone who trained his physique in the Ancient Sword Civilization. That realm was known as the Heart Core Realm, and is similar to a Core Formation realm cultivator!

"Even though the cultivation technique wasn't outlined in the incomplete record, its description mentioned that this Heart Core literally means transforming one's heart into a core. When the sound of one's heartbeat becomes extremely strong, it becomes like a pill. If it jumps around a plate without forming an echo, it means that one has succeeded in entering the Heart Core Realm!"

As the Holy River Dao College Sect Lord spoke hurriedly, the other Sect Lords looked towards him. Even the Grand Supreme Elders from the three great Dao Colleges sensed something unusual, and as they turned to look...

A loud boom reverberated between the heavens and earth. A force that far exceeded the Core Formation realm, one that truly belonged to a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, was instantly unleashed in the mountain where Li Xingwen was in seclusion. As it was unleashed, the winds and clouds churned in the skies, forming a small human image. That image was of Li Xingwen standing in mid-air, looking in all directions. As he laughed, everyone was agitated as they greeted him. The small human returned the greeting, and his gaze suddenly landed on Wang Baole with a look of surprise.

"Interesting!" The small human image smiled. He sealed his hands and pointed to Wang Baole. Instantly, Wang Baole's body vibrated, the Spirit Qi around him becoming even more astonishingly strong as it surged into his body!

A cracking sound was produced instantly from his body, and the sound of his heartbeat transformed quickly at this moment. It originally produced echoes, but right now, the echoes all but disappeared. Listening to it, it was no longer like a heartbeat, and was more like a pill that had dropped onto a plate!

After this, Li Xingwen's Nascent Soul laughed heartily for a long time, before transforming into a purple glow that charged towards the mountains below!

The next moment, the mountains started vibrating vigorously, and a loud crack was produced. Li Xingwen, after becoming a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, emerged from within!

His appearance caused all the cultivators inside and outside the Upper Academy Island to hold their breaths. Other than Wang Baole's obliviousness towards everything, everyone else greeted Li Xingwen with a deep bow.

"Congratulations on becoming a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, Grand Supreme Elder!"

"Congratulations on becoming a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, Senior Li!"

"Congratulations on becoming a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, Fellow Daoist Li!"

Chapter 484: Fatty, Give Me a Punch!

Everyone was celebrating Li Xingwen's advancement to the Nascent Soul realm. The Federation President gave him a congratulatory call, and so did the various factions that had their attention on this big event!

At this moment, regardless of whether it was the Senate, the Galactic Dusk Sect, the Five Generation Sky Clan, or the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect, they all realized that the four great Dao Colleges would never be the same again!

The four great Dao Colleges were already a formidable force even before this, and that was accentuated by their close ties with the Federation. However, as they were segregated into four different sections, it made others feel that they were untouchable.

However, right now, with Li Xingwen achieving a breakthrough, everything had changed. In the foreseeable future, the Ethereal Dao College would be the strongest force amongst the four great Dao Colleges, unless Duan Muque also achieved a breakthrough!

Even if Duan Muque achieved a breakthrough, the Ethereal Dao College's position had already far exceeded that of previous times, making them on par with the White Deer Dao College. This major event would also lead to a chain effect. For example, the disciples of the Ethereal Dao College would be able to be looked upon more seriously in society, and the other factions wouldn't provoke them without reason.

In the case of Wang Baole, had Li Xingwen achieved a breakthrough earlier, the troubles that he had faced as a City Lord would never have happened in the first place.

After all, right now, Li Xingwen was the most elite individual amongst all the cultivators in the Federation on Earth!

His personality, one that characteristically sheltered the shortcomings of people close to him, was well known amongst the various factions. Therefore, his advancement forced the other factions to be more down to earth. At the same time, the mainstream media channels of the Federation were all reporting the news with fervor. Of course, to the public, Li Xingwen wasn't the first Nascent Soul realm cultivator, but that was unimportant.

At the same time, Li Xingwen, who had just advanced to the Nascent Soul realm, sent out invitations to all the factions, inviting them to a grand banquet to be held at the Ethereal Dao College.

The banquet would gather all the elites of the Federation and was exceptionally high profile. Others may not do this, but Li Xingwen was different; his aim was to be high profile and create awe in order to send out a clear message to all the factions that he had become a Nascent Soul realm cultivator. They weren't to provoke him, his Ethereal Dao College, or the four great Dao Colleges!

Therefore, during the banquet, Li Xingwen didn't bother to converge his Nascent Soul realm aura and unleashed it at full force. It was such that all those who attended appeared respectful on the surface but were laughing bitterly in their hearts, cursing under their breaths with feelings of extreme helplessness.

However, from the start until the end of the banquet, Wang Baole didn't appear at all. He was still meditating, and Li Xingwen even personally put a protective covering in place in the area he was in so that others wouldn't disturb him.

The banquet came and went, and the visitors from the other three great Dao Colleges, as well as those from the other factions, took their leave. Seven days passed, and Wang Baole, who was meditating with crossed legs, finally opened his eyes.

The moment he opened his eyes, he instantly felt that the world before him was no longer the same. It seemed as though the colors had become more vibrant and that everything had become even more crystal clear. He could hear the sound of the wind and the sound of grass emerging from the ground. He could sense the path of the fish swimming underwater, and he could even hear the heartbeat of all the disciples in the Dao College, as well as the sound of their blood flowing!

It was all indescribably pleasant. Wang Baole was dazed, taking a moment to snap back to reality. Looking internally, he saw that inside the main lotus seed head of his green lotus—a new green core had appeared!

Success! Wang Baole was excited. In his exhilaration, he seemed to have sensed someone approaching, and he quickly turned around. He saw Li Xingwen standing behind him, who had appeared without him knowing.

Culminating the Heart Core could allow Spiritual Sense to surface? Li Xingwen seemed very surprised that Wang Baole could sense his presence, and therefore took several more glances at him.

Seeing that the Grand Supreme Elder had paid him a visit, Wang Baole hurriedly stood up and greeted him with cupped fists. At the same time, he sensed the aura emanating from the Grand Supreme Elder's body. He understood that it was no longer that of a Core Formation realm cultivator but was something extremely profound. It even gave him a feeling that it was superior to that of the square-faced and horse-faced extraterrestrial cultivators. Vaguely, it was similar to that of the extraterrestrial leader with the centipede on his face.

This surprised Wang Baole. He knew well that Li Xingwen had just advanced, and the fact that he could reach this level in such a short time meant that Li Xingwen was extremely formidable.

Old weirdo... Wang Baole mumbled in his heart with envy. However, what he didn't know was that Li Xingwen mumbled the same thing in his heart as well.

*He's a young weirdo. He's merely in the early-stage of the Core Formation realm, but he already possesses the Lightning Core, and his body contains the Heart Core. At the same time, there's a unique aura being given off by him. What's more, Spiritual Sense is spewing out of him. D*rn it, it was only when I became a Nascent Soul realm cultivator that I gained Spiritual Sense, but he already has some right now!* With a bizarre expression on his face, Li Xingwen spoke.

"Fatty, come give me a punch. I want to see how formidable the Heart Core is for myself."

"Heart Core?" Wang Baole was shocked.

"Are you stupid? The Heart Core is the thing you've been fiddling with. It's the equivalent to the Core Formation stage for your physique!" Li Xingwen stated, and Wang Baole instantly understood what he meant. Li Xingwen had made the request, and at the same time, he was also curious about his combat capabilities right now. Therefore, after taking a deep breath, Wang Baole unleashed the three cores in his body at the same time. A loud boom was produced, with flashes of lightning emerging and spreading. A chilly fire was also produced, and it was as if he was transformed into the god of combat as he punched Li Xingwen.

With that punch, the winds and clouds began churning, and a shocking, explosive force was instantly unleashed. However, when it neared Li Xingwen, it was suppressed simply by him raising his right index finger!

The loud boom grew even more deafeningly loud, as if a hurricane was sweeping between the two of them. Li Xingwen's hair was ruffled by the wind, and his shirt was flapping. He remained calm, without any changes in his facial expressions.

On the other hand, Wang Baole was trembling vigorously. All he could feel was a ricochet spreading throughout his body, making it extremely unbearable for all his internal organs. However, as the green lotus began shaking, a green glow appeared from his body, returning everything to normal.

Despite that, he was feeling extremely upset, as his punch was blocked by the Grand Supreme Elder with a simple gesture of pointing his index finger. He was disappointed, and after taking a few steps back, he sighed.

"That's all? I'll rate that as just passing. All right, you've been in the Dao College for too long, return to Mars." The Grand Supreme Elder lowered his hand and spoke arrogantly. He appeared as if he was giving Wang Baole unwilling recognition. He flailed his sleeves and turned to leave, leaving Wang Baole behind, upset and sighing about how weak he was.

However, when he reached an area where no one was around, the calm expression on Li Xingwen's face instantly changed. His internal organs were all squeezed together, and he wrapped his finger while gritting his teeth. He rubbed it for most of the day, and at the same time, the sleeves on his shirt had instantly turned to dust. Even the long robe he was wearing became torn and tattered.

This weirdo is too powerful. He's just in the early stage of the Core Formation realm, but he almost broke my finger with a single punch... Li Xingwen took a deep breath. Even though he knew that this had happened because he didn't unleash his spells, he was a Nascent Soul realm cultivator, and he was unbeatable by Core Formation realm cultivators who didn't have other trump cards. If a Core Formation

realm cultivator were to take someone at the Nascent Soul realm on with just their cultivation as a weapon, they wouldn't even hurt the Nascent Soul realm cultivator one bit.

However, for Wang Baole, he had managed to injure someone at the Nascent Soul realm based on the physical force of his body alone. This made Li Xingwen extremely astonished.

The Heart Core is powerful, but the fact that he could achieve this means that the aura hidden within his body also plays a big role... This aura... Ah, this is a fella not to be belittled. The things that the various factions of the Federation desire... If they were taken away, trouble would result! Li Xingwen rubbed his glabella, mumbling under his breath as a look of determination appeared on his face.

Perhaps I'm over-thinking things. It must be because he was exposed to a little bit of it after spending time on Mars... Li Xingwen shook his head. However, knowing how capable the disciple from his Dao College was, he was still happy. After checking that there was no one around him with his Spiritual Sense, he turned and changed into an identical Daoist robe before taking his leave.

As for Wang Baole, he was now sighing, deep in thought about how weak he was. Therefore, his desire to restore the Dark Artifact on Mars intensified. He thought about how he could become the most formidable person if he could bring the Dark Artifact out.

With that thought, Wang Baole began to worry about his prolonged absence from Mars. He was worried about leaving the Dark Artifact there. After all, there were too many elites in the Federation who had their eyes on that treasure. Wang Baole didn't dare tell everyone that he was the owner of the Dark Artifact. Therefore, the desire to return intensified.

Therefore, he hurriedly informed the Sect Lord of his departure. At the same time, he bid farewell to Bunny. After seeing that Bunny had returned to her area for seclusion, Wang Baole took a deep breath. He found the donkey lying lazily around the Diamond Ape, seemingly infatuated. At the same time, he also saw several broken puppets beside the two beasts, which made him dumbfounded.

Finally, he sighed helplessly, leaving the Ethereal Dao College while pulling the donkey's ear. After returning to Ethereal City, he caught up with his parents, boarding the cruiser from the capital city the next morning. With the protection afforded by the eight other cruisers sent to him, he traveled through the clouds and into the cosmos, heading towards Mars at high speed!

Chapter 485: The Vast Expanse Dao Palace!

While Wang Baole was on his journey back to Mars, the various media outlets of the Federation were still celebrating the breakthrough achieved by the Ethereal Dao College's Grand Supreme Elder, Li Xingwen. Everyone was in a celebratory mood, and laughter filled the entire Federation.

At the same time, few people knew that Duan Muque, the Federation President, chose to enter seclusion on the fourth day after Li Xingwen achieved a breakthrough. At the same time, protective covering was put in place over the entire capital city to prevent accidents from happening. On the other hand, even though Li Xingwen was physically in the Ethereal Dao College, he still paid attention to the capital city. If anything happened, he would go forth and ensure Duan Muque's safety at the first instant.

After all, if Duan Muque could achieve a breakthrough as well, it would mean that the Federation would officially enter the Nascent Soul era. At the same time, what was most important was that if both of them achieved a breakthrough one after another, it would mean that it was possible for others as well.

The others would include people like the Senators, the Martian Colony Governor, the Grand Supreme Elders of the three other great Dao Colleges, the Galactic Dusk Sect, the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect, and even the Five Generation Sky Clan!

In reality, Duan Muque could be considered the second generation. He was considered a senior that had emerged from Armageddon, having experienced major transformations in the heavens and earth, as well as the beast crisis like Li Xingwen. Regardless of their capabilities or mindset, they were considered first generation elites!

Someone like him shouldn't remain in the Core Formation realm!

There were also others who were like Duan Muque and also entered seclusion. They all desired to achieve a breakthrough in their cultivation and enter the Nascent Soul realm!

However, this was an extremely difficult step. Not only did they need time, but they also needed the right opportunity. Even though the cultivation era had begun, allowing any elite to meet with opportunities, the opportunities still differed in scale and impact.

However, matters like these weren't a concern for Wang Baole. Right now, his cruiser had arrived on Mars. He immediately returned to the Martian special regional city, and only heaved a sigh of relief when he vaguely established a connection with the Dark Artifact underground and ensured that nothing had gone wrong.

After that, he felt troubled again. The Dark Artifact was powerful, but it was too severely damaged. If he couldn't repair it and couldn't take it out, it would make Wang Baole feel as if someone had handed him an extremely handsome picture of the slimmed-down version of himself. He could see and sense it, but he simply couldn't lose the weight!

That made Wang Baole sigh continuously. In his absence, nothing major happened in the special regional city. Li Wan'er was still in seclusion, and Lin Tianhao and company all carried out their delegated duties to manage the various areas of the special regional city assigned to them. The others seemed to be excited by Li Xingwen achieving a breakthrough, and seeing that Wang Baole had achieved a breakthrough before their eyes, they also went into seclusion.

It appeared as if all the cultivators in the Federation had become motivated by Li Xingwen's breakthrough, resulting in a cultivation craze!

Therefore, Wang Baole, who had just returned to Mars, decided to cultivate his Dark Art as well. However, just as he was about to begin cultivation in his cave, and just as the Federation was in a celebratory mood with the cultivation craze running high, an announcement was suddenly made!

Mercury was to be rebuilt!

Mercury, having experienced crisis, had been turned into a wasteland. The entire planet had nearly withered, and having been dealt with tremendous amount of damage, all it had was gloom. Riding on the high emotions of everyone, the plan announced by the Federation garnered the support of many.

At the same time, this entire matter was like a signal that made the leaders of the various factions of the Federation shocked. Based on the information that they had access to, the issue of rebuilding Mercury involved a truth that ordinary citizens didn't know about!

"The teleportation array formation of Mercury... its official construction is about to commence." This was the first thought that surfaced in the minds of all the leaders of the factions the moment they came to know about the Federation's announcement to rebuild Mercury.

In reality, that was the truth. The day after the news was announced, Wang Baole immediately received a voice transmission from the Martian Colony Governor. In the voice transmission, the Martian Colony Governor passed him numerous blueprints, ordering him to produce all the parts listed on the blueprint in a stipulated time.

The resources that were needed to produce those parts would be provided by Mars!

That made Wang Baole surprised. He felt as if a storm was brewing, and after thinking about what the Grand Supreme Elder and Sect Lord had mentioned to him, and complementing it with the announcement to rebuild Mercury made by the Federation, Wang Baole made some guesses. He immediately called the Martian Colony Governor to address his queries.

The Martian Colony Governor remained silent as she thought about whether she was allowed to reveal the information. After a moment, she took a deep breath, and with the Great Martian Array Formation suddenly in full activation through some unknown method of hers, the voice transmission between them was made even more private. This prevented anyone from eavesdropping, and it was only then that she began to speak.

"You must have heard the Federation's announcement to rebuild Mercury. However, this is just what appears on the surface. The underlying goal of rebuilding Mercury is to build a huge teleportation array formation there!

"Actually, this teleportation array formation is already in the process of construction. However, many resources are still lacking, and the time isn't ripe yet. Therefore, progress is slow. That, coupled with the crisis they just experienced, what's left behind are tatters.

"However, the right time is arriving. This is why the Federation has picked up speed. They are planning to proceed with the construction of the teleportation array formation that could lead to the ancient greenish-bronze sword!

"Therefore, in reality, not just you, but all the Dharmic Armament cultivators of the Federation have been tasked to produce the parts. These parts would eventually be gathered together to form the teleportation array formation!"

Listening to the Martian Colony Governor's words, Wang Baole was somewhat bewildered. A million thoughts ran through his mind, and he suddenly spoke.

"A mission for the Federation Seedlings?"

"Some matters could be made known to you based on your authority level. However, the method of informing you is especially stringent, and it couldn't be directly told to you on Earth. Of course, this issue seems exaggerated, and perhaps somewhat petty, but no one is willing to risk it. After all, this doesn't

involve just one person, but the entire Federation, the entire civilization, and the livelihood of all humankind!" The Martian Colony Governor didn't give a direct answer. However, what she said explained why the Grand Supreme Elder and Sect Lord had been cryptic in their words while Wang Baole was in the Ethereal Dao College.

The more that was the case, the more bizarre Wang Baole's look was. He didn't say anything and instead waited for the Martian Colony Governor to give him the information.

Seemingly satisfied by how steady Wang Baole was in the face of such a major event, the Martian Colony Governor remained silent for a moment, and then she lowered her voice again as she spoke.

"Baole, what I'm about to tell you is a top secret that can only be released when ninety percent of the Secondary Rank One Nobles in the Federation agree..."

"Over forty years ago, a transformation occurred in the cosmos, and an immense ancient greenish-bronze sword entered the Solar System. Its suppressive force alone overturned the entire cosmos, and this sword eventually pierced the sun, revealing a small portion of its tip!

"The sword handle was shattered, and its pieces landed within the Solar System. That resulted in energy failure throughout the Federation since the Spirit Inception Era, and the immortal cultivation emerged... However, in reality, this ancient greenish-bronze sword originated from another cultivation civilization whose level of civilization far surpasses that of our own. This sword alone is only a sect of that civilization!

"In other words, it was an ark. They escaped from danger but met with an accident, which resulted in them landing within the Solar System!"

"There are still people living on the ancient sword, and their numbers are significant!" As the Martian Colony Governor reached this point in her revelation, Wang Baole's breathing quickened, but he wasn't too surprised. Instead, after taking a deep breath, he waited for the Martian Colony Governor to continue.

"According to our intelligence, the sect of the ancient greenish-bronze sword is known as the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!

"The Vast Expanse Dao Palace, having gone through that series of events, suffered some damage. It has also been segregated into three factions that are each under the leadership of three leaders with different ideologies!

"One faction is known as the Darkness Faction, and they insist on leaving this place and heading to the destination that they had set out for in their original plan. However, as the ancient sword has been severely damaged, their plan is to ravage the entire solar system for resources to repair the sword and achieve their goal!

"If they become the main authoritative body, a crisis would fall upon the Federation. You can imagine that all of the Stellar Source in the Solar System would be lost. That, coupled with all of the energy of the sun being taken away, would result in the entire solar system becoming a wasteland. As for us, the most likely outcome would be becoming slaves of this sect!"

Chapter 486: Secrets and History

Upon hearing that, Wang Baole lifted his head abruptly. In that instant, the image of the Dark Sect's complete destruction appeared in his mind. He didn't know how the Darkness Faction would treat Earth's population should they succeed in their endeavor, but to have their lives at the mercy of these people would be something that not only he, but the entire Federation wouldn't allow!

"However, the Darkness Faction holds relatively less power in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. The faction that has the final say is the second faction, what we call the Light Faction. Of course, this is just a name we've come up for it.

"The Light Faction's political ideology is different from the Darkness Faction. They believe that since their home planet has already been destroyed, then it doesn't matter whether they head towards their originally planned destination or remain in the Solar System. They seem to approve of the Solar System as well, and wish to settle down permanently in here... They wish for a greater assimilation with the Federation, with the goal of integrating the Federation as part of their own!"

"They wish to build and grow with us. This might seem idealistic on their part, but it's the best scenario for us, who is the weaker party in this picture! As for the third faction, there's no need to consider them. They are a neutral party, away in seclusion and cultivation. They can't be bothered with these political spats." Upon saying that, the Martian Colony Governor paused. She waited for Wang Baole to digest all that she had just said.

"So, the Darkness Faction and Light Faction began fighting, and are now in conflict with each other?" After some thought, Wang Baole spoke.

"Based on our understanding of the situation, that is indeed the case, but the Light Faction has gotten the upper hand in the fight. That is why there is a teleportation array formation on Mercury!"

"What I've just told you are events that took place more than four decades ago. The construction of the teleportation array formation on Mercury began then as well... The damage to the ancient greenish-bronze sword caused a massive structural change within the sword, and due to its extreme proximity to the sun, it can only afford to maintain a heat protection barrier and is unable to teleport itself away. This means that the Vast Expanse Dao Palace is now trapped. If it leaves the protective barrier and forces its way out, it will melt before it could even leave!" Wang Baole frowned when he heard what the Governor said.

"Governor, aren't there some contradictions here? Since they're unable to leave, how can the Darkness Faction pillage the resources in the Solar System? In addition, how did the Federation come to know about all this information?" Wang Baole rubbed his forehead. He might have previously learned things about the ancient greenish-bronze sword that no ordinary person had known, but at this moment, he was still shocked by the new information that he was receiving.

"The Federation thought about the questions that you're asking now all those years ago. The Vast Expanse Dao Palace might be trapped, but that doesn't mean that it cannot leave. However, teleportation on the ancient greenish-bronze sword would expend a great deal of resources and labor. When the Light Faction finally got into power, it amassed an amazing amount of resources and finally

teleported someone out. As their representative, he headed for the Federation, who was then undergoing a massive transformation!”

“You mean the Nascent Soul realm cultivator?” Wang Baole said immediately, shocked.

“The senior’s name is Mo Gaozi. He’s the Nascent Soul realm cultivator you’re talking about. When he reached the Federation and found former President Li Xingwen, he didn’t hide the purpose of his mission. He told Li Xingwen what was going on in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, and he worked closely together with the Federation... to teach and guide us on how to cultivate, amongst other things... His very presence was the reason why the cultivation civilization in the Federation developed at such an impressive speed!” When the Governor spoke about Mo Gaozi, her voice was filled with awe, respect, and mixed feelings.

Wang Baole’s eyes widened when he heard that. This had exceeded his initial expectations. However, it did make sense if he thought about it more carefully. After all, it was simply too incredible to believe that the Federation had progressed to its current state within a brief four decades through their own efforts, and trial and error.

“During this period, the construction of a teleportation array formation began on Mercury, as requested by Senior Mo Gaozi. He told us explicitly that once the array formation was set up, Vast Expanse Dao Palace cultivators on the ancient greenish-bronze sword and the people in the Federation would be able to teleport freely between the two places. We would be opening a door for the cultivators on the ancient greenish-bronze sword!

“Most of what I told you earlier was what Senior Mo Gaozi shared with us. Both myself and the Federation’s upper management are grateful for what Senior Mo Gaozi has done for us. He single-handedly pushed into motion the Federation’s cultivation civilization. When he arrived on Earth forty years ago, the Federation... hadn’t even had a single Ancient Martial realm cultivator. If he had harbored any ill will towards us then, the Federation wouldn’t have become what it is today.”

“But...” The Governor fell silent for a moment. Then she sighed. There seemed to be mixed feelings in her tone when she spoke next.

“He is, after all, not one of us. He’s also not the one holding power in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace... We believe in his goodwill, but we can’t bet on it. The price of failure is too great...”

“That’s why, after understanding the situation, former President Li Xingwen came to a decision when Senior Mo Gaozi requested the Federation gather resources and build a teleportation array formation. It was... to delay the construction of the teleportation array formation. At the same time, he requested Senior Mo Gaozi to do one thing for him as well!

“It was to... bring representatives of the Federation to the ancient greenish-bronze sword, so that they can see the world inside the sword with their own eyes and judge for themselves what is true and what is false!”

“You should be able to imagine that Li Xingwen was prepared to die going on that trip. He made the necessary arrangements if he should die. He even had contingencies for the scenario where he was controlled by others.” The Governor sighed. Her voice was colored with nostalgia for a period of hardship she hadn’t experienced personally.

Wang Baole became silent. Li Xingwen's image appeared in his mind. Suddenly, he seemed to realize... the responsibility that came along with the title of Federation President.

"No one knew how Li Xingwen communicated with Senior Mo Gaozi then, and he never mentioned it. In the end... Senior Mo Gaozi agreed to his request. He communicated with the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, and the Light Faction spent an even greater amount of resources, which was further supported by Senior Mo Gaozi's cultivation, and barely brought Li Xingwen and five other people onto the ancient greenish-bronze sword.

"They saw the Vast Expanse Dao Palace with their own eyes and came across opportunities that aided their cultivation. They verified the Light Faction's sincerity and both parties came to an agreement. Li Xingwen was carrying a baby when he returned. As for the other five people, one became an elder in the Five Generation Sky Clan, one is the current Head Senator, one founded the Trilunaris Corporation, and the remaining two became the elders of the Galactic Dusk Sect and the Plume Manifestation Connate Sect!

"The teleportation caused a great impact on the ancient greenish-bronze sword. That is why there have been no further teleportations since."

When Wang Baole heard that, he remembered what Zhuo Yifan had told him once. The Five Generation Sky Clan had a strange mystic art that could summon one's past lives. He had his guesses about the baby that the Grand Supreme Elder had brought back as well.

Li Wuchen... Wang Baole fell deep into thought until the Governor's voice rang out again.

"After that, the Federation began to prepare for Operation Sword Sun and the Federation Seedlings Initiative. We began searching for resources and building the teleportation array formation. Our plans were delayed though because of the beast sea. During this battle... Senior Mo Gaozi had gone into seclusion because of the cultivation that he had spent during the teleportation, so he hadn't participated in the fight.

"But it was precisely because of this battle that the Federation, having toiled, torn, and bled, grew stronger swiftly... After the battle, Li Xingwen began to have doubts once again about the plan to reactivate the teleportation array formation. He couldn't set his heart fully at ease even after having witnessed the Vast Expanse Dao Palace's sincerity. After all, once the teleportation array formation was set up, the cultivators on the ancient sword would be able to leave freely. This might be a golden opportunity, but he was also afraid that he might be opening the gates to hell.

"This concerns the safety of the entire Federation civilization, after all. It was right for him to have doubts! Even though Li Xingwen decided to go ahead with construction, he chose to drag it out. Having decided that, he chose to step down. His successor Duan Muque would inherit his plans and make his own deliberations.

"He proposed the research into Anti-Spirit Bombs, which would become the Federation's secret weapon. With that strategy in mind, he didn't hide anything from Senior Mo Gaozi, who had recovered and left seclusion. He told Senior Mo Gaozi that the Federation needed to be fully prepared and that it needed a secret weapon for peace of mind, and so that it could fully cooperate with him.

“Senior Mo Gaozi understood where he was coming from. He knew the worries that a weaker civilization might have when faced with a more powerful one, so he didn’t interfere with the Federation’s plans and waited patiently instead.

“Then, a few years ago, you pushed back the Beast Tide in a single battle. This meant that the Federation wouldn’t have to split its attention and worry about the Beast Tides for a long period of time. There was also an initial success shown in the Anti-Spirit Bomb research. At the same time, Duan Muque was worried that Senior Mo Gaozi might grow impatient with waiting and that their agreed plans might change. That was why Operation Sword Sun was reinitiated, and the Federation Seedlings Initiative was carried out!

“That was the reason for getting you into the capital city, and the reason for the audition. The hundred Federation Seedlings were to be the first batch of Federation cultivators sent onto the ancient sword based on the agreement made between Li Xingwen and the Vast Expanse Dao Palace’s Light Faction. They are to head for the Vast Expanse Dao Palace and learn and train there. Besides improving their cultivation, they will also be the first step towards assimilation with the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!”

The Martian Colony Governor’s calm voice narrated the history that the Federation had gone through in the past forty years during the Spirit Inception Era. It was as if a painting had unrolled before Wang Baole’s eyes. Emotions rippled inside him, and it was a long while before they quieted down.

Chapter 487: Excavation of the Dark Artifact!

The Governor seemed to realize that what she had been sharing would be shocking to any cultivator. That was why she paused and waited for Wang Baole to absorb and digest everything before she continued.

“We were already in the midst of constructing the teleportation array formation when the Anti-Spirit Bomb research showed success. However, the Mercury tragedy destroyed all that we had accomplished on the planet... Now, alongside the reconstruction of the planet, we will also be rebuilding the teleportation array formation.”

“However... even though the Federation has sufficient resources to rebuild the teleportation array formation, we still need some time to craft the majority of the essential components required. That’s why I gave you the blueprints.” Having explained everything, the Governor ended the voice transmission.

If this had happened when Wang Baole had just entered the Federation administration, he might have been shocked and overwhelmed to find out about the working relationship between the Vast Expanse Dao Palace and the Federation. However, he had since learned how to analyze and assess the words of other people.

That was why Wang Baole remained seated in thought after the Governor ended the voice transmission. After a while, his eyes suddenly flashed.

That's rather interesting... the impression that the Governor gave me during the conversation was that of urgency, that the components have to be made urgently... but she didn't give the exact time frame for when the parts are required...

Wang Baole was deep in thought as he recalled what the Governor had said. After a long period of contemplation, he seemed to have guessed the Federation's intentions. The Federation wanted to build the teleportation array formation so that they could advance the Federation civilization. But at the same time, they were worried about opening the gates to hell.

It was clear though, after decades of coexistence, they had developed a deep and great trust towards Senior Mo Gaozi. After all, if Mo Gaozi really harbored ill will towards them, he could have forcibly coerced and compelled them to do what he wanted based on his level of cultivation.

This must be why, despite intermittent progress, the construction of the teleportation array formation continued and was showing results. As for why the Federation hadn't given a fixed deadline for the delivery of parts, Wang Baole guessed that was because it was still making final preparations for contingency plans...

The Anti-Spirit Bomb is one of those contingency plans. The breakthrough in the Grand Supreme Elder's cultivation is yet another contingency plan. What other backup plans do they have? Wang Baole lost himself in thought. He had never met Mo Gaozi, which was why he still remained uneasy about the construction of this teleportation array formation.

However, even though he hadn't met Mo Gaozi before, he believed that there wasn't a single fool in the upper echelons of the Federation administration. They were all sly, cunning, conniving foxes. It was as the Governor had said, what he was worried about and what he thought were worries and thoughts that many in the administration had earlier.

At that thought, Wang Baole took a deep breath and set this matter aside, beginning his seclusion. During this period, he practiced the Dark Art Soul Guidance, as well as spent some time refining the teleportation components that the Federation required.

Seven days passed. Wang Baole's cultivation and refining progressed smoothly. Then, an inspection team from the Federation arrived unexpectedly and settled in the special regional city. They sought Wang Baole's approval and entered the catacombs, beginning to study and inspect the thickness of the barrier inside the catacombs.

There was no way for Wang Baole to refuse the request, but his guard was heightened. After three days passed and a second inspection team arrived on Mars, Wang Baole sucked in a breath of cold air and felt an impending sense of danger.

Is the Federation's third backup plan my Dark Artifact? Wang Baole felt torn at the thought. He wanted to help the Federation, but as the Dark Artifact's master, he knew that it would benefit both himself and the Federation if he could announce this matter when his cultivation had reached a sufficient level.

If this matter was to be exposed while he was still at his current level of cultivation, even though it might not be of any impact to the Federation, the impact on him, however... would be uncertain.

Wang Baole dared not make a gamble on this; he couldn't. He couldn't help but sigh. He felt sheepish thinking about how his own treasure was being coveted by such important personalities, on a daily basis.

The Federation seemed confident about their chances of getting the Dark Artifact. Even if they were to return with empty hands this round, they would likely send another inspection team shortly.

Wang Baole thought about this for a while. The inspection teams searched for a few days and finally left after collecting detailed data. It was then that he slipped into the Dark Artifact, unnoticed by others, and summoned the three Artifact Spirits. He began inquiring about the recovery status.

Wang Baole found out that they needed another month or so before the artifact could recover to ten-percent functionality. He left and began racking his brains, trying to think of a solution.

The remnants of the barrier should be able to hold back the Federation for a while before they decide it's time to blow it apart... but even if the Dark Artifact has recovered a greater degree of functionality by then, the Federation wouldn't be able to activate it. They would still covet the artifact though and keep thinking about it. This... is simply too unsettling... Rather than remaining under the Federation's constant, watchful eyes, I would rather... make the first move! Light flickered in Wang Baole's eyes as ideas flashed across his mind, and he began to settle on a plan of attack.

He knew very well the difference between taking on the offensive and remaining on the defensive. Instead of fretting about this matter constantly, he would rather instigate an activation and clear all threats, once and for all!

The plan was divided into two steps. In the first, he intended to wait for the Dark Artifact to recover one-tenth of its functionality before he withdrew the barrier voluntarily. That would draw the powerful cultivators from the various political forces in the Federation to the Dark Artifact. After which, he would carry out the second step when they were inside the Dark Artifact!

Wang Baole ran through his plan multiple times in his head carefully and in detail. He even practiced various ancient-sounding voices in his secret chamber. Time passed, and a month soon went by. He received the Boat Spirit's notification that the sampan had been recovered to ten-percent functionality and that he would be able to activate its defensive barrier anytime. Wang Baole's eyes flashed with a strange light.

He took in a deep breath and ran through the steps of his plans in his head once again. He immediately made arrangements for the city's cultivators and increased the degree of monitoring on the barrier inside the catacombs. At the same time, he secretly controlled the Dark Artifact and sped up the erosion of the barrier.

He soon received a report from the city's cultivators as he had expected. With the report in hand, Wang Baole immediately sent a voice transmission to the Martian Colony Governor and informed her excitedly about this matter.

His report immediately caught the Governor's attention and focus, and she made a personal visit to the special regional city. Secretly nervous but not showing a single emotion on his face, Wang Baole accompanied the Governor as she made her inspection. Then, she left and sent the results of the inspection to the Federation.

Everything happened almost too quickly, far more quickly than Wang Baole had expected. The entire process—from his initial report on the erosion of the catacombs barrier, the stirring in the Federation and the excitement across the various political forces, to the arrival of various groups of people in the city—took but two weeks.

Like Duan Muque, the various heads of the respective political forces were in seclusion. However, the news of the eroding barrier was simply too important. Despite not being able to make a personal visit, they all sent the strongest cultivators in their factions over. Cruisers from all over the Federation dashed straight for Mars, with Li Xingwen himself personally leading a team.

The Federation sent numerous priests over as well. Within two weeks, the special regional city saw a congregation of a majority of the Federation's Core Formation realm cultivators.

Besides Li Wan'er, who was still in seclusion, Wang Baole and the others—Lin Tianhao, Jin Duoming, and Kong Dao and the rest—busied themselves with receiving the influx of visitors. They also had to continuously monitor the rate at which the barrier was eroding.

After gathering comprehensive information, Li Xingwen finally settled the plans for blowing the barrier up. Prior to the actual execution of the plan, a hesitant Wang Baole approached Li Xingwen.

“Grand Supreme Elder, I've been feeling really nervous and uneasy these few days. Do you think... that someone might be controlling the barrier and speeding up its erosion?”

Li Xingwen was making the final preparations for the plan, but upon hearing what Wang Baole said, he lifted his head and glared.

“What's there to be afraid of? Who cares if there's someone pulling strings from behind the barrier? We'll know once we blow it up, won't we?”

Exasperation flooded Wang Baole, and he couldn't help but persist.

“Grandfather Grand Supreme Elder, I'm just worried. What if the owner of the Divine Armament isn't dead? What if he's still inside the Divine Armament? If we blow up the barrier...” Wang Baole blinked and stared at Li Xingwen.

Li Xingwen remained unfazed. However, there was a deep, meaningful look in his eyes when he returned Wang Baole's gaze. He said casually.

“Baole, do you know why I'm the one leading the team this round...”

Wang Baole froze. He was silent. Li Xingwen didn't continue with the same topic, but he lowered his head and stared at the floor. There was an unfathomable light in his eyes as he spoke slowly.

“There's something buried right at our doorsteps. We have to check whether it has an owner, whether there's any ill intention hidden behind its burial, and if it might pose a threat. We're in a critical period now. We cannot afford to have any unstable elements present... That's why the hundred Anti-Spirit Bombs in the Martian research facility have all been prepared and are ready to blast off any time... The Solar System Array Formation is also ready for activation.

“In addition, we have some other preparations in place as well... Unless the owner of the Dark Artifact is so powerful that we are unable to fight back against him, the Federation has already reached a consensus. I’m willing to talk reason, but the Federation’s mind is fixed. It wants the Dark Artifact!”

“Do you understand what I’m saying, Baole?” Li Xingwen raised his head and gave Wang Baole a deep, meaningful look.

Chapter 488: A Jaded Wang Baole

Wang Baole’s expression remained unchanged when he heard what the Grand Supreme Elder said, but his heart dropped. Doubt arose in his mind. It seemed as if... there was another message hidden in Li Xingwen’s words.

It seemed like all mist and fog, but when coupled with a certain premise, everything seemed clear. The premise being... that Li Xingwen knew who the owner of the Dark Artifact was!

That’s impossible... Wang Baole felt slightly sheepish. He couldn’t help but think about Li Xingwen’s words with that premise in mind. With that in mind... it was clear that Li Xingwen was saying that the Dark Artifact’s owner must display overwhelming power that would awe and overpower the Federation, all with an absence of ill intention. In that way, the Federation would be able to set its mind at ease completely. It would also not dare to harbor further covetous thoughts towards the Dark Artifact... at least, not in the short term.

If he wasn’t able to achieve that, or if there were to be any misunderstandings between him and the Federation, then the result would be a targeted attack from Anti-Spirit Bombs and the Solar System Array Formation.

Wang Baole’s heart palpitated. He hurriedly patted his chest, put on an expression showing extreme loyalty towards the Federation, and then looked at Li Xingwen and said.

“Grandfather Grand Supreme Elder, Baole understands now. The Federation has made up its mind to get the treasure underground. I’d originally intended not to follow the team down. But now, having understood everything, I’ve decided to come with everyone—to express my loyalty and also to contribute everything I’ve got for the Federation!”

Li Xingwen rolled his eyes at Wang Baole’s declaration. He eyed Wang Baole again, then lowered his head and continued his study of the Federation’s plans. He spoke again, seemingly casually.

“If we mess up such an important matter, I’m not going to be the one they send the next time we try.” Having said that, Li Xingwen waved his hand without looking up and ended the conversation.

Wang Baole left hurriedly. After departing from Li Xingwen’s residence, he glanced around and saw that no one was looking at him. He wiped the sweat off his forehead, and determination flashed in his eyes.

I’ve no choice. It doesn’t matter if the Grand Supreme Elder has guessed correctly what is going on, I have to carry out the plans I’ve already made and execute my grand plan! Wang Baole sucked in a deep breath. He had made up his mind.

Nothing else mattered. He had already gotten his hands on the Dark Artifact, and there was no way he was going to give it away. That being said, he couldn't let anyone else know that it belonged to him. After returning to his own residence, Wang Baole sat down cross-legged and began meditating. He went through his plan in his head again and ensured that there were no problems with every single step in his plan. There were too many people in the city now, and most of them were monitoring the catacombs. To prevent any accidents from occurring, Wang Baole didn't communicate with the Artifact Spirits. Instead, he waited patiently for the day when the Federation would execute their plans to arrive.

He didn't have to wait long. Li Xingwen brought people down into the catacombs with him for repeated inspections of the barrier. After study and verification, and after submitting their data to the Federation, they finally received a confirmation from the upper levels of the Federation administration as well as the other political forces. Li Xingwen's proposal had been approved!

The plan would be carried out... three days later. They would forcibly blow the barrier apart, and everything would be ready for deployment then—the Anti-Spirit Bombs, the Solar System Array Formation, and the Core Formation realm cultivators from the various political forces. In fact, the number of Core Formation realm cultivators gathered in the special regional city had exceeded seventy!

There were fewer than two hundred Core Formation realm cultivators in the entire Federation, so more than a third of them were now gathered in the city. Nascent Soul realm cultivator, Li Xingwen, was going to head the party personally. The extent of strength and power gathered was enough to overpower and wipe out everything in their way.

It was clear as well that the Federation was intent on obtaining the Martian Divine Armament!

The arrival of the hordes of Core Formation realm cultivators was accompanied by the arrival of even more Foundation Establishment realm and True Breath realm cultivators. The latter groups would be responsible for support as well as foundational excavation efforts for the Martian Divine Armament. The special regional city was thus livelier than usual.

Three days passed in a blur. As the day they would blow apart the barrier arrived, masses of Foundation Establishment realm and True Breath realm cultivators gathered outside the catacombs. They were all prepared and ready to charge in once the barrier was blown apart!

Inside the catacombs, under Li Xingwen's leadership, the Martian Colony Governor and the other Core Formation realm cultivators were gathered before the barrier, ready to commence the plan!

Li Xingwen would play the primary role in the explosion. He stood before the barrier, his hands forming a series of hand seals, which was followed by waves of Nascent Soul level spirit energies erupted from his person. They seemed to transform into a sharp blade that stabbed the barrier repeatedly, and it shook violently under the series of attacks.

The others, including the Martian Colony Governor, unleashed their attacks as well. All of a sudden, the inside of the catacombs was filled with a great, alarming cacophony.

The rest attacked as well. From afar, an array of vivid colors flashed inside the barrier, and the spirit energy of Dharmic Armaments filled the air. It felt as if the earth itself was quaking, and as if the heavens were shaking.

Amongst the attacking horde was Wang Baole... At present, he continued attacking while watching the visibly thinning barrier. He sighed secretly. Even though he knew that his plan was almost infallible, he couldn't help but feel uncertain and anxious.

How exasperating...

While sighing inwardly, Wang Baole yelled and continued attacking, unleashing a spell that landed on the barrier. He might be the lord of this city, but amongst the numerous Core Formation realm cultivators, his own cultivation was only average and hence didn't draw much attention. This was what he had intended as well. As he struck, he even shouted at the Core Formation realm cultivator beside him.

"Everyone, give it all you've got. Let's fight to take down this Divine Armament as soon as possible and win another powerful weapon for the Federation!"

The Core Formation realm cultivator next to Wang Baole was an elder from the Five Generation Sky Clan. Even though he disliked Wang Baole, it wouldn't be appropriate to show his dislike so plainly before everyone. So, he made a few noncommittal comments and then ignored Wang Baole.

If it had been some other occasion, Wang Baole would have glared at the man, but at present, he was shaking inwardly while displaying seeming excitement. He felt like he was leading a party of bandits to his own doorstep. It was a feeling he couldn't shake off.

Bringing a group of bandits to your own house is one thing, but I'm actually going to blow up my own gates with them! Wang Baole sulked. Then, he recalled the many Anti-Spirit Bombs targeting this place and quickly calmed himself down. He continued to attack while cheering the rest on loudly.

Quite a few people heard his cheers, but they paid him no attention. After all, everyone was extremely excited. A few even began cheering along. The spirits of the Federation cultivators soared amidst the loud explosions.

However... Li Xingwen snorted secretly when he heard Wang Baole's voice. He had been about to unleash another attack on the barrier when he extended his spiritual senses and noticed the seemingly excited expression on Wang Baole's face.

"The rascal's quite a good actor!" Li Xingwen muttered secretly. He had his guesses based on his previous judgments as well as contact with Wang Baole. He hadn't known how Wang Baole had managed to accomplish what he had done, but he had been certain that there must be some connection between Wang Baole and the Dark Artifact.

I've already done what I could and told him what I could. The kid's not an idiot. If he doesn't get his act together... well, there's nothing to be done about that. Li Xingwen narrowed his eyes. He could have blown this barrier apart days ago, but he had continued to delay the execution of the plan with research and verification as an excuse. He had done that to give Wang Baole more time to make his preparations. He had done all that he could. Li Xingwen did some calculations and noted the time. He gathered his spirit energies, and decisiveness flashed in his eyes as his fingers formed a series of hand seals.

He hollered, "Fellow Daoists, gather your spells around me!" Having said that, Li Xingwen swung his hands out in a sudden wave. A layer of light erupted from his person. From afar, he looked like a glowing sphere of light.

The others flung their spells onto the sphere of light. Its light intensified, and its energies strengthened. Everyone shivered inwardly and acted immediately with a flurry of spells. The waves of spirit energy exuding from the glowing sphere increased rapidly, and a sudden destructive aura filled the air.

Wang Baole was alarmed. His heart trembled. He gritted his teeth and unleashed a spell that landed on the sphere of light. As the glowing sphere absorbed the power of the party, it began to give off a blinding, dazzling light. It was like a small sun. Finally, Li Xingwen roared. With a wave of his hand, the light sphere transformed into a large saber of light. He grabbed hold of it, pointed it towards the barrier before him, and slashed!

A deafening thunder erupted instantaneously—the sounds of shattering echoed in the catacombs. The barrier... seemingly unable to withstand the force of the attack at that moment, exploded. As it shattered into numerous pieces...

Suddenly, a purple light appeared from within the shattered barrier. It swept across the catacombs like a tornado and erupted. Behind the barrier, lay another barrier!

Chapter 489: I Am Tian Shuaizi!

The second barrier... was clearly stronger than the first. The spirit energy it exuded alarmed everyone in the catacombs!

The purple protective barrier expanded as soon as it appeared. It looked like a veil of purple light, and waves swept outward and collided with Li Xingwen, who had been standing at the front of the party.

Alarm flashed across Li Xingwen's face. He couldn't fight back and was pushed backward by the light. The Governor and the remaining Core Formation realm cultivators were even more powerless to defend against the light. Shocked and alarmed, they were all shoved back by the light instantly.

The Governor's breathing quickened as she fell back. Alarm fell across her face. It was clear that she hadn't expected this, that she hadn't expected there to be another purple light barrier behind the first barrier. She even sensed that someone might be controlling the eruption of the second barrier.

Could it be... that this Divine Armament, this Dark Artifact, really has an owner? Doubts arose in the Governor's mind. She spared a quick glance at Li Xingwen as she retreated and noticed a similar suspicion in Li Xingwen's eyes then.

It was clear that this light barrier held no ill will towards the cultivators. It merely forced them back and didn't injure or harm anyone. Regardless, it still sent the crowd reeling in shock. Many gasped.

Wang Baole was amongst this group of people, apparent shock coloring his face as he gasped.

There was no question... that the strength the barrier had displayed had exceeded their expectations. As the party fell back, Li Xingwen's pupils contracted, and a jade slip appeared in his hand suddenly. Should he shatter it now, it would trigger the launch of the Anti-Spirit Bombs and the activation of the Solar

System Array Formation. He didn't do so immediately. Doubt and uncertainty colored his eyes as he tilted his head and appeared to glance at Wang Baole.

It was then that an overpowering spirit energy that stirred the heavens erupted like a storm from within the purple light barrier!

The force of the spirit energy surpassed that of the Core Formation realm and overpowered that of the Nascent Soul realm. It filled the entire catacombs and appeared to transform into a consciousness that swept across everyone, including Wang Baole. Everyone's heads seemed to buzz, as if their minds were touched by this consciousness.

A stern, authoritative voice, tinged with mild displeasure, rang out in everyone's minds then!

"What a din!"

It was a voice like thunder, and it exploded inside the catacombs and boomed in everyone's ears. Everyone was stunned. They could sense the age in this voice, as if the person speaking had lived for a very, very long time. Even his voice sounded as old as time and as vast as space.

Shock flashed across every cultivators' face when the voice appeared. Some of them had had their guesses about the Divine Armament and had felt that its owner was residing in the Divine Armament, but the Federation had felt that the possibility of something like that was very slight.

Now, though, the voice reverberating in the catacombs proved that this very slight possibility had become reality. The master of the Martian Divine Armament was indeed residing within the Divine Armament!

He was clearly an unfathomable character. His words didn't originate from any civilization but formed a will that had originated from his consciousness and then had echoed in their minds. It was an exchange of minds that crossed the boundaries of language. It was a means that sent everyone reeling back in shock.

There's indeed someone inside! The Martian Colony Governor narrowed her eyes. This was a Divine Armament on her planet, but she only found out today that an extraterrestrial cultivator had been residing inside it all along. Emotions flooded her inside, and she grew extremely cautious. The Mercury tragedy was still fresh in her mind!

Wang Baole widened his eyes as well, displaying a look of complete shock and incredulity. Even his breathing stopped for a moment, and he seemed to instinctively retreat. Li Xingwen might have had his suspicions that Wang Baole had some connection to this Dark Artifact, but he grew doubtful now. He sucked in a deep breath, took a few steps back, then cupped his fists and saluted the purple light barrier.

"Senior, we hail from a civilization on Earth, which is part of the Solar System. This planet... belongs to our civilization. We didn't know you were resting here and disturbed your rest. We seek your forgiveness."

Li Xingwen tried his best to extend his own spiritual senses as he spoke, and did all he could to mirror his good intentions in his extended spiritual senses. In reality, he too was also shocked and awed by the purple light barrier.

Everyone's spirits trembled as Li Xingwen spoke. It was then that a voice tinged with doubt rang out from within the purple light barrier!

"Your civilization? I remember that this part of the universe belonged to the Dark Sect when I went into seclusion..." The voice paused at that point, and its consciousness seemed to erupt once again and sweep outwards. It expanded for a moment, and in the next, vanished. After a long silence, there was a sigh.

"To think that so much time has passed..."

Both Li Xingwen and the Governor were both shocked, once again, by the sudden eruption and disappearance of the consciousness. The breathing of the other Core Formation realm cultivators quickened as well. They quaked in their boots while Li Xingwen continued to hold the jade slip within his hand. He hesitated, then bowed towards the purple light barrier once again.

"Senior, this... is now where Earth's civilization is built!"

As soon as Li Xingwen said that, a sigh rang out from within the purple light barrier.

"I, Tian Shuaizi, have been pursuing the Dao of Heaven Trampling for hundreds of thousands of years here. While the Dao in one's heart may live eternal, time continues for the rest of the vast universe. Who would've known that the stars have since shifted and an age has passed..."

The old voice rang out once again from inside the purple light barrier and echoed in everyone's minds. The name Tian Shuaizi became seared in everyone's minds as they tried their best to calm themselves down. They hurriedly bowed and extended their greetings.

Wang Baole extended a shaky, nervous greeting amongst the crowd as well, but he was secretly brimming with satisfaction. The supposed master of the Divine Armament was his Artifact Spirit, the old State Preceptor.

Most importantly, his earlier speech had been thought up by Wang Baole. The name, Tian Shuaizi, was his brilliant idea. Even though the old State Preceptor almost couldn't say the name when he had first ordered him to do so, the old Artifact Spirit had still submitted to his command eventually.

The old State Preceptor didn't disappoint Wang Baole at all. Even Wang Baole almost believed what he had said.

The purple light barrier was the protective screen that the Dark Artifact Sampan had activated after recovering one-tenth of its functionality. Its power was akin to that of a perfected Spirit Immortal realm cultivator. This entire awe-inspiring scene was the first step to Wang Baole's plan!

Grandfather Grand Supreme Elder hinted to me that I needed to induce awe in the Federation, to prevent the Federation from coveting the armament. This should do it, right? I can't go overboard. Everything will be finished if the Grand Supreme Elder launches the Anti-Spirit Bombs! Wang Baole blinked. He knew that he had already successfully carried out the first step in his plans. All he needed to do was wait for the State Preceptor to speak again and complete step two of the plan.

Based on his plans, the first step was to shock and awe, and the second was to both instill fear while ensuring that the Federation President and the other political forces dared not have any ideas about the

Dark Artifact again. However, he knew that the Federation had made a lot of preparation and many sacrifices in order to get their hands on the Martian Divine Armament. Even he made them leave completely empty-handed, they might continue to hold certain ideas and begin conspiring again.

That was why Wang Baole planned to throw them a carrot as well. As gears spun furiously in his head, the State Preceptor inside the purple light barrier spoke again. His voice, colored with age, rang out once again.

“Since the stars have shifted, and this place has become the origins of your cultivation, I will no longer be able to fulfill the agreement I made with the Dark Sect back then... Fine, as a heavenly being, I will not stay on your planet without giving something back in return. From now on, those who cultivate outside my cave abode will have a chance to gain the gift of immense vitality!”

As soon as those words were spoken, an overpowering spirit energy erupted from within the purple light barrier. It was thick with life and vitality, surging out from the special regional city and stirring the heavens and earth. The land under the city trembled and roared. Outside, countless cultivators reeled back in shock as thick vitality blanketed the entire city. Vegetation grew and blossomed in a single moment. At the same time, all cultivators and ordinary folks' breathing quickened suddenly, and they felt their bodies lighten. They felt a sudden burst of energy that cleared their minds and heightened their spirits as they stood on this land!

The sight sent everyone inside the catacombs reeling back in shock once again. Speechless and uncertain of what to do next, they all turned towards Li Xingwen.

Chapter 490: Hot Spot for Healing

Li Xingwen himself was plagued with hesitation and doubt. After a moment, he took a deep breath and respectfully cupped his fists and extended a deep bow towards the purple light barrier. Then, he led the rest out of the catacombs.

As soon as they exited the catacombs, Li Xingwen immediately issued orders that prohibited anyone from entering. Then, he left hurriedly with the Governor. It was clear that this matter had exceeded his control and level of jurisdiction. Even though he might be a Nascent Soul realm cultivator now, he still had to call for a meeting and reach a consensus on how to address their coexistence with the catacombs.

Before he left, he lowered his head and stared at Wang Baole, who was pale-faced and trembling, seemingly shocked by what he had witnessed. He narrowed his eyes and thoughts sped through his mind. Then, he withdrew his glance and dashed off like a speeding rainbow arc.

The other Core Formation realm cultivators were all plagued with doubts and suspicions as well. They immediately contacted their respective political forces, but they dared not linger in the city; most left for the main Martian city. They would await their next orders from the Federation and their respective political forces!

Wang Baole watched them leave, and he let loose a breath of relief secretly. Based on his understanding of the Federation, he predicted... that things would likely go according to plan. The Federation was

unlikely to cause potential trouble by offending an unknown powerful entity “Tian Shuaizi” at such a critical time!

There was a great chance of them opting to compromise and give up on acquiring the Martian Divine Armament!

I, Wang Baole, am a reasonable man. I've taken something that should have gone to the Federation... I, Tian Shuaizi, will repay this favor doubly in the future! Wang Baole coughed. He slowly placed his hands behind his back as he watched the skies fill up with departing cruisers. He increasingly felt how much the name Tian Shuaizi suited him.

“Tian Shuaizi?” Li Xingwen, who had returned to the main Martian city, immediately called for a meeting that involved the Federation’s various political forces. He described the full details of what had happened during their excavation attempt.

He didn’t try to hide anything from the meeting. After all, the Martian Colony Governor and the Core Formation realm cultivators from the various political forces had participated and witnessed the entire thing with their own eyes. When Li Xingwen mentioned the name Tian Shuaizi, everyone in the meeting fell silent.

This was indeed an extremely serious matter. Even Duan Muque reappeared from his seclusion and attended the meeting. After Li Xingwen mentioned the name Tian Shuaizi softly, an awkward expression appeared on everyone’s faces in the meeting.

There was no question that the appearance of Tian Shuaizi had been too sudden and unexpected. Most importantly... Li Xingwen hadn’t been able to fight back against him. This meant that the mysterious Tian Shuaizi possessed the power to destroy the entire Federation.

The entire meeting fell into silence. Then, the Governor suddenly spoke.

“The Martian Divine Armament has been around for a very long time, and nothing serious has happened all this while... I propose a prudent approach when handling this matter!”

“How can we allow a stranger to sleep so merrily at our own bedside? To be giving such a good deal so freely shows that he must be hiding something!” The Chen Clan Leader of the Five Generation Sky Clan spoke, his eyes flashing with a cold light. He continued, having interrupted the Governor.

“This is an oversight of the special regional city’s City Lord. The Federation has been pouring in tremendous resources into the city all these years. To think that he hadn’t detected anything amiss with the Divine Armament!”

“Now isn’t the time to place blame. What we need to do now is to determine if this entity is pulling wool over our eyes!”

The group started discussing heatedly. The Martian Colony Governor did not continue speaking, and the Head Senator kept his silence as well. They all fell into a contemplative silence. Li Xingwen grew impatient.

“Have your egos swollen? Have you forgotten what kind of firepower the Federation has? Pulling wool over our eyes? Are you willing to gamble on that? Let me tell you. Based on my assessment, this Tian

Shuaizi residing inside the Dark Artifact is the owner of the Divine Armament. There's a great likelihood that he's attained phenomenal success at the Spirit Immortal realm. Else, he wouldn't have been able to assert such overpowering awe just by releasing his spirit energy."

"As for the way to handle this... unless you're looking for an early death, we shouldn't offend... an entity that we are unable to fight back against. I suggest we handle this matter the same way we did for the presence within Pluto." As soon as Li Xingwen said those words, the cultivators from the various political forces who had been discussing how to handle this matter fell silent. They were startled by Li Xingwen's mentioning of Pluto. Even though it might seem like they had plenty of ideas and suggestions, they all knew very well that, with Li Xingwen powerless against this entity, the best solution was to adhere to the agreement set out with the other.

Duan Muque sighed softly when he saw how the meeting had fallen into silence once again. He felt slightly exhausted. He sensed that there was something strange going on, but at present, his priority was a breakthrough in his cultivation. There was also the Federation Seedlings Initiative that was about to be kicked off, as well as the joint efforts to land on the ancient greenish-bronze sword. He didn't want more trouble.

After a moment of silent contemplation, Duan Muque's eyes flashed with decisiveness.

"Let's listen to Senior Li's advice. We'll slow down the Martian Divine Armament's excavation efforts, and this matter will be classified as a Rank Two Noble level secret. Let's keep to ourselves while within the special regional city and not step on one another's toes!"

With Duan Muque and Li Xingwen agreeing upon the same course of action, the matter regarding the Martian Divine Armament was settled for the moment. They would slow down the excavation of the Martian Divine Armament and would concurrently announce the existence of another barrier behind the first barrier in the catacombs. That would serve as a basis for the Federation to continue further studies and experiments, and provide a reason to ease public suspicions.

The rich vitality that was present within the Martian special regional city wasn't confidential, and news of it quickly spread. Many cultivators in the main Martian city, having heard of this, soon came investigating the matter. Upon sensing the vitality in the air, they were all shocked. Many chose to settle down in the special regional city for cultivation immediately.

Training at such spots rich with vitality had many benefits. The media paid a great deal of attention to this matter as well, and all of a sudden, the entire Federation became aware of the rich vitality present in the Martian special regional city.

Some cultivators with past injuries heard of this and chose to recuperate and recover in the city as well. Within two weeks, the Martian special regional city became a hot spot that grew ever more popular!

Jin Duoming played a prominent role in the current situation. He had been the first one to realize the economic opportunity open to them and had then quickly contacted Kong Dao and the others. He had been the first to come up with a proposal to redesign the city as a Martian hot spot for healing and cultivation, and he was the first who sought Wang Baole out.

Wang Baole's heart ached, but he knew he couldn't reject the idea. He knew that the Federation's decision to slow down the excavation efforts for the Divine Armament meant that it had, to a certain

degree, given up on the city. The value of this land would fall continuously, and he would no longer receive priority in getting resources for the city. This was the time for them to establish some unique and special features for the special regional city, to prolong its survival and increase its value.

He gritted his teeth and agreed to Jin Duoming's proposal. What resulted was a series of promotions. Real estate cost continued to rise as well, and its value almost reached that of gold.

"A rise in the value of land isn't enough. After all, most people can't afford to buy land. What we need to do is build more hotels. We have to build a whole lot of them!" Wang Baole put out his own opinions as well and perfected Jin Duoming's proposal. They were going to rebrand the Martian special regional city into a haven not only for those seeking healing and cultivation, but also a haven for tourists!

Jin Duoming got excited immediately and began sketching out the plans eagerly. Even though Wang Baole ached for the mass absorption of vitality, which essentially was an expenditure of the Dark Artifact's energy, it was still rather insignificant a loss and within his control.

He also knew that once the special regional city became a hot spot for healing and cultivation, it would be able to gain a great deal of revenue from taxation alone. The net profit would be considerable after taking into account their expenditure.

This was a long-term gain though. What Wang Baole desired the most now was the swift restoration of his Dark Artifact. His heart burned with excitement as he thought about the power the Dark Artifact would be able to unleash once restored to its full functionality.

I need huge quantities of resources! Wang Baole took a deep breath. Even though the Federation had reached a consensus to slow down the excavation of the Martian Divine Armament, Wang Baole still felt uneasy. He knew too well the characters of those people in the Federation. Unless the impression of awe and power continued to remain and continued to grow stronger... they would make a second attempt on the Divine Armament sooner or later!

It should be safe in the short term, though. At that thought, Wang Baole released a slight breath of relief. He knew why he urgently needed resources to repair the Dark Artifact. The root of his problem lay in the fact that he was too weak.

If he were like Li Xingwen, a Nascent Soul realm cultivator now, no one would dare cause trouble for him even if he were to declare that he was the owner of the Dark Artifact.

I still need a higher cultivation! Wang Baole gritted his teeth and resumed his seclusion. He strove towards reaching a breakthrough into the mid-stage Core Formation realm as soon as possible. While he was in seclusion, Jin Duoming made full use of his business-savvy mind and executed his proposal flawlessly.

The Martian special regional city became a popular topic in the entire Federation. Advertisements featuring many cultivators as well as famous celebrities were broadcast by every media outlet in the entire Federation. They were rich with content and showcased the beauty of the Martian special regional city.

He even joined forces with the Trilunaris Corporation and designed a Martian travel package that had great discounts on round trip travel. The number of cruisers traveling from Earth and the other planets to Mars, and back, increased exponentially.

Lin Tianhao extended his full cooperation to Jin Duoming as well, doing his part in receiving the influx of visitors. Kong Dao, on the other hand, took charge of security matters and ensured heightened security in the city. With their combined efforts, the Martian special regional city's name resounded again and again across the Federation. Within a short span of two months, its reputation spread like wildfire in the Federation.

The growing fame and popularity of the special regional city would have persisted under Jin Duoming's efforts, should there not have been another major event taking place. The magnitude of this new event was simply too great. It overshadowed the growing fame of the special regional city...

In July of the forty-fifth year of the Spirit Inception Era... the Federation President, Duan Muque, advanced into the Nascent Soul realm!