

Cultivating 311

Chapter 311: This Young Man is Truly Bewitching

Ning Qi observed closely, and his eyes grew increasingly astonished. Unbeknownst to him, a trace of golden light appeared in his gaze. As he looked at the extraordinary mountain shrouded in clouds, it seemed like he saw Immortal Cranes soaring, as if they were about to undergo Feather Transformation and ascend to the heavens.

Previously, he had surveyed the weather of True Martial Mountain with his Golden Pupil of Illusion-breaking, like a Divine Sword descending from the sky, but it paled in comparison to the sight of Immortal Cranes undergoing Feather Transformation before him.

"This True Profound Mountain... its aura is remarkable!" he murmured in admiration.

The closer one gets, the more they can perceive its extraordinary qualities.

Lands that nurture people are not without reason; there are places of spiritual abundance that offer immense benefits when one stays in them for years on end.

Li Ling nodded in agreement and said:

"Indeed, the scenery of True Profound Mountain is beautiful. Rare are the places that can compare to it within the realm of Great Yan."

The group was quite astonished.

That is the meaning of venturing out to broaden one's horizons; otherwise, they would remain confined in True Martial Mountain, unaware of how vast the world was.

Taoist Longshan smiled and stroked his beard:

"This brings us to a certain legend."

The group all turned their gaze towards him, and Zhuang Chen hurriedly said:

"Master, what legend?"

Taoist Longshan looked around the group and gently admonished:

"Since you have decided to come to the True Profound Sect, you ought to have familiarized yourselves with its information in advance. You must reflect on this."

The group felt ashamed.

Only Ning Qi smiled.

"Jiu, why don't you tell them?"

Ning Qi said:

"You all know that the True Profound Sect was founded by the True Profound True Monarch. There are many Taoist sects under the heavens, yet if you trace back their lineage, there is none more illustrious than the True Profound Sect. Though seemingly ranking fifth among the world's Taoist sects, its long-standing heritage far surpasses even the foremost Yin Yang Sect."

"However, according to legend, when the True Profound True Monarch founded the True Profound Sect on True Profound Mountain, he experienced significant obstacles."

Curiosity was piqued within the crowd.

The sound of the cart wheels rolling held a certain rhythm.

A loud laugh echoed from afar:

"I hadn't expected Little Taoist Friend Ning Qi to know quite a bit about the history of our True Profound Sect."

The crowd turned towards the voice.

They saw a group of Daoists wearing white robes with drifting cloud gold patterns on the cuffs coming towards them, and leading the group was none other than True Man Baihe.

Taoist Longshan hurriedly performed a Taoist salute:

"Greetings, True Man Baihe, greetings, fellow Taoists."

True Man Baihe quickly returned the gesture:

"Real Man Longshan, thank you for coming from afar. My senior brother is currently bathing and dressing, burning incense to concentrate his spirit. Please forgive him."

Everyone smiled warmly, the atmosphere was harmonious.

In recent years, relations between the True Martial Sect and the True Profound Sect have been quite congenial, with frequent exchanges among the disciples.

True Man Baihe subtly glanced at Ning Qi, recalling what Taoist Baishan had mentioned a few days ago, still somewhat shocked. This child had reached the White Mist Realm three years ago, but now he wondered what realm Ning Qi had reached; perhaps he had attained the Jade Liquid Realm or even the Primordial Core Realm?

Yet, what amazed him secretly was that, no matter how he tried to probe, he couldn't discern Ning Qi's true capabilities at all.

Meeting Ning Qi's gentle gaze, he returned a smile, even more impressed in his heart.

This child is, indeed, extraordinary!

Alongside Taoist Longshan, True Man Baihe continued the topic Ning Qi had left unfinished earlier:

"When our ancestor, the True Monarch, founded the True Profound Sect back then, there were indeed some obstacles. Truth be told, True Profound Mountain was practically seized by our ancestor."

His face bore a playful smile.

"At that time, when the True Monarch discovered True Profound Mountain, he was not alone; there was another in his company—a Buddha. The two were originally good friends, but as they passed through True Profound Mountain, discord arose between them."

"At that time, True Profound Mountain nurtured a peculiar tree that bore fruit every hundred years. Logically, the two could share it, but the Buddha claimed this fruit was destined for him, hoping the True Monarch would relinquish it."

"The True Monarch, being carefree by nature, was nonetheless unwilling to yield when the Buddha spoke thus, leading to a heated dispute, culminating in a fierce battle."

"Of course, the Buddha was no match for the True Monarch and was chased away, prompting the True Monarch to name this mountain True Profound Mountain to forestall any furtive return by the Buddha, establishing True Profound Sect here!"

The crowd smiled knowingly.

The True Profound True Monarch was indeed quite a character.

"I may be willing to give it to you, but you cannot actively seek it; if you do, I would sooner give it to the dogs."

Ning Qi chuckled, somewhat astonished. He only knew that True Profound Mountain was seized from another, but he hadn't realized the other party was a Buddha. A Buddha is a Martial Saint Realm power in the Buddhist Sect, equally formidable.

Only, in the current Great Yan, Taoism flourishes while the Buddhist Sect has waned somewhat.

In the long river of history.

Daoism and Buddhism have always been at odds, sometimes Taoism prevails, sometimes Buddhism shines brightly, and sometimes both flourish harmoniously, often leading to Tao-Buddhist disputes during such times.

True Man Baihe continued:

"After the True Monarch established the True Profound Sect here, the peculiar tree became the sect's treasured artifact. Regrettably, as time passed, the ineptitude of later generations led to the loss of this tree."

He expressed some regret.

Taoist Longshan consoled:

"True Profound Sect has such an enduring heritage; it's only natural for there to be some turbulence along the way. What matters is the uninterrupted lineage that does justice to the ancestor."

He reminisced about the True Martial legacy.

In earlier times, the True Martial legacy would have, no doubt, been quite illustrious. Yet, similarly, it fell into disarray, prompting him now to rebuild the True Martial Sect, albeit merely as a continuation with no real connection to the former True Martial Sect.

True Man Baihe waved his hand dismissively with a smile.

He began to earnestly introduce the scenery of True Profound Mountain to everyone.

As they journeyed.

Numerous Taoist Palaces rose and fell, with restrained charm and splendor contained within.

Many disciples were inwardly amazed; everything they saw and heard demonstrated the profound foundation of True Profound Sect. Only now did the disciples realize that any Martial Path sect in the world deserves respect. With this realization, the slight arrogance in their mindset began to dissipate, giving way to a sense of shame and humility.

Chapter 312: This Young Man is Quite a Demon_2

Taoist Longshan nodded silently.

The True Martial Sect has developed extremely rapidly in recent times. Plus, with the renowned reputation of True Man Tianjian, many disciples of the True Martial Sect have inevitably developed arrogant and impetuous attitudes, with some even believing that the rest of the world is no better, and that the True Martial Sect might already be worthy of being called the best under heaven.

But one must understand, no matter how formidable True Man Tianjian is, it is only he who is formidable, and though the True Martial Sect has infinite potential, it is still in the stage of accumulating strength.

This encounter with the True Profound Sect's foundation is enough to prompt many disciples to reflect and bring their experiences back to the True Martial Mountain, which is a good thing.

This is the true meaning of training and experience.

However, Ning Qi's focus was clearly not here. Upon entering the True Profound Mountain, he attentively sensed the grand scope of its atmosphere, his heart growing heavier as he vaguely perceived that the Immortal Crane seemed to truly come alive!

"True Profound Sect has an unparalleled master!" Ning Qi was certain.

Such a scene is the result of human effort merging with the heavens, unknowingly altering fortunes, becoming more apparent as time goes by.

At least a Blade Demon level expert, and perhaps not just that.

However, Ning Qi had no desire to probe further.

Everyone has their own secrets; there's no need to pursue everything.

Soon.

They arrived at the guesthouse, rich in splendor and grandeur.

True Man Baihe had just exchanged a few words of pleasantries with Taoist Longshan when a disciple came up to report.

True Man Baihe apologized:

"Taoist Friend Longshan, the ceremony starts the day after tomorrow. Please feel free to roam around these two days, and if you wish to explore, just let Qing Ling know, he'll guide you around."

The young Taoist nearby quickly offered a salute.

Taoist Longshan understood very well, having organized a Celestial Being Grand Ceremony himself, and knew the degree of labor involved. At that time, the True Martial Sect was not well-known, and there weren't many Celestial Human Realm attendees. Considering the current bustle of the True Profound Sect, it's likely there are ten to twenty Celestial Human Realm attendees, and True Man Baihe's hasty departure apparently meant another Celestial Human expert had arrived.

He sighed, only feeling as if his own Celestial Being Grand Ceremony was still as recent as yesterday.

Disciples of the True Martial Sect set down their baggage, whispering amongst themselves, expressing their anticipation for the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony in two days.

After a period of tidying up, they went together, touring around under the guidance of True Profound disciples.

Only Ning Qi and Taoist Longshan stayed in the guesthouse.

...

Ning Qi held the Taoist Scripture in his hands, his thoughts wandering.

The different environment gave him a different state of mind. Throughout the journey, it appeared as if he was engrossed in the Taoist Scripture, but in fact, he was more aware of his surroundings than others, with substantial gains, feeling his thoughts had expanded greatly.

"To read ten thousand books and travel ten thousand miles is indeed the way it should be."

He continued to ponder over the power of the Martial Saint, though he did not bring out the Yu King Pearl to study it in detail, since this was someone else's domain, remaining low-key was more appropriate.

The time passed unnoticed.

Ning Qi's spirit slightly shook as he awakened from the state of enlightenment.

He raised an eyebrow, then returned to calmness.

Soon after.

A purple-robed old Taoist with somewhat cunning eyes sneaked in furtively, grinning as he silently crept behind Ning Qi and gently tapped him:

"Little boy, you still love reading the Taoist Scripture so much."

Ning Qi pretended to be startled, instinctively swinging the scripture backward, making the smiling old Taoist get a solid hit.

"Ouch, you little brat, you have no respect for elders!" He grimaced, pointing at Ning Qi, caught between cursing him and not, feeling extremely uncomfortable.

Ning Qi smiled warmly:

"Oh, it's you, old Taoist. I thought a little thief had broken into the True Profound Sect, my apologies, my apologies."

Taoist Baishan was so angry that his teeth itched.

He felt Ning Qi did it on purpose, but had no proof.

"You little rascal!" He pointed a finger at Ning Qi, ultimately smiling.

Taoist Baishan reached for a snow pear from the table, munching merrily.

Ning Qi laughed:

"True Man Baihe said you were bathing, changing clothes, and burning incense to calm your mind, how come you ended up here?"

Taoist Baishan puckered his mouth:

"All those tedious rules are nonsense, I heard you came, so I slipped out immediately. How come I haven't seen Little White Ape? Are you afraid I might snatch Little White Ape, so you didn't bring him along?"

Ning Qi just glanced at him, focusing on the Taoist Scripture in his hands.

But deep inside, he was slightly startled.

Because... the Taoist Baishan before him seemed rather peculiar.

He couldn't see through him.

By right, with his current strength, a mere newcomer to the Celestial Human Realm shouldn't possibly elude his Dharma Eye, but Taoist Baishan's aura was somewhat strange, like a Celestial Human Realm, yet not quite.

"This old Taoist indeed has some quirks." He recalled the old Taoist's playful words, something about entering the Celestial Human Realm and aiming directly for the Martial Saint, becoming invincible in due time, yet he didn't wish to delve further, respecting others' secrets.

But Ning Qi didn't know.

The old Taoist opposite him was equally puzzled.

Because, he also couldn't see through Ning Qi.

"This little boy is quite mysterious! Three years ago, I could still see he was in the White Mist Realm; how has he become so unfathomable after three years? Truly mysterious!" he marveled secretly.

After all, he was no longer the same as before; not only had he awakened his innate wisdom, but even his power level had begun to awaken, yet he still couldn't discern Ning Qi's true nature.

It genuinely surprised him.

However, being naturally open-minded, after secretly admiring, he didn't mind much—what he valued most in Ning Qi was not his cultivation, but that natural and unrestrained demeanor. Only Ning Qi dared to treat him in such a cavalier manner, bringing him great joy.

Seeing Ning Qi ignoring him, fully engrossed in the Taoist Scripture.

Taoist Baishan sighed and smiled:

"Little boy, now that the old Taoist has entered the Celestial Human Realm, do you regret misjudging me?"

He was somewhat smug.

But Ning Qi only responded with a nonchalant "oh."

Taoist Baishan immediately became anxious.

"This is the Celestial Human Realm! One in a billion Celestial Human Realm! If you speak nicely to the old Taoist, I'll cover you in the world, allowing you to roam unrestrained!"

Ning Qi turned two pages of the Taoist Scripture, slowly saying:

"Your breakthrough to the Celestial Human Realm doesn't benefit me; thus, it doesn't matter to me whether you break through or not."

Taoist Baishan was taken aback.

That... makes sense?

He quickly shook his head, saying:

"No, how can it be unrelated to you? Remember the promise we made before: once I reach the Celestial Human Realm, we will raid all the Taoist sects in the world and split the spoils! After the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, we'll get on it!"

This time, Ning Qi closed the Taoist Scripture.

He smiled lightly:

"No empty promises for me."

Taoist Baishan was anxious again:

"Who's making empty promises? I am seriously discussing a great cause with you! A great cause, do you understand? Don't you believe in my strength? I assure you, although I've just entered the Celestial Human Realm, most Celestial Human Realms can't beat me."

He said with some pride.

But Ning Qi merely looked at him calmly, a picture of someone watching a show.

Taoist Baishan was scratching his head and ears anxiously.

"Why won't you believe me?"

Ning Qi started to open the Taoist Scripture again.

Taoist Baishan swiftly closed it:

"Tell me, what will it take for you to believe me?"

Ning Qi said indifferently:

"Since you're planning to raid all the Taoist sects in the world, and the True Profound Sect is among them, what do you say?"

Taoist Baishan was dumbfounded.

What an unusual perspective.

But then he laughed.

"Sounds reasonable, let's go to the Scripture Repository of the True Profound Sect now!"

"You really mean it?"

This time Ning Qi was caught off guard, having initially just been teasing the old Taoist, but was he actually serious?

Taoist Baishan felt somewhat vindicated:

"We'll go right now! You think I'd bluff you?"

With that, he grabbed Ning Qi's sleeve and sneaked out furtively.

A moment later.

The two slipped into the Scripture Repository. Taoist Baishan waved his hand, and a few lingering Path Guardians slumbered away.

Looking at the boundless scriptures inside, Ning Qi's eyes brightened.

Goodness, the True Profound Sect's resources are truly abundant!

Chapter 313: Spiritual Qi

What lay before him indeed exceeded Ning Qi's imagination; even the accumulation of the Inquiring Sword Pavilion was dwarfed in comparison. He turned his head to look at Taoist Baishan and saw the other party looking back with arrogance:

"How are the scriptures of our True Profound Sect?"

He chuckled, revealing yellow teeth, with an indescribable sense of pride. Finally, he had the chance to appear mighty in front of Ning Qi.

"The scriptures here, you can read any of them. If you wish, you can even stay here afterward. However, I've gotten a bit tired of reading them myself. If there's anything you're looking for, just ask me directly."

Ning Qi smiled and said:

"Can I really look at anything?"

"Of course! In the True Profound Sect, when I speak, it absolutely counts!"

Hearing such bold words, Ning Qi couldn't help but give him a sidelong glance.

Taoist Baishan, a newly ascended Celestial Human, could actually make such bold statements, leaving only one explanation: his seniority and status were very high.

Ning Qi nodded without any courtesy:

"Does your True Profound Sect have any records regarding the Martial Saint Realm?"

The previously proud Taoist Baishan was suddenly at a loss.

Ning Qi's interest waned:

"No?"

"Not quite, just that, young Ning, you're too young and far from reaching that level. Don't aim too high." A trace of exploration flashed in his pupils, but he quickly chuckled to cover it up.

Ning Qi casually opened a Taoist Scripture:

"The Martial Path sets lofty goals, I'm curious."

Taoist Baishan said no more, leading Ning Qi straight to the top floor.

The higher they went, the fewer the scriptures, but Ning Qi understood these were the essence, not easily shown to the outside world. He secretly marveled at how worthy the True Profound Sect was for its long transmission.

He patted the white jade bookshelf holding dozens of ancient texts. Taoist Baishan curled his lips and said:

"Here, the records about the Martial Saint Realm are all here. See for yourself."

With that, he reclined onto a nearby meditation mat, his eyes unfocused as he stared at the pavilion's top, as naturally as if he had returned home.

A hint of delight emerged in Ning Qi's eyes; this was truly an unexpected joy.

He reached out to take an ancient text, slowly opening it, and immediately a sense of weightiness swept over him.

The first line of text made his spirit tremble:

"The Power of Heaven and Earth is called Spiritual Qi, and the path of the Martial Saint is to refine Spiritual Qi into the body to gain various profound mysteries."

Spiritual Qi?

This was his first time learning of such a concept; previous ancient texts he'd acquired had only fragments recorded, but this one seemed quite detailed, giving him a different kind of shock right from the beginning.

Ning Qi couldn't help but look at Taoist Baishan, only to see the latter completely indifferent, already in a state of spiritual wandering.

Ning Qi forcibly suppressed the turmoil in his heart and continued to read downwards.

"A Martial Saint transcends the ordinary to reach sainthood! How to gain the sainthood? The key lies in Spiritual Qi. The Celestial Human Realm only perceives Spiritual Qi, barely resonating with it, but like a child wielding a great hammer, it cannot grasp its mysteries..."

"The power of a Martial Saint is extraordinary, unmatched in combat, capable of incinerating mountains and boiling seas, and can extend inheritance through time, a thousand years without decay."

"..."

Unknowingly.

He fell into the Enlightenment Realm.

He read with particular seriousness, pausing from time to time to think carefully.

Unaware of how much time had passed.

With the last ancient text finished, Ning Qi subconsciously continued to turn the pages, only to realize he had reached the last page. His eyes were filled with an unfulfilled desire.

"That's it?" he sighed longingly, speaking instinctively.

The nearby Taoist Baishan had awakened at an unknown time. He chuckled:

"Having these is already quite good!"

Ning Qi nodded slowly.

That's true, indeed, having these is already quite good. Not to exaggerate, these ancient texts are already more than all he obtained before combined, and more detailed. Yet, Ning Qi still felt a bit restless.

It's truly.

These texts all ended abruptly, often stopping at the most critical points, or only touching the surface.

For example, some texts mentioned that the Power of Heaven and Earth is called Spiritual Qi, and the key aspect of the Martial Saint's path is refining Spiritual Qi, but how to refine it? Yet it is vaguely explained.

Others mentioned the terrifying combat power of a Martial Saint, even describing battle scenes, but when it came to specific core descriptions of the Martial Saint Realm, they were all omitted, or replaced with unrelated terms.

This left Ning Qi somewhat scratching at an itch without relieving it.

Ning Qi looked at Taoist Baishan:

"Why do I feel that the authors of these ancient texts did this on purpose, speaking in riddles and making things unclear? Why is that?"

He increasingly felt that Taoist Baishan was not simple, perhaps knowing some secrets.

But Taoist Baishan just shrugged:

"How would I know? These books have been around for a long time. Maybe when you reach that realm, you'll understand. As I've said before, peeking at such realms prematurely is not good; it might lead to setbacks and wild thoughts."

Ning Qi chuckled and said:

"Aren't you also newly stepping into the Celestial Human Realm, and probably still far from the Martial Saint Realm? You've probably read these books more than once."

Taoist Baishan sat up with a flip:

"That's different; I have accumulated profound insights and might soon step into the Martial Saint Realm. How about it? If you switch allegiance to our True Profound Sect now, you still have the last chance to board the big ship!"

He looked at Ning Qi expectantly.

Ning Qi laughed silently.

He just shook his head slightly and looked at the ancient text in his hand again, not saying anything to mock, considering these texts.

It must be said.

These ancient texts are quite useful.

Although they all have abrupt endings, serving perhaps just to broaden insight for others, Ning Qi's intuition is such that, even with a hint, he could deduce something useful.

Chapter 314: Spiritual Qi_2

"The power of a Martial Saint possesses extraordinary spirituality. This isn't a characteristic of the Martial Saint's power itself, but rather, a feature of Spiritual Qi. But now, as I perceive the Spiritual Qi, I haven't discovered this. Does this mean the upheaval in the world has somehow weakened the spirituality of the Spiritual Qi?"

"If it can be weakened, then can the spirituality within the Spiritual Qi be extracted independently?"

Ning Qi thought of another direction.

He gradually fell into deep thought.

"Additionally, 'Three Flowers Gathering at the Top' refers to the Celestial Human Realm. What is this 'Five Qi Towards Yuan' mentioned in one of the ancient texts? Could it possibly be the mystery within the Martial Saint Realm?"

Taoist Baishan noticed Ning Qi ignoring him and felt somewhat frustrated. However, seeing Ning Qi's sheer obsession, he was secretly astonished. He was thoroughly familiar with these ancient texts, and ordinary people would hardly understand them, but Ning Qi was seriously contemplating them.

"This Ning kid is even more extraordinary than I imagined!" He began to take it more seriously.

His curiosity grew increasingly intense, and for the first time, he fully attempted to perceive Ning Qi's depths.

In an instant.

The mist cleared.

But what left him dumbfounded was that instead of a mountain peak, what was revealed was a vast range of mountains. He couldn't discern which mountain peak truly represented Ning Qi's true form.

"This..." Taoist Baishan's heart gradually grew solemn.

Although his innate wisdom had only recently awakened and his power had yet to fully recover, he was undoubtedly standing atop the world's pinnacle. Yet now, he couldn't see through an eleven-year-old child. Before, he casually perceived, but now he exerted all his strength, which made all the difference.

"Could it be that some old monster is deliberately toying with me?" He couldn't help but wonder.

However, he immediately shook his head.

People of their sort bore a similar aura, which couldn't be concealed.

"Could it be that old turtle's scheme?" Taoist Baishan recalled another possibility.

He was the only one aware that the True Martial inheritance wasn't so simple.

When he had previously invited Ning Qi and Taoist Longshan, he hadn't revealed one thing to True Man Baihe and the others: the True Martial inheritance actually predates the True Profound Sect in its lineage. It was just that the inheritance had been interrupted.

After his innate wisdom awakened, he intercepted some intelligence from the True Martial Sect and realized his earlier speculations were correct.

This invitation for Ning Qi was also an opportunity for secret observation.

Originally, he thought Taoist Longshan had merely been fortunate enough to acquire a part of the True Martial inheritance, as Taoist Longshan's performance wasn't particularly outstanding.

But now, sensing the complexity from Ning Qi, he began to revise his previous assumptions.

"That old turtle has lived too long. Who knows what he's plotting? Perhaps Taoist Longshan isn't his chosen successor; Ning Qi might be? But that can't be... If Ning Qi were his chosen one, he should have some understanding of the Martial Saint Realm..."

For a while, Taoist Baishan couldn't quite grasp Ning Qi's origins.

He planned to observe a bit longer.

Seeing Ning Qi close the ancient text, he quickly approached with a friendly demeanor:

"Ning, would you like to see more ancient Taoist scriptures?"

Ning Qi nodded.

"Alright, after the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony ends, how about we visit other Taoist sects?" Taoist Baishan said with a conspiratorial grin.

After some thought, Ning Qi slowly nodded.

After all, he's not the mastermind. If anything does happen, it's Taoist Baishan who'll be held responsible. Should the sky fall, there are taller people to hold it up. From the True Profound Sect's library, he'd gained considerable information about the Martial Saint Realm and was curious if the treasured knowledge of other Taoist sects was just as rich.

However, most importantly, he wanted to examine the depths of Taoist Baishan.

This was the first time in a long while he couldn't see through someone.

Seeing Ning Qi's agreement, Taoist Baishan was so delighted that he turned several somersaults in excitement.

"Then it's settled!"

Ning Qi couldn't help but smile.

...

In the following two days.

Accompanied by Taoist Baishan, Ning Qi strolled through almost every Forbidden Land of the True Profound Sect.

The Scripture Repository, the Treasure Pavilion, the Divine Weapon Library, the Spirit Medicine Garden...

He indeed encountered numerous treasures, which made Ning Qi marvel at the True Profound Sect's rich foundation, but at the same time, he found it strange. Taoist Baishan seemed to act without restraint. Sometimes, Ning Qi wondered if this was Taoist Baishan's deliberate way of flaunting the True Profound Sect's heritage to entice him to 'switch allegiance.'

Apart from that.

Ning Qi inquired several times about the True Profound True Monarch, out of curiosity, but Taoist Baishan dismissed it indifferently, without a trace of respect in his words, which further puzzled Ning Qi about Taoist Baishan's identity.

Could this possibly be the living ancestor of the True Profound Sect, allowing him to act so independently?

After all, over the past two days, their flamboyant behavior surely couldn't go unnoticed by the high echelons of the True Profound Sect.

Ning Qi reflected thoughtfully.

However, he wasn't in a hurry.

Within those two days.

More and more martial sects arrived, including many top Taoist sects, sending Celestial Human Realm experts as reinforcements. True Profound Mountain grew ever more lively, and even Taoist Longshan instructed his disciples to avoid causing trouble.

Fortunately, with the True Profound Sect mediating, there weren't major issues.

Instead, many people proactively approached the True Martial Sect's guest quarters to make friends, speaking with great respect for True Man Tianjian.

On this day.

The Celestial Being Grand Ceremony finally commenced as scheduled.

Such a grand event stirred countless ripples across Tao State. Especially since the True Profound Sect didn't intend to keep it low-key, many martial artists gathered at the base of True Profound Mountain. However, the True Profound Sect's foundation was far deeper than that of the True Martial Sect, easily accommodating numerous martial artists.

Chapter 315: Spiritual Qi_3

True Profound Mountain was teeming with people.

Powerful presences were everywhere, with nearly thirty Celestial Human Realm experts present. Unlike the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony held by Taoist Longshan earlier, where a few Celestial Human Realm experts appeared at the climax, these experts now sat properly in advance.

The members of the True Martial Sect were seated in the front row, and the disciples were all in awe, for such grand events were extremely rare.

Once everyone had settled in.

True Man Baiye, the Sect Leader of the True Profound Sect, stood in mid-air with a smile and cupped hands:

"Honored guests, thank you for coming from afar to attend the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony of my elder brother, True Man Baishan. The True Profound Sect is immensely grateful!"

The crowd responded with smiles.

Taoist Baishan took the main seat.

Today, Taoist Baishan looked completely different from what Ning Qi usually saw. Dressed in a purple Taoist robe, he appeared full of majesty, with an ethereal demeanor, completely overshadowing the nearby True Men Bai Xiang, Bai Ye, and Bai He, leaving the crowd in awe.

However, Ning Qi felt slightly speechless, for the occasional glance from Taoist Baishan always carried a hint of vulgarity, which instantly shattered the ethereal demeanor.

"The Celestial Being Grand Ceremony officially begins!"

As the words of True Man Baiye fell.

One by one, the disciples of the True Profound Sect filed out, with Taoist Swords whirling, displaying extraordinary grace.

This was a gift to honor True Man Baishan.

Many guests closely observed, amazed in their hearts. The True Profound Sect had always been low-key, but who would have thought their disciples to be so formidable; disciples from various sects were secretly spurred into competitiveness.

The various processes passed, with the crowd occasionally applauding in praise.

Both hosts and guests enjoyed themselves.

Then came the gift presentation segment.

Ning Qi felt a surge of emotion, recalling three years ago at his master's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony where the gifts were abundant and diverse. At that time, he already thought it was quite impressive, but seeing today's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony of Taoist Baishan, he understood the saying 'small witch sees great witch'; those gifts truly dazzled.

The disparity in depth was vividly displayed at this moment.

Things like the Thousand-year-old Jade King Ginseng and Deep Sea Cold Iron were all treasures.

Very soon.

It was the turn of the True Martial Sect.

Taoist Longshan smiled and presented a gift.

It was a set of Enlightenment Tea leaves along with a set of exquisite tea utensils obtained from the treasure vault of the Demon Sect.

Instantly, it attracted many astonished glances.

They merely thought that while the True Martial Sect had recently been in the limelight, it ultimately lacked depth. Who would have thought they would bring out rare treasures like Enlightenment Tea leaves, causing everyone to regard the True Martial Sect with more esteem.

True Man Baihe appeared pensive.

He vaguely remembered that during the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony of Taoist Longshan, Ancestor Wang Quan presented a seed of the Enlightenment Tea tree.

"Could it have grown? I remember it was almost a dead species," he was somewhat shocked and further understood the value within. If the True Martial Sect truly had a live Enlightenment Tea tree, it would indeed be its cherished heritage.

He looked at Taoist Longshan with a more amicable gaze.

Various sects presented their gifts.

However, the number wasn't large.

To have the privilege of presenting gifts in such an occasion, one must be at the Celestial Human Realm; other Gang Essence Realm experts did not have the qualification to make an appearance.

Once the last Celestial Human Realm expert had finished presenting their gift.

True Man Baixiang slowly stood up, smiled, and cupped his hands:

"Thank you, fellow Daoists, for your tributes. In return, please allow us to share our insights on the Path of Celestial Being!"

Such a grand event organized by the True Profound Sect was certainly not only for Taoist Baishan to preach; rather, the other True Men would join in, which was a show of force. Many Celestial Human Realm attendees came just for True Man Baixiang, whose power was exceedingly formidable.

The crowd was filled with anticipation.

But just as True Man Baixiang finished speaking, a grand voice sounded from afar:

"True Man Baixiang, do not be hasty, Dajue Temple hasn't yet delivered their tribute!"

The expressions of the crowd became peculiar.

Dajue Temple?

Isn't that a Buddhist Sect entity? How did it suddenly appear at the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony of the True Profound Sect?

Chapter 316: The Covenant of the Saints

All present knew that the Buddhist Sect and Taoism did not get along well. Generally, it was impossible for any Taoist Real Man's Celestial Being Grand Ceremony to invite people from the Buddhist Sect. The invitation of individuals from the Ascetic Sect by Taoist Longshan back then was an exception.

But now.

Dajue Temple has come uninvited.

Some people's expressions were strange.

They more or less knew some of the old affairs of the True Profound Sect and understood that the True Profound Taoist Monarch had conflicts with a Buddha in the past, making it even more impossible for them to have any connection with the Buddhist Sect. The Dajue Temple was faintly the head of the Buddhist Sect.

What kind of play is being performed now?

One by one, gazes followed the grand sound, and Ning Qi was no exception. His eyes flickered slightly, knowing that today's events were likely not simple, as the usually carefree Taoist Baishan unexpectedly showed a rare seriousness.

"Amitabha, greetings to fellow Taoists. This humble monk comes uninvited and asks for forgiveness!"

What came into view.

A group of monks, clad in red and gold robes and barefoot, each with a focused demeanor, bowing their heads chanting the Buddha's name. The solemn aura sent a chill through people's hearts.

The speaker was the leading old monk.

Some had already recognized his identity: Abbot of Dajue Temple, Master Miaokong. His strength was extraordinarily high, even surpassing that of True Man Baixiang.

True Man Baixiang wore a smile on his face though his eyes showed not a trace of emotion:

"So it's Master Miaokong. I wonder what brings you to this humble place?"

Master Miaokong, with kindly eyes and a benevolent face, smiled and said:

"Naturally, I've come to congratulate your sect's True Man Baishan on ascending to the Celestial Being Realm!"

True Man Baixiang laughed heartily.

"Guests are guests. Since that's the case, please take a seat. I'm curious about the congratulatory gifts you've brought, perfect for fellow Taoists to take a look at."

The two exchanged smiles, yet everyone caught the undertone of gunpowder in their words.

The host did not seem like the host, nor did the guest seem like the guest.

Master Miaokong continued to smile.

"Exactly what I intended."

With a chant of the Buddha's name, two young monks immediately carried a tall object close. Covered with a red cloth, the specifics were unclear, gradually piquing everyone's curiosity.

With a swoosh, the red cloth was lifted.

There was a low bustle of astonishment instantly.

Master Miaokong's voice remained grand:

"We came across a Heavenly Crane Exotic Tree by accident. Please, Real Men of the True Profound Sect, appreciate it."

The previously unshakable disciples of the True Profound Sect now looked distressed, and the eyes of several Real Men showed a hidden anger.

Ning Qi raised an eyebrow, instantly understanding the reason.

In recent days, following Taoist Baishan, he had gained much knowledge and learned some secrets of the True Profound Sect. The reason for the fierce battle back then between the True Profound Taoist Monarch and that Buddha was the Heavenly Crane Tree, named for its resemblance to a celestial crane. This tree bears fruit every hundred years, which is also quite beneficial to a Martial Saint.

Later, it was stolen by a traitor during a past generation of the True Profound Sect and vanished without a trace—surprisingly now appearing in the hands of monks from Dajue Temple.

However.

This Heavenly Crane Tree now has completely withered away, shriveled beyond recognition.

This was no doubt a double slap in the face for the True Profound Sect.

It was akin to humiliating your wife and publicly displaying her broken body afterward.

True Man Baixiang and the other two Real Men were all furious, coldly staring at Master Miaokong. True Man Baiye sarcastically said:

"Back then, a traitor infiltrated our True Profound Sect and stole this treasure of the sect, the Heavenly Crane Tree, which then vanished. Who would have thought it was the doing of you Buddhist folks? You sure preach strict discipline for others and leniency for yourselves!"

True Man Baihe directly scolded unceremoniously:

"I said why you baldies would come uninvited, and indeed, you meant no good. If today's matter isn't explained, don't expect to leave the mountain!"

He had no need to worry about maintaining the grace of a sect leader, thus spoke freely from the heart.

With those words.

Disciples of the True Profound Sect wore grave expressions, their aura flaring up, encircling the members from Dajue Temple.

Yet countless monks remained unmoved. Master Miaokong lowered his hands and said:

"Real Men, I fear there is a misunderstanding. This Heavenly Crane Tree was obtained by our Dajue Temple by chance, and it was already in such condition when we acquired it. Considering the Heavenly Crane Tree seems to have some connection with your esteemed sect, we brought it here."

"If Real Men do not favor it, this monk shall destroy the tree right now as an apology."

Having said that.

Without the slightest hesitation, he raised his palm to strike. Between his palms, golden light blossomed, vaguely accompanied by Buddhist chants.

"Damn bald, dare you!"

True Man Baixiang's eyes glared with anger. The old Taoist had been trying to maintain his composure, but seeing Master Miaokong intent on destroying the Heavenly Crane Tree, he could no longer restrain himself. Though the Heavenly Crane Tree was withered, now that the True Monarch had returned, there might be astonishing means to restore it. How could he allow Master Miaokong to destroy it?

He swung his duster, resembling an elephant's trunk in the sky, and swept towards Master Miaokong.

Boom!

With a roar, True Man Baixiang had already started contending with Master Miaokong.

The Power of Heaven and Earth erupted.

True Man Baixiang and Master Miaokong stood opposite each other, competing in strength, with the Heavenly Crane Tree becoming the medium of the contest. A slight mishap, and the Heavenly Crane Tree would be reduced to dust.

But it was obvious.

True Man Baixiang was still at a disadvantage compared to Master Miaokong, who had spare strength, while True Man Baixiang's Taoist Robe was already billowing like drums, his white hair and beard floating.

Upon seeing this.

True Man Baihe and True Man Baiye stepped forward together to stabilize the situation.

Everyone was amazed.

No one expected the situation to escalate so rapidly. The originally prosperous Celestial Being Grand Ceremony, poised to enter the most anticipated lecture phase, unexpectedly encountered such a change.

Those present who were invited were mostly close to the True Profound Sect; seeing this situation, they hesitated.

Chapter 317: The Covenant of the Saints_2

Taoist Longshan immediately stood up, instinctively wanting to help, but felt it was somewhat inappropriate.

After all, this was the home ground of the True Profound Sect. Being challenged by the Dajue Temple like this, if they needed outsiders' assistance to suppress it, in a way, it would also tarnish their reputation.

Others more or less considered this point as well.

After all, the True Profound Sect still had a newly ascended Celestial Being who had not yet acted.

Someone looked towards Taoist Baishan but saw that he wasn't paying attention here at all. Instead, he was watching the other monks, as if searching for something.

At this moment, Taoist Baishan was completely different from usual, a divine light seemed to shine in his eyes, full of majesty.

Suddenly.

His gaze rested on a seemingly ordinary young monk among the monks of Dajue Temple. He raised a faint cold smile:

"Baoshu, after all these years, you're still so fond of playing small tricks."

The crowd was confused.

None of the monks responded.

Ning Qi, however, raised his eyebrows. He followed Taoist Baishan's gaze and carefully scrutinized, only to find someone among them he couldn't see through either. His heart jolted, connecting the past and present, he vaguely understood something. When he looked at Taoist Baishan again, he even had a slight guess about Taoist Baishan's identity.

He was internally shaken, with a trace of incredulity in his eyes, but then gradually became excited.

If his guess was correct, then this trip might really have been worthwhile!

Ning Qi, who was originally a bit lazy, was now fully focused.

Seeing no response, Taoist Baishan slowly rose into the air, then gradually raised his right hand. In an instant, the weather changed, and all those present in the Celestial Human Realm felt immense pressure, even the powerful ones in the Celestial Human Realm were no exception. They looked at Taoist Baishan with shock and incredulity.

Only to see what seemed to be an Immortal Palace floating in his palm.

Simply pressing towards Master Miaokong, it had already compressed the Buddhist golden light to the extreme. In front of Taoist Baishan, he was like a child without any resistance.

True Man Baixiang and the other two consciously stopped, respectfully landing behind Taoist Baishan, their eyes filled with admiration and excitement.

The crowd was dumbfounded.

The newly ascended True Man Baishan was actually the strongest person in the True Profound Sect?

Master Miaokong's face changed dramatically, full of panic. He wanted to speak but couldn't.

At this moment.

A Buddha's name that seemed to resonate in everyone's heart naturally arose. The voice was grand yet without any oppressive feeling; instead, it involuntarily aroused respect in others.

"Amitabha, True Profound, using great to bully the small, only you could do such a thing."

After the seemingly ordinary young monk opened his eyes, his entire demeanor changed.

In those eyes seemed to be the vicissitudes of life, bearing witness to thousands of years of change, no external matter could shake his will anymore.

He stepped forward slowly, and Master Miaokong immediately had a moment to breathe, hurriedly retreating behind the young monk while constantly chanting the Buddha's name.

Upon hearing the words 'True Profound', a sharp light flashed in Ning Qi's eyes, and he became even more certain.

Then he heard Taoist Baishan slowly stopping his hand, laughing mockingly:

"I'm bullying the small with the great? Baoshu, you old bald donkey, after all these years you're still so shameless! You love to be sneaky, very petty-minded. Seems like after so many years you haven't made much progress."

He casually and easily summoned the Heavenly Crane Tree over, examining it carefully, and then mocked:

"You petty-minded bald donkey, wasn't it just for a tree back then? Is it worth holding grudges for so long? You snatched it over just to disgust me, but you old bald donkey probably didn't know, back then I placed a restriction on the Heavenly Crane Tree. Even if you took it, it's useless, you most likely rejoiced in vain back then."

"However, you think the Heavenly Crane Tree is dead? Once I perform a little trick, it can naturally come back to life. I must thank you for bringing it back."

He revealed large yellow teeth, smiling slyly with a look that could infuriate anyone.

Buddha Baoshu fell silent immediately.

Originally intending to disgust True Profound Taoist Monarch, he didn't expect to be disgusted himself instead. He sighed and said:

"True Profound, why do you maliciously speculate on my thoughts? It's just that we haven't met for many years, I'm here to visit old friends. The long years make us unsure of which old friends can still meet. The minor conflicts between you and me were just like clouds in the mountains, passing with a smile."

The two exchanged casual banter, resembling old friends teasing each other.

It also seemed like they were reminiscing about the past.

But True Profound Mountain was already silent.

The people present were not fools.

You could glean some conclusions from the demeanor of True Man Baixiang and others, combined with the dialogue between Taoist Baishan and Master Baoshu, quite a few people had already guessed their identities.

In other words, the so-called True Man Baishan was actually the legendary ancestor of the True Profound Sect, True Profound True Monarch!

And across from him was Buddha Baoshu, who was rumored to have had a conflict with True Profound True Monarch back in the day!

But it was after guessing this that caused everyone to feel even more at a loss, and their hearts were full of shock.

After all, these two were figures from an unknown number of years ago. How could they reappear in the present world?

Such an incredible event made everyone feel as if they were in a dream. Quite a few were secretly pinching their thighs, grimacing in pain, yet didn't dare to make a sound. Even the disciples of the True Profound Sect were stunned. They had no prior knowledge of Taoist Baishan's true identity.

Ning Qi's breath came slightly uneven.

These two were indeed the legendary Martial Saint-level powerhouses!

The Martial Saint path he had been striving for was now embodied by two living fossils standing before him.

"Is it really possible for Martial Saint Realm powerhouses to survive across such long ages? Absolutely not! From their words, it seems they extended their lives using some method, and even that method has risks, with some Martial Saints completely perishing body and soul!"

"However... what is their purpose for doing this? And how is it connected to the world-altering change from back then?"

Ning Qi's heart was filled with questions.

He held his breath in anticipation.

He felt that this adventure to True Profound Mountain was indeed worth it.

Everyone watched the two legendary figures without blinking.

Buddha Baoshu slowly approached, somehow already covered in golden light. His ordinary face had become exceptionally dignified, with his hands together in a gesture resembling gratitude:

"I initially thought that you, True Profound old friend, hadn't awakened, so I came to see you. Now knowing that you are safe and sound, this monk is relieved."

Taoist Baishan responded blandly:

"I am now named Bai Shan, and True Profound is long gone, fleeting like a cloud. After all the trials and tribulations, we are no longer the people we were, and should recognize reality and move forward."

Buddha Baoshu was silent for a moment.

Then shook his head:

"Seeing the mountain not as a mountain, but still as a mountain, you are still you, and I am still me. You're being too pessimistic, my old friend. The long years cannot obliterate our wills."

Ning Qi pondered deeply.

Taoist Baishan casually waved his hand:

"You know best yourself how things are. Trying to escape is your business, nothing to do with me. If you have something to say, spit it out quickly. Considering you've brought back the Heavenly Crane Tree, I won't hit you. Now get off the mountain, don't delay the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony."

He was already somewhat impatient.

Never would have thought, after waiting so long, the old friend arriving was this old bald donkey, somewhat spoiling his mood.

Buddha Baoshu softly chanted a Buddha's name, seated cross-legged in the void, a golden lotus blossoming beneath him making him appear even more sacred.

"Today, I come bearing a great opportunity for my old friend."

Taoist Baishan merely sneered.

He didn't believe a word, considering that this was the same guy who'd been so infuriated over a single Heavenly Crane Tree; now he was talking about a great opportunity, giving it to him?

Buddha Baoshu whispered:

"Have you forgotten the Oath of the Saints? You've survived the ages precisely for this matter?"

Oath of the Saints!

The entire crowd was stunned by these four words, as if they were witnessing a grand and majestic picture unfold slowly.

Taoist Baishan's eyes narrowed:

"So what if I have?"

"In that case, why not mutually assist each other? With our capabilities, we will certainly seize the opportunity." Buddha Baoshu said earnestly.

But Taoist Baishan laughed, bending over with mirth, laughing so unrestrainedly that Buddha Baoshu gradually furrowed his brow.

"Why does my old friend laugh?"

Taoist Baishan stood with hands clasped behind, feeling indescribably at ease:

"You're not worthy."

Chapter 318: Spirit

The short three words brought a silence to the world.

Everyone looked up at Taoist Baishan, only feeling that there was an indescribable aura of dominance on his aged face.

He smiled broadly, but his gaze carried a condescending look.

As if saying, you are not worthy to walk alongside me.

Buddha Baoshu's expression slowly calmed down, without a trace of fluctuation, yet everyone could feel it.

He was angry.

With just three short words, Taoist Baishan broke his composure. He had thought of all possible reasons for Taoist Baishan's rejection, but not such a simple and direct one. In his view, nothing could outweigh the opportunities of the future.

For people of their caliber, just standing there is a kind of promise; everything else is minor. Otherwise, he wouldn't have purposefully sent a Heavenly Crane Tree to release tension while wanting to ally with Taoist Baishan, only because these are insignificant.

He believed.

The only reason for Taoist Baishan's rejection was that he thought he was not strong enough.

After a long while.

He sighed quietly:

"It seems that over the years, the old friend's strength has made a great breakthrough?"

Taoist Baishan's eyes gradually turned cold:

"What? Want to make a move?"

Gradually, Buddha chants began to emerge around Buddha Baoshu, surrounded by golden light, vaguely seeing Arhat Buddhas chanting in low voices. The sound, gathered together, gradually became mighty, and some martial artists with lower cultivation unknowingly had their faces become kind and gentle, seemingly assimilated, and were startled awake by their companions with an expression of shock directed at Buddha Baoshu.

Buddha Baoshu, holding the Glazed Buddha Tree, appeared increasingly holy:

"Please enlighten me."

The Buddha Tree blossomed with light, streams of never-before-seen power flowed out from it, sometimes transforming into golden lotuses, sometimes into Buddhas, carrying overwhelming power to oppress Taoist Baishan.

Everyone held their breath, their eyes filled with amazement.

Some older people had already guessed.

The power of the Martial Saint!

Their hearts were both astonished and excited. Unexpectedly, there was such a change during the Celestial Being Grand Ceremony today, with two rumored Martial Saint powerhouses stepping out of history. That impact was inherently incomparable, and now they are about to make a direct move!

Taoist Baishan smiled faintly:

"Bao Shu, after all these years, you still haven't made much progress; your Glazed Treasure Tree is lacking."

Facing the boundless Buddha light, his Taoist robe fluttered despite no wind, and as he reached out to grasp, an Ancient Seal inscribed with profound Taoist patterns appeared in his hand. As soon as the Ancient Seal appeared, it attracted everyone's attention—plain yet possessing immeasurable Taoist might.

The Ancient Seal grew rapidly in the wind, resembling a mountain, faintly accompanied by a long cry of Immortal Crane, with flowers dancing in the sky. A mysterious power unrelentingly suppressed Buddha Baoshu.

In an instant.

The Taoist grew as the Buddha faded, with golden lotuses crushed and Buddha chants compressed. Some who were affected by assimilation awoke in shock.

True Man Baixiang wept tears of excitement:

"It's the True Monarch's True Profound Seal!"

Seeing the legendary figure walk out before him, the realization of a belief left him feeling exalted.

The battle between two Ancient Saints was not earth-shattering.

But all Celestial Human Realm powerhouses were alarmed, and Taoist Longshan felt this was the most terrifying existence he had ever seen. That day when his apprentice fought Blade Demon, it was already spectacular, but compared to the two before him, it seemed lacking.

Now, mystical forces collided, visible to the naked eye, with tiny black fissures continually appearing at the edges of the clash, rapidly healing.

Celestial Human Realm powerhouses were aghast.

This was power strong enough to tear space apart!

"Is this the power of the Martial Saint Realm?" Everyone was shocked, filled with awe and longing.

But one person was the exception.

Ning Qi's gaze was slightly surprised.

He acknowledged that Buddha Baoshu and True Profound True Monarch were very strong, and those mysterious forces were indeed Martial Saint powers beyond doubt, but they were not nearly as strong as he imagined. He even felt that he could take on both.

Ning Qi stared into the sky.

He saw the Glazed Treasure Tree and True Profound Seal were already standing in the void, streams of mysterious power pouring out from the two treasures and intertwining, tearing open spatial fissures.

But Ning Qi was more focused on the treasures themselves, as for tearing spatial fissures, he could accomplish that now.

After reaching Celestial Being Perfection, his strength surpassed before.

"These Glazed Treasure Tree and True Profound Seal should also be Martial Saint Secret Treasures. If I'm not mistaken, the Martial Saint power used by Buddha Baoshu and Taoist Baishan is transformed through these two secret treasures!"

Gold light filled Ning Qi's eyes as he observed the operation of the two's power.

Amazed, he found that these two were not much different from the Yu King Pearl, possibly only a bit stronger.

"Why is this? Do they themselves not possess Martial Saint power? Has the power remained unrecovered or is there some reason they cannot use it?"

He was shaken.

But to some extent, this explained why the two weren't as strong as Ning Qi imagined.

Otherwise, these two Martial Saint Realm powerhouses left from ages past couldn't possibly only have this level of strength.

Ning Qi seriously considered, knowing that any further speculation was pointless now.

The best way is to ask these firsthand witnesses; perhaps Taoist Baishan is a breakthrough point. Before knowing Taoist Baishan was the True Profound True Monarch, he had a fairly good relationship with Taoist Baishan, but now knowing he is the True Profound True Monarch, Ning Qi cannot fathom the previous intentions of Taoist Baishan.

Chapter 319: Spirit_2

As he pondered.

Two pieces of Martial Saint secret treasures in the void had already started to show anomalies.

Buddha Baoshu chanted the Buddha's name, and the light of the Glazed Treasure Tree grew even more intense. His expression turned solemn, while Taoist Baishan remained relaxed.

"Is this your limit?" he smiled calmly, then waved his sleeve, causing the ancient seal to expand once more.

The pressure of mountains crushed down, the heavens seemed to collapse, and the deafening sound filled everyone with fear.

The ancient seal stepped by step towards the Glazed Treasure Tree to suppress it. An endless burst of Buddha light showed tiny cracks, and the tree emitted a burdened creaking sound, as if it was about to shatter completely in the next moment. A faint sight of the Buddha altar collapsing could be seen, along with frightened Bodhisattvas.

Heavenly patterns with mystical power sealed the Glazed Treasure Tree in the void, preventing him from recalling it.

Buddha Baoshu's expression finally changed.

His eyes shook, slightly defeated, not expecting that even after all these years, he was still no match for the True Profound True Monarch.

"True Profound, must you disregard personal affinity? If you're not willing to ally, then so be it!"

Hearing Taoist Baishan's voice resonate through True Profound Mountain:

"In the past, you fought with me over the Heavenly Crane Tree, and I didn't argue with you for the sake of old ties, just a minor warning. But now, you're here to insult my Dao tradition, surely you're being reckless. If I don't teach you a lesson today, you truly think I, Baishan, am a pushover!"

His voice was icy.

The True Profound Seal shone brighter, the power of heaven and earth swept through, winds roared, yet everything was contained within that space.

Crack, crack.

Cracks appeared on the Glazed Treasure Tree, and Bao Shu was somewhat frustrated.

"True Profound, stop! You really think you've got me figured out? If not for the spiritual awakening not occurring, who knows who'd win!"

He struggled to wield the Glazed Treasure Tree, but the trend wasn't abating.

Even he suffered certain backlash, his complexion turned pale, losing the previous solemnity of his treasure. He glared at Baishan angrily, appearing somewhat ferocious.

"Already breaking defense? Truly petty. Even if spiritual awakening occurs, what's the use? I'll let you have one hand!"

Taoist Baishan laughed heartily, seeming to anger people with impunity.

Gold light flashed in Ning Qi's eyes.

"Spiritual awakening?"

He vaguely understood something.

Clearly, Buddha Baoshu's face darkened more.

But he dared not retort, the pressure increased. If his secret treasure truly suffered some damage, causing him to lose the advantage in future opportunities, he'd regret it deeply.

Upon this thought.

Buddha Baoshu finally discarded his pride, shouting:

"Barbarian Emperor, why aren't you making a move? Let's take down this mad Daoist together!"

Everyone was startled.

Being treated like this by Buddha Baoshu, he must be a peer-level powerhouse.

Taoist Baishan's pupils contracted, speaking in a deep voice:

"Is the Barbarian Emperor here too?"

Ning Qi constantly searched, vaguely sensing a disturbance. He looked towards the sky, finally detecting a distant, elusive aura approaching. He realized this ethereal aura is a distinct trait of such people.

Hearty laughter echoed across the sky:

"Never thought the True Profound True Monarch would still remember me. I'm truly honored."

Under everyone's gaze.

A robust, towering man stepped through the void. Unnamed black beast hide was tied around his waist, emanating a terrifying aura, exposing a harmoniously built half of his chest filled with a sense of beauty.

His wild hair flew, hands behind his back, like a king surveying his domain, brimming with authority. No one dared to meet his gaze.

Taoist Baishan relaxed the strength of True Profound Seal, wary of the newcomer, feeling relieved.

Taoist Baishan gazed at the iron tower-like man before him, saying:

"Such a character as the Barbarian Emperor, Old Tao naturally remembers. But mixing with an old bald donkey like Bao Shu, isn't that losing your status?"

The Barbarian Emperor laughed and waved:

"True Profound True Monarch, you're mistaken. There's merely a misunderstanding between Buddha Baoshu and the True Monarch. Now, the Buddhist Sect belongs to my Barbarian Race, naturally one family. Today, we haven't come to offend, but to sincerely invite the True Monarch to join us in discussing major matters."

Everyone's spirit was uplifted, understanding the Barbarian Emperor's origin.

Emperor of the Northern Barbarian!

This identity is somewhat sensitive, making everyone find it incredible. After all, the Northern Barbarian has always been suppressed by Great Yan, how could such a powerful Barbarian Emperor suddenly emerge?

Never heard of him before.

Just from Taoist Baishan's attitude, it's evident this Barbarian Emperor is likely extraordinary.

Once the Barbarian Emperor finished speaking, he waved slightly.

Mysterious power gathered into a pitch-black Heavenly Wolf, its fierce aura causing everyone to tremble slightly, as if witnessing the existence of a Beast Emperor.

The pitch-black Heavenly Wolf howled towards the sky, lunging at True Profound Seal.

In an instant.

A two-on-one situation formed.

Taoist Baishan's expression changed slightly, True Profound Seal promptly withdrew all suppressive force, only protecting everyone, the ancient seal floated, flickering lightly, sensing the unfavorable situation.

The heavily pressured Glazed Treasure Tree completely relaxed, golden light emerged, and all the minute cracks instantly vanished.

The pitch-black Heavenly Wolf didn't pursue either, merely stood off against the Glazed Treasure Tree and True Profound Seal.

Taoist Baishan's gaze grew cold:

"So you've got assistance, I say Bao Shu, you bald donkey, how dare you be so presumptuous today?"

The Barbarian Emperor spoke solemnly:

"True Monarch, please calm down. Buddha Baoshu's previous actions were just testing whether the True Monarch was awakened. Any inappropriate conduct, please forgive, we're here today to invite the True Monarch to lead the entire Taoism into our Barbarian Race, and collectively serve as the national religion, also convenient for seeking opportunity together."

Everyone's heart was stirred.

Such ambition from the Barbarian Emperor!

He wants to unite Taoism and Buddhist Sect.

With some simple calculations, they understood the motive. The Northern Barbarian and Great Yan have never been on good terms. If Taoism and Buddhist Sect were united under their control, such

balance shift could cause incredible changes, especially considering the recent southern advance by the Northern Barbarian, everyone felt a slight chill.

Taoist Longshan felt similarly, turning to speak with Ning Qi about something, but was suddenly stunned, noticing his disciple was nowhere to be found. He instinctively searched but couldn't find him, causing unease. However, he chose to stay still due to the current situation.

The Barbarian Emperor was extremely sincere:

"The True Monarch should seriously consider, you can state any conditions."

Taoist Baishan merely pointed to the east, towards Yan State's direction:

"Isn't the Barbarian Emperor afraid of that one?"

Everyone held their breath.

Understanding who was referred to.

Great Yan's Martial Saint!

The Barbarian Emperor's expression turned slightly serious, then confidently smiled:

"Now that we've returned, some matters need change. I must think not only for myself but for future generations."

"As for him, choosing a different path than ours, whether he can remain at the peak is uncertain. Even if he can, this emperor fears not. Soon, I'll demand an explanation from him!"

His eyes brimmed with dominance.

Everyone's blood boiled, feeling a great era was about to unfold.

Return of the Saints?

Is it implying something?

Taoist Longshan was also somewhat excited.

Taoist Baishan seemed affected by the Barbarian Emperor's dominance, fell silent, Barbarian Emperor waited patiently, Buddha Baoshu kept silent, even with dissatisfaction wouldn't retort at this time.

But after a moment, Taoist Baishan still shook his head:

"I have no intention of interfering in your matters. Taoism isn't solely under my authority. Please, Barbarian Emperor, return."

With these words.

A hushed silence.

Everyone felt the atmosphere growing tense.

The Barbarian Emperor remained calm, staring at Taoist Baishan, while in the void, the pitch-black Heavenly Wolf growled softly, Buddha Baoshu raised his head abruptly, eyes showing subtle delight.

"Truly not considering?" the Barbarian Emperor asked.

Taoist Baishan calmly replied:

"Please leave."

The Barbarian Emperor laughed heartily, laughter shaking the heavens and earth.

"Well then, long have I heard of the True Monarch's esteemed name, but had never the chance to witness. Today's the day to behold, insulting Buddha Baoshu is akin to insulting this emperor."

He fixed his gaze on Taoist Baishan.

Eyes gathered fierce murderous aura.

Chapter 320: Ning Qi Takes Action

As the words of the Barbarian Emperor fell, the flowers, grass, and trees of True Profound Mountain all halted, the wind ceased to flow, and the void seemed to freeze. Every person's body stiffened, not daring to make even the slightest movement.

An invisible murderous aura spread throughout the air.

The Barbarian Emperor's eyes were indifferent, his hands behind his back as he looked at Taoist Baishan with a hint of discontent.

The dark Heavenly Wolf howled at the sky, a fierce intent completely locking onto its target.

Taoist Baishan was no longer as relaxed as before. He exhaled heavily, and the True Profound Seal emitted an even more intense light, with the Dao patterns on it appearing to come to life:

"Please enlighten me, Barbarian Emperor."

Obviously.

This Barbarian Emperor is even stronger than Buddha Baoshu.

Although none had returned to their peak, the mere differences in understanding the Martial Path were enough to exert completely different power.

The Barbarian Emperor said nothing and simply took a step forward.

In an instant.

Black flames ignited on the dark Heavenly Wolf, imposing an awe-inspiring divine might. The Heavenly Wolf roared, spitting out a pitch-black beam of light, and wherever it passed, tiny spatial cracks appeared, chilling to the bone, like a soul-reaping chain.

The True Profound Seal swelled with the wind, the Dao patterns on it manifesting mountains, rivers, and trees.

Everyone was shocked. When looking closely at the phenomenon, it was clearly the True Profound Mountain beneath their feet!

Taoist Baishan started without the slightest underestimation; it was completely different from the easy and leisurely manner when dealing with Buddha Baoshu before.

The immense True Profound Mountain apparition suppressed forward, the void stagnated, but the light beam the Heavenly Wolf spat was unstoppable.

Crack!

A faint shattering sound was heard.

Everyone was shocked to discover that the True Profound Mountain had been directly penetrated, with a fist-sized hole appearing, and in just an instant, countless cracks spread across True Profound

Mountain from that pit, like a grim web, and then with a bang, True Profound Mountain shattered instantly.

Yet that pitch-black beam of light still had remaining power, continuing to charge toward the True Profound Seal.

Taoist Baishan's face was stern.

He pinched a Taoist Technique seal with his fingers, caused the True Profound Seal to shake nine times, and ripples of power spread out, finally dispersing the pitch-black beam into nothingness.

Disciples of the True Profound Sect broke into a cold sweat.

Though the two seemed evenly matched, it was clear that Taoist Baishan was slightly struggling.

The Barbarian Emperor smiled faintly:

"The True Monarch may continue to consider my offer. Otherwise, today may not end well."

Taoist Baishan's eyes shone with unprecedented brilliance, provoked for the first time by a competitive spirit.

"Alright! As expected of the once legendary Barbarian Emperor. Meeting you today proves your reputation is well-deserved. I want to see how today won't end well!"

He reached out, and the Heavenly Crane Tree fell at his side, strands of light gathering upon it. The once completely dead tree suddenly showed a trace of vitality, causing Buddha Baoshu's eyes to widen with disbelief and darken further.

A thread of life merged into the True Profound Seal from the Heavenly Crane Tree.

The next instant.

An elegant and ethereal crane call sounded.

Under the True Profound Seal, a Pure White Immortal Crane stood in the air, its posture incomparably graceful, the True Profound Seal continuously shrinking, held by the Immortal Crane in its beak, the two's auras fused, standing against the dark Heavenly Wolf.

"Try again!" Taoist Baishan laughed boldly.

The Barbarian Emperor's eyes showed astonishment, followed by admiration:

"As expected of the True Profound True Monarch, seems you're not far from that step."

These words deepened Buddha Baoshu's dark expression.

Above the firmament.

The Immortal Crane took the initiative, wings spread wide like a Divine Sword descending from the heavens, sharp beams of white light raining down, causing the void to tremble, black dots appeared, contrasting with the white light, presenting a strange beauty.

Black flames surged out of nowhere before the Heavenly Wolf, incinerating the light rain into nothingness.

In an instant.

Terrifying waves erupted, and the Immortal Crane clashed with the Heavenly Wolf, truly like two Beast Emperors fighting to the death, claws tearing the void, making hearts tremble.

This scene deadlocked.

The Barbarian Emperor's eyes gradually became solemn, sincerely expressing:

"The True Monarch is even more formidable than I imagined."

Taoist Baishan smiled lightly:

"Over the years, it would be impossible to waste away, wouldn't progress at all be the same as being a useless person."

These words were ordinary but fell gratingly on Buddha Baoshu's ears, as if deliberately mocking him.

His expression turned cold as he stepped forward.

Before the Barbarian Emperor could move, Buddha Baoshu had already summoned the Glazed Treasure Tree ahead of time.

"I want to see what progress you've made!"

The Glazed Treasure Tree bloomed with seven-colored light, a Buddha Palm coalesced, bearing unmatched majesty as it descended upon the Immortal Crane battling the Heavenly Wolf.

Taoist Baishan was furious:

"Monk Baoshu, have you no shame?"

The Barbarian Emperor's brow also furrowed slightly. Originally engaged in magic combat, he was preparing to press Taoist Baishan with his methods, but was interrupted by Buddha Baoshu's intervention. Even if they suppressed Taoist Baishan, it wouldn't be an honorable victory, inconsistent with his usual style.

He was about to speak when Buddha Baoshu's voice transmission came first:

"Barbarian Emperor, you and I should act quickly to subdue this old Taoist, then force him to swear an oath. Otherwise, if someone else arrives, today's matters will be for naught."

The Barbarian Emperor fell silent immediately.

Ultimately, he acquiesced.

"Boom!!"

A thunderous roar echoed over True Profound Mountain.

Though the few had been restrained in their actions, Buddha Baoshu's move shattered some balance, the Buddha Palm suppression, the Immortal Crane seized by the Heavenly Wolf's biting attack, the power waves leaked out, striking fear into everyone's hearts even from just a slight aftershock.