

Ability 341

Chapter 341: Academic Exchange_2

"Just a casual stroll."

Lin Beichen smiled slightly and waved his hand nonchalantly at An Xiaoran.

This lack of "gentlemanly charm" naturally irked some of the bystanders acting as protectors, but when they saw An Xiaoran's indifferent expression, they suppressed their inner rage.

After leaving the gymnasium, the casual smile on Lin Beichen's face disappeared, replaced by a serious demeanor.

"What I said earlier, 'you really think highly of me,' didn't mean what they think."

Lin Beichen sneered, talking to himself in his heart.

"There were actually four people watching me in the gymnasium, and since we arrived at Atlantis University, at least three people have been secretly observing me."

On the surface, it seemed like Lin Beichen was just taking a casual walk, but in reality, he was trying to ascertain how many enemies were around.

Originally, Lin Beichen thought those people were just targeting him, but after realizing they could resort to burning down a building to get to him, he had no choice but to be extra cautious.

After all, Lin Beichen didn't want his classmates to be in life-threatening danger because of him.

After a simple stroll around, Lin Beichen finally determined that a total of twelve people were watching him, and among them, he sensed the presence of four individuals from the Black Bear squad he had fought before.

"I'm not afraid of you opposing me, just afraid I can't find you!"

Lin Beichen glanced at his watch. There were less than five minutes left before the academic exchange event started, so he quickened his pace slightly.

Upon entering the gymnasium, not far from where Lin Beichen had just been, a man in a black suit stepped out from behind a pillar.

"Reporting to Mr. Kael, the target has returned to the gymnasium."

When Lin Beichen entered the gymnasium again, all the students from Imperial Capital University turned their gaze towards him. With only a minute left before the opening speech, Lin Beichen sat down just in time, unaware that An Xiaoran had taken the seat beside him.

"Classmate An, doing this might make some people misunderstand our relationship."

Since the exchange event hadn't started yet, rather than listening to Sittelberg's boring speech, Lin Beichen preferred to spend some time chatting with his beautiful classmate.

"Let them misunderstand, it gives me some peace around here."

Unlike before, An Xiaoran didn't act shy at all this time but instead smiled openly. Her laughter naturally attracted the attention of the male students around, and Lin Beichen noticed that the looks directed at him were somewhat unfriendly.

At this moment, he couldn't help but feel grateful that looks couldn't kill; otherwise, he'd probably have been cut to pieces long ago.

As the time approached, Sittelberg, seated on the dais, was about to stand up for his speech when a staff member hurriedly ran to his side and whispered something unknown into his ear.

But after the staff member finished speaking, Sittelberg's face revealed an incredulous expression. He then quickly pulled up Hao Jianhua and walked out urgently.

Meanwhile, Lin Beichen's phone rang with a notification sound. This unique tone indicated that the sender of the message was no ordinary person.

Lin Beichen discreetly glanced at the message content, a faint smile appearing at the corner of his mouth.

At this moment, at the entrance of Atlantis University, a line of black cars drove in an orderly manner into the campus.

Along with the entry of the black car convoy, many security personnel in black suits ran alongside, their eyes hidden behind sunglasses constantly scanning their surroundings.

When the convoy reached the gymnasium entrance, the security personnel confirmed there was no danger around before opening the door of the central main car.

A man in his fifties with a square face stepped out of the main car. His face exuded an aura of authority, yet he also wore a kind smile.

"Mr. Ambassador, I didn't expect you to attend such an event!"

Sittelberg, with an excited expression, directly approached him.

When he first heard the staff saying that Ambassador Sun Zhenghao of the Dragon Country was arriving, he found it hard to believe. But now seeing Sun Zhenghao in person made Sittelberg extremely shocked.

Even Hao Jianhua was in disbelief. Although Imperial Capital University was a top-tier educational institution in the country, Hao Jianhua knew that they were not significant enough in Sun Zhenghao's mind to warrant such a visit.

If there had to be a reasonable explanation for Sun Zhenghao's presence, the only explanation was likely Lin Beichen.

Considering all the events that had occurred since they arrived in Atlantis, Hao Jianhua believed that Sun Zhenghao's visit was prompted by Song Xiangdong, essentially coming to support Lin Beichen.

"This brat really knows how to make an impression!"

Hao Jianhua thought to himself, with a hint of jealousy, but it was just a self-deprecating joke.

"Imperial Capital University is our nation's premier educational establishment. Hearing that the top fifty students are here, it would be remiss of me, as an ambassador, not to come and see!"

While speaking, Sun Zhenghao gave Hao Jianhua a meaningful glance.

Seeing this look, Hao Jianhua's previous speculations were confirmed. The head of the National Security Bureau indeed favored Lin Beichen.

However, had Hao Jianhua known that Song Xiangdong not only contacted Sun Zhenghao but also dispatched the Scar team for Lin Beichen's protection, he would not have thought it was so simple.

At this moment, unnoticed by anyone, several security team members originally assigned to Sun Zhenghao swiftly left the group and ran into a nearby small forest.

Upon entering the forest, they immediately removed their suits, revealing black tactical gear, and at the forefront stood Scar.

"Our task this time is to discreetly eliminate the hidden enemies and ensure the safety of Mr. Lin Beichen!"

Scar's command style was always straightforward and direct, using the fewest words to relay orders and accomplish them perfectly, which was his hallmark.

Soon after, Griffin's hidden subordinates mysteriously started losing contact with him.

"I didn't expect these guys to be so fast!"

Griffin frowned. His subordinates disappearing before making any move was not a good sign for him!

"Mr. Kael, what should we do next?"

"Naturally, we wait. Those people were just cannon fodder, it doesn't matter if they die now."

Kael smiled slightly, his casual tone treating death as if it were not people but mere animals.

Griffin's expression turned serious; Kael's displayed indifference towards life made him feel uneasy. Griffin worried that one day, he too might be discarded as cannon fodder by Kael.

Led by Sittelberg, Sun Zhenghao appeared before the students in the gymnasium to thunderous applause. They came from different countries, different schools, but it was clear that anyone Atlantis University's president valued so highly could not be an ordinary person.

Of course, the most excited were the students from Imperial Capital University. Although they didn't personally know Sun Zhenghao, they had seen this iron-blooded diplomat on TV and knew some of his stories. Seeing him in person was naturally thrilling for them.

Chapter 342: The Networking Event Begins

"I came here this time just to see the outstanding younger generation from our country, so I hope you all can do your best!"

At Sittelberg's invitation, Sun Zhenghao stood up and delivered his speech.

However, this so-called speech consisted of only two sentences, but these simple two sentences clearly showed Sun Zhenghao's attitude.

For those who are unaware, this might seem like Sun Zhenghao is simply cheering for the students of Imperial Capital University. But for those who know the inside story, Sun Zhenghao's meaning becomes very clear.

I came here this time to protect our students. Anyone who wants to use some despicable means in the dark, you better think twice!

Sure enough, after hearing Sun Zhenghao's words, Sittelberg's expression changed subtly. It seemed like he smiled faintly, showing a meaningful expression.

This academic exchange conference was organized by Atlantis University, so naturally, the first presentations were led by people from Atlantis University.

In fact, the first ones to present in the exchange conference do not necessarily hold a significant advantage. On the contrary, being the first allows the opposing side some time to consider and find loopholes in your words.

"The topic for the first exchange is Force Majeure!"

Upon seeing this topic, the students of Imperial Capital University showed a hint of confusion on their faces.

This title suggested that it was more of a debate rather than an academic exchange, as "force majeure" is quite a broad term.

"If it were a simple topic, it wouldn't be presented here."

Lin Beichen smiled slightly and immediately used his ability "Enlightenment."

In an instant, vast amounts of fragmented information flooded into Lin Beichen's mind like a torrent released from a dam.

Lin Beichen then sorted this information in his mind, a faint smile curling on his lips.

"I never expected the people from Atlantis University to be so ambitious!"

After Lin Beichen understood the topic, he glanced at Boke, who was speaking eloquently on stage, with a disdainful expression on his face.

At this moment, Boke was just getting to his most satisfied section of the speech.

"So-called force majeure doesn't just refer to extreme weather events in nature such as earthquakes, typhoons, and mudslides. There is also force majeure in the world, such as the helplessness of small countries against great powers, which is also a form of force majeure!"

After Boke finished this statement, the expressions on everyone's faces became serious, even Sun Zhenghao frowned slightly.

What Boke had said earlier still fell within the bounds of academic discussion, but this statement could be interpreted as a representation of hegemonism.

"As expected of Atlantis University, even the students here harbored such domineering thoughts in their hearts."

Lin Beichen smiled faintly, not overly surprised by Boke's words. In fact, Lin Beichen thought it would have been more surprising if Boke hadn't said this.

"So, just as people must accept natural disasters calmly, I hope those weak countries can also accept the realities facing great powers in the same way. At least this way, their citizens' safety will be ensured."

Saying this, Boke deliberately put on a compassionate and helpless expression.

"I hope those tormented by the scourge of war can stay healthy and safe!"

After saying this, Boke bowed to the audience and returned to his seat.

However, instead of thunderous applause, the students below responded with boos. Even someone like Lin Beichen, who previously didn't care much about international affairs, frequently heard about Atlantis's hegemonic actions.

Everyone was astonished by Atlantis University's shamelessness in bringing such matters into an academic discussion to gain high-level approval.

"Who will be the next to present?"

Sun Zhenghao covered the microphone with his hand and asked Hao Jianhua in a low voice.

"Lin Beichen!"

As he spoke, Hao Jianhua gave Lin Beichen a meaningful glance.

Hearing that Lin Beichen would be presenting, Sun Zhenghao's solemn face broke into a slight smile.

In fact, Hao Jianhua had not planned for Lin Beichen to present first, or rather, he had not planned for Lin Beichen to present at all.

This academic conference had nothing to do with Lin Beichen's area of expertise, and Hao Jianhua did not want Lin Beichen to attract too much attention and get into danger here.

But after Boke's remarks, in Hao Jianhua's eyes, no one else seemed able to handle the situation except Lin Beichen.

Catching Hao Jianhua's hint, Lin Beichen smiled slightly and stepped onto the podium.

"I really don't know what the principal was thinking, allowing him to present first!"

Li Peng, sitting among the audience, looked displeased. The exchange conference organized by Atlantis University had drawn worldwide attention, and world-class media had long been recording it to get the first-hand broadcast. Naturally, the first presenter would attract the most attention.

Li Peng was, of course, unwilling to let Lin Beichen take such a spotlight away.

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But when he heard An Xiaoran's words, he had no choice but to shut up.

"If you can, go ahead and do it!"

Seeing the cold expression on An Xiaoran's face, Li Peng instinctively clenched his fists.

At the same time, Lin Beichen's voice, more standard than a typical broadcaster's, echoed throughout the venue.

"I believe what Boke just said about force majeure is not entirely accurate!"

Lin Beichen's words immediately drew the attention of the audience.

"For a very simple reason, I believe there is no such thing as force majeure in this world. There is only unity and collective effort!"

After Lin Beichen finished speaking, a hint of disdain appeared on Boke's face, clearly thinking the statement was laughable. But what Boke didn't expect was that Lin Beichen's next words wiped the smile off his face.

"Boke mentioned examples of force majeure in nature like floods and earthquakes. However, in my view, although these natural disasters are extremely destructive, they are not irresistible. Our ancient stories in Dragon Country tell of Yu the Great controlling the floods and the Foolish Old Man moving the mountains!"

The audience, knowledgeable and well-read, naturally understood the significance of these stories mentioned by Lin Beichen.

"When faced with disasters, your ancestors chose to build an ark with the help of so-called God, while we chose Yu the Great controlling the floods. When the world fell into darkness, your ancestors chose to steal God's fire, while we chose to make fire by drilling wood! This proves that in front of Dragon Country, there is no such thing as force majeure!"

Lin Beichen's voice was not loud but incredibly firm.

After expressing his thoughts, Lin Beichen returned to his seat. The audience, still shocked by his words, finally came back to their senses as he sat down.

Applause, like a landslide and tsunami, swept through the entire venue. If not for the high construction quality of Atlantis University's gymnasium, it might have been torn apart by the thundering applause.

Sun Zhenghao looked at Lin Beichen approvingly; the meaning Lin Beichen conveyed in his words greatly satisfied him.

"No matter how powerful you Atlantis are, or any country in the world, do not covet Dragon Country, because hegemonism never works with Dragon Country!"

While Atlantis University's gymnasium was in an uproar due to Lin Beichen's speech, the Black Hole at Dragon Tiger Mountain reacted again.

"Up to now, we still haven't figured out what this so-called Black Hole is exactly?"

Standing beneath a statue, Song Xiangdong noticed the statue shaking more vigorously than before, which proved that the power of the Black Hole was gradually increasing.

Fu Daoyi frowned deeply; the appearance of the Black Hole had exceeded his expectations.

In recent days, Dragon Tiger Mountain had utilized almost all its resources for investigation, even inviting back reclusive elders from other Daoist temples.

But despite their efforts, they had not obtained any useful information.

"Director, we used all our instruments, but we couldn't analyze the composition of this Black Hole!"

A technician from the Security Bureau reported to Song Xiangdong the results of their recent analysis.

Although he had anticipated such an outcome, Song Xiangdong still showed a trace of disappointment.

He sighed helplessly and waved his hand at the technician.

"Although we can't analyze the composition of the Black Hole, I can clearly feel it becoming more unstable recently!"

Fu Daoyi's voice was filled with helplessness, and he even felt a burning sensation on his face.

It wasn't that someone had slapped him; he just felt ashamed.

Something like this happened in his field, and he couldn't figure out what was going on. Seeing the expression on Song Xiangdong's face, Fu Daoyi could already guess what he was thinking.

"This isn't your fault. There are things in this world that transcend science and our understanding!"

Song Xiangdong sighed, looking towards the direction of Atlantis.

"Honestly, before meeting that person, I never expected to encounter something like cultivating immortality!"

It is said that the end of science is mysticism, but so-called mysticism is also a form of science. Because in the realm of mysticism, many things can be traced and found to have patterns.

However, when it comes to cultivating immortality, Song Xiangdong really couldn't find any patterns or specific traits. And the only person he met related to cultivating immortality was Lin Beichen.

"So I've always been thinking whether this matter is related to Lin Beichen."

Fu Daoyi lowered his voice, speaking quietly so that only the two of them could hear.

He gave an embarrassed smile.

"Although I am unsure if cultivating immortality really exists, it can be confirmed that the clues left by Dragon Tiger Mountain ultimately point to your National Security Bureau!"

"So you're saying the elders of Dragon Tiger Mountain had foreseen Lin Beichen's existence long ago?"

Song Xiangdong's face was filled with disbelief.

This statement could only come from Fu Daoyi. If anyone else said this to him, Song Xiangdong would not hesitate to ask:

"Do you think I look like a fool?"

"I don't mean that."

Fu Daoyi shook his head, giving Song Xiangdong an exasperated look.

"I mean maybe all of this is destined or some kind of divine arrangement. Otherwise, why didn't Dragon Tiger Mountain have any issues until that lad named Lin Beichen appeared in your National Security Bureau, leading to this series of events afterward."

After saying this, both of them fell silent again.

It was hard to believe that this series of events had nothing to do with Lin Beichen. Song Xiangdong himself wouldn't believe it.

But if there was a significant connection, what exactly was it?

"If all else fails, we can only resort to using modern weapons to destroy it!"

Fu Daoyi sighed.

Both of them knew very well that even if they used modern weapons, the success was uncertain, and the entire Dragon Tiger Mountain might be destroyed.

Also, if they failed to completely destroy the Black Hole, they might trigger a series of chain reactions.

"We can only wait for him to return and discuss this further."

Song Xiangdong sighed again and walked into a room.

Meanwhile, the first academic exchange meeting at Atlantis University had concluded, and Lin Beichen, with his unparalleled confidence and determination, became the most popular contestant of the first exchange.

Amidst the audience's applause, Lin Beichen approached the president of Atlantis University.

Sittelberg had a warm smile on his face. He didn't seem angry that Lin Beichen had defeated his university in the first match. Instead, he personally hung the first medal around Lin Beichen's neck as if he couldn't wait for Lin Beichen to win.

"Congratulations indeed."

"Thanks to everyone's leniency."

Sittelberg's smile made an old saying from Dragon Country pop into Lin Beichen's mind.

"A weasel paying a New Year's visit to a hen – not with good intentions!"

As Lin Beichen hung the medal around his neck, red flashing dots appeared on the computer screen in front of Griffin in the president's office at Atlantis University.

Chapter 344: Campus Fire

"Everything is within our plan. When the time comes, we can let them be buried in a sea of fire!"

Griffin's eyes turned to Kaelmes, his face revealing an excited expression. At this moment, Griffin seemed to already envision Lin Beichen perishing in the flames.

Kaelmes smiled slightly, a glint of conspiratorial wisdom flashing under his gold-rimmed glasses.

"This has nothing to do with us. It's all those damned terrorist organizations' doing. They attacked our students on campus and caused such an impact on our prestigious institution!"

With just one sentence, Kaelmes set the nature of the events about to unfold. But this explanation was also soon to be the official statement released by Atlantis.

"This guy is really devious!"

Griffin looked at Kaelmes, a hint of fear flashing in his eyes.

Yes, even though the other party was one of his own, Griffin still felt fear, because in the other party's plan, there were only four words: mission accomplished.

Griffin originally believed he was already ruthless enough to achieve his goals by any means necessary, but compared to Kaelmes, he was still far from being as skilled.

In order to achieve his goals, Kaelmes could sacrifice not only his own interests but also the lives of others.

No wonder, even the legendary minister treated this guy with both use and caution, aware that he might sell out those close to him at any moment for some ulterior motive.

"What are you thinking about?"

Kaelmes' voice suddenly reached Griffin's ears. Although the other hadn't lifted his head, Griffin felt as if he was seen through completely, without any defense!

"I'm not thinking about anything."

Griffin instinctively responded, perhaps not even realizing that his body had started tremoring uncontrollably as he spoke.

"Don't overthink things. As long as you carry out my plan well, it won't fail..."

At this point, Kaelmes put down the book in his hand and walked over to Griffin slowly.

"But if any problems in your execution cause my plan to fail, then next time, I'll make you my sacrificial pawn!"

What does it mean to speak the harshest words in the gentlest tone? Kaelmes' recent actions exemplified this perfectly.

At this moment, Griffin felt like a puppet whose soul had been extracted, nodding lifelessly. Kaelmes, seeing this, nodded in satisfaction before sitting back down on the couch.

Meanwhile, Lin Beichen was surrounded by hosts from major Atlantis TV stations in the gym, having just received his gold medal.

This wasn't the first time Atlantis had hosted an academic exchange event, but it was the first time Atlantis University had invited students from an Eastern country to participate.

Coincidentally, this first match was won by a genius from the ancient Eastern country, naturally attracting extensive coverage by Atlantis' major media outlets.

In fact, local media in Atlantis were not unfamiliar with Lin Beichen. Before he arrived in Atlantis, news about Lin Beichen in the Dragon Country had already caught their attention.

However, back then, Lin Beichen was not seen as an influential figure, so Atlantis' media hadn't given him early exposure.

If they had known Lin Beichen would win the first match of the Atlantis University academic exchange event, they would have rushed to interview him much earlier.

"What are Lin's thoughts on winning the first match?"

A reporter from Atlantis' largest media outlet pointed a microphone at Lin Beichen, with cameras and flashes surrounding him.

Lin Beichen knew very well that his every move was now under the world's scrutiny; even the slightest slip would be magnified infinitely, ultimately affecting the reputation of the Dragon Country.

"No particular thoughts, just my genuine feelings."

Lin Beichen smiled faintly, exuding composure and confidence in his gestures. His demeanor naturally attracted worldwide approval, and even some girls self-organized as his fans.

"We must register immediately. We are Lin's classmates, we can't let this fan club fall into the hands of other schools!"

Atlantis University holds significant influence in global education. Because of this, their academic exchange events are broadcasted on the same channel, so Lin Beichen's performance was noticed by Imperial Capital University students.

Seeing Lin Beichen win the first match, students of Imperial Capital University cheered immediately.

"I didn't expect him to become so impressive."

In Imperial Capital Normal University, a pure-looking girl watched Lin Beichen's interview on TV, her beautiful eyes shining with a unique light.

"I remember you said you were once classmates with Lin Beichen. When he returns, you must introduce him to us!"

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Beside the girl, a roommate in the dormitory watched Lin Beichen on the TV, eyes filled with admiration.

"When he returns, if there's a chance, I'll definitely introduce you all to him."

The girl nodded with a smile.

At the same time, in the office of the president of Atlantis University, Griffin watched the live footage on the TV, gnashing his teeth in anger, squeezing his hands so tightly that creaking sounds could be heard.

"Don't let him get to you here. I want to see how long that guy can keep laughing!"

Kaelmes shook his head, looking at Lin Beichen on the TV with a disdainful expression. He kept glancing at the countdown on his phone, which showed only five seconds remaining.

"It seems like this guy is no more than..."

Before Kaelmes could finish his sentence, Lin Beichen's actions made him show an expression of disbelief.

Lin Beichen took off the medal just awarded to him by the president of Atlantis University, showing a bright smile to the camera.

Lin Beichen shook the medal in his hand and seemed to speak to himself.

"Although I received this medal, I don't plan to put it on just yet. I hope the students of Atlantis University can keep it safe for me, and we can take it together after we achieve the final victory!"

After saying this, Lin Beichen threw the medal toward the area where the Atlantis University students were.

In Kaelmes's furious gaze, the medal exploded in front of everyone, and flames started flowing from it.

The scene unfolded so quickly that no one had time to react. The students of Atlantis University, being closest to the medal, bore the brunt of the impact.

Fortunately, with Atlantis University students acting as a buffer, students from other schools were not severely injured. People around the world watching the broadcast were stunned.

"The people from Atlantis can't take a loss, can they? Just because they can't win a debate, they resort to this..."

This was the last thing Lin Beichen said before the signal was cut off.

Hearing this, people around the world who were following the academic exchange immediately took to their social media to share their opinions on the event.

Most of the comments stood by Lin Beichen, as he was a quite famous figure online, and his performance at the academic exchange was remarkable.

Everyone saw the medal explode and flames pour out. If Lin Beichen hadn't arrogantly taken it off early, he would have died in the explosion.

"I didn't expect Atlantis University to be so disgraceful!"

"Exactly, claiming to be a top world-class school? What a joke!"

"I can't believe Atlantis would make someone like that a president!"

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For a time, everyone almost universally criticized Atlantis University. Meanwhile, at Dragon Tiger Mountain, Song Xiangdong's expression became extremely serious!

After discussing with the elders of Dragon Tiger Mountain, they determined that Lin Beichen was the key to resolving this crisis.

Thinking of Lin Beichen, Song Xiangdong remembered that he was participating in the academic exchange at Atlantis. He should still make it in time for the live broadcast.

Everything was going well. Song Xiangdong was very satisfied with Lin Beichen's performance so far. However, when he saw the medal thrown by Lin Beichen explode and flow with flames, his expression darkened immediately.

As the Director of the National Security Bureau, Song Xiangdong knew better than anyone that there must be a human hand behind the explosion of the medal. Given his long history with Atlantis, he knew it was easy for them to create something like that.

"But I don't understand, why would the people from Atlantis want to harm Lin Beichen?"

Fu Daoyi looked puzzled and instinctively glanced at Song Xiangdong!

Song Xiangdong gave him an annoyed look that clearly said, "If you're asking me, who am I supposed to ask?"

Though he wouldn't say that bluntly in front of others. Instead, he took out his phone and dialed a number.

"I just saw what happened on TV. Go do what you need to do, but ensure Lin Beichen's safety!"

Despite his phone being answered, before Song Xiangdong could say a word, an elderly but calm voice came through.

The voice had the steady demeanor of someone who had held a high position for a long time.
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With the elderly man's approval, Song Xiangdong's expression became resolute. He took out the phone designated for National Security Bureau use and redialed a familiar number.

"Scar, how is it? Is Lin Beichen injured?"

The first thing Song Xiangdong did after the call connected was inquire about Lin Beichen's condition.

Despite the previous tests and having seen Lin Beichen at his peak, confident the attack couldn't kill him, Song Xiangdong remained anxious. To him, Lin Beichen would influence Dragon Country's future combat capabilities.

Song Xiangdong envisioned a future where, with Lin Beichen's help, Dragon Country could have an Ancient Martial Arts team or a powerful cultivation unit.

"Lin Beichen is unharmed, but some Atlantis University students were injured as a result."

Scar's cold voice came through the phone, containing a hint of mockery. It seemed that he despised Atlantis for shooting themselves in the foot.

At least for Scar, if Song Xiangdong tasked him to deal with someone, he would never use such disgraceful means.

"That's good. Immediately ensure the safety of Ambassador Sun Zhenghao and Lin Beichen, as well as the Imperial Capital University students. But remember, the safety of Ambassador Sun Zhenghao and Lin Beichen is your top priority!"

Song Xiangdong, having been through countless battles, knew well that Scar's team wouldn't be able to protect everyone's safety in such chaos.

Therefore, ensuring the safety of the most important individuals was essential. He absolutely couldn't let anything happen to either Sun Zhenghao or Lin Beichen.

If something happened to Sun Zhenghao, it would be akin to dragging Dragon Country's reputation through the mud. If Lin Beichen got into trouble, in Song Xiangdong's eyes, it would be sacrificing one of Dragon Country's future prospects.

"Though you want me to protect them, I feel like our presence is unnecessary."

After hanging up, Scar looked at Lin Beichen not far away with a helpless expression. Indeed, Scar's team had rushed to Lin Beichen's side and shown their identification as soon as the incident occurred.

However, to their surprise, Lin Beichen didn't accept their protection. Instead, he asked them to secure themselves and Ambassador Sun Zhenghao first.

Just as Scar was preparing to persuade him further, a huge rock flew toward Lin Beichen from somewhere.

Before Scar could warn him, Lin Beichen's hand glowed mysteriously, and he punched the rock. In Scar's disbelief, the huge rock turned to dust instantly!

Chapter 346: Who Says Top Students Have No Fighting Ability

"Is self-defense enough?"

Lin Beichen gently flexed his wrist, as if what he had shattered was not a gigantic boulder but merely a piece of tofu!

Such combat capability indeed left Scar somewhat shocked. Although he could also smash a boulder with a punch, he definitely couldn't do it so effortlessly and so thoroughly!

"Yes... yes, it's enough."

Scar's voice trembled slightly, clearly finding it difficult to believe Lin Beichen's strength.

The most troubling part was that his orders were to ensure Lin Beichen's safety. But with the kind of power Lin Beichen displayed, he didn't seem to need any protection. For a moment, Scar even felt like his presence was more of a hindrance to Lin Beichen.

"Quickly, secure the students and assist Principal Hao Jianhua in evacuating them safely!"

As Scar stood there in a daze, Zhang Zhenghao's voice rang out. Scar snapped back to reality and noticed that the Atlantis University gymnasium had already descended into chaos.

"Lin Beichen! Lin Beichen! Beichen!"

In the chaos, An Xiaoran kept calling Lin Beichen's name.

The immense worry seemed to break down the last barrier in An Xiaoran's heart, changing her way of addressing him from Lin Beichen to Beichen!

For someone like An Xiaoran, a wealthy girl, the difference in how she addressed people was significant. Calling him by his first name directly was something she never did, which proved how important Lin Beichen was to her.

"Xiaoran!"

Suddenly, An Xiaoran heard someone calling her name and thought it was Lin Beichen. But when she turned around, she saw it was Li Peng!

"Are you hurt? I'll protect you and get you out!"

As he spoke, Li Peng reached out to grab An Xiaoran's arm, but she stepped back and avoided his grip.

This action completely enraged Li Peng. He quickly took two steps forward and forcefully grabbed An Xiaoran's arm, shouting almost hysterically.

"Lin Beichen! Lin Beichen! What makes that jerk better than me?"

Li Peng's sudden hysteria frightened An Xiaoran. Ever since they set foot on their journey to Atlantis, the name Lin Beichen had become a nightmare for Li Peng. In Li Peng's eyes, the chasm between him and An Xiaoran was named Lin Beichen!

"Since you like him so much, let him come and save you then!"

Li Peng's expression turned sinister and almost insane! It gave An Xiaoran a chilling feeling, reminding her of some character from a horror movie.

At that moment, An Xiaoran felt as if Li Peng had turned into a wild African dog, ready to tear her apart.

Sure enough, the next second, Li Peng's cold and emotionless words reached her ears.

"In a place like this, accidents are pretty normal, aren't they?"

"No! Please, no!"

An Xiaoran screamed in terror.

"Principal, where's An Xiaoran?"

Meanwhile, thanks to the efforts of Scar's team and Lin Beichen, the students of Imperial Capital University were out of danger. Whether there were students from other universities still trapped, Lin Beichen and the others couldn't care about that now.

As Hao Jianhua was tallying the numbers, Lin Beichen suddenly noticed An Xiaoran was missing.

"Could she be trapped inside?"

Upon hearing Lin Beichen's words, Hao Jianhua realized he hadn't seen An Xiaoran either.

"Help! Help! Cough, cough..."

Because of Li Peng, An Xiaoran was pushed beneath the falling rubble. As time passed, the spread of the flames made it increasingly difficult for her to escape.

In fact, calling for help had also become incredibly difficult.

The burning fumes continuously assaulted her body, making her feel on the verge of unconsciousness!

"Bei... Beichen..."

An Xiaoran felt her consciousness fading, even struggling to hold herself up.

"I didn't... expect... to see... your face... before... I die..."

Just as An Xiaoran was about to pass out, Lin Beichen's anxious face appeared before her!

An Xiaoran had never felt affection for any boy before, never really felt her heart skip a beat. But since that night, Lin Beichen's name had held a special place in her heart.

"Oh heavens, why are you so cruel?"

An Xiaoran no longer had the strength to speak; even these words were shouted in her mind.

"Xiaoran! Xiaoran! I'm here!"

Lin Beichen's sudden voice temporarily brought An Xiaoran back to consciousness. She saw Lin Beichen's hands enveloped in a turquoise glow, the same glow she saw when she last hugged him in the bus.

"A dream... it must be an illusion."

An Xiaoran sighed, noticing that the flames seemed to divert away from Lin Beichen, while he easily smashed through every obstacle—be it concrete or steel—nothing could withstand his blows!

Submerged in this "illusion," a satisfied smile appeared on An Xiaoran's face. To meet Lin Beichen again before her death was, to her, an immense comfort.

Suddenly, An Xiaoran felt herself being lifted, and a wave of coolness swept over her whole body.

"This... is not an illusion!"

Regaining her consciousness, An Xiaoran finally realized that what she had seen was real, not an illusion.

She was now truly in Lin Beichen's arms, looking up at his face.

Chapter 347: Who Says Top Students Have No Combat Ability_2

"I didn't expect this guy to look quite handsome from this angle."

An Xiaoran buried her head in Lin Beichen's chest, murmuring to herself.

"Even though we're in a fire, I don't feel uncomfortable at all. Maybe this is what they call the psychological effect of safety."

Immersed in happiness, An Xiaoran thought it was all due to the psychological effect, unaware that this was the first time Lin Beichen had simultaneously mobilized three kinds of powers.

The power of the Electric Element was breaking through all obstacles, the power of the Water Element was protecting An Xiaoran, and the power of the Fire Element was keeping the flames at bay.

"I knew this would put my body under a lot of stress, but this is too much!"

Sweat the size of soybeans ran down Lin Beichen's cheeks. It was the first time he felt his stamina depleting so rapidly.

Fortunately, the obstacles around them had been cleared, and the exit of the gym was not far away.

Meanwhile, the people from Imperial Capital University in the safe zone outside were staring anxiously at the gym entrance, hoping to see Lin Beichen and An Xiaoran emerge any second.

"They've been in there so long, we should evacuate now."

Li Peng approached Hao Jianhua, suggesting tentatively.

"I want to go home now, I don't want to stay in this hellhole for another minute!"

Li Peng's sudden remark instantly drew angry glares from everyone. With their classmates still inside, Li Peng was thinking only of running away. To the students of Imperial Capital University, his actions were worse than those of a despicable person!

Seeing the anger on everyone's faces, Li Peng tried hard to keep his expression neutral. It wasn't that he really didn't want to wait; he was worried that Lin Beichen might actually rescue An Xiaoran.

If An Xiaoran came out alive, then all the things he had done would be exposed!

"You despicable coward!"

A righteous male student walked directly towards Li Peng, grabbing his collar and preparing to act.

"Wait a moment."

Just as the male student was about to act, Hao Jianhua stopped him. Although Li Peng tried to appear calm, his act was transparent to both Hao Jianhua and Sun Zhenghao!

Just a glance was enough for them to see something was wrong with Li Peng!

"Look, Lin Beichen and the others are out!"

Someone among the Imperial Capital University students shouted, and everyone turned their gaze back to the gym entrance.

Seeing An Xiaoran being carried out by Lin Beichen, Li Peng collapsed to the ground like a puddle of mud!

"Looks like you'll have to explain yourself to An Xiaoran later."

Even not knowing what had transpired, Hao Jianhua could tell Li Peng had done something wrong, and it involved An Xiaoran.

Sun Zhenghao snorted coldly on the side. What Li Peng didn't know was that Sun Zhenghao had a close relationship with An Xiaoran's father. In Atlantis, many matters that were inconvenient for Sun Zhenghao to handle were dealt with by An Xiaoran's father.

"How are you? Are you all right?"

Seeing An Xiaoran carried out by Lin Beichen, Sun Zhenghao hurried over.

He looked An Xiaoran up and down, and although she was a bit disheveled, her life was not in danger, which reassured him significantly.

"I... I'm sorry!"

Li Peng approached An Xiaoran, kneeling to the ground.

"Hmph!"

An Xiaoran snorted coldly. She wasn't going to waste time on someone like him; once they were back in the Dragon Country, the law would take care of it!

"What on earth happened?"

The students around them began to speculate as they saw the state between Li Peng and An Xiaoran.

Hao Jianhua cut their muttering short, knowing such an incident brought nothing but shame to him as the principal.

Not long after, a convoy of red-flagged cars entered Atlantis University, stopping behind Sun Zhenghao.

A middle-aged man in a Zhongshan suit got out of a car, looking Sun Zhenghao up and down. Only after confirming he wasn't hurt did he feel relieved.

The man in the Zhongshan suit was the head of the Security Bureau in Atlantis, officially the military attaché of the embassy, overseeing its security.

"Zhang Tao, you're quite fast."

Sun Zhenghao looked at Zhang Tao, knowing that with Zhang Tao here, they were safe.

"We had to be. Orders from above."

As he spoke, Zhang Tao winked meaningfully. Sun Zhenghao understood instantly.

"I didn't expect you guys from the Security Bureau to have this kind of personnel. I feel like this fire was set up by someone in Atlantis!"

With a capable mind, Sun Zhenghao connected the dots quickly.

Zhang Tao nodded with a smile.

"Director Song thinks so too, and he has received permission to evacuate the students immediately under the pretext of an extreme disaster."

Sun Zhenghao was momentarily stunned. He didn't expect Director Song to value this young man so much. Evacuating under the pretext of an extreme disaster would have significant implications.

If a disaster indeed occurred in the evacuated country, it would be understandable. If not, it could sour relations between the countries. Announcing an evacuation like this was akin to claiming another family's house had collapsed in the village.

Sun Zhenghao wanted to say more when suddenly, the sound of helicopters filled the air. Seeing the Dragon Country emblem on the helicopters, the students of Imperial Capital University smiled with excitement. Some were so moved they began singing the national anthem.

The scene brought a smile to Lin Beichen's face. He remembered a line from a movie: A Dragon Country passport might not let you travel the world freely, but it will surely bring you back home from anywhere in the world.

Meanwhile, in the principal's office at Atlantis University, Griffin and Kaelmes wore somber expressions.

Things had spiraled beyond their control. Letting the Imperial Capital University students return would not only tarnish Atlantis University's reputation but also displease the Minister.

The Minister had granted them significant power for this operation, even permitting fire incidents within Atlantis University.

"If we don't take some action, we won't earn the Minister's forgiveness."

Kaelmes turned to Griffin with a sudden smile, sending a shiver down Griffin's spine. It felt like being watched by a cold, venomous snake.

Griffin instinctively feared being made the scapegoat, his face turning pale as he looked at Kaelmes, his voice shaking.

"Mr. Kael, I am loyal to you."

Kaelmes shook his head with a smile.

"That much is certain, but you misspoke. Your loyalty isn't to me but to the Minister."

Kaelmes had no intention of making Griffin the scapegoat; he only wanted to scare him a bit.

"How much does Sittelberg know about this plan from start to finish?"

Chapter 348: On the Way to Dragon Tiger Mountain

"Since he knows all the plans, we'll have to trouble him a bit."

Kaelmes said blandly.

Griffin's body involuntarily trembled.

Just as Griffin had mentioned earlier, Sittelberg had made significant contributions to complete their plans, but Kaelmes decided to make him the scapegoat with just one sentence.

However, with a mindset of 'better him than me', Griffin still acknowledged Kaelmes' approach.

At this moment, Sittelberg still didn't know that Griffin and Kaelmes intended to make him the scapegoat, and he continued with his tasks, exchanging pleasantries with Hao Jianhua.

"I'm really sorry, I didn't expect things to turn out this way."

Every sentence from Sittelberg was an apology; for those unaware, they might truly think Sittelberg felt deeply guilty.

"These things are inevitable, but fortunately, we have escaped disaster."

Though Hao Jianhua was not a politician and had not handled diplomatic matters before, he wouldn't have been able to serve as the president of Imperial Capital University without some skills.

He knew very well that now was not the time for both parties to break off relations, at least not in terms of international relations.

Therefore, the current situation was not a major issue.

After all, no casualties had occurred between them, and Hao Jianhua understood clearly that after this incident, Atlantis University would certainly lose face.

At least in terms of international reputation, Atlantis University's status would plummet, and this would be a great opportunity for the rise of Imperial Capital University.

"To express my apologies, I hope you can stay here for two days, we'll set aside the academic exchange meeting for now, and I will personally act as your guide and show you around."

Standing not far away, Lin Beichen heard Sittelberg's words and showed a disdainful expression, muttering to himself.

"With such acting skills, why become a president? If he went to be an actor, he would definitely win an Oscar for Best Performance!"

Meanwhile, Zhang Tao arrived at Lin Beichen's side, conveying Song Xiangdong's words in a voice that only the two of them could hear.

After hearing Zhang Tao's words, a smile appeared on Lin Beichen's face.

"Director Song really values me. When I get back, I'll go see him immediately."

Lin Beichen's face remained calm, but he was somewhat shocked in his heart, surprised that Song Xiangdong had appeared on Dragon Tiger Mountain.

As the director of the Security Bureau, Song Xiangdong was responsible for handling very important matters and would generally not leave the bureau unless something even more significant happened.

"But taking a tour around Dragon Tiger Mountain would be quite nice."

Mentioning Dragon Tiger Mountain, a hint of excitement appeared on Lin Beichen's face.

Although there were no real cultivators on Dragon Tiger Mountain, many cultivation documents had been left behind. Lin Beichen believed that with his ability, he could certainly gain enlightenment from them and enhance his own strength.

As time went on, more and more reporters gathered. They were shocked when they saw the helicopters with Dragon Country markings.

Not only the reporters but also nearby residents gathered to join the excitement, and seeing the increasing crowd, the pressure in Sittelberg's heart grew.

The reason he agreed to help Griffin with such absurd things was to secure his re-election as president.

But if things continued to escalate, not only would re-election be out of the question, he might not even finish his current term.

However, the "simple" Sittelberg still underestimated the means of Kaelmes and others!

"Do you see that? Those are Dragon Country's helicopters!"

"It is said that Dragon Country has unparalleled capability in evacuation, and today we've witnessed it first hand!"

"The fire was just extinguished, and Dragon Country's helicopters have already arrived."

"Thinking back to our country's evacuation efforts, it's truly disappointing."

...

...

The surrounding crowd kept discussing the arrival of Dragon Country helicopters; anyone with sense could see that the helicopters were meant to take these students home.

"And did you notice that these helicopters are military ones!"

Among the Atlantis onlookers, a military enthusiast immediately recognized the military nature of the helicopters.

Though they hadn't been painted in camouflage, this was not due to oversight but because they were specifically used by the Security Bureau.

"In any case, Dragon Country really is amazing!"

Some in the crowd were so excited that they began posting everything they saw on their social media.

When the news of Dragon Country using helicopters to evacuate students suffering from disaster at Atlantis University spread on social media, it caused an immediate uproar.

Dragon Country's emphasis on its citizens' safety and its readiness to use any means to conduct evacuations boosted its position amongst global citizens considerably.

This incident surprised everyone, and when this news was transmitted within Dragon Country, it quickly stirred internal anger.

Students of Imperial Capital University are top-level talents, destined to become the backbone of Dragon Country, excelling in their fields, irrespective of what industry they work in.

Chapter 349: On the Way to Dragon Tiger Mountain_2

The incident at Atlantis University, where someone almost lost their life due to an inexplicable fire, was absolutely shocking.

On the internet in Dragon Country, numerous social media platforms were buzzing with the public's will, demanding a statement from Atlantis University.

To quell public opinion, Dragon Country's leadership promptly ordered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to deliver a diplomatic letter to Atlantis, hoping to receive a statement as soon as possible.

On the day after receiving the diplomatic letter, Atlantis announced that it was dealing with the university president at Atlantis University.

That very afternoon, Atlantis officially announced that the university president, filled with remorse over the fire, had committed suicide at home.

This news sparked a huge uproar online and even the academic community mourned deeply.

Sittelberg, who should have been disgraced, once again appeared in the public eye with an image of responsibility.

At this moment, in a small room within Atlantis's power structure, a man sat in the shadows.

Kaelmes and Griffin stood respectfully before him.

"So after all the sacrifices, we still didn't catch that man."

The man in the shadows spoke in a calm tone, which made Griffin look terrified.

At that moment, Kaelmes no longer held the same calm demeanor he had outside; he looked like a mouse seeing a cat.

"Minister, it's my fault that this happened. Although I suspected they would use force to retrieve them, I didn't expect it to happen so swiftly."

Having served alongside the minister for many years, Kaelmes knew his temperament very well.

In his presence, simply apologizing and pleading for mercy would certainly displease him.

But if you first explained your actions and proved your usefulness before sincerely admitting your mistakes, there would be no problem.

"You're not wrong, Long Country's response exceeded our expectations."

The minister seemed persuaded by Kaelmes' reasoning, or at least willing to give him a chance.

"What do you plan to do next? Bring him back alive or dead, it doesn't matter."

After the minister said this, Griffin's expression turned to one of surprise.

They wanted Lin Beichen in order to uncover the secrets of his body.

Gaining insight into the source of his formidable power would enhance Atlantis's human modification abilities.

However, there was a significant difference between the blood of a living body and that of a corpse, and Griffin knew this well.

Vital genetic data could be extracted from the blood of a living body, but it was impossible to obtain from a corpse's blood.

Seeing the fleeting look of surprise on Griffin's face, the minister seemed to see through his thoughts.

"What, are you questioning my decision?"

"Of course not!"

Griffin suddenly felt his legs go weak and fell to his knees. A sense of fear emanated from within him.

Upon seeing Griffin like this, the minister couldn't help but let out a cold laugh.

"This man holds too many secrets. Even if we can't get other secrets, his body still has a lot of value."

As he spoke, the minister took a sip of his tea, then immediately smashed the cup over Griffin's head.

Blood trickled down Griffin's forehead, but he didn't dare to move or even wipe it off.

"Do as I say, and you will be well rewarded."

Five minutes later, Kaelmes and Griffin stepped out of the room.

As they left the power department building, they both realized their bodies were drenched in sweat.

"So what's your plan?"

Griffin looked to Kaelmes for help. He no longer had much obsession with catching or killing Lin Beichen, his only desire was to survive.

"Since the minister agreed to dead or alive, it makes things much easier."

Kael, ranked third in the minister's think tank, quickly devised a new plan.

When Kael shared his plan, Griffin's eyes widened, as if he had seen a ghost in broad daylight.

Even if he were to see a ghost in broad daylight, it wouldn't shock Griffin as much as Kael's plan, which was to make a move on Lin Beichen and his group on their way back.

"Are you out of your mind? Didn't you see they were escorted back by the military?!"

Griffin's intense reaction was understandable since Kael's plan involved making a move on the way back.

Griffin naturally thought Kael was planning to target the military.

If it were a covert assassination, that would be manageable, but openly attacking the military would escalate the conflict to an international level. Such consequences would be unbearable not just for Kael, but also possibly for the minister.

"Do you think I'm an idiot? Or do I look like an idiot to you?"

Seeing the look on Griffin's face, Kael had already guessed his thoughts.

"So, what do you mean by 'making a move on the way back'?"

Hearing that Kael wasn't planning to directly target the military, Griffin finally felt relieved.

Chapter 350: On the Way to Dragon Tiger Mountain_3

"Of course, it would be on their return trip. With such an incident happening, those people from Dragon Country would certainly give these 50 students a holiday, letting them go back and relax."

Upon hearing Kael's words, Griffin's expression also gradually became excited.

In Dragon Country, the most peripheral spies are under Griffin's charge, so he naturally understands the kind of compensation Kael is talking about.

"So all we need to do is wait for Lin Beichen to go home alone, then we can arrange for someone to deal with him directly!"

"You finally said something right!"

Kaelmes gave Griffin a helpless glance, surprised at how foolish this guy could be.

"I will arrange the tailing matter then."

Griffin volunteered confidently.

Kael thought it over carefully and nodded in agreement.

Kael agreed not because he trusted Griffin's capabilities.

Griffin had already displeased the minister in the room, so Kael also wanted to do Griffin a favor.

The other reason being the tracking matters have always been handled by Griffin, making it most appropriate for him to continue.

"Finally back on the homeland!"

Imperial Capital University, as a top university in the country, not only boasts refined academic buildings but also has a helipad.

When the helicopter landed at Imperial Capital University, the students who stepped off the plane showed excited expressions on their faces.

Some students even knelt down in excitement, kissing the homeland's soil; the girls held each other, crying aloud, though smiles hung in the air.

If anyone's reaction differed from the others, it would probably be Li Peng.

Li Peng sought help from An Xiaoran with a glance, but An Xiaoran immediately turned her head away; Li Peng then looked at Hao Jianhua, but Hao Jianhua didn't even glance at him. Minutes later, the police arrived at Imperial Capital University and took Li Peng away.

Without surprise, Li Peng would be prosecuted by the authorities for attempted murder.

"Student Lin, are you planning to rest for a bit, or go with us immediately?"

Zhang Tao's mission included two tasks: one was to safely bring the students of Imperial Capital University back to the country; the other was to safely escort Lin Beichen to Dragon Tiger Mountain.

However, considering the ordeal experienced, Zhang Tao wasn't sure about Lin Beichen's physical condition.

"Let's set off first; I can rest at Dragon Tiger Mountain."

"This kid being out of danger is all that matters."

Receiving news about Lin Beichen, Song Xiangdong finally relaxed.

Next to him, Fu Daoyi shook his head with a smile.

"What's so funny?"

Song Xiangdong tilted his head to look at Fu Daoyi; the two of them were old friends, understanding each other's thoughts with a single gesture.

Clearly, Fu Daoyi's recent actions had irritated Song Xiangdong.

"Given the power he showed in the video you gave me, anyone who posed a danger to him probably isn't someone your Security Bureau can deal with, right?"

The initially infuriated Song Xiangdong burst out laughing upon hearing this, then walked over to the Black Hole to inspect it closely.

The Black Hole's range had expanded by a small circle, although tiny, the advanced instruments of the Security Bureau detected even the slightest change.

"Once he arrives, these mysteries will be solved."

Fu Daoyi also went to the front of the Black Hole, sighing helplessly at the sight before him. Now, Lin Beichen had become their only hope to unlock the secrets of this Black Hole.

Whoosh...

While looking at the Black Hole, Song Xiangdong suddenly laughed out loud. Fu Daoyi looked at him with eyes full of confusion, thinking he might be mad.

"Who would've thought such an immense incident at Dragon Tiger Mountain, you stinky Daoists can't handle it, and yet you pin your hopes on our Security Bureau, it's really something..."

At this, Song Xiangdong couldn't hold back and laughed heartily, holding his stomach.

It's no wonder Song Xiangdong reacted this way. Whenever the Security Bureau faced unsolvable issues, they would turn to Dragon Tiger Mountain for help.

Though Dragon Tiger Mountain always agreed to assist, it also meant Song Xiangdong often had to deal with Fu Daoyi's attitude. Despite their friendship, this loss of face always left Song Xiangdong feeling somewhat "aggrieved".

Now, given such a chance to "retaliate" against Fu Daoyi, Song Xiangdong wouldn't miss any opportunity to mock him.

"You... you bastard!"

Fu Daoyi's face turned beet red at Song Xiangdong's comments.

He sulked for a while but couldn't find anything else to say, feeling utterly embarrassed.

"He's merely cooperating with your Security Bureau for now, isn't he?"

Fu Daoyi's eyes suddenly gleamed, as though he had thought of something.

"What's up?"

Song Xiangdong held back his mocking smile, curious.

"Since it's merely a cooperative relationship, I can invite him to join Dragon Tiger Mountain, even to become a Guest Minister in the Daoist Sect!"

Fu Daoyi finished with a proud smile.

"You... I won't let you succeed!"