

## Worth 531

### Chapter 531: Daddy's Here

"My inheritance... is called Thearch Armor!" After hearing what Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng said about their inheritance, Wang Baole also revealed that of his own. However, he didn't reveal the story between him and the overbearing figure in his internal world...

In reality, even he was frightened by the existences in his internal worlds. He increasingly felt that he was someone who gathered luck. If not, he wouldn't be so different from others.

He was gloating internally, but couldn't tell this to others. Wang Baole, Zhuo Yifan, and Zhao Yameng were all looking at their surroundings. Taking advantage of the current situation where the meditating figures hadn't appeared, they charged forward quickly.

Even though Zhuo Yifan was injured, it appeared that the wondrous encounter he had through his inheritance helped him to recover from his injuries to a large extent. He no longer needed Wang Baole to carry him, and as he unleashed his speed, there was a chilly, metallic glow vaguely shining beneath his feet. That sped him up significantly from previously. It was a similar case for Zhao Yameng. As they moved forward, a look of logical deduction could be seen in her eyes, and as she sealed her hands occasionally, the trio was sped up even more.

Wang Baole was surprised by the duo's transformations and began thinking about the Thearch Armor inheritance in his mind. The inheritance seemed bizarre, and after a simple round of analysis, Wang Baole already realized that it wasn't something that he could easily cultivate successfully. It seemed that there was a lack of enlightenment somewhere.

*Could it be that my internal world is too violent, such that Little Thearch didn't enlighten me with the knowledge to cultivate it on purpose?* Wang Baole grew suspicious instantly. The more he thought that way, the more convinced he was that that was the case. Therefore, he snorted and mumbled in his heart that with his A-grade capabilities, he would definitely master Thearch Armor after spending some time in seclusion.

With that thought, Wang Baole relaxed and continued charging forward across the pitch-black piece of land with Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng. Time passed slowly, and the trio didn't slow down at all. After an unknown period of time, when those eerie meditating figures appeared again, the ground beneath the trio was no longer black and was instead white!

The white-colored land formed an obvious contrast with the previously black-colored land. However, there was nothing different about those meditating figures. When they appeared, they still stared at the trio with two hollow sockets that didn't contain eyes. As the trio flew by, the figures on the ground tracked them with their gaze.

However, having been through the inheritance process previously, the trio seemed to have adapted to it. They weren't as nervous as they were previously, and that was especially so for Wang Baole, who felt that there was no danger where they were. The only issue was that the area covered by the land was

just too vast. A few days after they had flown out of the white-colored land, the dark screen in the skies appeared once again, covering everything, along with the three red-colored cracks in the sky.

As the heavens and earth grew dark, the mumbling sound reverberated by Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng's ears. Their bodies trembled as they entered a coma once again. Only Wang Baole remained standing there dazedly. He realized that there was no mumbling by his ears and that he was also unable to enter his internal world. Even the meditating figures surrounding him were afraid of going near him, and that made him feel helpless.

*What's this? Ignoring me? This is differential treatment!* Wang Baole was extremely dissatisfied. As he thought about how formidable his internal world was, he felt that since the inheritances here weren't picking him as a choice, he should take the initiative. He blinked his eyes, unleashed his greatest speed, and charged towards those meditating figures, grabbing one of them as he neared.

Perhaps a miraculous transformation was brought about by the appearance of the dark screen in this land of inheritance. Therefore, before the dark screen fully covered the sky, Wang Baole was unable to grab anything. However, right now, as he began grabbing, his mind buzzed with activity, and he was returned to his internal world once again.

Soon, an unhappy yet mighty figure arrived in his internal world, and his displeased voice reverberated.

"Someone that I didn't choose on my own initiative will not be given my inheritance!"

However, the moment that sentence was completed, Wang Baole cleared his throat. As he revealed all five of his internal worlds with a wave of his hand, shrill screams and gasps of shock were heard instantly. Pitiful cries also reverberated in Wang Baole's world.

After a long while, the dark screen covering this land of inheritance dissipated and Wang Baole and company regained consciousness. It could be seen that Zhao Yameng had obtained greater gains in terms of array formation, and Zhuo Yifan also gained greater enlightenment in the Nine Transformation Acts of the Divine Armament.

When he asked curiously, Wang Baole came to know that the two of them had entered the inheritance world that they were in previously, where they further strengthened the enlightenment they obtained previously. He lamented to himself about the differential treatment that he experienced here, and how that overbearing figure Thearch Armor was just too petty that he didn't dare appear after being scared by him.

*It doesn't matter. If he doesn't come, other inheritances will do.* With that thought, Wang Baole was full of glee for his quick response. He even began to feel a sense of anticipation. Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng also began to realize the advantages of being in the area, and after some discussion with Wang Baole, they decided to delay their departure. Ideally, they wanted to completely solidify the enlightenment of the inheritance that they had gained. After all, experiences like these were a never-before-seen opportunity for Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng.

Wang Baole highly approved of that decision. He patted Zhuo Yifan's shoulder, and a look of appreciation was seen in his eyes.

“Yifan, this suggestion of your’s is good. We shall not leave and will stay here to gain enlightenment. Hah, to us, this place is a treasure land.” A look of anticipation could be seen in Wang Baole’s eyes. Zhuo Yifan didn’t think much about it, but Zhao Yameng seemed to have sensed that there was something wrong with Wang Baole. However, she would never be able to imagine how convoluted Wang Baole’s experience was, no matter how hard she tried...

Just like that, as the meditating figures appeared in the vast land and the dark screen descended once again, Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng fell into unconsciousness. The instant the two of them lost consciousness, an evil thought flashed across Wang Baole’s mind, and he leaped into the air as his eyes glowed.

“Little Inheritances, Daddy is here!” Wang Baole screamed excitedly and unleashed his greatest speed, charging towards the meditating figures and grabbing one of them immediately. He licked his lips, flying out with that figure. He was finally satisfied after he grabbed hold of seven other figures, and that was when he began to merge them.

Instantly, as his mind buzzed with activity, several mighty figures appeared in his internal world...

Time passed in this manner. Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng’s enlightenment underwent six rounds of enforcement in those days. Zhao Yameng also grew increasingly suspicious, as the look of anticipation in Wang Baole’s eyes was simply too strong. That wasn’t all. Even Zhuo Yifan began to sense that something was amiss, and that was because... As they waited for the dark screen to descend, the number of meditating figures that appeared decreased every time!

“Wang Baole, are you hiding something from us?” After undergoing two rounds of enlightenment and noticing that the number of meditating figures around him, which were previously uncountable, had decreased by half, Zhuo Yifan asked Wang Baole with a weird expression on his face.

“How is that possible? Don’t think too much. Everything is the same here. Go look for your enlightenment, both of you. This is a good place.” Wang Baole hurriedly shook his head. However, Zhao Yameng, who was standing at the side, was already staring at him.

“Everything is the same here? Look at those meditating figures. They are no longer smiling, and they appear to be afraid to look at you. Some of them look like they have undergone some suffering, and some of them are trembling! It’s clear that some force is making them afraid to appear, and I would guess that they have long made their escape. Wang Baole, come clean. What on earth is going on?”

“They don’t dare to look at me? Am I so scary?” Wang Baole put on a look of disbelief. He stood up and was about to approach one of the meditating figures a distance away, but before he could go near, the mere act of him standing up made the meditating figure that was at least a thousand feet away from his disappear immediately. It wasn’t the only figure that disappeared. Most of the other figures that were around it also disappeared at the same time. The ones that remained were very far away, and only their blurred appearances could be seen...

“There’s no need to be so sensitive. The dark screen hasn’t descended yet...” Wang Baole blinked, looking at Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng with embarrassment.

In reality, the previous few incidents made the figures escape every time he tried to grab them as the dark screen descended. He had to put in a lot of effort in order to grab a figure as a result.

“Baole, when I was in enlightenment previous, Master told me that... A shameless fella that was fond of calling himself Daddy had appeared. He was referring to you, right...?” Zhuo Yifan hesitated, then he slowly asked the question.

### **Chapter 532: Daddy’s Angry**

“Yifan! We are brothers. I, Wang Baole, have morals, and am not someone who is so shameless!” Wang Baole was a little sheepish, but the more sheepish he was, the more he tried to showcase how upright he was. When he looked at Zhuo Yifan, his gaze was extremely clear.

That gaze wavered Zhuo Yifan slightly. Zhao Yameng, who was standing at the side, rolled her eyes at Wang Baole, but she also felt helpless about the situation. She decided to not care about the matter anymore, and Zhuo Yifan, after thinking about the situation for a while, also sighed and no longer spoke.

Wang Baole blinked his eyes and cleared his throat. He thought to himself that this was a matter that he could never tell others. He didn’t hide the matter from both of them on purpose, there were simply too many secrets in Wang Baole’s internal world.

*It’s all these Little Inheritances’ fault. I need to teach them a lesson when the dark screen descends later, so they will know the consequences of offending their daddy!* Wang Baole snorted in his heart, and then sat down with his legs crossed again. When the dark screen descended, and Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng went on with their enlightenment, Wang Baole leaped up and shouted.

“Little Inheritances, how dare you complain about me? This time, daddy is angry!” Wang Baole charged out as he screamed. Even though the meditating figures around him instantly escaped and vanished, Wang Baole was experienced and swiftly leaped up, scavenging at high speed. Eventually, after a Herculean effort, he managed to grab one of the figures, just as the dark screen was about to dissipate.

It was the figure of an old man this time. After arriving in Wang Baole’s internal world, a look of hopelessness was seen on his face. After imparting his inheritance and undergoing a round of scaring, he was finally let off.

As a result of this incident, after the dark screen dissipated, no single figure appeared around Wang Baole and company...

This journey of enlightenment finally ended, with Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng both completely solidifying their enlightenment, while increasingly feeling that something was amiss.

When they were about to leave, figures that never appeared previously showed up. They were worried about them losing their way and spending too much time there, so they would occasionally appear to show them the way. What made Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng speechless was that every time those figures showed up, they were trembling as if they would instantly escape as soon as they detected something was wrong.

“Are we so scary? That’s just too much!” As Wang Baole responded with righteous anger, Zhuo Yifan didn’t bother to speak anymore. Zhao Yameng also felt mentally exhausted. She thought to herself that it was clear that those figures were afraid of Wang Baole, and that he shouldn’t implicate the both of them.

Under the guidance of the figures in the land of inheritance, the trio soon neared the border and began to see the dividing line with the white-colored land!

Beyond the dividing line was the Sea of Fire, with mountains in the sky. Numerous fragments of the pavilions were floating, and this familiar scene made the three of them realize immediately that they were about to reach the exit.

After contrasting the Sea of Fire with the land of inheritance, both Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng felt that the land of inheritance was the safer area in the sword body region.

In addition, it must be mentioned that Wang Baole played a significant role here. Therefore, after thinking about it, Zhao Yameng looked at Wang Baole.

“Baole, tell us the truth. Would staying in the land of inheritance be safer than going out?”

Seeing how serious Zhao Yameng looked, Wang Baole stopped to think before looking at his surroundings and nodding his head.

“Indeed, compared to the area out there, it is safer here. If any of those inheritance figures dared to make a single noise, I would suppress it!” As Wang Baole spoke, a look of arrogance appeared on his face.

“If that is so, then we should stay here for now. I can feel that after receiving the Disaster Firmament Ancient Array Formation, my cultivation level has reached the point of advancement, and I could breakthrough into the Core Formation realm anytime!” Zhao Yameng took a deep breath, and as she spoke, Zhuo Yifan, who was beside her, nodded his head.

“That’s the case for me too. I am confident of breaking through from late-stage Foundation Establishment realm to the level of perfection after being in seclusion for a period of time!”

“Once Zhuo Yifan and I achieve a breakthrough, it might be safer for our journey back. Baole, is that the case for your cultivation as well?” As Zhao Yameng spoke, she looked at Wang Baole once again.

In reality, Wang Baole gained the most from this encounter. At the same time, he had long sensed that his cultivation was sending continuous signals. All that was needed was a push to achieve a breakthrough from early-stage Core Formation realm to mid-stage Core Formation realm.

Clearly, what Zhao Yameng said made sense. In addition, as it was definitely dangerous outside, achieving breakthrough here, where it was safer, was the best choice. Therefore, after a moment of silence, Wang Baole agreed to the matter.

“I wonder how long this round of seclusion would last. Let’s tidy up what we have gained previously at the cave abode. I managed to get numerous pills, and they could perhaps be useful to achieve breakthrough in our cultivation.” As Zhuo Yifan spoke, he took out the items he obtained from the penthouse of the cave abode.

The three of them had immense trust in each other. As such, along their journey, they didn’t think about organizing their gains. Having received the inheritance and being guaranteed exit from this place anytime, and with their cultivation on the brink of a breakthrough, they began to think about their gains.

Zhao Yameng also nodded her head and placed the items she obtained in between them. Wang Baole did the same as well. His biggest gain, other than the identity token of a core disciple, was the core disciple's corpse.

"There's also a storage bag on this corpse..." As Wang Baole spoke, he retrieved the storage bag from the corpse. He looked through it and found a dull necklace around the corpse's neck.

Finally, after the trio gathered all their items and opened up the storage bag, they began organizing the items. In the process of organizing them, there were gradual changes in their auras. Without a doubt, their individual gains were significant, but the gains that they had piled together were so significant that even a calm person like Zhao Yameng could hardly suppress the agitation in her heart.

When they finally finished organizing the items, the trio looked at each other, noticing the surprise and excitement in each other's eyes.

"We've struck it rich!" Wang Baole took a deep breath as he looked at the items that all of them had. There were over fifty disciple identity tokens, with one core disciple's identity token, three inner sect disciple identity tokens, and the rest of them outer sect disciple identity tokens. Just those identity tokens alone were worth thirty thousand battle credits.

Other than that, Zhao Yameng also gained three Dharmic treasures, which were a broken black-colored pike, a compass, and a large banner!

After Wang Baole analyzed the items, two of the three Dharmic treasures were similar to an eighth-grade Dharmic Armament! Those two items were the compass and the large banner. What was most important was that those two Dharmic treasures were more or less intact. Wang Baole only needed to repair them slightly, and they could be used directly!

The black pike surprised the trio most, as it was a ninth-grade Dharmic Armament!

However, as it was severely damaged, it required a large amount of time and resources to repair. Other than that, there were also over thirty bottles of pills, numerous refinement pills, as well as refinement materials—most of which the trio found hard to recognize.

Those were just a small proportion of everything. Zhuo Yifan's gains also included three jade slips, where three cultivation techniques were recorded. Even though it was incomparable to the inheritance that the trio obtained, but Wang Baole, who had been to the Vast Expanse Techniques Chamber, remembered that those three cultivation techniques were worth approximately five thousand battle credits each.

Besides that, there was also a set of spell arrays named the Astral Guidance Lumina Array!

The value of those items was difficult to estimate. However, the trio soon excitedly found out that there was an item whose value far exceeded all the other items' value combined!

That item was the necklace that Wang Baole had retrieved from the core disciple's neck. It wasn't a treasure, but a unique storage item, with a beast skin stored within it!

The moment the beast skin was taken out, an indescribable sense of antiquity could be felt. Opening the beast skin up, a method of refining a Divine Armament was recorded on it!

“Divine Armament recipe!” Zhao Yameng, a calm person, couldn’t help but scream in delight. Zhuo Yifan’s mind buzzed, while Wang Baole’s eyes bulged, extremely agitated as he looked at the beast skin.

Divine Armament... There was only one in the entire Federation. Even though Wang Baole possessed a Dark Artifact that was also a Divine Armament, it was severely damaged, and it was difficult to repair it.

At the same time, because he possessed the Dark Artifact, he knew better than anyone how powerful the Divine Armament was!

### **Chapter 533: Individual Breakthroughs!**

The piece of beast skin with the formula for the Divine Armament written on it probably managed to survive in the extremely poor environment due to its unique material. Therefore, after the trio looked through it, they each made a copy of the refinement formula of the Divine Armament.

Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng put the original copy of the beast skin in the hands of Wang Baole. After all, amongst the three of them, only Wang Baole was a Dharmic Armament cultivator. If not for the Divine Armament formula having value as reference material, the both of them wouldn’t have made a copy of it, as the refinement process was complicated even with the formula.

On top of that, Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng were also frank with their need for pills. The two of them were now at the critical juncture where their cultivation was about to reach a breakthrough, and their requirement for this external boost was high. After all, they were both so close to breaking through, and this was even more so for Zhuo Yifan. Therefore, in terms of the distribution of pills, both of them took the majority, while Wang Baole only took the amount he needed for his seclusion.

Next up was the distribution of disciple identity tokens. Zhuo Yifan smiled as he looked at Wang Baole and chose to give up on his share. On the one hand, he knew that he wasn’t capable enough, and on the other hand, he knew about Wang Baole’s aspirations and decided to help him fulfill it.

That was so for Zhao Yameng as well. She didn’t even take a look at those identity tokens and simply tossed them to Wang Baole. Wang Baole responded with agitation, as he was just thinking about how to discuss the matter with them. They may be good pals, but the identity tokens were items that could be exchanged for battle credits.

“Yameng, Yifan, rest assured that once I become Federation President, both of you would become my right- and left-hand men. Then, we three brothers would rule over everyone!” Wang Baole spoke with emotion, and in his excitement, he didn’t notice that Zhao Yameng appeared cold, as if the word ‘brother’ had offended her.

Zhuo Yifan laughed, before passing the compass, which was one of the three Dharmic Armaments, to Zhao Yameng. He kept the other eighth-grade Dharmic Armament and placed the broken ninth-grade Dharmic Armament pike before Wang Baole.

There wasn’t anything else to say due to the good relationship shared by the trio. After all the resources had been allocated, they took a look at their surroundings, and after making sure that there was nothing amiss, they each entered seclusion.

To Zhuo Yifan, the decision to become powerful was firm. He didn't want the incident of him being seized by the family clan to happen again. The experience of being imprisoned in the family clan was a secret that he kept to himself. In his heart, it was a pain that was difficult to recover from.

Therefore, he desired to be an elite more than anything. He could pay any price to achieve that. For example, he knew that the eventual outcome of the inheritance enlightenment this time could leave him neither human nor soldier. However, he could accept an outcome like that, as long as he could become more powerful!

Going into seclusion now, his goal was to achieve a breakthrough and perfect the Foundation Establishment realm. On the other hand, he wanted to make use of the Nine Transformation Acts of the Divine Armament to complement the War Soldier in his body. Having played out part of the process previously, it was already extremely painful such that it was like his bones were being drawn out. However, the determination and decisiveness in his eyes revealed the steadfastness in his mind!

As for Zhao Yameng, despite not having the same level of desire as Zhuo Yifan at becoming an elite, her background and caliber were undeniably amongst the top in this current cultivation of the Federation. Most importantly, while she didn't desire to be an elite, she had a strong persistence towards the Great Dao that her father had mentioned to her before, as well as towards cultivation.

"Meng'er, there are three thousand Great Dao. Even though any of them could lead to the essence mentioned in the legends, they are all of different depths. Based on my interpretation, you're most suited for the array formation Dao. Even though it cannot be considered a shortcut, its effectiveness places it in the top ten Dao!"

That was a conversation between Zhao Yameng and her father when she had chosen to enroll in Ethereal Dao College those years back. Even now, Zhao Yameng still remembered it clearly. As she closed her eyes, the Disaster Firmament Ancient Array Formation appeared in her mind. Countless arrangements and Array Runes were within it. As she sought enlightenment in the Array Runes, the pills that she swallowed swiftly turned into a pushing force that supported her in achieving enlightenment and destroyed the cuffs of the Foundation Establishment realm!

Noticing that the two of them had entered seclusion, Wang Baole was still worried despite Zhao Yameng putting array formations in place, and despite the meditating figures no longer appearing. After all, this place was only relatively safer to the Sea of Fire outside.

In his silence, Wang Baole patted his storage bag and pulled the donkey out of it. Since arriving at the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, Wang Baole had busied himself and almost forgot about the donkey. Right now, after being taken out of the storage bag, the donkey appeared listless as it lay there, looking at Wang Baole with resentment.

"Son!"

"What's with that scream? Get up and work! Pay attention to the surroundings and scream if there is danger!" Wang Baole was a little guilty. He thought to himself that he wasn't cut out to be a father, as he always forgot his sons.



*Hmm, I seem to have forgotten another son of mine.* Wang Baole scratched his head. He was about to think of that person when Zhao Yameng began to give off an aura belonging to a Core Formation realm cultivator.

*This is the last hurrah!* Wang Baole turned to look immediately. He no longer thought about his forgotten son. After confirming that Zhao Yameng's boost would still take a while before it happened and that she had accumulated enough to give off gradually, such that nothing serious would happen, Wang Baole kicked the pitiful donkey.

"Work!" Wang Baole stared.

The donkey sneezed loudly, lazily climbing up without a choice. It appeared as if it had no lingering sentiments towards life as it scanned its surroundings. Its expression made Wang Baole feel guilty, and his heart softened. He pondered about whether he should give out his remaining opened bag of snacks.

There were less than ten pieces left in the bag. Every time Wang Baole reminisced about the Federation, he would take out a piece and lick it with his tongue, and the snacks were like his beloved. Right now, however, the love for his son surpassed everything. Wang Baole gritted his teeth, taking a piece of snack and tossing it to the donkey.

The donkey's eyes lit up. It dashed towards the snack and was about to eat it when it seemed to sense that something wasn't right. It took a whiff of the snack, and a look of hesitation appeared on its face.

"Scram, what do you mean by that? I'm giving you another chance to show the facial expression that you should be showing!" Wang Baole looked awful as he stared at the donkey. He raised his hand and cracked his knuckles.

The donkey shuddered and instantly put on a look of excitement and desire. Without hesitation, it swallowed the snack in a mouthful, looking extremely immersed in enjoyment. That was when Wang Baole patted its head with satisfaction.

"All right, since you have eaten my treasure, quickly go guard the place!" With that, Wang Baole no longer cared about the donkey as he sat down. He took out a pill and swallowed it, then started to meditate and cultivate.

His cultivation was already at the peak of early-stage Core Formation realm, and it was only a small step away from mid-stage Core Formation realm. After going through the numerous inheritance, he had received huge gains despite not being fully enlightened. The small distance from mid-stage Core Formation realm was already surpassed. As his cultivation was activated, and as the force of the pill was integrated, he began the last hurrah!

Noticing that Wang Baole had entered seclusion, the donkey, which was pretending to stand guard, immediately retched. For a creature like it who had an appetite for almost everything, retching was something that was never seen before. However, after a long while, it didn't regurgitate anything. The donkey sighed visibly and helplessly licked the ground. Without much thought, he took a huge bite out of the ground, but there was nothing there. Instead, it jumped in pain as a result.

As time passed, three days later, the donkey had grown extremely bored seeing that nothing was happening to the trio. It turned its head to look towards the Sea of Fire not far away. After thinking about it, it ran towards the Sea of Fire and swallowed a mouthful of it...

The Sea of Fire didn't taste good, and this was evident by the donkey's shudder. It threw out its tongue and returned reluctantly, laying there, licking the ground endlessly. Rolling its eyes, it thought about whether it should have someone else as its father, as this fatty was simply a bully and an irresponsible father.

Seven days later, a loud boom emerged from Zhuo Yifan, who was the first to break through. Instantly, the aura of someone who had perfected Foundation Establishment realm cultivation, and of someone extremely close to the Core Formation realm, erupted from his body.

As the aura was unleashed, an illusion that only appeared at Core Formation realm transmogrified behind him. It was the image of a red sword!

This flying sword was unusual. It only had a blade but not a handle. The blade was full of frightening ridges, and looked extremely scary!

#### **Chapter 534: Eye!**

This unusual scene only lasted for a few seconds before disappearing. Zhuo Yifan's aura slowly stabilized as he began the process of consolidation. There also seemed to be a butterfly effect in terms of achieving breakthroughs, as soon, an aura and suppressive force that was stronger than that of Zhuo Yifan's was given off Zhao Yameng's body.

As the suppressive force spread, a crackling voice was produced from Zhao Yameng's body. If one could pass through and see her dantian, they could clearly notice that an Array Rune core made up of countless Array Runes accumulated together was fast forming!

As it formed, the moving waves produced as a result of Zhao Yameng's cultivation grew stronger. Finally, she opened her eyes, having achieved a breakthrough from the Foundation Establishment realm into the Core Formation realm. At the same time, an illusion also formed behind her!

It was an illusion of the cosmos, and a large ancient tree was in it. The tree was made up completely of Array Runes, and it was the Disaster Firmament Ancient Array Formation inheritance that Zhao Yameng had obtained!

On the other hand, Wang Baole's internal cultivation seemed to have broken free from its cuffs due to the auras all around him. Instantly, he broke through from early-stage Core Formation realm and entered the mid-stage Core Formation realm. His mid-stage Core Formation realm was also unusual, as he broke through more than once!

The first to achieve a breakthrough was his Lightning Core. After the Lightning Core had broken through, the first level of Wang Baole's Lightning Immortal Transformation was perfected. He only needed to go into seclusion for a period of time to consolidate it to reach the second level of the Lightning Immortal Transformation, so as to create a Lightning Immortal avatar!

The next to achieve a breakthrough was his Dark Core. To Wang Baole, the Dark Art was well prepared. Be it the inheritance enlightenment in his Dark Dream, or his control of the Dark Qi absorption and that of Soul Guidance, they both allowed Wang Baole's Dark Core and Lightning Core to achieve a breakthrough at the same time and enter the mid-stage Core Formation realm!

The last to achieve a breakthrough was his physical body. In reality, that was the fundamental reason why he swallowed the pills. Not only would the pills boost part of his cultivation, but they would stimulate his physical body. Of course, these weren't the main reason. The key that really allowed Wang Baole's physical body to achieve a breakthrough was Thearch Armor's inheritance!

Even though Wang Baole hadn't cultivated this inheritance, simply imprinting it in his mind already had an impact on his physical body, causing it to constantly change by adapting to Thearch Armor's cultivation.

Therefore, while the breakthrough this time appeared to only advance from early-stage to mid-stage Core Formation realm, his combat capabilities had significantly improved. As he opened his eyes, an aura that made even Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng astonished emanated from Wang Baole's body.

*So powerful!* Zhuo Yifan was surprised, and immediately stood up and retreated several steps. Under the lure of Wang Baole's aura, his glabella glowed red, and the mark of the War Soldier vaguely transmogrified, as if the mark was offering protection instinctively.

Zhao Yameng didn't retreat like Zhuo Yifan, but she also revealed a look of surprise. As she sealed her hands and waved them, an array formation protective covering instantly appeared to stop the spread of the aura. She knew that Wang Baole was powerful, but right now, as Wang Baole achieved a breakthrough, she suddenly realized that Wang Baole was more shockingly powerful than she had thought.

It must be mentioned that she had also achieved a breakthrough herself. She was sensing everything through the combat capabilities of an early-stage Core Formation realm cultivator instead of a Foundation Establishment realm cultivator. That was sufficient to prove that even though Wang Baole's current breakthrough seemed uneventfully smooth, it was actually an extraordinary process!

That was especially so as right now, green veins were bulging from Wang Baole's physical body, and both Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng felt that his Blood Qi was raging. It seemed as if just his physical body alone was sufficient to suppress everything. There was also a black flame burning in his left eye, giving off a chill. In his right eye, lightning that could destroy everything was spreading as well. These, combined with his physical body, boosted Wang Baole's combat capabilities significantly!

As Wang Baole slowly stood up, the aura from his body continued to grow stronger, as if there were no limits. Even Zhao Yameng had no choice but to start retreating, as the array formation protective covering around her began to break apart.

Even the donkey was completely shocked, giving up on its initial thought to change his daddy. After thinking it through, it felt that even if it were to be transformed into a snake, it would still lose against its daddy.

Therefore, it sighed and resigned to fate. It put on a look to please, and even shook its tail enthusiastically, delightfully galloping around with its hooves.

*That's just too powerful!* Zhao Yameng was shaken as she held her breath and looked at Zhuo Yifan, before realizing that he was also looking at her. Astonishment could be seen in each of their eyes.

At that moment, Wang Baole stood up and slowly closed his eyes again. He gradually toned down on his aura. Several moments later, after his aura was completely dissipated, he reopened his eyes again. There was no longer any lightning or Dark Fire. However, after noticing Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng's facial expressions, Wang Baole hurriedly blinked. Maintaining his previous demeanor, he raised his chin and perked up his tummy, speaking nonchalantly.

"Zhao Yameng, tell me the truth. Are you secretly in love with me?"

As Wang Baole spoke, Zhuo Yifan, who despite still maintaining a mighty posture, slapped his forehead as he wondered about why the fella before him had a habit of taking liberties of others regardless of the situation...

As for Zhao Yameng, she was indeed taken aback by Wang Baole's aura previously, but when she heard those words, a look of unfriendliness could instantly be seen in her eyes.

Wang Baole chuckled looking at the duo's facial expressions, before hurriedly dissipating his aura. As he patted his tummy, he spoke arrogantly.

"How's that? Now the both of you know how formidable the Chairman of the Adonis Association is, huh?"

Zhao Yameng snorted, while Zhuo Yifan shook his head while laughing bitterly. However, he still felt that the Wang Baole who behaved in that manner was the Wang Baole that they were familiar with. The sense of unfamiliarity that previously arose due to Wang Baole's astonishing aura dissipated with Wang Baole's cheekiness. Soon, after some discussion, the trio made preparations to leave.

"Even though all of us have achieved a breakthrough, the journey back is still dangerous. We should remain vigilant." After Wang Baole made those last-minute reminders, the trio took a deep breath and unleashed their full speed. The donkey was thrown back into the storage bag by Wang Baole.

The area they were in was the periphery. Therefore, as the trio charged forward, they soon reached the dividing line between the land of inheritance and the Sea of Fire. They didn't stop and directly crossed over the line. The moment they did that, a heatwave greeted them, instantly dehydrating them and making them feel the obvious difference between the land of inheritance and the world outside.

Even the skies were different. The skies over the land of inheritance were pitch-black, with only three cracks revealing a red glow. Every once in a while, the dark screen would spread, plunging the area into darkness instantly. However, the skies here were a deep red color, and looking at it through the lens of Wang Baole's current level of cultivation, he could vaguely see that there was an unimaginable fire burning behind this deep red-colored sky. It was like a liquid and a gas at the same time, and couldn't be easily described.

*Seems like we have been teleported to the depths of the sword body...* Wang Baole was extremely vigilant as he observed the surroundings. At the same time, he was calling out for Little Missy in his mind. He needed to know which direction to head in before returning to the sword handle region from the sword body region.

As Wang Baole called for Little Missy, the trio seemed to have sensed something and turned their heads around one after another. They noticed that the dark screen had appeared once again over the land of inheritance that they had just left. Looking at it from the outside, they could gain a clear view. They realized that the skies weren't covered by a growing dark screen. Instead, a dark screen had risen up from the ground along the border before turning crescent-shaped and covering the entire land of inheritance whole. Overall, it seemed like a large semicircle that was gradually forming!

That shocked the trio and injected them with a sense of familiarity. Zhao Yameng was the first to react to this, and she hurriedly spoke.

"Don't you guys think that this land of inheritance looks like... an eye?"

"The black-colored area in the middle of the land is the pupil, while the white-colored area of the ground is the sclera. The dark screen occasionally appears, and it is likely the eyelids opening and closing when the eye blinks!"

### **Chapter 535: Immortal Platform!**

"An eye?" Zhuo Yifan constricted his pupils as he looked towards the land of inheritance. Wang Baole seemed to be deep in thought. He felt that based on Zhao Yameng's descriptions, the region did indeed look like an eye!

"That is... huge..." Wang Baole mumbled and was about to speak when a familiar, calm voice that he hasn't heard for a long time sounded in his mind.

"This lady has good observational skills, only lagging behind me by seventy percent. She should be the unprecedented number one spirit body in the civilization of your Federation."

Little Missy spoke nonchalantly. Wang Baole simply ignored her tone, his mind filled with surprise.

"Little Missy, you've finally awakened. Zhao Yameng is only the number one spirit body on the Federation, but you, Little Missy, are the number one elite! I haven't heard your voice in so long, I've missed you so much!"

"What a glib tongue!" Little Missy snorted, but her tone was visibly less distant. Even though she appeared to be annoyed, she was still secretly glad to hear that.

"That is indeed an eye and is officially called the Eye of Infinite Techniques. It is a visual land, one of the Lands of Five Senses left behind by my father those years ago in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!"

"In all those years, many marks were left behind by numerous mighty figures. Even though there is a certain danger, it is one of the two large inheritances in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace! The fact that the three of you were able to gain opportunities here definitely had something to do with me putting in spells and influencing the situation." As she spoke, Little Missy grew increasingly arrogant. Wang Baole blinked, somewhat suspicious of her words, but he felt that he should remain obedient. Therefore, he hurriedly curried Little Missy's favor.

He praised Little Missy for being formidable, extremely intelligent, with her charm surpassing everyone in the galaxy and her looks being out of this world... In other words, it was as mushy as it could possibly be. Little Missy humphed, but she didn't interrupt...

As he continued currying Little Missy's favor, Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng looked at Wang Baole, perplexed. Wang Baole was so engrossed in the process that, to outsiders, he was standing there frozen with a dazed expression. Zhuo Yifan was about to shake Wang Baole on the shoulder but was stopped by Zhao Yameng.

Without speaking, Zhao Yameng looked deeply into Wang Baole's eyes before turning to Zhuo Yifan, telling him not to disturb Wang Baole now.

Zhuo Yifan wasn't dense either. After thinking about it, he stood with Zhao Yameng while waiting for Wang Baole to recover.

Wang Baole carried on currying Little Missy's favor for a full hour. He was so mentally exhausted that he felt faint, as his mind was so active thinking about praises without repeating them. That was when Little Missy coughed slightly in his mind, as an indication that she was satisfied with what she had heard.

"All right, I know how much you look up to me. In the future, when you're trying to tell me how much you respect me, don't mention facts like that. Those aren't praises but the truth. Ah, Baole, you have a shortcoming, and that is, you're too honest!"

When he heard those words, Wang Baole was dumbfounded for a moment. After a while, after suppressing his surprise towards Little Missy's words, he forcefully heaved a sigh of relief and hurriedly opened his mouth to speak.

"Little Missy, how do you think we should leave this place?" As Wang Baole spoke, he felt glad that he was sending a voice transmission in his mind and not speaking in real life. Otherwise, he would have gone mute from all the talking.

"It's easy to leave this place." Little Missy spoke arrogantly and began giving directions. Wang Baole listened attentively, occasionally looking up to look at his surroundings, as if to ascertain the right direction to go to. Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng had long realized what was going on, and they continued waiting without speaking as they stood beside Wang Baole.

Before long, Wang Baole's eyes gradually brightened up as he listened to Little Missy's directions. Finally, he took a deep breath and turned to look at Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng.

"Follow me, I know the way out!" Wang Baole spoke excitedly and didn't bother to explain what had just happened. Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng pretended to not see what they had observed. After all, everyone had secrets. Even though they shared a strong relationship such that they were willing to put their lives in each other's hands, it was also because of this that they respected each other's secrets.

In addition, Wang Baole didn't hide away from the duo while carrying out this mysterious form of communication, and this signified the trust he had in them. Therefore, hearing Wang Baole's words, Zhuo Yifan and Zhao Yameng followed behind him immediately. Soon, the trio was moving fast in mid-air above the Sea of Fire, with Wang Baole leading the way.

They flew for seven few days without taking much rest. Thankfully, they all had just achieved a breakthrough in their cultivation and had sufficient pills to sustain their speed. However, even so, they didn't manage to cover a very long distance.

There was simply too much danger lurking around. Once in a while, a fire hurricane would erupt without any signs, moving mountains would appear suddenly before them, and Fire Gremlins showed up five times as well. Danger was everywhere, forcing the trio to either resist or reroute. However, thankfully, they managed to overcome it all.

That was especially so for the most dangerous encounter they had. On the fifth day of the trio's journey, a large hand suddenly extended amidst the Sea of Fire, as if it was punching the skies. It grabbed hold of a floating mountain thousands of feet before the trio, pulling it into the sea.

Even though it was a distance thousands of feet away, the suppressive force that emanated from the large hand still pressured the trio, such that their cultivation was slightly destabilized. They also turned extremely pale from shock...

Of course, that wasn't all. On the sixth day, as they continued flying vigilantly, they saw that a pond had appeared in an area of nothingness on their right. There was an alluring lady bathing in the pond while laughing cheekily and throwing glances at the trio.

Zhuo Yifan only took a single look and was instantly bewitched. His soul was almost sucked towards it. Luckily, Wang Baole was reminded by Little Missy and pulled the smitten Zhuo Yifan away, effectively avoiding a crisis.

There was also an incident that happened several hours ago. A sound similar to thousands of warring troops, produced by a cornett, was heard from a distance before them. From the side of his eye, Wang Baole could see an ancient battle cart, where there stood numerous giants with golden armor charging towards them.

Zhao Yameng paused and immediately put in place array formations while Wang Baole spoke hurriedly.

"Close your eyes!"

Zhao Yameng put all her faith in what she had just heard and closed her eyes without hesitation. Wang Baole dragged Zhao Yameng while closing his eyes as well. They could sense strong winds blowing before them as if someone was screaming at them. However, they resisted the urge to open their eyes until they sensed that the winds of the incoming impact that were about to crash into them suddenly disappear.

Several moments later, Wang Baole and Zhao Yameng opened their eyes, but they didn't see anything before them...

However, they were shocked by whatever they just felt. After a while, Zhao Yameng spoke softly.

"If we didn't shut our eyes just now..."

"There is no 'if'." Wang Baole shook his head. Based on his intuition as a Dark Child, he didn't sense any signs that indicated that what just happened was the result of angry spirits. That was sufficient to

conclude that either they were high-level spirits, or that the incident wasn't caused by spirits but by a mysterious force that Wang Baole didn't know of.

After a brief moment, he took a deep breath and continued the journey with Zhao Yameng, who remained silent. As the seventh day almost passed, Zhuo Yifan awakened. Recalling what had happened made him extremely frightened.

Three days passed after that. The trio experienced many other bizarre encounters, and they were mentally and physically exhausted. That was when they finally arrived at the destination pointed out by Little Missy.

It was an extremely tall mountain that couldn't be engulfed even by the Sea of Fire. On the peak of the mountain was an incense burner so large that the trio were like grains of sand beside it. The trio was completely shocked when they looked up as they stood beneath the incense burner!

The incense burner gave off a sense of antiquity, and there were no restrictions in the surroundings. It seemed like it was a public area of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace many years ago.

"This place is one of the seventy-two Immortal Platforms of the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Yameng and Yifan, work with me to channel your cultivation into this Immortal Platform in order to open it!" Wang Baole took a deep breath and suppressed the shock he was feeling. As he spoke, he raised his right hand and pressed it onto the Immortal Platform before him!

### **Chapter 536 Traveling By Smoke!**

The incense burner on the Immortal Platform appeared plain and ancient. There were nine enormous inscriptions written on it. They didn't understand what the inscriptions meant, but they could sense the immense power exuding from them.

When Wang Baole lifted his right hand and placed it on the incense burner, a powerful suction erupted suddenly and yanked at Wang Baole's physical body. It hooked onto his cultivation easily and drew it into the Immortal Platform!

The entire process was out of Wang Baole's control. His Spirit Qi seemed to have wrestled loose, like a horse shrugging off its reins. It sped towards the Immortal Platform, and one of the inscriptions began to glow with a dim light.

A myriad of emotions flashed across Zhao Yameng's and Zhuo Yifan's faces. They approached immediately and pressed their palms onto the Immortal Platform. Streams of Spirit Qi flowed out of their bodies instantly, surging into the incense burner. The glowing inscription began to shine with a brighter intensity.

Even though there were three of them, two at the Core Formation realm and one at the Foundation Establishment realm, they were unable to satisfy the first inscription's need for Spirit Qi. Wang Baole was prepared for this, though. Once he sensed Zhuo Yifan's weakening, he pulled out three supreme-grade Spirit Stones and flung one at Zhao Yameng and Zhuo Yifan. He held the remaining Spirit Stone in his left hand and allowed the Spirit Qi in the stone to flow into his body.



Time passed steadily. Despite their pale faces and trembling bodies, they managed to reach a certain sort of balance while being sustained by supreme-grade Spirit Stones. After exhausting hundreds of Spirit Stones, the first inscription on the incense pot finally lit up completely.

A sudden immense force surged from the Immortal Platform as the inscription lit up, blocking off the suction force. The three of them stumbled back as their bodies shuddered.

At that exact moment, the blinding light from the first inscription spread out. The entire incense burner began to quake. It finally activated for the first time in decades!

Loud booms like thunder descended and nearly deafened them. A wisp of green smoke rose slowly from the incense burner towards the skies.

It was a strange sight indeed. Wang Baole said immediately, "Use the mantra I've taught you and enter the green smoke!"

Little Missy had taught Wang Baole a mantra during the ten day's journey. It was a simple manta that resembled a string of code. Zhao Yameng and Zhuo Yifan had memorized it easily after he had taught them. As soon as Wang Baole said that, they immediately formed a series of hand seals. Their motions were fully synchronized. As they uttered the mantra in their heads, they began to shine with a green light. It grew brighter and brighter until their forms were completely obscured by the light. They had transformed into spheres of glowing green light.

As the glowing spheres continued to shine, they began to rise slowly into the air and race towards the enormous incense burner. They headed for the green smoke rising above the incense burner, approaching and merging with it. One could then see three indistinct figures in the green smoke—Wang Baole, Zhao Yameng, and Zhuo Yifan.

Before they could recover from their shock, the green smoke rose rapidly away, drifting off in the windless sky. It sped into the distance, disregarding any mountain peaks or seas of fire in its way. It passed straight through them. It was swift, swifter than the three of them had ever been. Such a means of travel, via smoke, was beyond their wildest imagination. They couldn't control the surge of emotions inside of them.

"This is what the true Vast Expanse Dao Palace is like..." Zhuo Yifan muttered to himself. Zhao Yameng began to analyze what was going on. She was clearly taken aback, but her mind instinctively tried to dissect the principles behind the Immortal Platform.

Wang Baole was the only one whose eyes were shining. If he could make good use of the Immortal Platform, he might... just be able to enter any hexed areas and search for treasures.

They each had their own thoughts, but the shock of traveling via smoke remained. The speed was astonishing. Wang Baole's preliminary assessment indicated that the smoke was traveling at a hundred times his speed. They stared at the lands beneath them as they traveled, unable to recover from the shock of it all.

They had the rare opportunity to view a large segment of the sword body as they sped through the air. They saw that the Sea of Fire covered only half of the lands, while the remaining half was covered in different types of landscape.

They saw hundreds of deep craters, many which weren't filled with lava. And even those that were weren't filled to the brim. A terrifying aura that struck fear into their hearts oozed from deep inside each of those craters.

They saw signs of spells being cast. The energy signatures of spells could be found in some regions. The danger that oozed from those regions remained intense despite them being protected in the smoke.

Those sights could hardly compare to what they saw next. As they raced in the skies, a giant hand emerged from the Sea of Fire below them. It looked different from the giant hand they had encountered before, having only four fingers. It swept through the air and made a grab for the smoke they were nestled in. The giant hand charged towards the shocked trio, but it missed. It was as if the entire cloud of smoke was just that—a cloud of smoke. It dispersed, then gathered together again, then continued dashing through the sky.

The harmless fright sent their hearts racing as they released a sigh of relief. They watched as they flew across the lands. Gradually, a vast plain appeared before them. On it were countless... skeletons!

"This... this..." Wang Baole's eyes almost popped out. His breathing quickened as he stared stupidly at the plain below them. It was a vast plain, without an end in sight, and innumerable skeletons filled the plains, too many for counting.

There were cultivators from the Vast Expanse Dao Palace as well as members of the Never-Ending Clan. It was clear that a large-scale battle between the two had been conducted here. Death filled the air, and pockets of chaos littered the place. Those with inadequate levels of cultivation might go mad instantly should they even draw near this place.

However, if one could enter this place safely, he would be rewarded with a bountiful gain. He would walk away filthy rich. In fact, the battle credits that one would get from the sheer number of identity tokens found there was unimaginable, not to mention the treasures that rested in countless storage bags on the battlefield...

"My god!" Wang Baole had thought he had come away with quite a bounty. He knew now that what he had found was a mere grain of sand in an ocean. It was pathetic.

The sight made them realize how impossible it would be for them to return if they hadn't found the Immortal Platform!

The green smoke traveled for three days. It crossed vast lands, none of which seemed familiar to them. Then, they came across an extremely unique sea!

It was not a Sea of Fire, but one of blood. The sea of blood rested within a Sea of Fire. Its edges were clearly defined. The flames couldn't cross and mingle. When the green smoke flew past, it began to warp and grow thinner. It sank, gradually. It seemed affected by the sea of blood and was on the verge of disintegration. The three of them began to grow nervous. As they looked down, Zhao Yameng suddenly said, "There's a corpse in the sea of blood!"

A corpse floated adrift in the sea of blood. It wasn't extremely large, but it was still considerably taller than an ordinary man. It was about twenty feet long and was dressed in lavish attire. It also only had half its skull on it.

If they hadn't had such good eyes, due to the descending mist, they wouldn't have been able to spot it.

Even though the corpse was missing half its skull, and even though it was dead, it continued to exude an overpowering aura which affected the green smoke. He was clearly the cause of the sea of blood, having been able to create such a terrifying phenomenon after his death. This was the most terrifying sight that the three of them had seen while traveling in the green smoke!

*His cultivation must at least be at the Eternal Star realm when he was still alive! He might be even more powerful than that!* Based on his experiences in the Dark Dream, Wang Baole did a rough estimation. He reeled back with shock—at the corpse's power and at the mark on the corpse's arm. Others might not know what it signified, but Wang Baole had read about such things while he was in the Dark Dream. He had read that extremely powerful cultivators were able to form storage seals and create an alternate space inside their bodies, where they could store their possessions more safely.

*This person should be an Elder! That's two hundred thousand battle credits!*

### **Chapter 537: Little Duanmu, Your Package Is on Its Way**

Wang Baole's heart began to race rapidly. He thought about how the Vast Expanse Dao Palace was amassing identity tokens. There must be some reason for that. He had intended to ask Little Missy about it when she woke up. Now that he was reminded of it again, he hastily inquired.

"The identity token represents one's access rights. Many places are only accessible to disciples with the relevant access rights. I'll help you look around if there's a chance and see if we can locate the records belonging to the true Vast Expanse Dao Palace. You'll be able to learn how to make use of those access rights after listing your name in the records. You can even make use of other people's identity tokens and borrow their access rights. The three inner sect disciples must have the same intentions. Of course, your name must first be in the records for this to work," Little Missy said casually as if he had just disturbed her for an extremely trivial matter.

Wang Baole couldn't resist the temptation. Even though Little Missy didn't provide many details, he still managed to piece together the big picture. He stared longingly at the corpse in the Blood Sea. The green smoke had finally left the region. It reformed and then left again, taking only Wang Baole with it. His thoughts, however, remained with the corpse that was worth two hundred thousand battle credits.

Days passed, and the green smoke grew thinner. It finally vanished completely when it approached the border that separated the sword handle and the sword body. The trio landed on a mountain peak free of hexes. Wang Baole continued to look back, longing and mixed feelings shining in his eyes.

"We're... back..." Zhuo Yifan released a sigh. This trip had been filled with ups and downs. It had been an incredible adventure. Someone weak-hearted would have died of fright halfway through the journey.

Zhao Yameng took in a deep breath as well. Excitement shone in her eyes. She had gained much from this trip. The time she had spent at the Immortal Platform, especially, had given her much to think about. Enlightenment still evaded her, but she did get some inspiration.

Wang Baole was the only one who stared behind him, determination slowly lighting up his eyes.

“I’ve made up my mind. Just wait until my level of cultivation increases. I’ll get my hands on that Elder’s identity token. I remember the way back!” Wang Baole gritted his teeth. As soon as he said that, Zhuo Yifan’s eyes shone with respect and admiration. He patted Wang Baole on the shoulder.

“Baole, you’ve set yourself on the road to eventual death. There’s no turning back for you.”

Even Zhao Yameng shook her head after staring at Wang Baole. Wang Baole sighed at their reactions. He knew that it was quite impossible to retrieve the Elder’s identity token. However, he couldn’t get rid of the itch. He remained dazed the entire journey back.

Fortunately, they were near the borders. They could see the enormous defensive barrier in the distance when they raised their heads. It wasn’t as dangerous out here. They dashed ahead and soon stepped across the barrier, leaving the sword body behind them as they entered the region of the sword handle!

What could be considered as relatively cool winds greeted them. Wang Baole shook himself and cleared his mind. He did his best to shove aside his lust for the storage bag on the dead Elder’s corpse. They went through five rounds of teleportation and finally arrived inside the Vast Expanse Dao Palace.

Through the regional Spirit Internet shared by all Federation Seedlings, they found that they had been gone for six months. It wasn’t a long time for a cultivator. In fact, this was a typical duration to be away for any cultivator entering the sword body to complete a mission. Some would be gone for a far longer period. However, they had gone through a lot during these six months.

In fact, no one would believe what they had experienced if they told them. They weren’t foolish enough to share such information recklessly. Zhao Yameng and Zhuo Yifan left immediately after returning to the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. They had reaped a bountiful return and needed to retreat into seclusion and deal with what they had found.

Wang Baole finally managed to set aside his greed for the battle credits he could be earning by stealing from the dead Elder. He headed straight for the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. The first thing he was going to do was to exchange the identity tokens he had gotten for battle credits.

He had reaped too bountiful a harvest this time. He was bound to attract attention. However, there was no way he was going to go unnoticed with a core disciple’s identity token in his possession. Wang Baole decided to throw caution to the wind and headed straight for the mission stone slab.

It seemed that there was never a moment when the place wouldn’t be crowded with people. Cultivators streamed around the stone slab. Wang Baole’s arrival didn’t draw too much attention. He approached the stone slab and was about to exchange his hard-earned gains for battle credits. Suddenly, the bustling around him grew faint. Everything suddenly seemed quieter.

Wang Baole froze. He turned and looked. Many people around him had stopped breathing as they stared into the distance, at an approaching figure!

It was a young man. He had a towering, sturdy build and long, flowing black hair. He wore the red robes that indicated he was a personal disciple of someone in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. A chilly aura flowed off him in waves, his eyes were devoid of emotion, and his handsome face was as cold as a glacier!

He showed no signs of arrogance or condescension, and there was no hint of spirit energy as he approached from the skies. Those who stood in front of him stepped away and opened up a path for him. They greeted him, lowering their heads, not daring to look into his eyes.

“That’s Senior Brother Dugu Lin!”

“He’s the first personal disciple under Elder Mie Liezi...”

“I heard he spends most of his time traveling alone in the region of the sword body...”

People started whispering around him. Wang Baole narrowed his eyes. Others might have sensed a chilly aura exuding from this person, but Wang Baole could sense an immense fury surrounding Mie Liezi’s first personal disciple, Dugu Lin. They didn’t originate from Dugu Lin but were formed from countless killings, transformed into an aura that surrounded him!

*Such a strong bloodlust!* Wang Baole’s expression was calm. He had been living in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace for nearly a year. He had heard of Vast Expanse Dao Palace’s five prodigies from Yun Piaozi as well as through the regional Spirit Internet.

The five prodigies were all personal disciples of the three Elders, and Dugu Lin was one of them. He was Mie Liezi’s personal disciple. Out of the remaining four prodigies, two were Feng Qiuran’s personal disciples and the other two You Ran’s personal disciples.

They were all at the perfected Core Formation realm. They were extremely gifted, their talents incomparable. They rarely appeared in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, and whenever they appeared, they would draw the attention of everyone around them.

An expressionless Dugu Lin walked towards the stone slab amidst the awed looks from the crowd. With a wave of his hand, he pulled out vast quantities of identity tokens and initiated the exchange immediately. The enormous stone slab began to shine with a brilliant light. The young man had submitted too many identity tokens, which necessitated some calculations on the stone slab’s part.

Heated discussions began to ring out once again after Dugu Lin handed over the identity tokens. Wang Baole observed the exchange with silent surprise. Even though Dugu Lin hadn’t presented any core disciple’s identity tokens for exchange, he had handed over thirteen identity tokens belonging to inner sect disciples and more than a hundred identity tokens belonging to outer sect disciples. The sheer number of identity tokens was astonishing.

Even though his exchange couldn’t rival what Wang Baole had, Wang Baole knew very well how dangerous the sword body was. To be able to get his hands on these tokens, he must have barged into forbidden areas. Wang Baole grew cautious of this man. He decided against exchanging his tokens now. There was no point trying to start a competition with someone he had no grudges against. It would be completely meaningless to do that.

He noticed how the stone slab would start shining if the number of tokens submitted exceeded a certain quantity. Wang Baole decided that he would split up his tokens and exchange them in batches, even though this might attract unwanted attention.

Wang Baole continued to linger in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace long after Dugu Lin had left. He returned to the stone slab and made his exchanges in batches. He left the identity token of the core disciple for last. The crowd gasped as the stone slab began to shine.

“Someone just exchanged for a large quantity of battle credits earlier... from the brightness level of the stone slab, the exchange must be for at least ten thousand credits!”

“Who the hell managed to do that?”

Due to Wang Baole’s prudence, no one realized that he had been the one making the exchanges. Wang Baole waited as the people around him began discussing heatedly again. He even pretended to be surprised. After some time, he finally shook his head and left.

He was beyond excited though. He saw the battle credits that he had got after the exchange, and immense satisfaction unfurled inside him.

He had accumulated more than forty thousand battle credits!

This was a considerable sum even for a Nascent Soul realm cultivator. Battle credits were a precious commodity in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. Save the missions demanding identity tokens, the battle credits awarded by other missions were pitiful. In addition, continuous cultivation meant a continuous expenditure of battle credits.

With his battle credits in his pocket, Wang Baole went to the Vast Expanse Techniques Chamber merrily. After some thought, he got fifteen sets of cultivation techniques worth a thousand battle credits each. He felt a slight sense of regret though. He had inherited numerous legacies at the Eye of Infinite Techniques, but they were all embedded in his mind. With his current level of cultivation, he wasn’t yet capable of replicating them into jade slips. He couldn’t send those over to the Federation.

As for the techniques they had gathered in the cave abode—Zhao Yameng and Zhuo Yifan were learning those techniques. As their friend, he wouldn’t easily share those techniques. That was why, after some thought, he had decided to primarily obtain new cultivation techniques via exchanging battle credits.

*After all, I’m rich now. It’s just ten thousand battle credits. That’s like petty cash. I still have my Spirit Boats, which will fetch quite a sum of credits as well. Yun Piaozi’s been saying that he’s almost got a deal settled since six months ago. I’ll catch up with him after this. The earnings should be considerable.* Wang Baole thought about how rich he was now. Brimming with self-satisfaction, he didn’t even frown when he exchanged his credits for fifteen sets of cultivation techniques. He headed straight for the teleportation array formation immediately.

*Little Duanmu, your package is on its way!* Wang Baole’s spirits soared. He could sense the Federation presidency within his reach.

### **Chapter 538: A Shocked Federation**

Wang Baole was extremely pleased with himself. He found that his endearment “Little Duanmu” ran off his lips really smoothly. It was impossible to know how Wang Baole judged it to be so. Regardless, he firmly believed that his promotion to Federation President was guaranteed. It was an inevitability. His

confidence led him to believe that there was nothing wrong with him addressing the president as Little Duanmu.

Wang Baole grew incredibly excited at that thought. He waved his hand. The disciples guarding the teleportation array formation stared with wide eyes and open mouths as he spent fifteen thousand battle credits and sent fifteen sets of cultivation techniques back to the Federation!

Fifteen thousand battle credits was a huge sum of wealth to those disciples guarding the teleportation array formation. Their breathing quickened instantly. Their eyes grew red. They could only manage to scramble together a few hundred credits after a month's hard work. That was before they took into account their expenses for the month. After that, they were generally left with only a few credits.

The fact that Wang Baole was so wealthy made them feel incredulous. They could taste bitter jealousy in their mouths at the sight of such wealth.

"So what if he's rich!"

"That's right. So what if they have a bit of money. Doesn't mean a thing. I heard that the Federation Seedlings would resort to anything to earn battle credits. I heard of this person called Li Yi. She's even more despicable. She actually seduced the island lord of the island she was assigned to!"

"Your news is outdated. I've heard of her as well. She didn't stop at one. I heard she's seduced at least seven or eight of them!"

Filled with jealousy, the disciples on guard began to exchange voice transmissions to vent their anger. They watched as the teleportation array formation erupted with a startling, blinding light, and teleported all fifteen jade slips away in the blink of an eye.

Beyond the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, within the same Solar System where the ancient greenish-bronze sword rested, Li Xingwen sat cross-legged next to and guarded the array formation on Mercury. His eyes opened, and an image of Duan Muque appeared at the same time.

They had experienced this before. In addition, they had received cultivation techniques from Federation Seedlings during this past six months. They had grown accustomed to this. They got excited as soon as they sensed waves of spirit energy rising from the array formation.

"How many will they send over this time?"

"Speaking of that. The girl, Li Yi, has done quite well. She's sent over five sets of cultivation techniques. She could be said to be the cream of the crop for this batch of Federation Seedlings!" Duan Muque laughed aloud. Pleased and consoled, he glanced at Li Xingwen.

Li Xingwen snorted and didn't say a word. Wang Baole hadn't sent over a single cultivation technique during the past six months. Li Yi, on the other hand, had been sending one over every month. The comparison was simply too stark. Even if he wanted to show support for Wang Baole, there was really nothing much he could do.

*What's that rascal doing up there!* Li Xingwen frowned. Even though Li Yi was also from the four Dao Colleges, and her contributions had lent greater weight to the Dao Colleges' opinions in the Federation, she was a graduate from the White Deer Dao College. She wasn't of the Ethereal Dao College. Li

Xingwen, who had shifted his loyalties to the Ethereal Dao College after he had retired from his position as Federation President, didn't feel comfortable with that at all.

However, his discomfort was his own business. He still very much approved of Li Yi's performance. After all, the techniques that she had been sending back to the Federation for the past few months had contributed to their cultivation civilization.

"Based on the timing, this should be from that girl, Li Yi." Duan Muque smiled slightly. He especially enjoyed seeing the dark, sullen look on Li Xingwen's face. Even though he was now the president, he had graduated from the White Deer Dao College. He clearly approved of White Deer Dao College graduates' exemplary performances.

As he said that, the teleportation array formation shone once again. A jade slip appeared inside the array formation. Duan Muque's eyes shone with approval and consolation. He was about to continue speaking when a second jade slip appeared.

"Hmm? Li Yi's done a good job this time. She actually sent two..." Duan Muque was immediately overjoyed. However, before he could finish speaking, a third, then fourth, then fifth jade slip appeared!

The sight stunned the typically level-headed Duan Muque. Then, he burst out into laughter.

"Seems like a few of them are sending over cultivation techniques at one go. These kids are still too young. Don't they know how much attention they would attract?" Duan Muque shook his head. Li Xingwen's eyes started shining intensely. He had a different opinion of what was going on. He could sense that the spirit energy coming from the array formation wasn't diminishing but growing stronger. He suddenly said.

"There are still incoming jade slips!"

As soon as he said that, the sixth jade slip, seventh, eighth appeared... when they counted up to fifteen jade slips, the light shining from the teleportation array formation erupted and reached its peak intensity. All fifteen jade slips materialized!

There were fifteen jade slips in total. They floated above the array formation, each one of them giving off unique energy signatures. The sight sent Duan Muque's heart racing. Even Li Xingwen gasped.

Truth be told... if they counted the total number of cultivation techniques they had received from Federation Seedlings for the past six months, it would total at fifteen sets. Now, they had just received fifteen sets at the same time. There was no way they could remain calm. They weren't the only ones who were shocked. The cultivators guarding the area were all alarmed and reeling back from shock and surprise.

Duan Muque and Li Xingwen moved at the same time. They gathered the fifteen jade slips and inspected them separately. Their breathing quickened. Incredulity and disbelief colored their eyes, and they stared at each other.

"All of these with me, they're all from Wang Baole..." Duan Muque hesitated. His eyes shifted and stared at the jade slips in Li Xingwen's hands.

"Mine... are all from Wang Baole as well..." Li Xingwen coughed, then said indifferently.



Duan Muque had his guesses and had been prepared to hear that. However, he still reeled back in shock when he heard what Li Xingwen said. He had learned from Mo Gaozi some details about what was going on in the Vast Expanse Dao Palace. He knew what it meant to be able to send over fifteen sets of cultivation techniques in a single teleportation. However, after he recovered from his initial shock, he was overcome by an intense glee. Happiness filled his heart.

“With these fifteen sets of cultivation techniques, the cultivation civilization of the Federation will be able to advance to the next level!” Duan Muque held the jade slips in his hands and laughed loudly. Warmth and consolation colored Li Xingwen’s eyes as well. He was shocked as well, and a soothing sense of pride flowed through his entire body. He concluded he hadn’t wasted his attention and care on Wang Baole. The kid had made him proud. At that thought, Li Xingwen glanced at Duan Muque, then suddenly laughed.

“Duanmu, you might have to give up your office when Wang Baole returns.”

As soon as those words were said, Duan Muque stopped laughing. He wouldn’t miss being president. However, the thought of Wang Baole, that little fatty, becoming president, just seemed out of place. He did some mental calculations. He figured that the fatty would at least have to send over thirty sets of cultivation techniques to earn his presidency. Even so, he still had an excuse ready. Wang Baole was too young to be president.

At that thought, Duan Muque set his heart at ease. He laughed arrogantly.

“Wang Baole will have to continue working harder if he wants to become the president. But I look forward to the day when it happens!” Having said that, Duan Muque immediately issued orders to make an announcement to the entire Federation. On the ranking board that was visible to all citizens of the Federation, Li Yi’s name, which had originally been placed first in the list, instantly fell to second place as it was surpassed by Wang Baole again!

That wasn’t the end of it. The number behind Wang Baole’s name had changed as well, from three to eighteen. The shock that brought to everyone in the Federation was unprecedented. The entire Federation burst into an uproar as citizens gasped in shock and cheered at the same time.

The cultivation techniques that had been sent back by the Federation Seedlings were immediately made accessible to the populace for cultivation in succession. Such an approach was employed to speed up and increase the development of the cultivation civilization across the entire Federation.

Wang Baole might not be able to hear the cheers for him, but that didn’t affect his anticipation towards taking over as Federation President. Then, he considered Little Duanmu’s character. He realized it might not be so easy to get him to abdicate...

*Thirty sets isn’t a sure bet. I have to set an intermediate target for myself. I’ll get my hands on fifty sets then blast them over. We’ll see if Little Duanmu gives his presidency up. That’s not right. What he’s doing is surrendering the presidency to a better candidate.* Wang Baole’s spirits soared at that thought. He was about to leave the teleportation array formation when something happened. Seven to eight cultivators in black robes appeared with an intense murderous aura surrounding them. They were clearly not ordinary cultivators. They had raced down from the main halls on the mountain top and surrounded

Wang Baole in an instant. They activated their cultivation and released waves of spirit energy, seeming ready for a fight.

The one leading them was a middle-aged man with an emotionless, stern expression on his face. He swept his eyes across Wang Baole, then said coolly.

“Wang Baole, you’re in trouble. Come with us!”

### **Chapter 539: Where Did Liang Long Go?**

The murderous aura oozing from the men in black terrified the disciples guarding the teleportation array formation. They immediately recognized them as cultivators from the Disciplinary Hall. They answered to the three Elders and only appeared when there was a need to mete out large-scale punishments.

Wang Baole was alarmed as well. Thoughts started racing through his head as he tried to think of anything he had done that might have broken any of the sect laws. He couldn’t come up with anything. It was clear that he was in a tight spot at the moment. He narrowed his eyes as his mind raced through possible ways to resolve his current problem. He raised his right hand, his voice transmission jade slip already out and ready for him to send a voice transmission to Elder Feng Qiuran.

One of the men in black frowned when they saw the jade slip in Wang Baole’s hand and was about to scold Wang Baole impatiently. The middle-aged man leading the team raised his hand, silencing his subordinate. He leveled an icy stare at Wang Baole and spoke again.

“Let’s not kick up a fuss. You can either come willingly, or we can make you come with us.”

Upon hearing that Wang Baole raised his eyebrow. He was about to speak when he heard a voice transmission in his ear.

“Fellow Daoist Wang, do not resist. This is nothing serious. Elder Mie Liezi simply has a few questions for you. You should contact Elder Feng Qiuran as soon as possible... right, Yun Piaozi, he’s my clansman.”

The person speaking to him was the middle-aged man who was leading the party. Despite his cold eyes, he had secretly sent a message to Wang Baole. Wang Baole could see the imperceptible hint of kindness in his eyes, but it vanished the next moment and was replaced by a chilly stare.

Wang Baole didn’t hesitate. He immediately sent a voice transmission to both Yun Piaozi and Feng Qiuran. Then, with an unhappy look on his face, he followed the men in black without a word.

They weren’t far from the grand hall atop the mountain peak. If they traveled at top speed, it wouldn’t take them long to reach their destination. The middle-aged leader kept a leisurely pace though. The delay was minimal, but he did give Wang Baole an additional fifteen minutes.

This further proved his good intentions. His subordinates clearly sensed what was going on. They looked at one another but didn’t say a word. However, the chilly hostility towards Wang Baole lessened slightly. They pretended not to notice his sending and receiving voice transmissions as they headed to the grand hall.

Yun Piaozi's voice transmission arrived. After verifying the middle-aged man's identity, Wang Baole received a voice transmission from Feng Qiuran. She had only a few words for him.

"So be it. I'll be there shortly!"

Wang Baole still felt uneasy. However, he had done all that he could. He continued to mull over what he had done wrong. He followed the men in black to the grand hall. They arrived at the halls, but the men in black didn't enter. The middle-aged man in the lead eyed Wang Baole and stopped in his tracks as well.

Wang Baole took a deep breath and narrowed his eyes. He didn't enter immediately. He stood outside the hall, cupped his fists and bowed deeply.

"Wang Baole seeks an audience with the Elder!"

The gates flew open as soon as Wang Baole spoke. A strong suction force surged past the open gates. It ignored Wang Baole's cultivation and whatever protections he had and grabbed Wang Baole like an enormous, invisible hand. It yanked and dragged Wang Baole into the great hall.

Wang Baole heard a loud buzzing in his head. His entire body ached, and his flesh and bones felt as if they were being crushed. He shook violently as if he had been dragged into a tornado. As he reeled back in shock and terror, he heard Feng Qiuran's snort echoing from afar. Then, another strong force approached and began to battle with the invisible hand that was holding him prisoner.

Wang Baole shuddered as a series of loud booms thundered. The invisible hand didn't disappear after it had dragged him into the hall. He staggered and fell to his knees. Blood surged in his body. He spat out a mouthful of blood, and his face turned pale. He lifted his head and saw, seated at the front of the hall, an expressionless Mie Liezi!

Behind him, Feng Qiuran marched through the gates with a dark look on her face.

"Mie Liezi, what do you mean by this?"

Mie Liezi didn't spare Wang Baole a single glance. He lifted his head, his eyes landing on Feng Qiuran as he spoke with a raspy voice.

"Feng Qiuran, you should ask this ambassador from your dear ally what I mean by all this. He's truly gone too far."

Feng Qiuran frowned and looked at Wang Baole with a questioning look. Wang Baole was breathing heavily. He took a while to settle the blood churning inside his body. Mie Liezi and Feng Qiuran's presence exerted an immense pressure that overpowered him and left him helpless. He couldn't help his bubbling resentment. He grimaced, then cupped his fists and saluted Feng Qiuran.

"Elder Feng, I... truly have no idea what's going on."

"You have no idea?" Mie Liezi laughed suddenly. His laughter was laced with ice.

"Wang Baole, let me ask you. Where did my disciple, Liang Long, go?"

“Liang Long?” Wang Baole froze. He had been thinking during the entire trip here. He had considered many things, but Liang Long had not been one of them. In fact, he had almost forgotten Liang Long entirely.

Now that Mie Liezi had just reminded him, Wang Baole, startled, came to a sudden realization. He recalled he had been ambushed by Liang Long during his first trip to the sword body, and that he had tied him up and left him on a deserted island. The rope he had tied him with could seal all Spirit Qi. With the sword handle spanning such a vast area, trying to find him would be like searching for a needle in a haystack.

That wasn't the important point. The important point was... after he had entered the sword body, he had suffered many obstacles, but he had also gained much from the trip despite all the near setbacks. He had forgotten completely about his encounter with Liang Long. It had been six months since their last encounter.

He had half a mind to deny everything, but Liang Long's master was asking for him now, which wasn't a small matter. This was a mid-stage Core Formation realm cultivator, one of Mie Liezi's disciples. Wang Baole tried to look confused as if he was trying to recall something. Then, after some time, he suddenly looked as if he had suddenly realized something.

“Liang Long... I remember now. He started a fight with me when we first landed on the island. I didn't want to break any rules, and I couldn't beat him in a fight. That's why I tied him up and then avoided him. But he continued to challenge me. He ambushed me during one of my missions, and I was forced to engage in battle with him. He wounded me heavily. I almost died. Finally, I used one of my artifacts to trap him without hurting him. That was how I managed to escape with my life...” The expression on Wang Baole's face was one of resentment and grudge. It was as if he was angry about what had happened but helpless to do anything about it.

“Is that why you killed my disciple in cold blood?” Mie Liezi's expression remained unchanged as he spoke slowly.

“I wouldn't dare! I was only at the early-stage Core Formation realm then. Liang Long was at the mid-stage Core Formation realm. I left my home, my family, and my friends in the Federation, and traveled all the way here to a foreign land. Liang Long, on the other hand, is a true member of the sect, with extensive connections. I have no master here. Liang Long's master is the eminent Elder, yourself!

“With such unequal status and level in cultivation, would I dare to kill him? Can I? I don't know why Liang Long is faking his death, and why he hasn't reappeared. I don't wish to make guesses about why he's doing this, but I do know that I was nearly killed just now. My body and spirit were nearly destroyed.” Wang Baole grew increasingly agitated and aggrieved as he spoke. His entire body began to shake. Finally, he cupped his fists and bowed towards Feng Qiuran.

“I seek Elder Feng to release me from my duties as island lord. I... dare not hold onto this office any longer. I've done my best to stay away and avoid causing trouble for anyone. When the sect had its eye on my business, I handed it over without saying a word. I made no complaints even when the acquisition fees were clearly unfair and unreasonable!

“What else would you have me do? What should I do? I seek Elder Feng’s mercy and permission to return to the Federation. Perhaps I... am not suited for this place.” Wang Baole ended his last words with a bitter laugh. He lowered his head and fell silent. Then, he secretly extended his senses and tried to control the rope remotely. The distance separating them might be too great, as he couldn’t sense it clearly.

The gears in his head started spinning furiously. Everything he had said earlier both implicitly and explicitly stated that he had been the victim of Liang Long’s malicious ploys. He was still thinking about how he could make that seem like it was the truth.

His mind continued to work while he kept an expression of utter misery on his face. He looked utterly defeated. Feng Qiuran fell silent at the sight. She had had her doubts initially, but after hearing what he said, she sighed inwardly.

Even Mie Liezi started to frown. He hadn’t believed his disciple, Liang Long, either. He had a clear advantage, but even so, he had been defeated. Mie Liezi knew that his disciple was still alive. He had only gone missing and couldn’t be found.

*Could it be that Liang Long intended for this to happen?* Mie Liezi thought as he narrowed his eyes.

#### **Chapter 540: Playing the Blame Game!**

Wang Baole might be quite the actor, but he was still too young. While Mie Liezi wavered, he still managed to spot something amiss when he studied Wang Baole.

There was no need for that anyway. As usual, he was simply making use of this matter to fight it out with Feng Qiuran. Even though the Vast Expanse Dao Palace was indeed vast, with Mie Liezi’s cultivation, it shouldn’t be a challenge to locate a Core Formation realm cultivator as long as the latter was still alive. He merely had to put in a bit more effort.

Mie Liezi decided to ignore everything that Wang Baole had said. He said coolly, “Lead the way!”

Mie Liezi’s disciple was involved in this matter. Feng Qiuran was silent for a while before she stared at Wang Baole. She decided to believe whatever Wang Baole had said. However, she also knew that the Federation Seedlings hadn’t been treated well since they had arrived. This had something to do with the doubts that had arisen in her own faction. She sighed secretly, then said to Wang Baole slowly.

“Wang Baole, bring us to where you and Liang Long got into a dispute. If you were indeed framed by Liang Long, I will give you justice!”

Wang Baole hastily nodded his head openly while shaking his head privately. He finally realized that the current disadvantaged situation that Feng Qiuran’s faction was in had a direct relation to Feng Qiuran’s personality.

Based on what Wang Baole had gathered during his stay at the Vast Expanse Dao Palace, he felt that while Feng Qiuran’s level of cultivation was high, her character was too gentle. She didn’t have many means of controlling and managing her people. Mie Liezi, on the other hand, was extremely forceful. As time passed, this resulted in Feng Qiuran losing control over the cultivators in her own faction.

*If Little Duanmu were here... we don't even need him. Any Rank Two Noble from the Federation who has sufficient cultivation wouldn't need much time and means to have everyone wrapped around his little finger.* Wang Baole sighed secretly as he continued to appear aggrieved. He bowed towards Feng Qiuran, walked out of the great hall, and flew towards the island on which he had fought with Liang Long.

Wang Baole wasn't slow, but his speed couldn't be compared with the Elders. As soon as he began flight, Feng Qiuran raised her right hand and waved. A gentle glow surrounded Wang Baole. Her calm voice rang out next to his ear.

"Lead the way. A general direction will do!"

Wang Baole blinked. He pretended to think. He soon pointed towards a general direction. As soon as he spoke, Mie Liezi took a step forward and vanished. Feng Qiuran swept her sleeve aside and led Wang Baole away as well in a single step.

Wang Baole could hear a sudden deafening thunder exploding next to his ear. His vision went blurry, and it felt as if he were diving through water. When his vision became clear again, Wang Baole was shocked to see that he had left the main Vast Expanse Dao Palace island and appeared... at the location he had shared earlier.

There was still some distance to the island that Liang Long was at. However, he believed that as soon as he gave the next coordinates, they would arrive at that spot in the next instant.

*So this is the Soul Conduit realm...* Wang Baole's breathing quickened. Mie Liezi, impatient, snorted.

"Quickly!"

Wang Baole took a deep breath in. He tried to show how hard he was attempting to recall his memories on his pale face. He even unleashed his cultivation so that he could ascertain the exact location.

All the while, he was secretly calling out to his rope. Fortunately, he seemed to be able to sense his rope here. He immediately issued an order. Wang Baole then intended to slow them down. He knew he couldn't do that for long though. That was why he hurriedly indicated a location.

With a wave of Feng Qiuran's hand, the three of them vanished the next moment. When they reappeared, it was at the location that Wang Baole had given. Before Mie Liezi could speak, Wang Baole said hastily, "Please don't be anxious, Elder. It's been a long while since the incident. Please give me some more time."

"There's no need for that!" Mie Liezi glanced at Wang Baole. The expression on his face shifted suddenly. He took a step forward after he spoke, then vanished instantly. Feng Qiuran seemed to have sensed something as well. She turned and looked at Wang Baole.

"We've located Liang Long's presence." Having said that, she grabbed Wang Baole and rushed forward without waiting for a reaction from Wang Baole. They disappeared and reappeared on a deserted island.

This was where Wang Baole and Liang Long had fought. Mie Liezi, who had arrived slightly earlier, had a dark look on his face as he hovered in mid-air. He was staring at someone who was lying on the island!

The person was all skin and bones, barely breathing, and unconscious. He was Liang Long!

Immediately after they appeared above the island, Wang Baole looked at Liang Long and saw the absence of a rope on the latter. He secretly released a breath of relief. At least the rope was intelligent enough to escape in time. Else, he would have a hard time trying to explain himself. He also realized that Liang Long's presence had no longer been concealed precisely because the rope had left. That was how Mie Liezi had been able to sense his location.

*Is the rope's ability to seal one's presence and cultivation that powerful?* Wang Baole's heart stirred at that thought. He wondered if perhaps Mie Liezi hadn't used his full powers to look for Liang Long.

Wang Baole was unsure of the details. Regardless, he had gained a deeper understanding of his rope's strange abilities. While Wang Baole was deep in thought, a sullen Mie Liezi lifted his right hand and pointed a finger at the unconscious Liang Long.

Liang Long shuddered violently and slowly opened his eyes. He looked lost at first. His confusion persisted for a duration of seven to eight breaths. Then, he shivered when Mie Liezi snorted and awoke completely. He stared at Mie Liezi, who was hovering in mid-air. His body began to shake violently, and he climbed to his knees and kowtowed immediately. Tears streamed down his cheeks as he sobbed loudly and uncontrollably.

"Master, you've finally come to save me!" Liang Long wept. It was the loud kind of crying that implied that he had barely survived death. It made him sound pitiful. Even Wang Baole felt sympathy for him as he listened to his sobbing.

Feng Qiuran frowned as she looked at the loudly weeping Liang Long. Mie Liezi seemed unhappy as well. He said lightly, "Tell me what happened."

"Master, it's this cursed Wang Baole! It's him! I was out on a mission when I passed by this area and was ambushed and heavily injured by him. He humiliated me using every means possible. Then, he tied me up and left me here to die. He used a cursed rope that sealed my presence and my cultivation. I suffered a fate worse than death! Please seek justice for me! Please mete out justice for the Vast Expanse Dao Palace!" Liang Long gritted his teeth. His eyes were red. He had seen Wang Baole standing next to Feng Qiuran. He might not be as clear-headed as he was ordinarily, but he knew his master's character. What his master needed was simply a reason to act.

He didn't spare too much thought before he started outright lying.

Wang Baole had been thinking about how to make what he had said in the great hall seem true. It would be a challenging feat. He had a few ideas, but they weren't ideal. However, Liang Long was playing the blame game now. Wang Baole was overjoyed. This was his chance. He put on a bitter expression on his face, then cupped his fists and saluted Feng Qiuran.

"Elder Feng, I've said it before. I was only able to escape from this island by using an artifact. What Senior Brother Liang Long has said is a blatant lie. If I really had the upper hand, if I had the means to humiliate him and seal his presence, why wouldn't I simply kill him for good? Why didn't I take his storage bag? The contents of his storage bag should be worth a fortune, what with Senior Brother Liang Long's status and rank!" As soon as Wang Baole said that, alarm flashed across Liang Long's face. His mind finally cleared. He recalled how Wang Baole hadn't made any attempts to steal his storage bag throughout the entire fight.

He had overlooked that fact earlier due to his just coming to and still feeling fuzzy in the head. His breathing quickened. In his panic, he spoke again hastily.

“Wang Baole, you’re the liar! You didn’t kill me and take my storage bag because you didn’t dare to! I told you that my master could turn back time. He would be able to see who directly or indirectly caused my death!”

Wang Baole released a sigh of relief secretly when he heard that. He couldn’t help but give Liang Long a thumbs up secretly. With Liang Long’s unknowing cooperation, he finally managed to simplify a complicated problem and narrow down all his troubles to this single problem.

Everything came down to one question—who was the one who set an ambush?

Addressing that question would allow him to have reason on his side!

At that thought, Wang Baole gritted his teeth. Sorrow and fury colored his voice as he asked Mie Liezi loudly, “If that’s the case, Senior Mie Liezi, please activate the spell to turn back time. Please see for yourself... who was the person who set up an ambush!”