

Cultivating 371

Chapter 371: You Are Blood Relatives

The reason Lan Yiyi didn't want to tell Qin Yun the truth about the Shared Fate Gu was because she was still conflicted inside, unable to confirm her feelings. Upon hearing Ning Qi say that Qin Yun still had some remaining consciousness at that time, she was suddenly at a loss.

Wouldn't that mean that the words she entrusted to Ning Qi were also fully known to Qin Yun?

Her face blushed a deep shade of red.

Qin Yun was stunned.

Then, he took a deep breath and bowed with a great gesture:

"Yiyi, I will remember your kindness for a lifetime, but if there is anything you need, I dare not refuse!"

Lan Yiyi turned her head slightly and said lightly:

"Who wants your kindness! Didn't you save me too? It's considered offset."

Qin Yun instantly gave a wry smile and waved his hands:

"Today, it was all thanks to Jiu. I did nothing."

The two of them finally snapped out of the slightly romantic atmosphere.

Lan Yiyi looked towards Ning Qi, her eyes filled with amazement and gratitude:

"Thank you!"

She couldn't have imagined Ning Qi was so strong, the main forces of the Southern Army being crushed without the slightest resistance, and all the Celestial Realm martial artists being as weak as children in front of Ning Qi. None of the mystical Gu insects could play any role.

Ning Qi waved his hand and smiled:

"It was just a small effort. Back then, I said I owed you a favor, naturally I should pay it back."

Lan Yiyi smiled faintly:

"Then I made a big profit."

Having escaped from a situation of life and death, Lan Yiyi's mood fully relaxed, but she soon felt the world spin around her as both spiritual and physical exhaustion surged in her heart. Her body softened and she was about to fall to the ground, but Qin Yun immediately supported her when he saw this.

Ning Qi extended his hand to point out a stream of Vitality Power, and Lan Yiyi's breath immediately steadied.

"Miss Lan, what plans do you have next? If you don't have a place to go, how about joining us back at the True Martial Mountain?"

Lan Yiyi was slightly taken aback.

She had grown up in the Southern Border since childhood, but now there was no place for her there anymore. In the vast world, where could she call home? A sense of melancholy involuntarily rose in her heart.

Qin Yun comforted:

"Yiyi, why don't you join our True Martial Sect? Then you would have someone to rely on."

His eyes carried a look of anticipation.

Lan Yiyi lowered her head without speaking, but the twisting of her clothes revealed her emotions, which had silently agreed.

Ning Qi laughed.

"Alright, after I resolve things, we'll go back together."

Qin Yun asked:

"Jiu, you intend to deal with the Gu God?"

On the way here, Ning Qi also mentioned some of his past grievances with the Southern Border. The bloody case at the Snow Plum Manor back then was committed by people from the Qing State stronghold, but tracing it back to its roots, it was because of the Blood Emperor Gu. Originally, Ning Qi didn't have the energy to deal with it, but now that he was here, he couldn't let such a thing that harms the world continue to exist.

He planned to kill it at the source.

Furthermore, the Blood Emperor Gu might be of certain help to him, so morally and rationally, he had to make a trip.

Upon hearing this.

Lan Yiyi's pupils suddenly contracted, and hatred filled her eyes. If it weren't for this Gu God, how could the tribe she grew up in have been mercilessly slaughtered?

"I can lead the way! But be very careful; the Gu God has already begun refining the Blood Emperor Gu. My role is to sacrifice all Life Essence to help him perfect the refining process. By then, he would be able to achieve the Flawless Martial Saint Realm!"

"But because I only have half of my life left, my Life Essence is incomplete, allowing me to barely survive until now."

Ning Qi seized upon a crucial piece of information.

"Flawless Martial Saint Realm?"

Lan Yiyi nodded firmly and said:

"Yes, I only just learned that if it's just a simple refinement of the Blood Emperor Gu, it would be like the Holy Pill of the Demon Sect, merely achieving a Fake Saint. But if the Gu God refines my Life Essence, he can become a true Martial Saint."

Unconsciously, she had already clenched her fists.

Since learning her fate, she had been filled with suffocation and pressure, never having spoken to anyone about it, and now she finally expressed it in front of Ning Qi and Qin Yun.

Ning Qi's expression gradually became serious.

This was beyond his expectations.

To achieve a true Martial Saint under the current world conditions?

That was exceedingly difficult.

As far as he knew.

Currently, only the Martial Saints of Great Yan, the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint, and the Profound Turtle Senior are true Martial Saints. But the first two had used a method of bloodline legacy that came at a great cost, while the Profound Turtle Senior's method was unknown, though it was presumably not easy.

And now Lan Yiyi was telling him that the Gu God intended to become a true Martial Saint?

Ning Qi frowned and asked:

"Miss Lan, I don't mean to belittle you, but achieving a true Martial Saint is no easy task. With the current world environment, it's almost impossible. Even though you are a Celestial Realm martial artist, I'm afraid your sole Life Essence isn't enough to help the Gu God undergo such a significant transformation."

Lan Yiyi shook her head and said:

"I am not merely a Celestial Realm martial artist. When I first became the Southern Saintess, a certain power was implanted in me by the Gu God. Later, I was made to cultivate a Secret Technique day and night. I still don't know what it is, but I suspect it to be the key, and it should have merged with my Life Essence."

Ning Qi's eyes focused:

"May I have a look at a few drops of your blood?"

Lan Yiyi readily agreed.

"Forgive me."

He extended a finger, and a few drops of blood gathered from Lan Yiyi's wrist. Ning Qi's eyes glowed with a golden light, and the peculiar power in it made Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi's hearts tremble. Even though Ning Qi was not looking at them, they felt as if they were being completely seen through.

Ning Qi examined carefully.

After a while.

He frowned in thought.

There seemed to be nothing unusual about it.

He then had Lan Yiyi recount the Secret Technique she had been cultivating all these years. After careful deduction, he discovered that what seemed to be a technique involving the cultivation of Life Essence was in essence already touching upon the secret of bloodline legacy.

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In an instant, his interest soared.

Originally, he thought this trip was just to deal with the so-called Gu God, but now it seems that there might be a big secret behind this Gu God.

"Jiu, how about it? Did you notice anything unusual?" Seeing Ning Qi return to normal, Qin Yun asked, worried that this unknown matter might harm Lan Yiyi.

Ning Qi slowly shook his head:

"I can't see it for now, just have some speculations."

He looked at Lan Yiyi and asked:

"Miss Lan, have you ever seen this Gu God?"

Lan Yiyi shook her head:

"Never seen him, although he tests my Secret Technique progress from time to time, he never reveals his true face. But do you have any guesses?"

For some reason, she suddenly became nervous.

Ning Qi said slowly:

"If my guess is correct, the Gu God might be your blood relative."

Lan Yiyi was dumbfounded, as if a bolt from the blue struck her mind.

"How could that be?!" She kept shaking her head, her voice a bit sharp.

Qin Yun's eyes also widened.

Lan Yiyi staggered slightly:

"My parents were devoured by beasts shortly after I was born, how could the Gu God be related to me? Are you mistaken?"

Ning Qi slightly shook his head:

"It's just my speculation for now. The truth can only be known when we meet the Gu God."

Lan Yiyi was at a loss.

Her worldview was shocked.

Qin Yun supported her, offering low murmurs of comfort.

If Ning Qi's speculation was true, it would be somewhat cruel for Lan Yiyi, almost saying that she was born as a tool, and her previous life was full of deceit and falsehood.

"Let's go meet this Gu God." Ning Qi became more vigilant.

Though his power was immense, he never underestimated anyone, especially when this Gu God appeared not to be simple. Naturally, he would be more cautious. Fortunately, after obtaining the Great Sun Compass, his combat ability improved, allowing him to safely retreat unless meeting with someone of the level of a Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint.

Ning Qi swiftly led the two through the sky.

Lan Yiyi pointed the way.

She had fled for a long time to escape here, but for Ning Qi, it was quick.

A series of poisonous mists changed Qin Yun's expression, but under the protection of the white True Dragon, they were as stable as a mountain.

Lan Yiyi had adjusted a lot.

But the closer they got to the Southern Border Ancestral Land, the more complicated her mood became. She dearly hoped Ning Qi's guess was wrong; she preferred the Gu God to be just a stranger.

The Ancestral Land was in sight.

Ning Qi's eyes glimmered with gold as he saw the variously styled stilted buildings, especially the central shrine that seemed to have a powerful aura slumbering, but fortunately, still within his dealing range.

He didn't rush forward but stopped in the void under the surprised gazes of Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi.

Since the enemy was sleeping.

Preparation was better.

With a thought, peculiar aura jade stones flew out from the Yu King Pearl. Then, as spiritual power merged within them, the jade stones shone even brighter with runes appearing on them.

Ning Qi waved his hand.

A total of eighty-one jade runes swirled and, under the amazed gaze of Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi, dispersed and landed in special positions around the Ancestral Land.

"Array, rise!" Ning Qi commanded internally.

Instantly.

Their eyes widened.

They saw that around the Ancestral Land, amidst the mists, white mist was rising. Initially thin, it quickly grew dense, and Qin Yun attempted to project his Divine Intent for perception but found himself unable to penetrate.

"This... this is..." Qin Yun, having heard Ye Qinghe and others speak about the True Martial inheritance, immediately reacted.

Ning Qi smiled:

"A small insight."

That day, he gained insight from the power of white mist in the True Martial Hall, realizing the wonderful changes when a Qimen Array combines with spiritual power. After spending time comprehending it, he managed to barely replicate the white mist of the inheritance place.

It's a good start.

Deploying it now amazed the two.

Ning Qi's idea was simple.

Advance to trap the enemy, retreat to delay, whichever the situation, inherently undefeated, why not?

At this moment.

Within the Ancestral Land, strong practitioners of the Celestial Human Realm gradually sensed something amiss.

The dense white mist around conveyed eeriness, even gradually invading inwards. They had been tensely guarding the Ancestral Land, waiting for good news from Red Flame and others, but unexpectedly faced such a change.

"Who is there?!"

Shouts erupted.

Strong figures from the Southern Border soared into the sky, unleashing their power without restraint. Vaguely, they saw three figures but couldn't perceive clearly. This bizarre scene tightened their hearts.

Ning Qi remained silent.

He gazed at the central shrine in the Ancestral Land and waved his hand, conjuring Celestial Swords. Under the reflection of the white mist, the Celestial Swords dotted like stars, mesmerizing and filled with killing intent.

The next moment.

The Celestial Swords descended in grandeur.

Boom!

All the Southern Border strong figures widened their eyes, watching the rain of Celestial Swords falling, the terrifying sharp aura intertwining, filling the Ancestral Land with Sword Qi.

Everything was reduced to dust.

Celestial Human Realm practitioners under such Celestial Swords were like ants, let alone others.

Cries of misery abruptly ceased.

The drum towers collapsed instantly.

Various strange Gu Insects bloomed like ephemeral flowers, showing their might before being wiped out.

Ning Qi's expression remained calm.

Once deciding to act, he would uproot the enemy.

Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi inhaled sharply at this scene, overwhelmed by the sheer power.

Yet, this was just part of the Celestial Swords.

Ning Qi formed a Sword Technique with his hands, transforming the remaining Celestial Swords into a giant Celestial Sword.

Rumble!

The giant Celestial Sword traversed space, descending like a mountain, with a heart-rending hum, targeting the still intact shrine.

The previous attacks were mere extras.

This strike was crucial.

Facing this unknown opponent, Ning Qi didn't hold back from the start.

"No!!!" Survivors screamed desperately.

The Gu God was their faith.

Under the tense watch of Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi, the giant Celestial Sword fell.

Boom!

A violent tremor echoed through the sky, and almost instantly, the shrine turned to dust, terrifying ripples spreading around, and the few survivors from the previous rain of swords dissolved into a blood mist in the aftermath.

The Southern Border Ancestral Land had become ruins.

"Is the Gu God dead?" Qin Yun couldn't help but whisper.

Witnessing Ning Qi's terrifying power firsthand, he was awestruck.

Dust filled the air.

But Ning Qi slightly furrowed his brows; in his perception, though the strong aura had weakened, it was clearly still present.

"Some tricks."

Originally, he wanted a grand attack while the opponent seemed to sleep, but it didn't work well. Clearly, the opponent had set some measures before sleeping.

Lan Yiyi's breathing suddenly became rapid, and her body trembled slightly.

She saw.

Amidst the dust, a dazzling golden light rose and then gradually gathered, transforming into a golden figure. The figure walked slowly through the dust, very slowly, yet a peculiar bloodline resonance kept throbbing. Lan Yiyi felt her heart beating rapidly, faster than ever before.

Her face twisted in pain.

Until the golden figure finally stepped out of the dust.

Qin Yun's pupils shrank sharply.

The figure was shrouded in a faint golden light, seemingly emanating from within, giving him a somewhat divine presence.

This was a handsome middle-aged man, and if looked closely, his brows and eyes bore six or seven likenesses to Lan Yiyi.

The middle-aged man looked at Ning Qi and the others, finally resting his gaze on Lan Yiyi. He smiled, an extremely bright smile:

"You truly are my good daughter, knowing your father is just one step away and proactively coming to me. It was worth my painstaking cultivation of you."

Chapter 373: Geng Metal Spirit Body

Is this the Gu God?

Ning Qi raised an eyebrow.

Looking at the face that closely resembled Lan Yiyi's, he knew his previous speculation was correct, and the words of the Gu God further confirmed it.

However, what Ning Qi was most concerned about was the faint golden light emanating from the Gu God's body.

It was precisely this golden light that blocked the giant Celestial Sword.

"This golden light seems to emit from within the body, possessing an extraordinary hardness, somewhat restraining the sharpness of the Sword Qi?" Ning Qi utilized the Golden Pupil of Illusion-breaking, already seeing through a few aspects of the truth.

Perhaps this is the Gu God's confidence.

Lan Yiyi listened to the words of the Gu God, her body trembling uncontrollably, and she screamed angrily:

"Get out! I'm not your daughter, get out of here!"

She was unable to accept it.

Qin Yun, tormented inside, wished he could take her place. He held onto Lan Yiyi's frail body, glaring angrily at the Gu God:

"Scum like you don't deserve to be a father!"

The Gu God was not angry, simply looking leisurely at Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi, he laughed and said:

"I wondered where that half of your Life Essence went, turns out you found yourself a suitable lover. However, your choice is not as good as your mother's. But it's just as well; you both came here together, saving me the trouble of finding you myself."

Though he laughed, his eyes remained utterly indifferent, even when looking at his own daughter.

Lan Yiyi's eyes turned red.

The person before her treated her as a tool; from birth to growth, her entire life had been manipulated, and much of it was false.

If she could, she'd tear off the head of the person in front of her with her own hands.

Qin Yun held her hand, coldly staring at the Gu God:

"Arrogant words, give me some time, and you'll know what despair is."

The Gu God sneered, now uninterested in conversing with these two pests; he knew the key today was not these two, but rather the silent young Taoist boy, the terrifying Sword Qi from his recent slumber still made him cautious. Although he had blocked it, it was enough to demonstrate the boy's extraordinariness.

"You must be the Ancient Saint Tianjian?" the Gu God smiled, "Shall we make a deal?"

Ning Qi said nothing, his Golden Pupil scanning, attempting to pierce through the essence of the golden light, seeking his opponent's flaws.

Through the flow of aura on the golden light's surface, he made some guesses.

It seemed to be a golden skeleton.

Seeing Ning Qi remain silent, the Gu God continued:

"Give these two people to me, and I owe you a favor. In the future, I'll assist you unconditionally once, how about that?"

He was very confident.

Once he stepped into the Martial Saint Realm, he would be among the few at the pinnacle of existence. Such a favor would be invaluable; at their level, desires were clear, nothing more than pursuing higher and farther paths.

He anticipated Ning Qi's response.

Yet Ning Qi smiled.

"Not interested."

The Gu God frowned.

"You can't do anything to me. Rather than anger a strong enemy, why not turn enemies into friends, and you don't have to pay any price."

As he spoke.

The golden light on his body suddenly surged, as if forming a golden Spirit Armor on his surface, showcasing strong defense.

He was demonstrating his power.

Ning Qi said calmly:

"Instead of that, I'm more interested in the skeleton inside your body."

The Gu God was both shocked and angry, angered by Ning Qi's domineering demeanor, surprised that Ning Qi saw through his reality. However, he quickly calmed his emotions:

"So be it, if that's the case, let us fight."

His gaze was indifferent, if the other side is unwilling to negotiate, then he shall battle. Even if it is an Ancient Saint, so what? He feared nothing!

As his words fell.

The golden light on his body suddenly radiated, a torrent of Spiritual Power burst from within him, mixing with that golden light to transform into a golden Fist Seal, pressing down like an ancient mountain, full of weightiness, freezing the entire space.

But Ning Qi moved faster.

The White Dragon roared to the sky, enveloped in mist, the dragon revealed its tail, then the True Dragon extended its claws, grabbing towards the Gu God, space twisting under the dragon claw. With a simple wave, Ning Qi whisked Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi into the White Mist at the back; such a high-level battle was better not to be too close, to prevent Ning Qi from having to expend effort to care for them.

Dragon claw and golden fist clashed violently.

The terrifying explosion resounded through the sky, waves of shock spread outward from the impact center, the Ancestral Land, already ruins, was ravaged once more.

The Gu God shouted:

"So the so-called Ancient Saint is nothing special!"

He laughed skyward, his figure soaring up, golden light mixed with Spiritual Power swirling around him, brimming with an explosive momentum.

Ning Qi raised an eyebrow slightly.

He understood.

The Spiritual Power controlled by the Gu God was vast, but his method of utilizing it was very crude.

"Is this Blood Emperor Gu so useful?"

Ning Qi recalled the origins of cultivating the Blood Emperor Gu, initially formed by extracting human blood essence and various precious herbs into Blood King Gu, then through battles among many Blood King Gus, eventually achieving the Blood Emperor Gu. Could it actually cultivate such dense Spirit through this method?

He was a bit amazed.

"It seems there might be extremely thin Spirit within the human body, the moment one's Root Bone forms, perhaps due to resonance with the world."

While pondering, his actions did not slow.

The White Dragon unleashed its power, spewing out bright white light, if observed closely, resembled drizzle with a bone-eroding might. The Gu God condensed another giant golden palm, but in an instant, it was pierced through with holes by the bright white drizzle.

Chapter 374: Geng Metal Spirit Body_2

The Gu God's expression changed.

The person's manipulation of spiritual power before him was far superior, with transformations that were miraculous and unfathomable, beyond his reach.

"But so what, I am merely a step away from becoming a true Martial Saint, even the Ancient Saints must retreat before me now!" he roared, his power erupting endlessly from within.

Obviously.

He had completely refined the power of the Blood Emperor Gu, feeling something boundless and infinite.

Yet Ning Qi's expression remained unchanged.

With numerous tests, he had gradually figured out the reality of the Gu God, who was stronger than most Fake Saints, with his source rooted in the golden skeleton within him.

At this moment.

Unceasing golden light burst from within him, then condensed into golden blades, but Ning Qi could see that his power manipulation was quite shallow. With a wave of his hand, he again conjured Celestial Swords like a sky full of stars.

All Swords Return to the Root!

In an instant.

The Celestial Swords and golden blades collided.

The roar was incessant.

Then a giant Celestial Sword formed and slammed down towards the Gu God with increased might.

But the Gu God sneered:

"I told you, you can't do anything to me!"

More and more golden light emerged from his body, which solidified into golden Spirit Armor on his surface. The edge of the giant Celestial Sword was blocked by the golden light of the armor, sending the Gu God flying a hundred zhang away. The golden light on his body dimmed considerably, but he appeared to be quite relaxed.

"How about that?" he laughed, more confident.

"No matter how strong your sword is, it's useless!"

His Body Protection Golden Light somewhat restrained such sword Dao sharpness.

Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi's expressions changed.

The strength of the Gu God was beyond their imagination, and most importantly, it seemed he was not afraid of Ning Qi's sword.

Yet Ning Qi remained calm:

"Really?"

The Gu God, in the midst of wild laughter, felt a sudden chill in his heart, and his pupils widened sharply, seeing a stunningly beautiful Sword Qi shoot out from the void, extending into a thin spatial rift, horrifyingly cutting toward the Gu God, extremely abrupt, yet immensely powerful.

It was precisely the Innate Divine Sword Qi that Ning Qi had nourished anew.

This Sword Qi had previously sliced off the left arm of the Red Sun Martial Saint, demonstrating its formidable power.

The Gu God was terrified.

He fully activated his Body Protection Golden Light, attempting to avoid this terrifying Sword Qi, feeling that if he resisted it head-on, he would pay a heavy price.

But alas.

It was too difficult.

The speed of the Innate Divine Sword Qi was frighteningly fast, reaching him in an instant.

The Gu God could only take it head-on.

He roared towards the sky, golden light enveloping him entirely, and a peculiar hum echoed in his body, Lan Yiyi's eyes widening:

"This is..."

Ning Qi made a sword gesture, and the Sword Qi sliced like a swimming dragon.

In a flash.

The golden light shattered, and the Sword Qi advanced forcefully, shredding the Gu God's body to pieces. He decisively shielded his head with all the golden light, and then, there was an incessant series of crisp ding-ding sounds, interspersed with the occasional crack.

When all sounds faded.

Qin Yun involuntarily drew a cold breath from the depths of his heart.

By now, the Gu God had changed dramatically, the Innate Divine Sword Qi had dissolved all the flesh of his body, leaving only a head, but on his torso, there was not merely emptiness. A golden skeleton glowed resplendently, its innards tightly wrapped in layers of golden light, with dense sword marks on the bones, some of which were neatly severed.

Such a terrifying scene clearly resembled a skull with a remaining human head, extremely menacing.

The Gu God shrieked with laughter:

"I told you, you can't do anything to me! Is this your strongest method? Now, it's you and me to the death!"

He was extremely aggrieved by Ning Qi's interference; otherwise, he wouldn't have had to pay such a price.

Ning Qi gazed intently.

On that golden skeleton, there was rich Spiritual Power, rivaling the Yu King Pearl and the Great Sun Compass.

Lan Yiyi's shocked voice sounded:

"Gold-devouring Gu, you've actually fused with the Gold-devouring Gu! Nourishing the Blood Emperor Gu wasn't meant for direct consumption but for merging the Gold-devouring Gu with yourself!"

Fearing Ning Qi might not know the details and suffer a loss, she spoke rapidly:

"The Gold-devouring Gu is a legendary Divine Gu from our Southern Border, which feeds on metal, refining its essence to feed back to the host, metalizing its skeleton. This Divine Gu has an extremely high potential, relying solely on postnatal nurturing; the more and higher quality metal it devours, the stronger it becomes. This golden skeleton is the power derived from fusing with the Gold-devouring Gu!"

"He is now the Gold-devouring Gu, and the Gold-devouring Gu is him, this madman!"

Ning Qi came to a sudden realization.

The puzzle unravelled.

The Gu God's cultivation of the Blood Emperor Gu was never meant to directly reach the Martial Saint Realm; perhaps he knew that reaching it this way involved flaws and limitations. So he took a different approach, using the power of the Blood Emperor Gu as a guide to merge himself with the Gold-devouring Gu, creating such a framework rich in Spiritual Power.

Ning Qi had previously wondered why the Gu God could manipulate so much spiritual power, and now he had his answer.

However.

Ning Qi still had a question.

He wondered where the Gu God got this Dharma Method from; he wouldn't believe it if the Gu God had devised it on his own.

At this moment.

The Gu God finally stopped his laughter, looking mockingly at Lan Yiyi:

"Truly my good daughter, commendable insight. How about it, how is my cast Geng Metal Spirit Body?"

He slowly turned around, unabashedly displaying his golden skeleton.

It was evident he was extremely satisfied with it.

"As long as you offer your Life Essence, merging our blood, this Geng Metal Spirit Body will be complete, and I shall stand at the pinnacle of the world!"

He spread his arms, golden arm bones gleaming brightly.

Lan Yiyi's face darkened.

No wonder such a powerful Sword Qi couldn't harm the Gu God earlier, the root was here.

Ning Qi smiled:

"This Geng Metal Spirit Body is indeed remarkable, it can deepen my foundations further."

Such a Spirit Body could rival a gold-attributed Martial Saint Secret Treasure.

Ning Qi was tempted.

There was a fervent glint in his eyes.

Feeling Ning Qi's gaze, the Gu God was extremely uncomfortable, knowing all too well that Ning Qi now viewed him as prey, he sneered coldly:

"Feel free to see if your sword can sever my Spirit Body, but be careful not to break your teeth!"

He had originally been incomplete as a Geng Metal Spirit Body, the flesh being more of a restraint; now that he's fully released the Spirit Body, he can unleash his spiritual power more wantonly and unobstructedly.

In doing so, he inadvertently countered the effects of the injuries.

Golden light burst everywhere, spiritual power surging immensely.

Ning Qi had to admit, this was the most potent spiritual power he'd ever seen, especially since even those like the Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint paled in comparison.

"But I am unafraid."

Ning Qi chuckled lightly.

"Who said I only have my sword?"

Ning Qi chuckled softly.

The Geng Metal Spirit Body was of course commendable, sufficient to further deepen his foundation.

Ning Qi's heart was indeed moved.

The Gu God could tell this and sneered coldly, "You might as well try to see if your sword can sever my Spirit Body. Be my guest, but be careful not to break your teeth!"

Initially, his Geng Metal Spirit Body was not perfect, and his flesh was more of a shackle. Now with the Spirit Body fully released, he could act more freely and uninhibitedly.

Vast amounts of spiritual power exploded, and Nanjiang did not deny that it was the most intense spiritual power he had encountered so far; even those Heaven-Slaying Martial Saints had not unleashed such power before.

But he was fearless.

"Do you think I only have my sword?"

Ning Qi chuckled softly.

This Geng Metal Spirit Body is as remarkable as it appears, enough to be compared to a gold-attribute Martial Saint Secret Treasure.

Yet Ning Qi had already discerned the true form of that golden skeleton at the start, using the Golden Pupil of Illusion-breaking to see through its vulnerabilities.

"You're unfinished Geng Metal Spirit Body is hard, but it may not be impassable."

When the White Dragon spat the fine rain of light earlier, it was a test, letting Ning Qi discover more vulnerabilities.

Ning Qi raised his hand.

In an instant, two beams of light emanated upward, one glistening with a pearly luster, another radiating fiery red.

When all the light fell, the lustrous white object turned out to be a spinning, smooth Treasure Pearl, while the fiery red one was a Great Sun Compass emitting a blaze.

Ahead of the Gu God's attempt to interfere, a White Dragon had already struck, with spiritual power from the Yu King Pearl surging, elevating its might, its entire body gradually transforming to a pale blue hue. The Great Sun Compass on the other side also burst into radiance.

The two moved in tandem, one of water, one of fire, their might skyrocketing!

Chapter 375: Refining Spiritual Remains

In the void.

Two awe-inspiring true dragons appeared, their formidable presence causing Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi to sway in mind and spirit, especially with the stark contrast of their water and fire attributes, which provided a strong visual impact.

Instinctively, the two felt that these Water and Fire Two Dragons were rather strong.

But Gu God already exclaimed in surprise:

"How is this possible?"

His only remaining eyes on his head widened, appearing both ferocious and comical.

As far as he knew, the Ancient Saints at this stage could at most activate one Secret Treasure, yet the person before him had activated two at once, and what's more, had unleashed two completely different spiritual power attributes.

"Who on earth is he?"

Gu God was somewhat panicked; he naturally recognized that the compass was likely the one Ning Qi had snatched from the Red Sun Martial Saint, a matter that had already spread widely, making the whole world apprehensive of this ferocious Ancient Saint Tianjian.

But Ning Qi clearly wouldn't give him time to think it over.

The previous probing was all for this moment.

Now that he had confirmed Gu God's realities, he naturally wouldn't be polite anymore.

After obtaining the Great Sun Compass, his control of spiritual power had reached a new height, and it was an opportune time to test his skills on Gu God as he executed a spell, and the Water and Fire Two Dragons instantly surged forth.

It could be seen.

These two spiritually evolved true dragons had some sort of connection, making each other's might even stronger, far beyond simply having an extra true dragon.

The water and fire attributes inherently clashed, but Ning Qi, having comprehended myriad paths, had long formed distinct insights on various Intent Realms. He had reached the Ultimate Realm in both Water Intent Realm and Fire Intent Realm, and now effortlessly combined them, forcefully achieving water and fire symbiosis through the fusion of Yin and Yang, amplifying each other.

The true dragons roared.

The dragon flame, with scorching heat, was extremely overbearing, causing the golden light to retreat step by step.

Fire-refined True Gold!

This imperfect Geng Metal Spirit Body indeed had incredible defensive power, with particular effectiveness against the Sword Dao sharpness, but its weakness was more pronounced, that being an increased fear of the fire attribute.

Under such spiritual dragon flames, all the Golden Fist and Golden Palm were burned away completely.

Gu God roared in anger, exerting all his strength to unleash spiritual power.

However, he still couldn't stop the decline and was completely suppressed.

He was filled with anger and fear, and finally, biting his teeth, he stopped attacking, switching to full defense. He had completely accepted the fact that he couldn't handle Ning Qi, but that didn't mean he would surrender. Gu God's eyes flickered as he perceived the White Mist shrouding everything around.

Initially, he hadn't paid much mind to the power of this White Mist, but now, it could very likely block his escape route.

That's right.

He already had the intention to retreat.

"Ancient Saint Tianjian, do you really want us to fight to the death?!" Gu God roared, the bones of his whole body starting to feel boiling hot, he realized this was not good, "Today, I concede defeat, you can leave with them."

Ning Qi chuckled softly:

"Life or death struggle? Sorry, it's you die, I live."

His gaze was indifferent.

From both an emotional and logical standpoint, he wouldn't let Gu God off at this time.

With a finger spell, the two true dragons transformed once again, spiritual power surging as their bodies expanded, directly subduing the escaping Gu God, his small little schemes naturally couldn't escape Ning Qi's eyes.

Yin!

The true dragons' long chant, their intertwining bodies forming a dual-dragon entrapment stance, looked like one entity from a distance, resembling a true dragon with two heads and two tails, winding and rotating with the mysteries of Yin and Yang hidden within.

In the next moment.

The two true dragons simultaneously exhaled breaths.

One was water, extremely cold; the other was fire, extremely hot!

In the shocking gazes of Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi, Gu God was trapped within, the disparate powers bringing him extreme pain, his miserable cries echoing through the Ancestral Land.

Water and Fire Refines the Golden Bone!

This scene was somewhat shocking.

Hearing Gu God's wails of pain, Lan Yiyi felt a slight sense of satisfaction in her eyes. Just now, she had completely understood, no matter her life being manipulated in the past, that was only the past. As long as she broke free from the shackles, her future life would still be under her control!

Those past false experiences she no longer wanted to ponder deeply over as they had no meaning, seizing the future was most important now.

She glanced sideways at Qin Yun, feeling the temperature of her hand, and smiled sweetly.

The two exchanged glances, understanding each other's intentions.

"Ah!!!!!!!"

"I was wrong, Ancient Saint Tianjian, I was wrong!!!"

Gu God's miserable pleas for mercy kept sounding, initially, he tenaciously cursed, but gradually, he couldn't hold on, for such agony was too terrifying.

Water and fire spiritual power rampaged and intertwined over the Geng Metal Spirit Body.

The feeling was a hundredfold more terrifying than being sliced open.

He felt like his soul was about to collapse.

The Body Protection Golden Light continuously dissipated, the flesh atop his head slowly vanishing.

This wasn't Ning Qi having some kind of sadistic tendency, instead, he wanted to obtain a more useful spiritual remains. If it were violently refined, he could indeed kill Gu God more easily, but the obtained remains would greatly lose their spiritual nature, which he wouldn't want to see.

He had already regarded these spiritual remains as his own possession.

Slowly simmering the frog over warm water, gently wearing down the marks within, was the only way to possibly obtain the complete spiritual remains.

Gu God was still wailing, but his voice grew increasingly weak.

Ning Qi merely watched calmly, seeing the previously arrogant Gu God now begging humbly. He just shook his head, if the opponent had remained stubborn till the end, he would have had a bit more respect, but now, it only made him disdainful.

Chapter 376: Refining Spiritual Remains_2

Time passed.

It's unclear how long it has been.

The two true dragons of water and fire above the horizon had also shrunk significantly. Finally, the true dragons stopped moving. Ning Qi gestured with his hand, and the true dragons transformed into spiritual power, entering the Yu King Pearl and the Great Sun Compass.

At this moment in the void, there was no trace of the Gu God's figure.

There was only a skeleton, faintly glowing with golden light, floating up and down, without a trace of flesh or organs, as if it were a perfect piece of art.

Joy rose in Ning Qi's eyes.

This was an unexpected delight.

Originally, he thought that this journey would at most allow him to see the famed Blood Emperor Gu and its wonders, but he didn't expect to obtain such a gold-attribute spiritual remains. The Gu God's meticulous scheming ultimately served as a wedding dress for Ning Qi.

Ning Qi casually pointed a stream of sword qi at the spiritual remains, instantly producing a crisp clang.

"The hardness of this spiritual remains surpasses any divine weapon I have ever seen. In the future, it could be used to forge a secret treasure," Ning Qi smiled.

However.

What attracted him most about this spiritual remains was its rich gold-attribute power.

In this way, he would gain another foundation.

During this period.

He had been deducing the path to advance to the Martial Saint.

He had ambition.

Not merely wanting to step into the Martial Saint Realm, but hoping to break through several realms with the opportunity of spiritual awakening.

According to Taoist Baishan, on the day of spiritual awakening, as spiritual qi is reborn, it would have unprecedented activity, greatly beneficial for a Martial Saint breaking realm. The Ancient Saints planned to use this chance to regain their peak in one swoop.

Ning Qi did not have such past foundations, so he could only find another way.

Martial Saints cultivate the five elements magical power. He can only forcibly supplement his foundation with five-element external objects, striving to soar to the sky with this opportunity; otherwise, if he missed this chance, even if he had spiritual objects later, he would have to progress slowly.

Now he has obtained three treasures: the Yu King Pearl, the Great Sun Compass, and the Geng Metal Spirit Remains, corresponding to water, fire, and gold attributes, respectively. If used properly, at the time of spiritual awakening, he could step into the Third Realm Martial Saint in one go!

By then.

With his foundation, he would be fearless even if those Ancient Saints returned to their peak, and could even easily suppress them!

Even more easily than now.

With this thought, his heart burned a bit.

It's a pity, these spiritual objects are too rare, otherwise, if he could gather five-element spiritual objects, he might reach the Fifth Realm Martial Saint in one go!

Immediately.

Ning Qi shook his head and laughed, feeling he was a bit too greedy. Gaining three of them was already extremely fortunate, and he didn't dare to expect the rest too much.

Clearing away many distracting thoughts.

Ning Qi waved his hand, placing the Geng Metal Spirit Remains into the Yu King Pearl.

Everything was peaceful and calm.

Qin Yun and Lan Yiyi walked over, looking at the Southern Border ancestral land that had completely turned into powder. Qin Yun's eyes were full of amazement. Only now did he realize how abnormally powerful his Ninth Martial Brother had become. He shook his head with a bitter smile, realizing how ridiculous his past attempts to catch up with his Ninth Martial Brother had been.

Lan Yiyi was also a bit in a daze. The scene of being trapped on the altar, ready to be sacrificed, was just like yesterday, but now it had turned into nothingness.

The Gu God, who controlled her life, had also completely perished.

Finally.

She lifted her head, a newfound vitality overflowing in her eyes, even her breathing seemed lighter.

She was free!

Lan Yiyi stepped back and solemnly bowed to Ning Qi:

"Many thanks to the Ancient Saint Tianjian! This grace cannot be forgotten!"

Ning Qi waved his hand and smiled:

"It was just a favor for a favor, Miss Lan. You used half your lifespan to save my Eighth Martial Brother. Otherwise, who knows when he would wake up. Now that I've slain the Gu God in return, we owe each other nothing."

Saying this, he teasingly added:

"After all, the title of Ancient Saint Tianjian is a bit too formal. Perhaps it won't be long before Miss Lan must call me Ninth Martial Brother."

He quietly delivered an assist.

Upon hearing this.

Lan Yiyi's face instantly flushed red.

Qin Yun also coughed lightly, his eyes shifting around, and their previously held hands unclasped as if electrocuted.

Ning Qi couldn't help but laugh heartily.

Then, he was grabbed by Qin Yun and led to the other side.

The previously tense atmosphere following the battle instantly dissipated.

After laughing.

Ning Qi began to carefully examine the Southern Border ancestral land, now devastated by the battle's aftermath. Unveiling layers of ruined debris with the power of heaven and earth, as expected, yielded nothing.

It didn't surprise him; he merely searched instinctively.

In battles of this level, it's almost impossible for anything useful to be left intact, even divine soldiers in the eyes of Celestial Human Realm martial artists would be blasted to pieces.

"Miss Lan, may I ask where your Southern Border Gu insects are inherited from?" Ning Qi asked with some curiosity.

Compared to the universally shared martial path system, Southern Border Gu insects were indeed intriguing. They could be compatible with martial arts and had various marvelous uses; for example, the Shared Destiny Gu that Lan Yiyi used earlier saved Qin Yun's life.

The Blood King Gu and the Blood Emperor Gu can be used for breaking realms.

And now the Gu God's Gold-devouring Gu almost allowed him to form a Geng Metal Spirit Body, which was truly extraordinary.

This naturally made him somewhat inquisitive.

Lan Yiyi thought for a moment and said:

"Where the inheritance came from is no longer ascertainable. According to the unanimous account from the Southern Border tribes, it seems our bloodlines differ from those of Great Yan people, allowing us to awaken a lifebound Gu insect through Southern Border Secret Techniques."

"In the Southern Border, everyone has only one lifebound Gu, awakened through a secret technique during coming of age, and it stays with them for life. My lifebound Gu is the Shared Destiny Gu, while the Gu God's lifebound Gu is the Gold-devouring Gu."

Ning Qi asked:

"Where do these lifebound Gu come from? Why haven't such miraculous creatures been heard of before?"

Lan Yiyi shook her head and replied:

"To be precise, before I awakened, the Shared Destiny Gu didn't exist. During my coming-of-age ceremony, the power of bloodline and sacrifice descends upon the prepared primal Gu, causing its mutation."

"Primal Gu, in essence, is just a chosen creature based on personal preference, such as cicadas, snakes, centipedes, toads, serving as vessels. Before mutating into various lifebound Gu, they are the most ordinary creatures."

Ning Qi suddenly realized:

"So, the power source is actually your bloodline and that mystical ceremony?"

Lan Yiyi nodded and said:

"Exactly, tribes have performed experiments with Great Yan people, and even with the ceremony, they cannot awaken a lifebound Gu. Even mixed marriage, with half Southern Border bloodline, doesn't work. Only pure Southern Border people can, hence, Southern Border people never intermarry with outsiders."

Qin Yun's expression was slightly stunned.

Ning Qi was even more curious.

He had a feeling that the ceremony seemed like a prayer for a powerful existence's blessing of power.

Lan Yiyi continued:

"However, in recent years, it's unknown why the lifebound Gu appearing in the Southern Border tribes has become increasingly weak, with fewer strong lifebound Gu emerging. Especially as martial artists advance to later stages, the role of lifebound Gu diminishes, most serving auxiliary purposes."

"By comparison, I believe the martial path is truly the heaven-reaching great way."

"If you're interested, I can give you the Southern Border's baptism secret techniques."

For Lan Yiyi, these things didn't matter anymore. Almost all top experts of the Southern Border died in internal strife or at Ning Qi's hands, and those remaining couldn't cause any trouble. She had little interest in dealing with the remnants.

Ning Qi nodded with a smile.

He indeed held interest and planned to study them when he had time.

In his view, the Southern Border tribes' bloodline was merely a medium to initiate the baptism ceremony, perhaps replaceable by other means.

Subsequently, Ning Qi asked another question on his mind:

"Do you know where the secret techniques taught by the Gu God came from?"

According to his intuition, with the Gu God's background, he shouldn't be aware of such secret techniques capable of completing a Geng Metal Spirit Body through bloodline inheritance; moreover, the Gu God apparently knew much about the Ancient Saints.

He always felt there was more to this than met the eye.

Chapter 377: Private Territory

Lan Yiyi was taken aback.

"This... I don't know either. It's absolutely secret; even those clan elders might not know."

Ning Qi frowned and said:

"Then is this secret technique something the Gu God always had?"

Lan Yiyi's eyes lit up, and she quickly said:

"Probably not! Before me, there was no Saintess in the Southern Border, which might mean the Gu God hadn't obtained this secret technique before."

Qin Yun also noticed the anomaly:

"So, the Gu God acquired this secret technique only in the recent decades!"

Ning Qi nodded slowly.

He asked this question because he had this consideration.

If the Gu God had this secret technique earlier, he would have long started cultivating a direct daughter as a tool, not start now.

"Then... is it possible that someone deliberately sent this secret technique to the Gu God? If so, what is their purpose?"

It's not surprising Ning Qi thought this way.

It's just that the secret technique and the compatibility with the Blood Emperor Gu and Gold-devouring Gu are too high. If it's said that the Gu God accidentally obtained a secret technique that just happened to help him achieve the true Martial Saint in this era of great changes, he absolutely wouldn't believe it.

It's too coincidental.

Coincidentally as if it was arranged.

At this thought.

He became vigilant in his heart.

If that's the case, wouldn't he have unintentionally disrupted someone else's plan?

"I just hope I'm overthinking it," Ning Qi thought to himself.

Those who can make such plans are likely the most top-tier old monsters, comparable with the likes of Heaven-Slaying Martial Saint and Great Yan Martial Saint. Even Taoist Baishan and the others wouldn't qualify, because even they can only wait for Spiritual Awakening to restore their cultivation.

Lan Yiyi and Qin Yun looked at Ning Qi and felt a chill in their hearts.

Ning Qi exhaled lightly.

"Forget it, thinking too much is useless, let's leave early."

Speaking of which.

He waved his hand, and the jade runes that were originally hidden in various places in the void started emitting light and returned in reverse. Although Ning Qi didn't give the Gu God a chance to escape this time, the existence of the White Mist Maze still provided some deterrence.

At this moment, the power of White Mist dissipated.

Ning Qi operated various Martial Path Intent Realms, manipulating the power of Heaven and Earth to crush the Southern Border ancestral land, which was already a ruin, a few more times.

The purpose was simple.

Just to eliminate the traces of the previous battle as much as possible.

After completing all this, he sighed slightly in relief, and the three of them flew away into the sky.

The originally bustling Southern Border ancestral land became completely silent.

...

No one knows how long had passed.

In the ruins of the silent Southern Border ancestral land, a figure shrouded in a black robe slowly walked over.

He looked at the silent scene ahead without any fluctuations on his face.

"Is it really dead?" the black-robed man murmured.

He waved his hand; spiritual power surged, and the originally calm void suddenly boiled, with trajectories of power beginning to manifest, crisscrossing.

He observed carefully.

"Water and fire two spiritual powers, should both be used via the Martial Saint Secret Treasure; besides, there are also various Martial Path wills, Sword Dao, Blade Path, Wind Intent Realm, Thunder Intent Realm... Seems a lot of people came."

"Is it that they discovered something? Or is this worthless thing just plain unlucky?"

The black-robed man speculated in his heart.

In the end.

He finally waved his hand to eliminate the power trajectories in the void, silently sighed:

"Alas, mud that can't hold the wall. But, the person responsible for today's event still needs to be checked. If deliberately opposing me..."

He coldly hummed inwardly, his gaze gradually becoming icy.

After a moment.

The black-robed man also vanished into thin air, and the Southern Border ancestral land returned to complete silence once again.

...

True Martial Mountain.

The return of Ning Qi and the others stirred quite a wave.

After all, when he left, he had already made sure Yuan Tiancheng informed Luo Wentian, lest he remained unaware of Ning Qi's departure.

"Miss Lan, it's been a long time," Luo Wentian said upon seeing Lan Yiyi return with them, knowing the matter was resolved perfectly. He smiled, particularly as he saw Qin Yun still maintained his original handsome appearance, his smile grew even brighter.

Ye Qinghe circled Qin Yun exaggeratedly several times, clicking in surprise:

"Who is this handsome fellow, turns out it's Ba. It seems we aren't impressive enough and need others to make the effort to catch someone's attention."

She winked.

Everyone laughed.

Qin Yun scratched his head awkwardly.

To be honest, he initially wanted to maintain the appearance of his life force exhausted to keep himself vigilant, but thinking about meeting Lan Yiyi this time, he instinctively didn't want to show her that old appearance.

Lan Yiyi looked a bit shy.

Ning Qi smiled and stepped in to mediate:

"Third Senior Sister, don't tease Eighth Senior Brother. Here's some good news—starting today, Miss Lan will officially join our True Martial Sect!"

This is something Lan Yiyi had already decided on the way here.

The crowd burst into cheers.

"Welcome, welcome!"

In the crowd.

Lin Ruhua, holding a baby, and Jiang Baishan exchanged smiles. Not long ago, Lin Ruhua successfully gave birth to a son named Jiang Ming. Seeing Lan Yiyi and Qin Yun like this, they couldn't help but think of themselves before.

Lan Yiyi looked at the genuinely smiling faces, somewhat dazed, but a warm current flowed through her heart.

From now on, she has completely no relations with the Southern Border. Originally she felt somewhat empty, but now she gradually feels a sense of belonging. She already observed the concern these same disciples of Qin Yun had for him when she came to True Martial Mountain to treat Qin Yun, and now she senses it even more clearly.

Lan Yiyi's lips curled up into a faint smile.

Chapter 378: Private Territory_2

A moment later.

Ye Qinghe and Lin Ruhua led Lan Yiyi down to familiarize herself with the situation.

Ning Qi briefly discussed what happened in the Southern Border with Luo Wentian. Upon hearing that the top combat forces of the Southern Border were virtually wiped out, Luo Wentian clicked his tongue, but became solemn after hearing Ning Qi's speculation about the person behind the Gu God.

"Even if this speculation isn't true, it's better to be cautious."

To be honest.

Since the collective awakening of the Ancient Saints, Luo Wentian has been under the most pressure within the True Martial Sect.

Because every now and then there comes news of once-powerful Martial Path sects being wiped out, and the former giants are powerless before the Ancient Saints. After offending the Ancient Saints for various reasons, they face extinction.

These precedents naturally make him vigilant.

Ning Qi comforted him:

"Senior brother, you don't need to be overly worried. I'm not weak in strength now."

Luo Wentian's face immediately showed a smile.

Ning Qi is the pride of everyone in the True Martial Sect. Others only think that he is an Ancient Saint reincarnated, but only those closest know that Ning Qi is not any reincarnated Ancient Saint. He achieved such accomplishments in just twelve years.

If this truth were known to the world, it would surely shock everyone.

They have no doubt that as long as Ning Qi is given enough time, becoming the strongest in the world is only a matter of time.

"There's one matter I need to tell you, you hadn't been gone long when the Town North King arrived," Luo Wentian said solemnly.

Ning Qi was taken aback.

Town North King Li Xuanyang?

He actually came.

Ning Qi suddenly realized why he hadn't seen Li Ling earlier.

Speaking of the Town North King, he has been incredibly prominent lately.

Back when the Barbarian Emperor led an army to break through the Town North Stronghold to test the strength of the Great Yan Martial Saint, the Town North King was severely injured blocking the Barbarian Emperor and went missing.

But after the Great Yan Martial Saint appeared, the Town North King soared high.

After being cultivated with great care by the Great Yan Martial Saint, the Town North King rapidly advanced in strength and was granted a Martial Saint Secret Treasure. He mastered its mysteries and,

not long ago, battled with an Ancient Saint, and surprisingly, though at a disadvantage, he could still hold his ground.

This instantly made the Town North King famous, even more noticeable than the Flame Martial Grand General and Blade Demon.

Ning Qi naturally knew these matters, and he estimated that the Great Yan Martial Saint must have employed methods to help the Town North King refine the Secret Treasure, and might have even bestowed Martial Saint Techniques upon him, waiting for the spiritual awakening to soar.

This is a very normal occurrence, as even Ning Qi is preparing diligently, organizing resources for Blade Demon and others. Consequently, figures like the Great Yan Martial Saint would likely do even more, and the Town North King certainly isn't the only one.

"He is representing the Great Yan Martial Saint to meet you and allocate a territory belonging to our True Martial Sect."

Upon saying this.

Luo Wentian's face showed some excitement.

Whenever an Ancient Saint appears, the Great Yan Dynasty, as a sign of respect, allocates a territory for the Ancient Saints, granting them complete control that essentially allows them to be a nation within a nation. But after Ning Qi's battle with the Red Sun Martial Saint at the True Martial Legacy site, the Great Yan Dynasty remained silent.

Luo Wentian originally thought the Great Yan Martial Saint might have sensed some of Ning Qi's true capabilities and thus hadn't given him the same treatment as other Ancient Saints, but now it seems that's not the case.

This is undoubtedly great news for the True Martial Sect.

Originally, having control over True Martial City already gave them a taste of power, and now the allocated region is much more extensive, and will become a solid foundation for the True Martial Sect.

Luo Wentian was already eager.

In the future, he wanted to transform this piece of territory into a fortress.

Ning Qi nodded with a smile:

"Very well, let's go meet him."

A moment later.

Ning Qi once again met this long-unseen Town North King. The Town North King now exuded an even stronger and more imposing aura, but Ning Qi had already become stronger himself, feeling nostalgic recalling the first time he met the Town North King during the Demon Sect's attack by five Celestial Beings, at the time he took the Town North King as his goal.

But now, he had already left him far behind.

"Greetings, Senior Tianjian." The Town North King's attitude was good.

He was also examining the young Taoist in front of him, who appeared extraordinary, as if ready to ascend into Feather Transformation.

He too felt a deep sense of emotion.

When he first learned of True Man Tianjian, the other party was merely scraping the bottom of the Celestial Being List, and gradually soared high, until now, realizing he was an Ancient Saint reincarnation. He had seen Ning Qi's true form several times, although he sensed something special, he hadn't thought deeply, only realizing now, after the battle with the Red Sun Martial Saint, that this was the real True Man Tianjian.

Ning Qi said with a smile:

"No need for such formality, Shiyi is my junior apprentice-brother. You and I can speak as peers."

He didn't want to take advantage of the other.

The Town North King was momentarily stunned, then showed an even richer smile in his eyes, having already met Li Ling, who was enormously satisfied with life at the True Martial Sect, his cultivation progressing at an unexpected pace.

This reminded him of the past.

Li Ling, in admiration of True Man Tianjian, wanted to join the True Martial Sect, and unexpectedly Tianjian ended up becoming his senior apprentice-brother.

With such a powerful Ancient Saint as an elder brother, the Town North King was of course delighted for his son.

He didn't think Ning Qi was merely joking because he understood these reincarnated Ancient Saints wouldn't disregard their current-life identities.

"Li Ling is a willful child, so I'll trouble Taoist Brother Tianjian to look after him," the Town North King cupped his hands and smiled, "I've come today representing the Great Yan Martial Saint to bestow upon you a personal territory, and I ask your forgiveness. It's not that the Martial Saint doesn't want to come in person, but he already entered seclusion a few days ago."

Ning Qi nodded in realization.

"Seclusion at this time, could it be preparation for the spiritual awakening?"

His heart skipped a beat. The actions of these peak elites serve as a guideline in some ways, calculating the time; there's only two or three months left according to what Taoist Baishan mentioned a year ago. The day of spiritual awakening draws near.

Ning Qi waved his hand:

"I see, it's a trivial matter, no harm."

The Town North King breathed a sigh of relief, fearing the other might be angry, given the depth of power possessed by the one who could cut off the Red Sun Martial Saint's arm, among the finest of Ancient Saints.

According to the Great Yan Martial Saint, this individual at peak strength should be at the Fifth Realm Martial Saint level.

Thinking this.

He didn't delay, taking out a map from behind and spreading it before Ning Qi, pointing at the True Martial Mountain location:

"I wonder if you have a place in mind, if not, shall we divide the region centered around True Martial Mountain?"

Ning Qi glanced at it and said:

"Let's divide the region around True Martial Mountain."

True Martial Sect's foundation lies here, so naturally, there's no need to move. He had already discussed this with Luo Wentian earlier, and now made a seamless decision, casually marking a prefecture's worth on the map.

This is the boundary limit of past Ancient Saints' territories.

The Town North King raised his thumb:

"Taoist Brother has keen eyes."

Originally, he intended to offer some suggestions, but now it seemed the other party had probably studied well, this region includes a lot and can easily develop.

Ning Qi chuckled softly.

Then, with an astonished look, he saw the Town North King draw his finger on the map again, including the parts of the True Martial Mountain Range that Ning Qi hadn't marked, expanding the territory to nearly twice the original size.

The Town North King smiled warmly:

"The Martial Saint once said that Taoist Brother Tianjian is extremely powerful and should be given the highest respect. Adding a bit more impoverished territory makes no difference."

Ning Qi understood.

This was the other party showing goodwill, and not just ordinary goodwill.

Although named after True Martial, the True Martial Mountain Range holds vast and plentiful resources, contrary to being an impoverished land. True Martial Mountain is merely one of its borders; Ning Qi once found the White Ape's peak among them.

He couldn't help but feel that indeed having allies in the court simplifies matters.

"Thank you." Ning Qi said solemnly.

The Town North King's smile grew even stronger.

Originally loyal to the Great Yan Dynasty, he found things strange after learning certain things about the Flame Martial Grand General. No matters how generous the Great Yan Martial Saint was, he couldn't find peace.

Whenever he saw the face of the Great Yan Martial Saint, his heart thumped wildly.

Chapter 379: Spiritual Awakening

Watching the Town North King depart, Ning Qi and Luo Wentian exchanged a smile.

One has to admit.

The Town North King is very generous.

Not only did he expand Ning Qi's private territory, but he also provided many conveniences, a treatment no other Ancient Saint had received.

Ning Qi's strength is one aspect, but the most important factor is Li Ling's presence here. The more prosperous the True Martial Sect, the more care his son receives.

However, what he doesn't know is, even without these privileges, the people of the True Martial Sect would not mistreat Li Ling.

"The busy time is coming again." Luo Wentian rubbed his hands in anticipation.

With nearly two more regions, the responsibility on his shoulders is heavy. If he can't absorb these forces for his own use, it would just sound good, unlike managing a martial sect, which requires attention to many details.

Ning Qi nodded and said:

"Indeed, but the most important thing is to focus on the upcoming spiritual awakening and see if there will be changes within the territory."

After learning the essence of spiritual awakening from Taoist Baishan, Ning Qi realized that when the world undergoes a transformation, the size of these two regions might increase tenfold or more!

And most importantly, it is possible that rare treasures may be born.

This is the fundamental reason why the Barbarian Emperor and many Ancient Saints want to claim a piece of the land for themselves.

The more auspicious the land, the greater the probability.

The Barbarian Emperor occupies the grasslands, which seem vast, but in reality, may not even compare to a region of Great Yan.

...

Time continues to pass.

The atmosphere of the world is clearly changing.

With the return of one Ancient Saint after another, even fools knew something was amiss. Many people exhausted their efforts to get close to the Ancient Saints, attempting to uncover the truth. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, some scattered information gradually spread.

There will be a great transformation between heaven and earth!

At that time, mountains and rivers will expand, transforming into ancient peaks and divine rivers. Moreover, the energy in heaven and earth will be more abundant, making cultivation easier for martial artists, with hopes of returning to the peak flourishing era of the ancient martial path!

With the release of this news.

Everyone was in an uproar.

Records indicate that many Martial Saints were born in every ancient era, but for some unknown reason, after the decline, the difficulty of becoming a Martial Saint greatly increased. Later, at most, only one or two could emerge in an era.

But now, with the world transforming and cultivation becoming easier, a brand new era is about to unfold.

Especially those martial artists in the Celestial Human Realm are even more expectant.

Most of the martial artists in the Celestial Human Realm of this era only cultivate a single realm, because stepping into the Martial Saint is hopeless. They pursue stronger combat power in a shorter time. But now, many people are reigniting their hopes, even at great cost, to cultivate again.

Of course.

Some remain cautious.

But at some point, more definite information started to emerge, along with some fragmented Martial Saint inheritances!

This further excited the Martial Realm.

Every time a fragmented Martial Saint inheritance appeared, it would cause a bloody storm, as if an invisible hand was driving everything behind the scenes.

The world was in turmoil.

While Ning Qi sat peacefully on the True Martial Mountain, watching idle clouds pass by.

His mindset is very calm now, with everything in place, only waiting for the east wind. Once the spiritual awakening day arrives, he can soar to great heights.

Not long after returning from the Southern Border.

Taoist Longshan had already successfully entered the Celestial Being Perfection Realm.

And Qin Yun also began a closed-door cultivation, fully refining the Heaven-Reaching Pill. According to Ning Qi's estimation, in another month, he can also reach the Celestial Being Perfection Realm, with a high probability of reaching it before the spiritual awakening.

Counting it like this.

Aside from Ning Qi, the True Martial Sect already has three Celestial Being Perfection martial artists including Taoist Longshan, Qin Yun, and the Blade Demon.

By then.

With this once-in-millennia heavenly opportunity brought by the spiritual awakening, they can reach the Martial Saint Realm in one go.

If they miss this opportunity, they will have to rely on day-by-day hard work to slowly refine their skills, which will take much more time.

Ning Qi only felt a little sorry that his other fellow disciples couldn't take advantage of this opportunity to soar. Unfortunately, even the fastest cultivating Jiang Baishan among them is now still some distance from the Primordial Core Realm. The various Secret Techniques created by Ning Qi have already made their cultivation speed extremely fast, but alas, their foundations are not deep.

However.

Ning Qi estimated that after the spiritual awakening, their cultivation speed would still improve.

Aside from advancing their cultivation.

There are various Secret Techniques to be developed.

The Ten Thousand Paths Nirvana Technique was continuously refined by Ning Qi, eventually predicting a Secret Technique suited for Blade Demon and the others according to their specialized paths. Although it can't completely eliminate the Life Poison like the Ten Thousand Paths Nirvana Technique, it is more effective than the Secret Technique handed to Ning Qi by the Profound Turtle at weakening the Life Poison.

In addition.

There were also the bloodline awakening Secret Techniques for the White Ape and Zhuang Chen.

After many trials, Ning Qi discovered that all roads lead to the same path: the key for them to safely awaken their bloodline and Sword Bone during the spiritual awakening is to minimize the impact of the Life Poison.

Given that.

Ning Qi re-initiated the prediction from the Ten Thousand Paths Nirvana Technique. However, since both White Ape and Zhuang Chen were far from the Realm of Three Flowers Perfection and unable to condense the Three Flowers, he explored alternative solutions, developing suitable techniques based on their unique characteristics.

Zhuang Chen was based on his Innate Sword Bone, while the White Ape was based on his Spirit Beast bloodline.

This way, they can also weaken the impact of the Life Poison during their awakening, and Ning Qi would be watching over them. Even if it doesn't succeed, no major problems would arise. However, Ning Qi did not mention the existence of the Life Poison to them, only handing over the Secret Techniques for them to comprehend, stating that they would be of great use during the spiritual awakening.

Chapter 380: Spiritual Awakening_2

Under the Enlightenment Tea Tree, Ning Qi lies back comfortably.

Previously, when the Water and Fire Two Dragons refined the Golden Bone, the blood flesh essence of the Gu God scattered in the void was not wasted, and Ning Qi collected it. After all, in some respects, it could be considered 'Martial Saint flesh.' Ning Qi brought it back, refined it into a Blood Pill, and used it to nurture the Enlightenment Tea Tree.

Therefore, the Enlightenment Tea Tree is now even more lush, already covering half of the Seeking Tao Institute.

Ning Qi slowly unfolds a letter.

It was delivered by someone sent by Taoist Baishan.

The content was very simple.

"Two months later, spiritual awakening, don't miss the opportunity!"

Ning Qi sits up, his eyes shining brightly with a rich look of anticipation.

In fact.

In recent times, he often feels some sporadic changes between heaven and earth. Sometimes, he follows his instincts to observe the heavenly phenomenon at night, feeling even more obvious, as if some amazing change is approaching, but he cannot calculate the exact time.

And now.

Taoist Baishan and other Ancient Saints know the specific date.

In the letter.

Besides advising Ning Qi, Taoist Baishan also mentioned that he is about to retreat, adjusting his state to the peak, and will come to True Martial Mountain as soon as the spiritual awakening occurs. He suggested that Ning Qi, if not having important matters, should best not go out, and nurture his Essence, Qi, and Spirit to the extreme for better results.

After reading, Ning Qi couldn't help but let out a long breath.

"It's finally coming!"

His eyes sparkled with divine light, the long-awaited spiritual awakening finally had a definitive day.

"Two months, enough for Eighth Brother to reach Celestial Being Perfection, and also allow others in the sect to make more preparations."

Ning Qi stretched his body and silently remembered Taoist Baishan's kindness even though he often bantered with him; deep down, he knew the help from him was significant.

...

Time flowed continuously.

Unbeknownst to others, the True Martial Sect's foundation was growing at an astonishing speed, the disciples' strength changing daily, enough to leave people astonished.

And as the day Taoist Baishan mentioned for spiritual awakening draws closer and closer.

The True Martial Sect completely closed off the mountain, temporarily closed the True Martial Sword Monument and the Tower of Ten Thousand Paths, no longer open to the public.

These actions caught the attention of some, causing alarm in their hearts.

Currently, rumors of great changes in heaven and earth are growing more intense in the Martial Realm.

Not only martial artists but even ordinary people are fearful because it's said that after the great changes, the earth's pulse will surge, the heaven and earth will be more than ten times the past, which may not be good news for mortals, but rather could be a catastrophe.

Fortunately.

The Great Yan Empire is not without measures.

One army after another enters major cities with strong individuals stationed.

Centering around the State City, radiating outward, the capital city and the county town assist, trying to move all Great Yan citizens into cities, those unable or unwilling to move are left to their fate.

Such drastic actions almost confirm the rumors of great changes in heaven and earth.

Some forces caused chaos during this process, trying to seize resources, but were suppressed by Great Yan elites with thunderous actions; however, greed in human hearts persists, some believe it's a once in a millennium opportunity, suppress one wave, there comes another.

On the eve of spiritual awakening.

The world has already presented a situation of stability amidst chaos.

Ning Qi knows all this and can only sigh lightly.

Spiritual awakening, naturally, is an immense opportunity for the strong, but what about ordinary people? The earth's surge tenfold is not good news, it means the familiar regions will disappear, they must adapt to the new environment.

"If one day, all under heaven tread on the Martial Path, what a grand spectacle it would be?"

Ning Qi murmured.

Among the billions of Great Yan citizens, many may have unparalleled martial talents but lack the opportunity to step onto the Martial Path, as many struggle to live, like Luo Nianchu; if not by chance joining the True Martial Sect, he would have gradually faded into the crowd without the opportunity of being the chief disciple of the third generation today.

But this thought was fleeting.

Ning Qi is not yet capable of such, perhaps one day, if he could benefit all beings under heaven and receive reciprocation, that would be a win-win.

He simply buried this thought deep within.

What he can do now is take care of those around him.

As the day of spiritual awakening draws nearer.

True Martial Mountain also begins to tighten security, preventing anyone from taking advantage of chaos, even inspecting the martial artists coming and going in True Martial City.

And on True Martial Mountain.

Ning Qi gathers Taoist Longshan and all the senior brothers around the Seeking Tao Institute, fearing any accidents during spiritual awakening he couldn't manage.

Thus.

Day by day passes.

The premonition in Ning Qi's heart grows stronger, he gradually perceives some signal in the heaven and earth, sometimes raising his gaze to High Heaven, feeling the source of spiritual awakening is there!

On this day.

Everyone gathers at the Seeking Tao Institute, tense.

"Jiu, is it certain today?" Even the ever-calm Taoist Longshan couldn't help but subconsciously swallow, much less the others, like Zhuang Chen and Li Ling, the younger ones trembled, some will of the heaven and earth already affecting them.

Ning Qi gently nods:

"It's coming."

His eyes carried anticipation and fervor.

As the words fell.

Boom!!

A sound loud enough to make heaven and earth lose their voice reverberated across the globe, at this moment, everyone heard this great sound no matter where they were.

All people were shocked, looking toward the void above.

This kind of shock was like the Tao Sound, directly hitting the soul.

Boom!!

Boom!!

...

Sound after sound shook the heavens, and at this moment, all beings instinctively looked at the void above.

Some felt fear, awe, fervor, anticipation, greed...

The nine sounds of the Tao, like the heavens opening a valve.

At this moment.

The ancient saints everywhere excitedly opened their eyes:

"It awakened! Our plan succeeded!"

Ning Qi, listening to these nine sounds, had Spiritual Light continuously emanating in his mind, already entering the Enlightenment Realm, this Tao Sound contained Supreme profoundness, and if it could be utilized, it would be immensely beneficial.

This is the primordial sound, more useful than any martial art between heaven and earth.

With the last sound of the Tao falling.

The power of heaven and earth in the void began to fluctuate, the Celestial Human Realm martial artists were astonished to find, that the power of heaven and earth they used comfortably in the past now became like a runaway horse, utterly unresponsive.

Ning Qi was prepared early, completely unflustered.

"Spiritual Qi is about to awaken!"

With this whisper, almost everyone saw shining, dazzling light erupt in the void!

That was the manifestation of abundant spiritual Qi!

Ning Qi was exceptionally excited.

He had extracted spiritual Qi from the Martial Saint Secret Treasure, and even synthesized a small amount to test, but now seeing the true spiritual Qi in the world, he realized how tiny his previous amount was.

At this moment.

Almost infinite spiritual Qi surged from the void, as if some valve had opened, a flood gushing out, from High Heaven, from the void, from every inch of land around.

The power of heaven and earth grew more violent.

Rich spiritual Qi merged with it, creating a force full of infinite vitality, or perhaps, resurrecting.

The ancient saints sensed the familiar power, filled with emotion, some even laughed toward the sky.

Spiritual Qi!

Extremely abundant spiritual Qi once again filled every inch of void in the heaven and earth!

With such a surge.

Everyone under heaven sensed the existence of spiritual Qi, even ordinary people, this magical power filled the world, already starting to show signs, countless people cried tears of excitement, not knowing why, only feeling it's a soul's instinct.

Spiritual awakening, spiritual Qi reemerging.

The world begins its great transformation!