

Conqueror 3161

Chapter 3161: Huang Shuai Must Not Escape!

Huang Rong's face sank when he heard Huang Xiaolong say there was only garbage by his side, but then again, Huang Xiaolong's words were not unreasonable. In comparison to the ten overlords and ten beast kings, the experts on his side were indeed much worse.

The sole expert, who could be taken out of the garbage list, was the Vice Main Mystical Pavilion Master, who was his second younger brother.

"Huang Rong, aren't you curious about how I learned that you've come to the Golden Spider Black Region?" Huang Xiaolong asked suddenly.

Huang Rong's pupils were needled by the question. Because the people that knew he had come to the Golden Spider Black Region were the ones he had come with, and then there was his second younger brother.

Right at this time, a light flashed around Huang Xiaolong as two people appeared.

They were the Son of Mystic and the Vice Main Mystical Pavilion Master!

"Feng'er!"

"Second Brother!"

Seeing that his son and second younger brother had fallen into Huang Xiaolong's hands, Huang Rong's face was unprecedentedly gloomy. His minor completion power of space surged, and he appeared almost instantaneously in front of his son and younger brother.

However, just as Huang Rong wanted to grab them away, a palm strike suddenly landed on Huang Rong's chest at a speed that was not slower than Huang Rong's.

Huang Rong was startled, and in this situation, he couldn't take care of the two people anymore. He quickly twisted his body and slapped out with his palm.

Two palms met in the air, and Huang Xiaolong was sent tumbling miserably, as a result.

Huang Xiaolong had exerted his full strength in this palm stroke, using all thirteen elements' power and three small worlds' energy compressed into this strike.

Huang Rong's movements stagnated for a split second, and his blood flowed chaotically, as blood trickled out from the corner of his mouth. He was severely injured!

"You—, thirteen elements of absolute power!" Huang Rong stared at Huang Xiaolong in disbelief, and he was shocked to the point that he couldn't manage his facial expression anymore. Moments ago, he had thought eleven elements power was Huang Xiaolong's full strength, and never did he imagine that Huang Xiaolong had actually comprehended all thirteen elements!

Despite his injuries, he still denied that Huang Xiaolong had successfully comprehended thirteen elements of absolute power!

He had begun to pay attention to Huang Xiaolong ever since he had defeated Huang Shuai at the time of the Creation Ceremony in the Divine Tuo Holy World. At that time, Huang Xiaolong's cultivation was merely at the First Esteem Dao Venerable Realm. In his eyes, that was no different than the smallest, insignificant shrimp. He thought that it would take less than the snap of his fingers to kill Huang Xiaolong. However, his disregard had given Huang Xiaolong the time to grow.

In his opinion, it would give him more pleasure and satisfaction to squash Huang Xiaolong to death when Huang Xiaolong had grown to a certain strength, but never did he imagine that in a short two to three thousand years, Huang Xiaolong's strength would reach this extent! To the point that he had managed to comprehend the thirteen elements' energies!

"Huang Xiaolong, I've underestimated you!" Shock and rage roiled in Huang Rong's eyes as he glared at Huang Xiaolong. "Had I known this, I would have gone to the Divine Tuo Holy World and pinched you to death myself!"

His gut twisted with regret for not nipping a trouble in the bud which had given Huang Xiaolong the time to grow instead.

Huang Xiaolong sneered, "You won't be able to escape, so just hand over the Huang Long Heart, and Huang Long Cape!" As he said that, he threw the Son of Mystic and the Vice Main Mystical Pavilion Master back into the Sun Moon Furnace.

Huang Rong exuded icy coldness at Huang Xiaolong's action, "Huang Xiaolong, do you really think you're after comprehending thirteen elements of absolute powers? Since you know who I am, you should know the strength of the family behind me. If you know what's good for you, release Feng'er and my brother right now. If anything happens to them, not only you, but the entire Huang Long World will be buried with them!"

"Is that so?" Huang Xiaolong's tone was tepid.

Huang Rong added, "Even if they die, my family can resurrect them at any time!"

It was because there was more than one expert in his family that had mastered the power of time and space at perfection level!

Huang Xiaolong wasn't affected by Huang Rong's words at all, and he responded nonchalantly, "Power of space and time at perfection level can resurrect the dead, but it consumes a lot from the caster, and it's not a small price to pay. Do you think your family would be willing to pay such a price to resurrect your son and your younger brother?"

Huang Rong's heart sank but he had to admit that what Huang Xiaolong said was true. Resurrecting the dead was difficult, to say the least, and there was definitely a hefty price to pay for it. In a family such as theirs, even if a core disciple died, there was no chance of them being resurrected, unless it was a core disciple who was set to be the next patriarch.

To be set as the family's next patriarch, one needed to have comprehended the thirteen elements of absolute power, and all of them had to have reached perfection level! Only such a monstrous genius disciple was worthy of their family to pay the price of a resurrection.

Therefore, not to mention his son and his younger brother, but even if he was the one who died, the family would not choose to resurrect him.

“Huang Xiaolong, even if my son and younger brother won’t be resurrected by the family after they die, my family won’t spare you.” Huang Rong pointed out coldly, “In the boundless universe, whoever goes against my family has no good ending. The strength of my family is not someone like you can imagine, so you’d better think it through really well before acting!”

“Think it through?” Huang Xiaolong let out a harsh chuckle, and in the next moment, he appeared right in front of Huang Rong with both his palms striking out. As the force surged from Huang Xiaolong’s palms, Huang Rong panicked when he sensed his immediate surroundings were frozen in time. Even the movements of his own actions were much too slow for his liking!

This was the power of time!

Huang Xiaolong’s power of time had also reached minor completion, thus he was able to control the time flow within a certain radius, and within this area, he could both accelerate or slow down time!

Almost at the same time as Huang Xiaolong’s strike landed, Huang Rong pushed his power of space to retreat, but he was still a step too slow.

Boom!

Huang Xiaolong’s palms strikes merely brushed past Huang Rong’s chest, and even so, sounds of breaking bones could be heard, and at the same time, Huang Xiaolong’s figure blurred away and appeared once again in front of Huang Rong with the Huang Long Blades in his hands.

“The rest of you go look for Huang Shuai. He mustn’t escape!” Huang Xiaolong ordered Cang Xun and the rest as he swung out the blades in his hands.

After so long, neither Huang Shuai or anyone else have shown up so far, which indicated that they were trying to refine the Huang Long Heart while Huang Rong delayed Huang Xiaolong.

As expected, when Huang Rong heard Huang Xiaolong's order, panic flashed across his face, but being besieged by the Huang Long Blades in Huang Xiaolong's hands, he did not have the luxury of worrying about others. He could only watch Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and the rest fly away.

As for Yuan Tianyi, he stood and watched Huang Xiaolong and Huang Rong battle from the side with a cold, indifferent gaze.

It would be a lie to say he wasn't tempted by the Huang Long and Huang Long Cape, but after the miserable lessons from the Tree of Origin and blood moon, Yuan Tianyi understood deeply that even if he took action, he wouldn't be able to refine the two treasures. Therefore, it was better for him to not see the two treasures.

The weapons in Huang Rong's hands were two huge blades that had just blocked the Huang Long Blades' attack, yet there were two big cracks running down them. Huang Rong was shocked, but he also noticed Yuan Tianyi, standing still.

Could it be that this person is not in the same group as Huang Xiaolong?

While Huang Xiaolong battled Huang Rong, Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and the rest quickly found Huang Shuai and the group of Mystical Pavilion's experts. Huang Shuai and these experts were seated in a circle around an enormous heart that exuded a rich dragon qi, and also low-sounding dragon roars.

Chapter 3162: Also Huang Long Bloodline?

Huang Shuai and every Mystical Pavilion expert's heart tightened when they sensed a group of experts rushing towards them.

"Attack!"

Cang Xun and Di Shuang shouted in unison as they simultaneously attacked Huang Shuai. The Huang Long Cape was on Huang Shuai. Hence, anyone from the Mystical Pavilion could be allowed to leave, but absolutely not Huang Shuai!

The two of them had blocked off all of Huang Shuai's paths of retreat even before they attacked, and the land quaked and rumbled under their overwhelming force.

The instant they attacked, a fluttering golden yellow cape emerged from Huang Shuai's shoulders, and on the surface of the cape was an intimidating giant yellow dragon that looked very much alive. A resounding dragon roar reverberated in the air as its four claws reached out and tore the space that was locked down by Cang Xun and Di Shuang. Then, the giant dragon wrapped up Huang Shuai and escaped through the torn space.

Ei!

Cang Xun and Di Shuang were astonished as it had never occurred to either of them that Huang Shuai would be able to escape their two-layered locked space.

Looking at the escaping Huang Shuai, Cang Xun and Di Shuang bellowed as they attacked again, exuding supreme coercive pressure with a flip of their palms. Heaven and earth seemed to shrink in size, Huang Shuai immediately felt space tighten around him, restraining his movements, his dao soul, his bloodline, and the small world in his body, and he was unable to move.

Huang Shuai was startled and pushed the Huang Long Cape to the limit with cosmos energy, but his small world was restrained. How was he going to activate the Huang Long Cape?

If the Huang Long Cape's speed advantage couldn't be utilized, then he was no different than an ant in front of Cang Xun and Di Shuang.

Cang Xun's palm enlarged rapidly as it pressed down above the crown of Huang Shuai's head.

Mystical Pavilion experts scrambled to assist Huang Shuai's escape, but their attempts were hindered by the other nine beast kings and nine overlords. They could barely take care of themselves, much less extend a hand to help Huang Shuai.

Cang Xun clenched his fist, and instantly, the space around Huang Shuai shattered, as well as the protective arrays around him. Finally, Huang Shuai was held up by Cang Xun.

Bright light rippled all over Huang Shuai as layers of runes appeared, and these runes contained terrifying power, which enabled Huang Shuai to break free from Cang Xun's grip. In a flicker, Huang Shuai was fleeing again.

Both Cang Xun and Di Shuang were astonished.

They could tell that those runes were refined by a supreme expert for Huang Shuai. That expert had integrated the runes into Huang Shuai's body, and they had become a part of Huang Shuai's dao physique and dao soul. When Huang Shuai was in mortal danger, these runes would appear to save him.

Looking at Huang Shuai, who was on the run again, Cang Xun and Di Shuang snorted coldly and acted to capture Huang Shuai. Blinding rays of several thousand meters shone from their bodies. These rays of light turned into a sea of light with vengeful towering waves that swore to drown the land, and submerge the space Huang Shuai was in.

Bang!

Hit by the light waves, Huang Shuai plummeted from the air to the ground, and his robe was torn in various places. His armor had broken into pieces from the crash, leaving him almost completely and miserably naked. Fury was written all over Huang Shuai's face.

In the next moment, Cang Xun and Di Shuang reached where Huang Shuai was.

Huang Shuai's eyes were spewing fire as he glared at them. "You two lowly b*stards, since you're bent on seeking death, I'll fulfill your wish!"

Terrifying destructive energy surged from his body.

This destructive power was so overwhelming that Cang Xun and Di Shuang felt as if the air was robbed out of their lungs. Their faces paled, and at the same time, both shouted, "Retreat!"

Both retreated in haste.

But the destructive power expanded faster than Cang Xun and Di Shuang's speed, and they felt death breathing down their necks. In a moment of desperation, they roared and circulated every last strand of energy they could muster and attacked Huang Shuai.

But their effort was futile against the destructive power that was akin to the light of a firefly, trying to compete with the moon, and the gap was simply unbridgeable.

With their eyes widened in shock, they watched the destructive power swallow them.

At the very last moment, before Cang Xun and Di Shuang completely disappeared in the waves of destructive force, time and space came to a halt, and a radiant light flashed before their eyes. The next thing they knew was that they had escaped from being swallowed by the destructive force.

There was another person by their side, and it was none other than Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong rushed over after dealing with the Main Mystical Pavilion Master Huang Rong, and just as he arrived, he saw Cang Xun and Di Shuang in danger. Therefore, he quickly rescued them.

"Huang Xiaolong!" Huang Shuai stared in shock at Huang Xiaolong, who appeared in front of him, with a fleeting complicated gaze of jealousy, hatred, resentment, envy, and rage.

On the other hand, Huang Xiaolong was inwardly a little shocked by Huang Shuai's strength. Huang Shuai was already a Ninth Esteem Dao Venerable. Then again, he himself had advanced to the peak of late-Ninth Esteem Dao Venerable Realm and comprehended thirteen elements of absolute powers. Therefore, it was nothing surprising that Huang Shuai's cultivation had reached the Ninth Esteem Dao Venerable Realm.

Huang Shuai and the Main Mystical Pavilion Master Huang Rong were cousins from their fathers' side. In their universe's first-ranked family, the Huang Family, his status was higher than the Son of Mystic.

"Hand over the Huang Long Cape," Huang Xiaolong stated directly as he had no interest in reminiscing the old days with Huang Shuai.

Huang Shuai's face became distorted, and he snorted, "Huang Xiaolong, do you think that you've won?"

"At least, it doesn't seem you have a chance to escape in this situation," Huang Xiaolong pointed out indifferently. His attention was locked on Huang Shuai and Huang Rong. Other Mystical Pavilion experts could escape, but not Huang Shuai and Huang Rong. Huang Xiaolong wouldn't permit it!

If these two people escaped, the behemoth family behind them would be a disaster for Huang Xiaolong in the days to come.

Huang Shuai chortled when he heard that, and with a twisted expression, he sneered, "Huang Xiaolong, with the protective runes talisman my father has refined for me, you wouldn't be able to break it unless you have achieved perfection in the thirteen elements. What can you do to me then?!"

"Is that so?" Huang Xiaolong snickered, "Your protective runes talisman is indeed amazing, but how many times can it protect you? Don't tell me that these runes' power is endless!"

Even a God of Creation couldn't refine a protective talisman with unlimited usage.

Huang Shuai's face turned extremely gloomy.

Right at this time, Huang Rong appeared beside Huang Shuai with one hand gripping Huang Shuai's shoulder as he tried to take him away, but would Huang Xiaolong let them escape? The two of them barely moved an inch when Huang Xiaolong transformed into a dragon of creation. His four claws flexed, locking the immediate surroundings and refining the space!

Space melted like iron!

Space was an intangible existence, but now, it was being melted as if it was a solid entity!

Huang Shuai and Huang Rong crashed to the ground.

Upon seeing this, Huang Xiaolong's four claws slammed down and just as his attack was about to hit Huang Shuai and Huang Rong, Huang Rong suddenly let out a resounding dragon's roar. Blinding golden light burst out from his body as an enormous golden yellow dragon appeared behind him.

"This is?!" Huang Xiaolong was shocked.

Huang long Bloodline?!

Huang Rong also possesses the Huang Long Bloodline? Although the bloodline's purity couldn't be compared to him, it was certainly the same Huang Long Bloodline as him.

Whilst Huang Xiaolong was still in shock, Huang Rong also transformed into a dragon of creation in a flash.

Chapter 3163: The Four Pieces of Huang Long Set

The land quaked violently, and the sky above swayed.

Overwhelming destructive power swept in the four directions. Everyone backed away in a panic, including Cang Xun and Di Shuang.

Pressure coming from the two dragon of creations' transformations caused the dry land in the ninth level to crack and sink!

The ninth level of Nether Grotto's land cracked as if it was punched by numerous giant fists, causing the land to sink several hundred meters!

All the darkness, ferocious beasts, and devils in the ninth level crouched on the ground, trembling in fear, and their tongues hung out from the sides of their mouths.

Not only those beasts of darkness and devils couldn't resist the pressure from the two in the air, but even Lei Yu, Black Devil Shadow, and others with strength rivaling experts on the Extermination List were pressed to the ground.

Li Shuo, ten beast kings, ten overlords, Jin Zin, and others fared slightly better than Lei Yu. Even so, all of them were panting, and had retreated as far to the edge as possible.

Huang Shuai was protected by layers of golden runes which blocked off the overwhelming coercive pressures from Huang Rong and Huang Xiaolong. Whereas, most of the Mystical Pavilion experts were the same as Lei Yu, Black Shadow Devil, and others as they were pressed to the ground and unable to move an inch. Merely a handful of them forcefully remained standing.

Only Yuan Tianyi looked relaxed under the double pressure. Then again, there was a protective layer of thirteen elements around him to block off the destructive energy from Huang Xiaolong and Huang Rong's collision.

"Kill!" A resounding growl thundered from Huang Rong's dragon mouth as he pounced towards Huang Xiaolong in attack. Even before Huang Rong's claws reached Huang Xiaolong, space fissures appeared all around Huang Xiaolong.

A new round of battle started.

The ninth level of Nether Grotto seemed to be struck by thousands of divine lightning due to the repeated collisions and out-swept destructive force. Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and the others watched the land break, mountains getting reduced to crumbles, and forests and rivers disappear. The original land had turned into bottomless abyss in various places, ferocious darkness beasts and devils exploded to their deaths in blood mists.

Strong stench of blood permeated the entire ninth level.

"Want to run?!" Huang Shuai was so close to escaping through the entryway when an enormous dragon claw slammed down on him, sending Huang Shuai flying in the opposite direction. Even with the powerful protective runes shielding him, he was reduced to a sorry state.

Huang Rong once again rammed towards Huang Xiaolong while laughing crazily, “Huang Xiaolong, you’re so great that you’re bullying a junior!”

“Junior?” Huang Xiaolong ridiculed, “Huang Rong, I’ve merely cultivated for several thousand years, and you have the cheek to claim to be my junior?!”

Huang Rong’s laughter choked in his throat.

The two started another round of battle, exchanging several hundred moves in moments.

Although Huang Rong had transformed into the body of a dragon-like Huang Xiaolong, it remained a fact that the purity of his Huang Long Bloodline was lower than Huang Xiaolong. The dragon of creation he transformed into, in terms of defense and power, both were weaker than Huang Xiaolong. Not to mention, he had merely comprehended twelve elements power that he was suppressed and beaten by Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Rong tumbled back uncontrollably.

Huang Shuai had tried escaping several times, but he was struck back by Huang Xiaolong each time.

The protective runes inside Huang Shuai’s body began to weaken, and Huang Shuai grew increasingly anxious as he watched the protective runes’ barrier dim because he knew very well that once the protective runes’ power was exhausted, he would die!

But no matter what methods he used, he was unable to escape Huang Xiaolong’s control. Every time he was close to the exit, Huang Xiaolong would appear by his side inexplicably and send him flying the other way.

Huang Shuai was incensed and filled with apprehension while he cursed and swore at Huang Xiaolong and his eighteen generation ancestors. Despite cursing until his throat burned, he was powerless to change reality.

Several hours later, the ninth level of Nether Grotto was full of craters and deep abysses, and destructive energy from Huang Xiaolong and Huang Rong's battle churned in the air.

Huang Rong was struck under his chin by Huang Xiaolong's claw, and he was sent flying into the distance. The entire ninth level shook when Huang Rong crashed into the broken land, and Huang Rong's transformation lost its effect, reverting into his human form.

Huang Rong struggled to stand on his feet, and there was hardly a part of his body that was uninjured with several hundred blade cuts. His armor was chipped and broken in many places as if he was hanging a piece of iron that was bitten by a mastiff twice over.

Huang Xiaolong returned to his human form as he descended, and strode slowly towards Huang Rong.

Huang Rong stared fixedly at Huang Xiaolong without a trace of fear in his eyes, and there was only venomous hatred, "Huang Xiaolong, I will return one day, and that day will be the day you die!"

"Today's humiliation, I will return it to you ten thousand times in the future!" Huang Xiaolong's heart sank and just as he was about to resolve Huang Rong, resplendent rays shone from Huang Rong's body as a small golden dragon flew out and wrapped around him. Waves of powerful energy belonging to a God of Creation swept out.

This small golden dragon was actually a rune! A rune created by a God of Creation expert!

When the small golden dragon finished wrapping itself around Huang Rong, it turned into a streak of light as it transported Huang Rong away right before Huang Xiaolong's eyes.

Huang Xiaolong's face darkened. His three dao souls spread out, trying to detect Huang Rong's presence, but Huang Rong's presence had completely disappeared. That creation dragon rune had most probably transported Huang Rong out of the City of Nether, maybe even out of the Golden Spider Black Region!

Fear and panic spewed out from Huang Shuai's eyes when he saw Huang Rong disappear.

Huang Shuai had placed all his hope on Huang Rong, but now that Huang Rong had fled without him, it had extinguished the hope in his heart!

Huang Rong was rewarded with that creation dragon rune when he made a great contribution to the family one time, and that creation dragon rune could only take away one person.

Huang Shuai's mind was in chaos when a figure appeared in front of him. When he looked up, he saw Huang Xiaolong, and quickly backed away in a fluster. "Huang Xiaolong, what do you want to do?"

"What do you think?" Huang Xiaolong sneered as grabbed Huang Shuai with one hand, and he directly sealed Huang Shuai's strength and cut off Huang Shuai's connection with the Huang Long Cape before throwing Huang Shuai into the Sun Moon Furnace.

A low sigh escaped Huang Xiaolong's lips as he looked at the glimmering Huang Long Cape in his hand. He had traveled from the Divine Tuo Holy World to the Origin Holy World, until the Golden Spider Black Region, and the Huang Long Cape was finally in his hands!

There was also the Huang Long Heart!

Huang Xiaolong raised his head to look at the Huang Long Heart in the air that was emitting ripples of golden light.

Despite the intense battle between Huang Xiaolong and Huang Rong, the Huang Long Heart wasn't affected or damaged in any way.

Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and others subsequently captured the remaining Mystical Pavilion experts, and brought them up to Huang Xiaolong. Huang Xiaolong easily subjugated them.

In a single step, Huang Xiaolong reached the Huang Long Heart in the air. He reached out and his hand passed through the layers of golden light with ease. His fingers traced the surface of Huang Long Heart, and felt a close connection. It was a warm connection, as the same blood.

"Father!" Huang Xiaolong called out in a low voice.

The Huang Long Heart seemed to have heard Huang Xiaolong's call, the golden light around it throbbed. Although the Huang Long Heart wasn't really his father's heart, it was refined from the blood essence taken from his father's heart.

Huang Xiaolong squeezed a drop of blood essence onto the Huang Long Heart immediately, and the Huang Long Heart emitted a burst of radiant light. Huang Xiaolong then sat cross-legged as he began refining the Huang Long Heart.

Chapter 3164: Returning to Cangqiong Holy World

With his Huang Long Bloodline, and because the Huang Long Heart was refined by his father, it wasn't difficult for Huang Xiaolong to refine the Huang Long Heart.

It didn't take Huang Xiaolong long to refine the Huang Long Heart. The Huang Long Heart gradually shrunk in size until it was the size of a human heart then shot into Huang Xiaolong's chest towards his heart position. It slowly integrated into Huang Xiaolong's heart flawlessly, becoming a natural part of Huang Xiaolong's body.

Seeing Huang Xiaolong successfully refine the Huang Long Heart, a complicated emotion flashed across Yuan Tianyi's eyes. He had naturally hoped Huang Xiaolong would fail, but he also knew that it was not something he could stop.

Sensing the pulsing Huang Long Heart in his chest, sending vigorous energy through his body, joy swam through Huang Xiaolong's veins.

As the Huang Long Heart's energy would continuously temper his body, his grand dao physique would become increasingly stronger.

Subsequently, Huang Xiaolong, Cang Xun, Di Shuang, Lei Yu, and the rest returned to the surface from the Nether Grotto. The intense battle between Huang Xiaolong and Huang Rong had not only turned the Nether Grotto's ninth level into ruins, but the entire Nether Grotto and City of Nether had suffered damage to a certain extent. The streets were broken in various sections, and many of the buildings and shops had crumbled.

Many had already fled the city, and there was barely anyone left.

When they had come, the City of Nether was a prosperous, bustling city, and it was a stark contrast to the current atmosphere.

It seemed like all the cultivators in the City of Nether were frightened by the shockwaves from Huang Xiaolong and Huang Rong's battle, and they had fled the city. Then again, this was nothing strange as everyone was afraid of death.

"It is said that the City of Nether's Nether Restaurant is the best restaurant in the Nine Spider Black Region. I originally wanted to have a taste, but it looks like that won't happen today." Huang Xiaolong joked with the others.

Although Main Mystical Pavilion Master Huang Rong fled, it was a fact that he had defeated Huang Rong, and also the Creation Set was complete, these two matters put Huang Xiaolong in a good mood.

Jin Xin grinned, "If Your Highness wants to taste the Nether Restaurant's wine, I will send someone to contact the owner, and tell them to come back!"

The Nether Restaurant was the best restaurant in the Nine Spider Black Region, so one could imagine the force behind it. However, Jin Xin being the absolute sovereign of Golden Spider Black Region, the Nether Restaurant's owner would have no choice but to comply to his order.

"If it's too troublesome, then forget it," Huang Xiaolong waved his hand.

Jin Xin smiled amiably, "Nothing troublesome about it."

He then issued an order, and a reply soon came. Jin Xin read the message and reported to Huang Xiaolong, "Your Highness, let's go to the Nether Restaurant now, the owner will arrive within the hour, the timing is just right!"

"Alright," Huang Xiaolong nodded.

The group headed to the Nether Restaurant without another word.

Many things crossed Huang Xiaolong's mind as he reflected on recent events. Although he had defeated Huang Rong this time, he also noted that he still wasn't strong enough.

Among the talented juniors of Huang Rong's Huang Family, Huang Rong was merely in the top ten. If Huang Rong was strong enough to enter the top five, top three, or even the first place, to what extent Huang Rong's strength could have been? Not to mention, the strength of the Huang Family Patriarch Huang Rong belongs to.

Therefore, he needed to cultivate the thirteen elements to perfection level as soon as possible.

When he goes back this time, he planned to enter a long seclusion!

"Your Highness, we're here," an hour later, Jin Xin said as he pointed at a building not far ahead to Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong put his thoughts away and looked where Jin Xin pointed to. It was a typical ancient architectural building, yet it was grand and luxurious. Right outside the restaurant's main entrance stood a middle-aged man with bushy brows and a prominent face, and this person was none other than the restaurant's owner.

Spotting Jin Xin arriving with Huang Xiaolong's group, the owner hurried forward and knelt before them, "Liu Yue greets His Highness, Son of Creation, and Lord Jin Xin!"

Clearly, he had gotten prior instructions to serve Huang Xiaolong and Jin Xin.

Huang Xiaolong had the Nether Restaurant's owner stand up, and under the owner's respectful invitation, Huang Xiaolong, Jin Xin, Yuan Tianyi, and the rest walked into the restaurant.

The facade outside was ancient and solemn but when Huang Xiaolong's group stepped inside, the interior was tastefully decorated, revealing the owner's carefree personality, which enhanced the mood of enjoying wine in this atmosphere.

Although many of the buildings in the city were damaged due to the battle between Huang Xiaolong and Huang Rong, not a brick of the Nether Restaurant was cracked, and one could imagine how strong the building's defenses were.

There were no other customers in the restaurant, Huang Xiaolong's group were the first customers for the day.

Huang Xiaolong chose a table near the window where he could see the view outside.

When everyone was seated down, Liu Yue personally brought the wine and several small dishes to them.

The scent of wine permeated the air when the cork was pulled off.

Since most of the people in the city were frightened away by the battle, Huang Xiaolong's group had the entire place to themselves. Everyone let go and enjoyed to their hearts' content, there was no danger of getting drunk no matter how much they drank. Even Yuan Tianyi couldn't resist the lure of wine and joined the crowd.

Three days and three nights later, the small party ended. Huang Xiaolong's group left the restaurant and left the City of Nether.

Huang Xiaolong stayed a few days at the Golden Spider Race Headquarters, then left the Golden Spider Black Region completely. The Destiny Race's Li Tianyi chose to stay with the Golden Spider Race.

Back in the Origin Holy World Huang Xiaolong stayed for six months before he set off to return to the Divine Tuo Holy World. Naturally, the ten overlords, ten beast kings, Lei Yu, Black Shadow Devil, Myriad Formation Devil, and the others were with him.

Seeing Huang Xiaolong return, Cangqiong Old Man, Fen Yanzi, Feng Yue, and Yin Yue were overjoyed, and it was especially so for the three ladies, Fei Yanzi, Feng Yue, and Yin Yue.

“What, Xiaolong, you say you want to go back to Cangqiong Holy World?” When Cangqiong Old Man heard Huang Xiaolong say he was planning to go back to Cangqiong Holy World several days later, he was surprised and shocked.

Fei Yanzi too looked at Huang Xiaolong with wide eyes. When she had first followed Huang Xiaolong to Divine Tuo Holy World, she had never thought there would be an opportunity to return to Cangqiong Holy World, simply because it was too difficult.

Huang Xiaolong smiled and nodded, “Yes, I plan to make a trip back, Master. Yanzi, what do you two think?”

Cangqiong Old Man hesitated only briefly, then nodded his head, “I’ve come to the Divine Tuo Holy World for many years, it would be nice to go back and see some old friends.”

Fei Yanzi nodded her head dazedly.

As for Feng Yue and Yin Yue, they expressed they wanted to follow Huang Xiaolong to Cangqiong Holy World.

Huang Xiaolong smiled wryly. “Alright then, we’ll set off a few days later!”

He naturally had his own plans in returning to Cangqiong Holy World. Cangqiong Holy World was the place he had ascended to from the lower world, thus when the Huang Family, Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, Yao Chi, and the others were to ascend, they would definitely arrive at Cangqiong Holy World. Therefore, he was going back to enter a long seclusion while waiting for his family to ascend.

Several days later, Huang Xiaolong set off with his master, Cangqiong Old Man, the three ladies, ten overlords, ten beast kings Li Shuo, Black Shadow Devil, Lei Yu, and the others to Cangqiong Holy World.

To reach Cangqiong Holy World from the Divine Tuo Holy World, they needed to pass through several Denmon World's regions. To others, it would be an arduous journey, but to Huang Xiaolong, it was no different than crossing flat plains.

Chapter 3165: Consecutive Breakthroughs

Two years later, Huang Xiaolong's group finally reached Cangqiong Holy World.

Sensing the familiar, thin spiritual energy, Huang Xiaolong seemed to have found his footing as he was finally back!

From Cangqiong Holy World to Divine Tuo Holy World, and from there to Origin Holy World—these years felt like a lifetime ago.

'Xiaoying, are you doing well?' Huang Xiaolong asked inwardly.

He had intended to bring Lin Xiaoying with him to the Divine Tuo Holy World, but Lin Xiaoying had refused, saying that she didn't want to become a burden by his side. He felt like memories of long ago had happened just yesterday.

Cangqiong Old Man and Fen Yanzi were excited to be back in Cangqiong Holy World.

"Master, shall we head to the Holy Heavens' headquarters?" Huang Xiaolong asked Cangqiong Old Man.

Cangqiong Old Man smiled. "Alright, let's go to the Holy Heavens Headquarters, it's been a long time since I last met my four old friends."

Huang Xiaolong smiled as he directed the Purple Lightning Peak in the direction of the Holy Heavens' headquarters.

The Heavenly Master, Tyrant Chu, Lord Long, and Elder Wu, are you all doing well? Huang Xiaolong thought to himself.

With the Purple Lightning Peak's speed, a few days later, the Holy Heavens Headquarters' outline could be seen in the horizon.

At this time, on one of the snow mountains in the Clear Snow Palace headquarters, sword lights criss-crossed in the air. Tan Juan, Ji Xinyi, and Lin Xiaoying were practicing the Clear Snow Palace's sword technique.

A while later, Lin Xiaoying suddenly stopped, looking crestfallen and out of sorts. Seeing her expression, both Tan Juan and Ji Xinyi also stopped practicing.

"Xiaoying, are you thinking about Xiaolong?" Tan Juan asked softly.

Lin Xiaoying nodded mutely.

Ji Xinyi curled her lips and snorted. "That Huang Xiaolong is really a heartless scumbag."

"Second Senior Sister, it was me that refused to follow Xiaolong to the Divine Tuo Holy World, so you cannot blame him for this." Lin Xiaoying shook her head and clarified for Huang Xiaolong.

Ji Xinyi was aware of that, but after seeing Lin Xiaoying feeling down because of Huang Xiaolong, she naturally had some resentment in her heart. Thus, she complained about Huang Xiaolong.

"I don't know how's Xiaolong doing in the Divine Tuo Holy World?" Lin Xiaoying sighed with her gaze lost at the horizon as if trying to see through everything and hoped to see Huang Xiaolong. "Dao Venerable experts in the Divine Tuo Holy World are as many as the leaves in the forests. What if Huang Xiaolong ran into trouble. He's a little impulsive, straightforward, and unwilling to endure any injustice."

Tan Juan and Ji Xinyi looked at each other, feeling speechless.

Based on the terrifying strength Huang Xiaolong had shown in the past, he probably wouldn't fall into danger no matter how many Dao Venerables he was up against, right?

Tan Juan comforted, “Junior Sister, don’t worry too much. With Xiaolong’s strength and talent, maybe, he’s already broken through to high-level Dao Venerable Realm. Not to mention, his battle prowess surpasses even peak late-Ninth Esteem Dao Venerable.”

Lin Xiaoying shook her head sadly. “Maybe there are existences that have surpassed the Dao Venerable Realm in the Divine Tuo Holy World?”

Neither Tan Juan nor Ji Xinyi knew how to respond to this.

It was at this time, someone flew towards the three ladies, and this person was none other than their master, the Clear Snow Palace Master, Xue Lingyun!

The urgency on their master’s face baffled the three ladies.

“Master!” The three ladies saluted.

“Xiaoying, Xiaolong’s back!”

The three ladies had not even reached her, but Xue Lingyun had already shouted the news to them, and there was obvious joy on her face.

Lin Xiaoying froze, looking thunderstruck.

“Xiao, Xiaolong’s back?!” She couldn’t believe it. Didn’t they say it is very difficult to return to Cangqiong Holy World?

Tan Juan and Ji Xinyi too stood dazed, thinking they might have misheard.

“Yes, Xiaolong’s back!” Xue Lingyun repeated as she nodded her head with a beaming smile on her face. It was as if she had expected the three ladies’ reaction.

“Master, has the news been verified? Didn’t they say it’s difficult to return once you cross to the Divine Tuo Holy World? Unless they encounter a space crack...” Tan Juan couldn’t help asking.

Xue Lingyun answered confidently, “It’s been verified! Xiaolong’s at the Holy Heavens Headquarters this very moment! His master, Cangqiong Old Man is with him, and Fei Yanzi as well! It seems they flew back directly!”

Flew back?! Is that possible?

They found it hard to believe.

But when Lin Xiaoying reacted, she shot out like an arrow. Xue Lingyun chuckled, seeing that and grumbled good-naturedly, “This girl, she threw her master aside after hearing her beloved has returned.”

Then, she, Tan Juan, and Ji Xinyi went after her.

The news of Huang Xiaolong’s return to the Cangqiong Holy World soon reached every corner of the world, including the World River. In a short while, the entire Cangqiong Holy World was boiling as experts rushed to the Holy Heavens Headquarters to pay their respects to Huang Xiaolong.

The Heavenly Master, Tyrant Chu, Lord Long, and Elder Crow laughed heartily for a long time when Huang Xiaolong appeared in front of them.

Less than a week after that, Huang Xiaolong saw the Clear Snow Palace Master Xue Lingyun, and her three disciples. Disregarding others’ eyes, Lin Xiaoying ran into Huang Xiaolong’s embrace like a swallow returning home, leaving an awkward Huang Xiaolong to deal with the teasing glances all around.

In the next couple of years, Huang Xiaolong traveled around Cangqiong Holy World with Lin Xiaoying, and Fei Yanzi, enjoying the many sights and the various facets of life to grind their perception.

A few years later, Huang Xiaolong entered seclusion.

Although Lin Xiaoying was a little sulky after learning that Huang Xiaolong was going to enter a long seclusion, she didn't make too much fuss. She knew about Huang Xiaolong's battle with Huang Rong and understood that Huang Xiaolong was anxious to improve his strength.

Before entering seclusion, Huang Xiaolong exhorted the various forces of Cangqiong Holy World to pay attention. If any of the Huang Family members, Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, or Yao Chi ascended, the matter needed to be reported to him immediately even if he was in seclusion.

After dividing large amounts of genesis level pills to Lin Xiaoying, Fei Yanzi, the Heavenly Master, Tyrant Chu, and others, Huang Xiaolong entered the Sun Moon Furnace with Yuan Tianyi, the ten overlords, ten beast kings, Lei Yu, Black Shadow Devil, and the rest to focus on cultivating.

Huang Xiaolong and the rest spread out, sitting cross-legged under the Tree of Origin, Tree of Beginning, and the Parasol Tree, with the blood moon shining down rays of bloodred light that was reflected by the Pure Soil on the ground.

Light waves of absolute energies flowed out from Huang Xiaolong, Yuan Tianyi, Cang Xun, Di Shuang, Lei Yui, and the rest of the twenty-six people, merging with each other and turning into a sea of myriad lights.

Huang Xiaolong and twenty-six others were submerged within the light sea of various absolute energies.

As the lights glistened, there seemed to be a golden dragon swimming around, or king of beasts galloping, behemoths roaring at the heavens, and even lightning beasts roaring.

As time flowed by, several thousand years had passed in the blink of an eye.

Under the continuous tempering from more than twenty people's absolute energies during these several thousand years, there were obvious changes to the Sun Moon Furnace. The furnace's space had grown much bigger, and there were signs it was gestating something amazing, even the furnace surface had become brighter.

Huang Xiaolong's major completion power of darkness had reached perfection level, whereas his minor completion power of absolute metal, wood, wind, and earth had reached the major completion stage.

Not only Huang Xiaolong, Yuan Tianyi, Cang Xun, Di Shuang, Lei Yu, and the others' strengths had also improved at varying degrees.

When Di Shuang was cultivating at the bottom of Origin Lands' Black Frost Abyss, his power of darkness was close to reaching perfection level but it was interrupted by Huang Xiaolong. During the seclusion this time, Di Shuang's power of darkness finally achieved perfection level!

Thousands of years went by.

On this day, Huang Xiaolong was once again enshrouded by a burst of bright light. Golden, green, azure, and yellow lights shone bright at the same time like suns of different colors were exploding.

Chapter 3166: Eleven Elements Perfection

The light of four elements simultaneously shone from Huang Xiaolong's body, forming an overwhelming energy vortex that caused the entire Sun Moon Furnace to shake violently. Yuan Tianyi, Cang Xun, Di Shuang, Lei Yu, and the others were sent tumbling away by the abrupt burst of energy from Huang Xiaolong's body.

Even Yuan Tianyi stared at Huang Xiaolong in unconcealable shock.

"Four, four perfection levels!" Huang Xiaolong's power of absolute metal, wood, wind, and earth had reached perfection level! All four elements had advanced at the same time!

Cang Xun, Di Shuang, Lei Yu, and the others were frightened and speechless.

This is literally a wonder of the world!

No, this is a universe's miracle!

They had lived for a long time, ascended to higher realms, and gone to many big worlds, but never had they seen or heard anyone who could advance four elements of absolute powers at the same time.

Even the Sons of Creation of other worlds didn't have this level of talent.

Other big worlds also had the treasures like Tree of Origin, and blood moon, and those big worlds' Sons of Creation also possessed treasures of similar levels, even so, Sons of Creation with similar level treasures couldn't cultivate four of their absolute powers to reach perfection level at the same time like Huang Xiaolong.

A wry smile crept up Yuan Tianyi's face as he looked at Huang Xiaolong as he was enshrouded by brilliant absolute energies. Originally, he had intended to suppress Huang Xiaolong after reaching eight elements perfection by cultivating under the Tree of Origin. Now, this thought was completely extinguished.

Before Huang Xiaolong's power of darkness had advanced to perfection level, he already had seven elements perfection. Now, with the power of metal, wood, wind, and earth reaching perfection level, there were already eleven elements of perfection!

Eleven elements' perfection! Yuan Tianyi's thoughts were in a mess.

Moreover, Huang Xiaolong did not merely have eleven elements' perfection, but he also had three small worlds, and the full Creation Set artifacts!

Though it wasn't thirteen elements perfection, it wasn't far from it.

The bright lights enshrouding Huang Xiaolong gradually converged into his body in the span of several days. The Sun Moon Furnace stopped shaking, and Huang Xiaolong happened to glance in Yuan Tianyi's direction. It was merely a glance, but Yuan Tianyi felt an overwhelming pressure that made him feel that he was no better than a worm crawling on the ground.

Yuan Tianyi thought he had estimated Huang Xiaolong's strength at a higher point, yet he finally realized at this moment how big of a gap there was between him and Huang Xiaolong.

Even going all out in desperation, putting everything in his most powerful attack of the Epoch's Collapse, he was incapable of injuring Huang Xiaolong. Huang Xiaolong could defeat him with one hand!

Yuan Tianyi's expression was gloomy to the extreme, and the light in his eyes dimmed as he completely let go of the thought of fighting Huang Xiaolong.

On the other hand, Huang Xiaolong didn't know that these thoughts were going through Yuan Tianyi's head. He was immersed in joy as he felt the vigorous energy within his body, and everything in the Huang Long World felt clearer and closer to him. Never had there been a time that he had this feeling of sovereignty, as if he could hold the entire Huang Long World in his hand by just reaching out his hand!

Seemingly, with a mere thought, he could get anything he wanted within the Huang Long World! If he just released a little bit of energy from his body, he could fill the entire Cangqiong Holy World! No, more like the entire Cangqiong Holy World would explode from his energy!

For the first time, Huang Xiaolong had the feeling that the Huang Long World had become smaller!

In the past, the Huang Long World was a vague concept in his mind. He couldn't grasp how vast it was, but now, he could feel exactly how big Huang Long World was. He wasn't able to 'see' through Huang Xiaolong, but now, everything within Huang Long World, every living creature, yin and yang, reincarnation, all these were clearly displayed in his mind with a thought.

For the first time, Huang Long World felt like a restraint to him! He wanted to break free from this restraint to a far wider sky!

Strength!

For the first time, he touched the border of God of Creation Realm!

There was an impulse to create his own heaven and earth.

"Your Highness!"

Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and the others flew towards Huang Xiaolong and saluted respectfully with cautious expressions on their faces.

“Stand up,” Huang Xiaolong said, his deep voice rolled deep through space.

Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and the others complied.

Huang Xiaolong looked at Yuan Tianyi. Yuan Tianyi hesitated but yielded in the end as he crouched before Huang Xiaolong in salute.

Half a day later, Huang Xiaolong and the others exited the Sun Moon Furnace, and saw his masters, Cangqiong Old Man, Heavenly Master, Tyrant Chu, Lord Long, Elder Crow, Fei Yanzi, Yin Yue, Feng Yue, and Lin Xiaoying.

Huang Xiaolong’s seclusion this time had lasted for almost ten thousand years. Before he entered seclusion, Huang Xiaolong had given Cangqiong Old Man, Heavenly Master, his other masters, and the ladies many pills and herbs. Thus when Huang Xiaolong came out, he noticed all of their cultivation had improved, especially the four ladies’.

The four ladies were naturally delighted, seeing that Huang Xiaolong had come out from his seclusion.

Huang Xiaolong asked Cangqiong Old Man, and four ladies about the latest situations, and also asked about the Huang Family.

“We’ve already exhorted the various holy lands, if your parents and the others ascend, they must report the matter immediately,” Cangqiong Old Man said, and added, “But there is no news from any of the holy lands so far.”

Huang Xiaolong nodded.

It had barely been ten thousand years since his ascension, and even if people in the lower realm could gather the nine lightning pools they wouldn’t be able to cross the thirty-three gates without sufficient

strength. To open the thirty-three gates and cross the lightning storm region, it would take more than a little time.

“Xiaolong, you won’t be going back into seclusion again after a few days, right?” Lin Xiaoying asked Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong was baffled, looking at Lin Xiaoying’s shining eyes. He smiled and answered, “No,” and he added through voice transmission, ‘I’ll accompany you a thousand nights before that!’

A thousand nights?

Lin Xiaoying reacted and her face flushed red as an apple, and she shot a fierce but amorous glare at Huang Xiaolong.

Noticing Lin Xiaoying was suddenly blushing, how could Fei Yanzi not know Huang Xiaolong must be secretly spewing ambiguous secrets? Despite complaining inwardly, she was also dejected. She had followed Huang Xiaolong for so many years, yet they still had not broken that thin barrier of being friends!

In the subsequent several years, Huang Xiaolong spent most of his time guiding the four ladies in their cultivation. As for his masters, Cangqiong Old Man, Heavenly Master, Tyrant Chu, and the others were left to Lei Yu, Black Shadow Devil, and others to guide.

Tyrant Chu also noticed this and chided, “This brat has forgotten his masters after seeing his women.”

Cangqiong Old Man and the others laughed good-naturedly.

When Huang Xiaolong chose to give Lin Xiaoying guidance in her cultivation, it was usually at night.

Without asking, Fei Yanzi, Yin Yue, and Feng Yue knew what was going on, and at times, the three would deliberately say they wanted to spend the night with Lin Xiaoying just to cast Huang Xiaolong aside!

Lin Xiaoying laughed inwardly watching Huang Xiaolong's depressed face.

A few years later, Huang Xiaolong once again entered seclusion with Yuan Tianyi, Lei Yu, and the others.

Huang Xiaolong planned to be in seclusion for an even longer period this time, until both his power of time and space reaches perfection level!

With his three small worlds, once his power of time and space reached perfection level, then he would be truly below the God of Creation Realm!

In the absence of a God of Creation expert, he would be the sole monarch. He won't even need to fear the Huang Family Huang Rong belonged to.

Chapter 3167: Tens of Thousands of Years Later

Seeing Huang Xiaolong enter seclusion once more, Lin Xiaoying, Fei Yanzi, Feng Yue, and Yin Yue were in a low mood.

After a while, Fei Yanzi's eyes turned as an idea came to her, she smiled and asked Lin Xiaoying, "Sister, what techniques and grand dao arts Xiaolong has been teaching you at night these years? Can you talk about it with us sisters?"

Lin Xiaoying blushed until her ears, and she snorted at Fei Yanzi and reached out to tickle her in revenge, "Sister Yanzi, you're so bad, asking something that you already know."

Fei Yanzi laughed as she jumped around to dodge Lin Xiaoying's evil claws. "We really don't know. Sister Feng Yue, Sister Yin Yue, do you know?"

Feng Yue and Yin Yue both shook their heads smilingly. "We know nothing."

"Sister, just tell us, eh? What did Xiaolong teach you?" Fei Yanzi persisted as her laughter rang in the air.

The yard was filled with the four ladies' laughter as they fool around.

"If you want to know, have Xiaolong teach you all when he exits seclusion!"

"We don't want Xiaolong to teach us, we just want to hear you say it!"

.....

Inside the Sun Moon Furnace, Huang Xiaolong sat cross-legged under the Tree of Origin, absorbing the origin qi coming from the tree, and comprehending the various energies contained within the origin qi.

The Tree of Origin was the source of all forms of energies between heaven and earth. The origin qi not only contain the thirteen elements' energies, but also many other forms of energies such as yin and yang energy, fortune energy, devil energy, karma, nefarious energy, death energy, and so forth.

Huang Xiaolong who was enshrouded in brilliant rays of myriad lights looked like jade that exuded ten thousand lusters from afar.

While comprehending the various energies within the origin qi, the three small worlds inside Huang Xiaolong's body were going through rapid changes, enveloped in bright flickering lights. The surface of the three small worlds resembled Huang Xiaolong on the surface, enshrouded in a myriad of brilliant lights as if something amazing was going to break out.

As time passed, the three small worlds shone even brighter.

Several thousand years later, various manifestations appeared around Huang Xiaolong. There were golden dragons frolicking around him, archdevils battling, God of Death creating a ghost realm, great gods shaking heaven and earth, and auspicious beasts worshipping the heavens.

These manifestations that appeared around Huang Xiaolong flabbergasted Yuan Tianyi, and everyone inside the Sun Moon Furnace.

"Senior Tianyi, His Highness is...?" Cang Xun couldn't resist asking.

There was an unfathomable look in Yuan Tianyi's eyes as he pondered before he answered, "His Highness' situation slightly resembles epiphany."

"Epiphany!" Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and the others exclaimed softly, and the surprised expressions on their faces mirrored each other.

Yuan Tianyi nodded in affirmation. "That must be it. Once one enters a state, his comprehension towards the grand dao improves by leaps and bounds in a single day. It can be said in His Highness' current state, and his progress in a year is greater than us comprehending grand dao for ten thousand years!"

"What?!" Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and the others exclaimed loudly this time.

"Then, if His Highness can maintain this state for a hundred years, doesn't that equal to us cultivating for a million years?" Lei Yu exclaimed in disbelief.

Yuan Tianyi stated solemnly, "More or less so, but it's hard to say if His Highness can maintain this state for a hundred years. Some lasted for several decades, some even less. Of course, there were also those that were in this state for several hundred years. I too have experienced a similar state once!"

Shocked gazes fell on Yuan Tianyi.

"But I could only remain in the state for several decades, and it was at that time that I comprehended the power of time!" Yuan Tianyi went on, "If it wasn't for the epiphany that time, who knows how much longer I would have needed to comprehend the power of time."

Everyone was envious.

Noticing the envious faces around him, Yuan Tianyi said, "Some people did not enter this kind of state in their lifetime, and not only it depended on one's talent, but it also depended on their own chance."

Worried they would somehow disturb Huang Xiaolong in this state, everyone stopped cultivating and sat in a protective circle around Huang Xiaolong.

Several thousand years passed.

The brilliant rays enshrouding Huang Xiaolong had intensified over the years, and the various magical manifestations around him had not dissipated in so many years. On top of that, the manifestations actually spread into a bigger area, forcing Yuan Tianyi and the others to move further away to the edge.

Even so, they were still affected by the sea of manifestations around Huang Xiaolong because they had filled the entire Sun Moon Furnace's space.

Submerged by Huang Xiaolong's manifestations, Yuan Tianyi, Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and the others trembled as they vaguely sensed a kind of ethereal energy entering their bodies.

This is!

Yuan Tianyi was the first to react, and he quickly closed his eyes and tried to comprehend this ethereal energy. Seeing this, Cang Xun, Di Shuang, and the others emulated Yuan Tianyi. All of them calmed down and sat cross-legged as they attempted to grasp the unfamiliar energy.

When Huang Xiaolong woke up from the epiphany state, it was thirty thousand years later. Huang Xiaolong had maintained that state for thirty thousand years!

Counting the seclusion time before he entered epiphany, his seclusion time had greatly exceeded thirty thousand years. All in all, since Huang Xiaolong returned to Cangqiong Holy World, he had spent more than forty thousand years in seclusion.

As Huang Xiaolong opened his eyes this time, there was a deeper understanding of the universe, and he had a new perspective towards the grand dao, and so was his understanding of all living creatures.

From the last seclusion, eleven of his absolute powers had reached perfection realm, and had peeked into the God of Creation Realm, but it was merely a peek. The feeling he had was extremely blurry but now, everything felt so clear!

In comparison, after the last seclusion, there was still the distance of one heavenly cave between him and the God of Creation Realm, whereas this time, the distance had shortened to within the same heavenly cave!

Huang Xiaolong had gained a lot from the seclusion this time. He now understood the various kinds of energies between heaven and earth, and he had higher mastery of use towards the thirteen elements of absolute powers, including integrating the thirteen elements. On top of that, the power of time and space had reached major completion, almost reaching the peak of major completion.

Unfortunately, just a little bit more. Huang Xiaolong thought to himself. If he could have maintained the epiphany state for several hundred thousand years, his power of time and space definitely could have reached perfection level!

Without the epiphany state, it would probably take him a hundred million years or more to achieve that, will it?!

At the latter stages, it was harder to advance the power of time and space, and the difficulty exceeded Huang Xiaolong's estimation. Huang Xiaolong had thought with the Tree of Origin, both his power of time and space could reach perfection level with ten thousand years of seclusion, but who knew that after entering the epiphany state and cultivating for thirty thousand years, his power of time and space would merely reach major completion.

A hundred million years?

Huang Xiaolong's head ached, thinking it might take a hundred million years for his power of time and space to reach perfection level.

A hundred million years. He couldn't wait that long, and even if he could, Huang Rong wouldn't, and the family behind him wouldn't either.

Then again, Huang Xiaolong understood that some things couldn't be rushed. Hence, he exited seclusion with Yuan Tianyi and the others.

After coming out of seclusion this time, Huang Xiaolong had no plans to enter another round of seclusion soon. He and the four ladies set out for another trip around Cangqiong Holy World while he waited for Shi Xiaofei, and his family to ascend. He wasn't completely idle either, but he delved into the dao of formation.

Chapter 3168: Huang Family's Ascension

"We've finally ascended!"

"This is the holy world?! We've finally arrived in the holy world!" someone cheered loudly.

If Huang Xiaolong was here, he would know that the person cheering loudly was none other than his younger brother in the lower realm, Huang Xiaohai!

Next to Huang Xiaohai was Huang Xiaolong's younger sister, Huang Min, and her family. There were also his father, Huang Peng, and his mother, Su Yan. Next to his mother was a group of ladies consisting of Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, Yao Chi, the Silver Fox Commerce's Bei Xiaomei, the Fortune Palace's Fang Xuanxuan, and Peng Xiao.

Even his master, Old Man Grandmist, his Senior Brother, Grandmist Emperor Jiang Hong, the Fortune Emperor Fang Qian, the pillar of the lower realm's Demon World, the little cow, the Silver Fox Commerce President, Bei Lengyang, and many other top characters had ascended together!

Though it didn't seem like a lot of people, it was still quite a large group of fifty to sixty people.

After crossing the lightning storm space, everyone looked quite miserable, but the joy and excitement of successful ascension eclipsed all else.

"The spiritual energy here is so rich! Her granny's cow! This holy world's spiritual energy is really good. There are various elements, so this cow would be able to break through to the Venerable Sovereign

Realm soon!” While everyone was looking around excitedly, the little cow laughed sonorously, looking like she was one step from standing at the top of the world.

Seeing her, the other ladies all laughed. But all of them were familiar with the little cow’s temperament, it was nothing new to them.

“This holy world is so big, where could Xiaolong be?” Grandmist Old Man lamented.

The holy world’s heaven and the earth was a higher realm and bigger than they could imagine!

“Let’s go to the nearest city and settle down first, then inquire about Xiaolong’s whereabouts,” Huang Peng suggested.

Huang Peng was Huang Xiaolong’s father, since he had said so, others had no objection. Thus they chose a direction and sped away towards the closest city.

The group flew forward for almost ten days before seeing a city on the horizon.

“What a big city!” Looking at the city walls that resembled mountains before them, the little cow wowed in amazement. Even cities in the holy world were bigger than those in Hell, Radiance World, Divine World, and one of the cities in the Thirty-three Heavens.

Others grinned and chuckled watching the little cow’s reaction.

The group soon entered the city.

Standing on the city’s street, the group looked around in curiosity and awe.

The techniques of forging cities in the holy world were many times higher than those in the lower realm. Not to mention, the materials used were more expensive. They could see some precious materials, which they were reluctant to use in the lower realm, were used to build residence walls here!

After going around the city for several hours, the group passed by a restaurant and decided to go in for a rest, but their path was blocked by a staff, "Sorry, our restaurant does not entertain beggars!"

Beggars!

There was anger on everyone's face. During the ascension, they had to cross the lightning storm space, which had caused severe damage to their armors but it had not reached the point of being treated as beggars by a restaurant staff. Clearly, the staff was deliberately humiliating them by calling them beggars!

"Out of my way!" Bei Lengyang's authoritative aura shocked the restaurant staff. He, as the lower realm's Silver Fox Commerce's president, who possessed insurmountable wealth, was actually labeled as beggar by a mere waiter?

Bei Lengyang's momentum shocked the staff for a moment, but his gaze swept over the group, and he said, "To enter our restaurant, the lowest consumption fee is one hundred holy bills. Can you take out a hundred holy bills?"

That somewhat caught everyone off guard.

Holy bills? They had just arrived, so there was no way they could have any holy bills on them.

Their expressions did not escape the restaurant staff, and he sneered, "Here I was thinking you're a group of rich customers, but who knew you can't even take out a hundred holy bills."

The group was angered once more.

Originally, they had prepared a lot of pills, herbs, and other treasures for their ascension. A few days ago, they had discovered that everything that they had brought was destroyed when they had passed through the lightning storm space.

Their initial plan in entering the restaurant was to inquire for some news, and look for a way to earn some money, who would've known that they would be insulted by a restaurant staff that had his eyes on top of his head?

"What's going on?" At this time, a group of expensively dressed disciples was entering the restaurant, and one of them asked the restaurant staff.

When the restaurant staff saw the disciple asking the question, he hurriedly answered, "Young Master Chen, it's just a trivial matter about a group of beggars that doesn't even have one hundred holy bills. I will usher them away so as not to affect Young Master Chen's mood!"

It seemed like the Young Master Chen was a regular patron of this restaurant that the restaurant staff recognized him immediately.

"Quickly leave. Don't block our entrance and hinder our honorable customers, or it won't be enough even if you die a hundred times!" The restaurant staff snapped as he glared at Bei Lengyang's group fiercely.

Bei Lengyang's group stared at the restaurant staff, but Huang Peng still forced down the anger in his chest and said to the group, "Let's go!"

They were new here, it was better to keep a low profile for now. Moreover, one could tell there was a big backing behind this restaurant.

However, when Huang Peng's group was about to leave, Young Master Chen stopped them, "Wait!"

Huang Peng and the others stopped.

Chen Xu's gaze kept going around Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, Yao Chi, Bei Xiaomei, Fang Xuanxuan, and Peng Xiao with amazement in his eyes. Shi Xiaofei and other ladies were all great beauties, and each possessed their own different charms, and as they stood together, they were truly a sight to behold.

“Sovereign Realm.” Chen Xu chuckled as he looked at the ladies, “Not bad! I lack some pretty maidservants by my side, and you all are suitable!”

Faces turned solemn, and Shi Xiaofei and the other ladies were infuriated.

Huang Peng stared coldly at Young Master Chen, then repeated, “Let’s go!”

When the group took a step, a shadow flickered and their path was blocked. A guard by Young Master Chen’s side was standing in their way.

“Granny’s cow, what do you want to do?!” The little cow’s momentum rose and purple-colored streaks of lightning crackled between her golden horns.

Everyone also circulated their energy to the limit.

Yet Chen Xue merely chuckled, “Just a group of Sovereign Realm worms. I advise you better not attack recklessly because if you do, I have ten thousand ways to make you die miserably!”

The two guards behind Chen Xu also released their auras, overwhelming Huang Peng’s group.

“Venerable Sovereign expert!” Huang Peng, Old Man Grandmist, and the others’ faces tightened with a bad feeling.

No one had expected there to be Venerable Sovereign guards by this Young Master Chen’s side.

The Venerable Sovereign Realm was something they could only dream about for a long time.

The restaurant staff stepped forward and said to Huang Peng’s group, “You all must have come from some backward place, so why don’t you go ask around about the Chen Family? Let me tell you that the Chen Family is our Prosperous Peace City’s number one family. Not just that but in the whole of Deer Spring Sacred Land, they are considered as one of the hegemons. The Chen Family’s old ancestor is a peak half-True Saint expert that even the Deer Spring Sacred Land’s patriarch had to show some respect.

Young Master Chen Xu is one of the most talented disciples amongst the Chen Family's core disciples, so if you offend Young Master Chen Xu, no one can save you all!"

Chapter 3169: One of Deer Spring Holy Land's Super Families

Prosperous Peace City's number one family!

Huang Peng's group tensed, looking even more solemn.

The Chen Family's old ancestor is a peak half-True Saint? Is that the realm above Venerable Sovereign?!

To them, the Venerable Sovereign Realm was already the realm they could only dream of, but the Chen Family's old ancestor had transcended the Venerable Sovereign Realm!

Although they did not know how big the Deer Spring Holy Land was, since the Chen Family was one of the hegemony of Deer Spring Holy Lands, it spoke volumes of their power. This was not someone they could provoke at this stage. Even guards beside a core disciple were Venerable Sovereign experts, and the Chen Family could easily kill them a hundred times and more simply by sending a few Venerable Sovereign experts.

Smugness crept up Chen Xu's face when he saw Huang Peng, Shi Xiaofei, and the others nervous expressions, and he directed his words at the group of ladies, "All of you follow me into the restaurant, there is a generous reward waiting if you serve me well, otherwise, hehe, I would punish you, have you strip naked and throw you into the streets!"

Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, Yao Chi, Bei Xiaomei, Fang Xuanxuan, and Peng Xiao were incensed.

"Insolent!" Many of the Thirty-three Heavens' rulers were enraged.

"Insolent?" Chen Xu sneered as he raised one hand and slapped across space. The several Thirty-three Heavens' rules exploded to their deaths, pieces of flesh and bones splattered all over the place, creating a hair-raising scene.

Huang Peng and the others were startled, Chen Xu was also a Venerable Sovereign expert!

“Do it!” Chen Xu ordered his guards as he waved his arm forward.

.....

Far, far away from the Deer Spring Holy Land, in the vast space, Huang Xiaolong, Lin Xiaoying, Fei Yanzi, Feng Yue, and Yin Yue were having a good time traveling around in the Purple Lightning Peak.

“Xiaolong, your father and mother, how are they like? Also, would Elder Sister Xiaofei and other sisters dislike us?” Such questions suddenly popped out of Lin Xiaoying’s cherry lips.

In recent days, the four ladies had been asking quite a lot about Huang Xiaolong’s family as well as Shi Xiaofei and other ladies.

Despite having described and explained to them many times, they would still ask, rendering Huang Xiaolong speechless.

Looking at the apprehensive Lin Xiaoying, Huang Xiaolong smiled reassuringly and said, “My father and mother are easy to get along with. Xiaofei’s personality has always been very good. Relax, they will like you all.”

As Huang Xiaolong spoke, his three dao souls spread out, covering the various sacred lands in the four directions.

When Huang Xiaolong had ascended to the holy world in the past, he had arrived at the Zhuoyuan Holy Lands, hence, while traveling around Cangqiong Holy World, Huang Xiaolong would always go to places near Zhuoyuan Holy Lands and spread his dao souls senses out to check the surroundings. According to his estimation, his family would appear in these nearby areas when they ascended.

Huang Xiaolong was checking the surroundings out of habit, but when his three dao souls spread out, his face blanked for a second before joy rushed up. He was excited, thrilled even laughing out loud.

Lin Xiaoying, Fei Yanzi, and the other two ladies were bewildered by Huang Xiaolong's abrupt excitement and sonorous laughter.

"Xiaolong?" Fei Yanzi called out.

Huang Xiaolong suddenly looked over his shoulder and excitedly informed the four ladies, "It's father, mother, and the others. They have ascended. Xiaofei, and the others are with them as well!"

"What?!" The four ladies were astonished and excited at the same time.

All of a sudden, Huang Xiaolong's face turned frosty with killing intent. "D*mn these people!"

"Xiaolong, what's going on?"

The four ladies were baffled.

"We're heading there now!" Huang Xiaolong didn't have the time to explain. The power of space surged as he brought along the four ladies and traversed through space, leaping over one holy land after another, and reaching the Deer Spring Holy Land in the blink of an eye.

Under Chen Xu's command, the several Chen Family's guards leaped towards the Huang Family's group.

The Huang Family's group was inevitably flustered, and although all of them were Sovereign Realm experts, they were lambs waiting to be slaughtered if they went up against the Chen Family's guards!

They were excited, ecstatic, and filled with hope after successfully arriving in the holy world, but who'd have thought something like this would happen! Especially Shi Xiaofei and the other ladies, they had come to this stage holding onto the belief that they would soon be reunited with Huang Xiaolong, yet...

A split second before the fight broke out, all the Chen Family's guards suddenly exploded to their deaths, leaving blood mist in the air as it scattered on the ground.

Huang Peng, Su Yan, Huang Xiaohao, the little cow, Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, and the others stood blankly on the spot.

What's going on?! Not only the Huang Family's group were dumbfounded, but Chen Xu, and the two guards behind him were stupefied by this sight as well.

Whilst everyone had yet to react, bright lights flickered as several figures appeared in front of them. When these people turned, Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, Yao Chi, and the others trembled, and their red-rimmed eyes filled with excitement and disbelief.

"Big Brother!"

"Xiaolong!"

Huang Xiaohai and the little cow cried out in joy as they rushed towards Huang Xiaolong.

Huang Xiaolong embraced his younger brother Huang Xiaohai, laughing heartily.

Huang Peng, Su Yan, Old Man Grandmist, Bei Lengyang, and others were overjoyed, and hurried to Huang Xiaolong's side.

"Father, Mother, Master!" Huang Xiaolong greeted them one by one. He could barely conceal the joy on his face.

"Good, good!" Huang Peng, Su Yan, and Old Man Grandmist were just as ecstatic.

The despair from moments ago had been blown away, replaced by a joyous atmosphere.

Chen Xu's expression was darker than murky water, he glared fixedly at Huang Xiaolong. "Punk, you're the one who killed my guards?"

Huang Xiaolong ignored Chen Xu, and walked towards Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, and Yao Chi's side. He spread out his arms and wrapped it around them. It felt as though he was reuniting with them after separating for a lifetime.

Seeing Huang Xiaolong ignore him and go to embrace the women he had just taken fancy to, Chen Xu was furious. "Punk, you're courting death!"

Before Chen Xu could finish his words, Huang Xiaolong casually pointed a finger towards his back and Chen Xu turned into blood mist silently, frightening everyone.

Huang Peng approached and said, "Xiaolong, he seems to be a core disciple of some Chen Family, and the restaurant staff said the Chen Family is this Prosperous Peace City's most powerful family, one of the Deer Spring Holy Land's hegemons. Their old ancestor is a peak half-True Saint!" There was heavy worry in his voice.

"Yes ah, Xiaolong, we better leave this Deer Spring Holy Land as fast as possible," Shi Xiaofei persuaded with concern.

Lin Xiaoying, Fei Yanzi, Feng Yue, and Yin Yue watched on strangely.

Half-True Saint? One of Deer Spring Holy Land's hegemons?

The two remaining Chen Family's Venerable Sovereign experts sneered, "Our Cheng Family's power reaches every corner of the Deer Spring Holy Land, where can you run to? Young Master Chen is our Patriarch's nephew, you all only have one ending, die!"

Chapter 3170: Never Seen Anyone that Brags Like You

"Xiaolong, you take Xiaofei and the others away first, we'll follow up soon," said the little cow righteously as she raised her chest.

Looking at the little cow's torso that had grown a lot since he last saw her, Huang Xiaolong laughed inwardly while on the surface, he reassured them, "Don't worry. They are merely peak half-True Saints."

Originally, Old Man Grandmist, Fortune Emperor, and the others wanted to persuade Huang Xiaolong to leave first with the ladies, but when they heard Huang Xiaolong's words, all of them were dazed on the spot.

Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, Yao Chi, Fang Xuanxuan, Bei Xiaomei, and Peng Xiao stared at Huang Xiaolong with astonishment.

"Xiaolong, could it be you....?" Shi Xiaofei was still in disbelief even as she asked the question.

Huang Xiaohai suddenly gasped loudly, "Big Brother, could it be that you're stronger than a peak half-True Saint?!"

Stronger than a peak half-True Saint?!

Huang Peng, Su Yan, Old Man Grandmist, Bei Lengyang, and everyone else looked at Huang Xiaolong, including the Chen Family's two remaining Venerable Sovereign guards, and the restaurant staff.

Clearly, the Chen Family's two guards and the restaurant staff were shocked. Could this young man be stronger than a peak half-True Saint expert?!

They had witnessed this young man kill the First Order Venerable Sovereign Chen Xu, so maybe, this young man was really stronger than a peak half-True Saint expert!

Huang Xiaohai's loud laughter broke the tense atmosphere. "Didn't I tell you that with Big Brother's talent, after tens of thousands of years, he must be a great expert, haha!"

A chuckle escaped Huang Xiaolong's lips. This brat.

Hearing Huang Xiaohai's words, the two Chen Family's guards exchanged a glance and one of them sneered at Huang Xiaohai. "Tens of thousands of years? In other words, several tens of thousand years ago, he was merely a Venerable Sovereign like you guys? You think he can be stronger than a peak half-

True Saint in that time? Let me tell you that it's impossible even for our Deer Spring Holy Land's number one genius!"

"Each small order advancement from Sovereign Realm to Venerable Sovereign Realm is as hard as ascending to the sky, especially after entering Ninth Order Venerable Sovereign Realm, and advancing into half-True Saint is even harder as one has to survive the tribulation. Even so, that's only the First Order half-True Saint, Second Order half-True Saint, all the way up to the Ninth half-True Saint Realm! At peak half-True Saint, one must successfully grab Saint Fate, integrate with Saint Fate before one can break through to True Saint Realm!"

The Huang Family, Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, and the others listened with agape expressions.

The Chen Family's guard continued with a derisive sneer on his face. "Take our Deer Spring Holy Land's Saint Luquan, an unparalleled genius, and even so, he cultivated for several million years before breaking through to True Saint Realm. So do you think your brother can do better? What a joke! It's the biggest joke in the world!" he said while pointing at Huang Xiaolong.

His words were like a basin of cold water over Huang Xiaohai's head, chilling him to the soul.

Huang Peng, Su Yan, Shi Xiaofei, Li Lu, Old Man Grandmist, and the others newly born hope and joy was quickly extinguished, and the smiles on their faces stiffened.

The restaurant staff clearly exhaled in relief, as he had really thought that Huang Xiaolong might be a True Saint expert.

In the end, he was just a bumpkin, who had only cultivated for less than a hundred thousand years.

Huang Xiaolong merely smiled at the Chen Family guard's words, as he couldn't be bothered to explain to a guard, and it was unnecessary. Even if he explained, the guard might not know about the Dao Venerable Realm, or what were absolute powers, much less about the God of Creation.

Huang Xiaolong pulled over Lin Xiaoying, Fe Yanzi, Feng Yue, and Yin Yue, introducing them to Huang Peng, and Su Yan, "Father, Mother, let me introduce my friends to you," he added with a chuckle, "Don't

worry so much, all of them are experts stronger than True Saints. That so-called Chen Family's old ancestor, any one of them can deal with him using a pinky!"

Huang Peng, Su Yan, Shi Xiaofei, and others looked awestruck.

Stronger than True Saint?! What realm is that?

Then came a harsh snicker from one of the Chen Family guards. "Stronger than a True Saint? Punk, are you telling me these women are Primal Ancestor experts? There are countless Primal Ancestor experts in our Cangqiong Holy World, and each one of them are hidden experts, the real pillars of our Cangqiong Holy World. Even the Deer Spring Holy Land's patriarch, Saint Luquan, has never met a Primal Ancestor expert, and you're saying these few women are Primal Ancestor experts? On top of that, they are your friends? Someone like you who isn't even a True Saint is friends with Primal Ancestor experts?"

"I've seen people brag, but no one brags like you do!" The guard firmly refused to believe that Lin Xiaoying, Fei Yanzi, Feng Yue, and Yin Yue were Primal Ancestor experts.

If the guard knew that Feng Yue, and Yin Yue were existences above Primal Ancestor experts, he would have died from having his gallbladder bursting from fear.

Huang Peng, Su Yan, Shi Xiaofei, and the others, who had yet to recover from their shock, were hit with another bolt of shock.

Lin Xiaoying, Fei Yanzi, and the other two ladies looked at the Chen Family guard with hostility, but Huang Xiaolong did not say anything, and the four ladies did not want to leave a bad impression on their future father-in-law and mother-in-law, or else, they would have sent the guard to reincarnation long ago.

Huang Xiaolong continued to introduce the four ladies to his family, Shi Xiaofei, and the others, ignoring the Chen Family guard's sarcastic remarks.

The four ladies were extremely nervous and shy facing Huang Peng and Su Yan.

Huang Peng was beaming, but Su Yan shot Huang Xiaolong several fierce glares which made Huang Xiaolong slightly embarrassed.

“Big Brother, we’d better leave quickly,” Huang Xiaohai couldn’t help urging. Huang Peng and Su Yan also joined in.

Huang Xiaolong was speechless, and it looked like his parents did not believe his words.

Right at this time, suddenly, several sounds of rapid whistling winds came from the air. From the horizon, a group of experts clad in dark blue brocade robes were flying towards the city. There were several hundred people in the group.

Seeing this group of people, the Huang Family’s group paled. The group of experts’ attire identified them as Chen Family’s experts, and no one had expected them to come so fast.

Seeing the group, the two remaining Chen Family guards laughed triumphantly.

“It’s our patriarch, our patriarch has come in person! Let me tell you that although our patriarch is not a peak half-True Saint, he’s still a supreme existence of an Eighth Order half-True Saint, and he is one of the Deer Spring Holy Land’s top ten experts!” one of the Chen Family guards lauded.

Eighth Order half-True Saint!

One of Deer Spring Holy Land’s top ten experts!

Everyone in the Huang Family’s ascension group paled. According to the Chen Family guard’s explanation, they already had an understanding of what an Eighth Order half-True Saint meant.

Above the Ninth Order Venerable Sovereign was First Order half-True Saint. To them, an Eighth Order half-True Saint was a monstrous existence.

Moments later, the Chen Family Patriarch arrived on the scene with many of Chen Family's experts. Originally, the Chen Family Patriarch was leading a group of experts out for another matter when he had suddenly received a report that his nephew, Chen Xu, was killed. He had hurried over immediately, hence their response was speedy.

"We greet the Patriarch!" The two guards hastened forward to salute.

The Chen Family Patriarch looked icily at the two guards and said, "Failing to protect your master, you'll receive punishment when you go back!"

The two guards trembled but did not dare to make any excuses.