

## **Divine King 1151**

Chapter 1151: Star River Mercenary Corps

On the official road of East Field County, a trade caravan was slowly moving forward at this moment.

The heavy wagons left two deep ruts on the muddy road.

This was a caravan heading to the Imperial Capital, with as many as ten wagons, all escorting extremely precious Ice Jade Stones.

Dozens of Martial Artists were riding fine horses at the front and rear, escorting the caravan as it moved slowly forward.

The man leading them was handsome and imposing, with a tall and straight posture, and his sharp gaze swept around, making any lurking danger unable to hide from his eyes.

Meanwhile, inside one of the wagons behind them, a slightly chubby middle-aged man looked at the intact goods at the back, only then satisfied to put down the wagon curtain.

Inside the wagon, besides the middle-aged man, there was also a woman of extremely beautiful appearance.

This woman was dressed as a man, which made her look exceedingly handsome.

"Father, are we really going to the Imperial Capital?" The woman, seeing her father, asked somewhat unhappily.

"Daughter, don't worry. Father has sold all his family assets this time to buy these Ice Jade Stones. Once we reach the Imperial Capital and sell these Ice Jade Stones, father will earn a huge amount of money. By that time, we'll buy a house in the Imperial Capital and find you a good family to marry." The middle-aged man said with a smile, looking at the woman with eyes full of affection.

"Father, what are you talking about, I'm not going anywhere. But father, what if we encounter bandits while transporting these Ice Jade Stones?" The woman thought for a while, and asked with some worry.

"Don't worry. Father spent a large sum of money to hire the most powerful Star River Mercenary Corps of the entire empire this time. Their leader, Captain Li Qingxian, is a Saint-level expert. With him personally guarding, no petty thieves would dare to attack." The middle-aged man said proudly.

"Saint-level?" The woman was surprised to hear this, and lifted the wagon curtain to look at the imposing middle-aged man in front, her eyes filled with curiosity.

"Father, I've heard that Saint-level masters are very powerful, capable of cutting rivers and splitting mountains with a single finger. Is it really true?" The woman couldn't help but ask.

"It's true, daughter. Captain Li Qingxian is indeed a big figure. If it weren't for him coincidentally heading to the Imperial Capital, with the little money your father has, he wouldn't even consider it." The middle-aged man said with a smile.

Upon hearing this, the woman also revealed a look of longing on her face.

"Stop!"

However, at this very moment, Li Qingxian, riding on a fine horse, suddenly shouted sternly.

Everyone was instantly stunned.

Could something have happened?

"Captain Li, what's going on? Why did we suddenly stop?" The wealthy merchant stepped out of the wagon, looking at Li Qingxian and asked.

The girl was also curious and looked forward.

But her gaze did not fall on Li Qingxian, but rather on a young man in front.

At this moment, Li Qingxian's sharp gaze was also fixed on the young man ahead, as if facing a formidable enemy.

"Who are you, sir? Why are you blocking our way?" Li Qingxian immediately looked at the young man and asked.

Only then did the rich merchant notice someone was blocking the road ahead, but upon seeing that it was just one person, and a young man at that, he immediately breathed a sigh of relief.

"Don't misunderstand, I blocked the road without any other intentions. I just saw you were heading to the Imperial Capital, so I hope you could give me a ride. I am willing to pay the fare." The young man said with a smile.

Indeed, this young man was none other than Xu Nian.

"You want to go to the Imperial Capital?" Li Qingxian turned his head to look at the wealthy merchant, seemingly seeking the merchant's opinion.

After all, the owner of these wagons was the wealthy merchant, and everything still needed the merchant's consent.

"Since it's on the way, let's travel together. The fare will be free, but there's no room left in the wagons, so you'll have to ride a horse." The wealthy merchant said with a smile.

"No problem!" Xu Nian responded with a smile.

Soon, a member of the Mercenary Corps brought over a horse.

This member was extremely robust, but had a hint of a smile on his face.

"The horses of our Star River Mercenary Corps are quite wild, be careful. Whether you can ride on the horse's back depends on your skills." The burly man said with a smile.

The surrounding people also smiled when they heard this, seemingly wanting to see if this young man dared to get on the horse.

Xu Nian smiled, realizing that the burly man was not provoking him.

But rather stating a fact, that the horse indeed seemed a bit wild.

Because these horses were no ordinary horses, but Demon Beasts. Although their strength wasn't strong, they at least possessed the strength of a Nine-star Warrior.

An ordinary person would never be able to ride on a horse's back.

Of course, such low-level Demon Beasts were almost no different from ants to Xu Nian.

"Kneel!" Xu Nian said lightly.

In the next moment, the unruly demon horse knelt down on its front legs.

"This..."

The members of the Mercenary Corps around were instantly filled with surprise.

They all knew well that their war horses were so obedient only because they were raised by them from a young age.

To outsiders, however, they were extremely fierce. So why was it so docile in front of this young man now, like a little lamb?

The girl sitting inside the wagon also showed a surprised expression upon seeing this scene.

When she first saw the horses, she found them extremely majestic and wanted to touch them.

But who would have known that the horse would open its huge mouth, almost swallowing her whole.

She was so scared that she didn't dare approach these horses again.

Now seeing the horse so obedient to this young man, her curiosity grew even more.

Xu Nian mounted the horse's back, and the demon horse obediently stood up, even affectionately rubbed its head against Xu Nian's leg, in a fawning manner.

Even Li Qingxian showed a surprised expression at this scene.

Even he couldn't make these demon horses so pleasing.

But no matter how he looked, he couldn't see through the young man's strength in front of him. In fact, in his view, this young man wasn't a Martial Artist at all, because there was no spiritual energy fluctuation from him.

It's not his fault, actually. At Xu Nian's level, the control over spiritual energy had already reached a perfect level.

How could there still be any spiritual energy fluctuations?

"I didn't expect this demon horse to listen to you so well. In that case, you can ride it. If there's anything, just let me know, I'm Liu Ergen." The burly man smiled, seeming a bit simple-minded.

Perhaps because of Xu Nian taming the war horse, the members of the Star River Mercenary Corps also looked at Xu Nian with more recognition in their eyes.

"Alright!" Xu Nian agreed.

Then broke into a smile at the people around him.

Finally, his eyes fell on Li Qingxian.

Seeing the latter looking at him, Xu Nian cupped his fists with a smile.

Li Qingxian also cupped his fists, then immediately turned his head and continued on the journey.

Xu Nian didn't mind this, turning back to look at the wagon, noticing that the girl inside was really looking at him, and immediately smiled and waved.

The girl was so startled that she hurriedly pulled up the curtain, her face blushing.

Seeing this, Xu Nian smiled helplessly, and said to himself, "Xu Nian, Xu Nian, to get the Starry Sky Fragment, you even used your looks."

Chapter 1152: Ice Jade Marrow

Xu Nian rode on a mighty warhorse, holding a stone the size of an eyeball in his palm.

At this moment, the stone was floating in his palm, spinning at an extremely fast speed.

To the point where no one could see what the stone really looked like.

In fact, these people didn't know that the stone was originally as large as a human head.

It had been completely compressed by Xu Nian, which is why it was so small.

Indeed, this was the fourth level of Gravity Space Profound Argumentation that Xu Nian had comprehended.

Concentrating all gravity onto one point, forming an extremely terrifying impact.

Xu Nian called this move the Heavenly Heavy Finger!

This move may be called a finger skill, but in fact, swordsmanship, spear technique, and even knife technique were all fully applicable.

Now, relying on the Void Break and Heavenly Heavy Finger, Xu Nian could stand undefeated even against Zhong Mo.

Of course, to defeat Zhong Mo, he needed to further enhance his strength.

While Xu Nian continued to play with the stone in his hand, honing the power of his Heavenly Heavy Finger.

The other side of him was watching Li Qingxian ahead.

The reason he joined this Star River Mercenary Corps caravan halfway was actually for the Star River Fragment.

According to the Dao Tian Rat, the Starry Sky Fragment was divided into four parts.

Now he had already obtained three parts of the Starry Sky Fragment, with only the last part remaining.

The fragment was crucial for finding the location of the second part of his "Dan Sea Species Green Lotus" cultivation technique.

So, it was of utmost importance to him.

Just now, when he flew over the caravan, he suddenly had a very strong feeling.

He could sense that the Starry Sky Fragment was on someone in the caravan.

But who it might be?

Xu Nian wasn't sure either.

He scanned the entire caravan with his spiritual sense but found nothing.

However, he was certain that feeling was not wrong.

Because the sense came from the fragment in his hand, so the fourth piece must be in this caravan.

And Xu Nian suspected that the Star River Fragment was likely with Li Qingxian.

Because the name of the mercenary corps was Star River.

Of course, Xu Nian could kill them all and search everyone, but he couldn't do it. After all, he wasn't a heartless demon.

He could only slowly explore and see who was carrying the broken star map.

"Brother Ergen, your leader seems quite formidable." Xu Nian tried to get friendly with Liu Ergen.

Hoping to extract some information from Liu Ergen.

"Of course, our leader is a Saint Level expert, and a Nine-star level Saint, a long spear that dominates all directions," Liu Ergen said proudly.

"Nine-star Saint, so impressive? Brother Liu, do you know why your mercenary corps is called the Star River Mercenary Corps?" Xu Nian asked again.

"Why is it called Star River Mercenary Corps? I never really thought about it; the name was given by our leader," Liu Ergen said cluelessly.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian looked at Li Qingxian once more.

Now he was eighty or ninety percent sure that the Star River Fragment was in Li Qingxian's hands.

Because among those present, only three people owned a storage ring.

Li Qingxian had one, the wealthy merchant had another, and the last one surprised Xu Nian.

It was a coachman, a man in middle age.

As for the coachman's cultivation, it wasn't low either, possessing a three-star Battle Emperor level.

However, it seemed no one recognized his identity.

Xu Nian saw through all this but was too lazy to expose it.

After all, whatever the coachman's motives, it had nothing to do with him.

Moreover, it seemed the coachman wasn't targeting this caravan; otherwise, with his Battle Emperor level cultivation, slaughtering the entire caravan and mercenary corps would be easy.

"No matter, start with Li Qingxian, then the merchant, and finally probe the coachman," Xu Nian decided, planning to talk to Li Qingxian first.

If the Starry Sky Fragment was really in Li Qingxian's hands, and if Li Qingxian was willing to hand it over voluntarily, that would be best.

"This young brother, you probably have other motives for entering our mercenary corps," Li Qingxian approached Xu Nian proactively just as he was thinking of talking to him.

"Yes, I'm looking for a fragment of a star map. I wonder if the leader has seen it," Xu Nian stated directly.

"A fragmented star map? I haven't seen it, so I think I might not have what you're looking for," Li Qingxian thought for a moment and said.

Xu Nian constantly observed Li Qingxian's expression with his spiritual sense.

As long as Li Qingxian lied, Xu Nian would notice.

And according to his investigation just now, Li Qingxian didn't seem to be lying.

Of course, it could also be that Li Qingxian's acting was too strong, and Xu Nian didn't see through it.

"Since the leader hasn't seen it, my apologies for intruding. However, I do wish to head to the Imperial Capital, and I hope the leader doesn't mind me joining," Xu Nian said with a smile.

"I don't mind, but I hope the young brother understands that I also have responsibilities. Since I've agreed with my employer, I will guard the employer's belongings, and I'll investigate any potential dangers," Li Qingxian stated.

"That's only right; please, leader, go ahead," Xu Nian responded with a smile.

Li Qingxian smiled and then walked away again.

Xu Nian watched Li Qingxian leave without showing a trace of disappointment.

On the contrary, he didn't expect this conversation to yield unexpected gains.

Initially, Xu Nian's spiritual sense was not only observing Li Qingxian but also examining the coachman.

When Xu Nian mentioned the Star River Fragment, the coachman's eye twitched slightly.

Although it was subtle, Xu Nian's spiritual sense was extremely powerful, capable of detecting all details, so he saw the coachman's expression clearly and plainly.

Thus, the coachman became the prime suspect.

"It's getting late; let's settle down and rest. We'll head to the Imperial Capital tomorrow," Li Qingxian announced.

Upon hearing this, the mercenary corps members clambered down and skillfully began pitching tents.

Some started fires to roast food.

Xu Nian found a spot and sat down but didn't rush to look for the coachman.

Because he discovered something interesting.

Initially, he simply thought the wealthy merchant was transporting ordinary Ice Jade Stone.

However, during an unconscious probe, he discovered there was more to these Ice Jade Stones.

Among the ten carts of Ice Jade Stone, six carts contained Ice Jade Marrow.

Though Ice Jade Marrow differs from Ice Jade Stone by just one character, their value differs significantly.

Ice Jade Marrow is an essence formed over millennia from Ice Jade Stone, often found in only a small bottle if ever discovered.

But here, the Ice Jade Marrow amounted to as much as a hundred bottles.

Ice Jade Marrow is extremely useful even to Earth Immortal Realm experts, especially during the Early Stage and Middle Stage of the Earth Immortal Realm, which demand a lot of True Essence.

Usually, four bottles of Ice Jade Marrow can completely transform Immortal Essence for an Early Stage Earth Immortal expert.

And Xu Nian reckoned that these hundred bottles of Ice Jade Marrow would be just enough to achieve a breakthrough to the Middle Stage of the Earth Immortal Realm.

"Who would've thought there are such treasures on the Tianhen Continent? Truly an unexpected gain," Xu Nian mused with a playful glint in his eyes.

Chapter 1153: The Mysterious Coachman

"Big brother, are you also a martial artist?"

Just as Xu Nian was contemplating how to reasonably acquire that Ice Jade Marrow, a crisp voice sounded.

Xu Nian glanced over and found the girl dressed as a boy blinking her big eyes at him.

The girl looked about eighteen years old, at the prime of her youth, with exceedingly beautiful features.

If she were to change back into female attire, she would definitely be an exceedingly rare beauty.

"Sort of!" Xu Nian thought for a moment and replied with a smile.

This girl just looked like a simple, innocent girl who hadn't experienced any hardships and had no defense against strangers.

"Then can you take me as a disciple and teach me cultivation? My dad has always forbidden me from cultivating, but I've always admired martial artists and wanted to soar through the skies." The girl said excitedly.

"You want to cultivate, so why not go to Captain Li? He's a Saint Level expert," Xu Nian replied with a smile.

He was also happy to chat with such a pure girl, not because he had any intentions towards her, but simply because he found her adorable, like a little sister.

"Captain Li seems a bit aloof, and I don't know how to approach him, plus he's a Saint Level expert; I'm afraid he won't take me as a disciple," the girl pondered.

Xu Nian smiled, thinking to himself, "You're afraid a Saint Level expert won't accept you, so you come to beg me, an Earth Immortal Realm?"

Of course, these words were not shared with the girl.

Even if he did, she might not understand.

Perhaps in her heart, Saint Level was already the pinnacle.

"Since you want to learn cultivation, I can teach you, but I won't accept you as a disciple. Of course, before that, I need to see if you're suitable for cultivation," Xu Nian said.

"Then go ahead!" The girl hesitated for a moment, then stood up.

Xu Nian smiled and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Aren't you going to check my talent? Isn't that done by touching the bones?" the girl innocently replied.

Xu Nian couldn't help but smile wryly; he didn't need to touch bones to see someone's talent, a simple thought would reveal it.

However, Xu Nian hadn't checked earlier, but now, he had.

Needless to say, this little girl's talent was really quite dreadful.

For the people on the Tianhen Continent, such talent was basically a death sentence, just impossible to cultivate.

Of course, this was only for the people on the Tianhen Continent; Xu Nian's perspective was different.

"Your talent is indeed very poor, almost no possibility for cultivation," Xu Nian said.

Upon hearing this, the girl's face immediately turned gloomy, her expression sad.

"Alright, I understand! Thank you, big brother." The girl said a sentence and then turned to leave.

Xu Nian saw this and shook his head helplessly.

"Wait a moment, I'm not done talking. Even though your talent is poor, it's not impossible for you to cultivate. However, your path will be ten or even a hundred times harder than others. Would you still be willing to cultivate?" Xu Nian asked seriously.

"I want to!" The girl hurriedly exclaimed with excitement.

"Alright then, I'll teach you a cultivation technique. You must not pass it on to anyone else, remember—anyone. Can you promise me that?" Xu Nian asked again.

"I can, I swear!" The girl hastily said.

"Swearing isn't necessary; just remember my words. Unless absolutely necessary, don't reveal your technique to anyone else, or it could bring disaster upon you," Xu Nian said.

The girl solemnly nodded.

Seeing this, Xu Nian no longer hesitated and directly imparted a cultivation technique into her mind.

The girl immediately fell into a dazed state, beginning to digest the memories in her mind.

Xu Nian wasn't in a hurry, letting her slowly absorb this part of the memory.

After all, what he taught her was a top-tier Immortal Level Technique.

Such a technique could save her a significant amount of time in cultivation, but how far she could cultivate and what realm she could reach was entirely up to her own fate.

It took a full ten hours for the girl to completely come to her senses.

At this moment, she had fully organized the technique in her mind and understood how precious the technique Xu Nian had imparted to her was.

"Xiaoxi thanks Master!" Wu Xiaoxi immediately bowed and said.

"I told you I'm not your master, my name is Xu Nian; you can call me Brother Xu Nian." Xu Nian said.

"Alright, I'll call you Brother Xu Nian. Brother Xu Nian, my name is Wu Xiaoxi. If I follow this technique, can I become a martial artist?" Wu Xiaoxi asked.

Xu Nian nodded and said, "As long as you diligently cultivate, you can become a martial artist and maybe even surpass a Saint someday. Also, take this pill; it will aid your cultivation."

Xu Nian handed a gray pill to Wu Xiaoxi.

Wu Xiaoxi looked at it, then, without hesitation, took the pill and swallowed it, smiling at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian returned a slight smile.

Actually, Wu Xiaoxi didn't know she had just consumed a Top-grade Spirit Pill.

However, the effect of this Top-grade Spirit Pill was extremely gentle and its efficacy lasted particularly long, so even ordinary people could consume it without issue.

Thus, in the short term, this pill wouldn't have immediate transformational effects.

Xu Nian had done everything he could to help Wu Xiaoxi; the rest was up to her.

"Alright, Xiaoxi, go and cultivate yourself; I have some matters to attend to," Xu Nian said to Wu Xiaoxi.

"Okay, Brother Xu Nian!" Wu Xiaoxi replied, then skipped back to her carriage.

Li Qingxian and the coachman had observed all of Xu Nian's actions very clearly.

Although they didn't know what cultivation technique Xu Nian gave to Wu Xiaoxi, they recognized the quality of the pill he gave her.

It definitely surpassed any Ninth Grade elixirs on their continent.

Someone who would casually give away a Spirit Pill like that, what sort of figure could he possibly be?

Xu Nian said nothing, and simply walked towards the coachman.

The coachman was still in disguise.

Xu Nian took out a jug of wine from his storage ring, handed it to him, and asked with a smile, "Can I invite you for a drink?"

The coachman was slightly taken aback, but then he smiled and revealed his teeth, saying, "Certainly!"

He then boldly accepted the wine from Xu Nian.

Xu Nian smilingly transmitted his voice, asking, "Are you from the Divine River Palace?"

The coachman, who was drinking, immediately froze, a murderous intent flashing in his eyes.

Xu Nian, however, just smiled and said, "Don't get agitated; I'm not an enemy. In fact, I have some history with the Divine River Palace."

"May I ask who you are?" The coachman asked in a calm voice transmission.

Xu Nian smiled and transmitted, "My name is Xu Nian!"

The coachman's eyes suddenly widened in shock upon hearing this, staring at Xu Nian in astonishment.

#### Chapter 1154: The Enemy Attacks

"Subordinate Fang Mo greets the Hall Master!" the coachman immediately conveyed a message, and in the next moment, he was about to kneel and bow.

Xu Nian waved his hand, a surge of power emerged, directly supporting Fang Mo, preventing him from bowing.

"You disguised yourself here, surely for your own purpose, don't reveal yourself because of me," Xu Nian transmitted the message.

Fang Mo nodded in response.

"Hall Master, didn't you say you had already left the Tianhen Continent? How come you are here?" Fang Mo asked in surprise via message.

"I came back for some matters. How is the Divine River Palace now?" Xu Nian pondered before asking.

At first, when he left the Divine River Palace, he directly relinquished his position as Hall Master.

As for who became the Hall Master later, he did not inquire.

"Hall Master, you may not know, the Divine River Palace has now gone into hiding, turning covert. The headquarters in the Imperial City no longer exists, and its members have scattered across the country," Fang Mo sighed in response.

Xu Nian nodded, not showing the slightest surprise.

With the Imperial City being occupied by that Emperor Xing, it is of course impossible to tolerate the Divine River Palace existing under his nose.

It is already a blessing that the Divine River Palace managed to survive.

"Who is the current Hall Master of the Divine River Palace?" Xu Nian asked.

"The current Hall Master of the Divine River Palace, you actually know him, he is your disciple Wu Dong," Fang Mo replied.

"Wu Dong?" Xu Nian was taken aback.

Only then did he recall that he had once accepted a young man named Wu Dong in a remote village.

Wu Dong was born with the physique of the Vajra Realm, known as the Vajra Dominant Body.

Xu Nian had also taught him the Divine Demon Refining Body Technique, and now several years have passed.

By logic, with his Vajra physique, he should have reached the Vajra Realm.

Originally, Xu Nian thought he had entered the Cultivation World, but unexpectedly he stayed on the Tianhen Continent and even became the Hall Master of the Divine River Palace.

"Were you hiding here under Wu Dong's orders?" Xu Nian thought for a moment and continued to ask.

"Yes, I was acting on the new Hall Master's orders. He instructed me to secretly protect this caravan to safely enter the Imperial City," Fang Mo replied.

"Safely enter the Imperial City?" Xu Nian was a bit surprised.

If Wu Dong already knew the importance of this cargo, he should, by logic, find a way to intercept it.

Why would he have Fang Mo secretly escort it?

But if he didn't know, then why would he take this cargo seriously and have someone secretly protect it?

Moreover, if this cargo enters the Imperial City, it would undeniably be under Emperor Xing's nose, effectively delivering the treasures to him.

"Although I don't know what is in the cargo, I know this cargo is extremely valuable. I also know that if it enters the Imperial City, it very likely could fall into Emperor Xing's hands. But the Hall Master instructed that this cargo must be safely delivered into the city, and I'm simply obeying orders," Fang Mo said.

Xu Nian nodded, knowing that Fang Mo, with his limited cultivation, didn't know much.

For the Battle Emperors and Saint Levels, even a single drop of this Ice Jade Marrow is immensely beneficial, only they don't know it.

"How are the Four Great Families of the Imperial City nowadays?" Xu Nian asked again.

"Of the current Four Great Families, only the Fang Family and Ye Family remain; the others, the Leng Family and Xu Family, have already left the Imperial City and chosen seclusion," Fang Mo said.

Xu Nian nodded.

Back when Xu Xin left the Imperial City, she passed the throne to an outstanding young man from the Xu Family, Xu Hong.

But unexpectedly, before Xu Hong held power for a few years, he was suddenly killed by the emerging Emperor Xing, who seized the throne.

The Xu Family was gravely injured, forced to flee the Imperial City and choose seclusion.

As for the Leng Family, due to Leng Yanran, they also chose to avoid the world.

The Fang Family and Ye Family continued to exist in the Imperial City because they chose to side with Emperor Xing.

Therefore, of the original Four Great Families, now only two families remain.

"By the way, have you ever seen the Starry Sky Fragment?" Xu Nian thought of a crucial question and quickly asked.

"Starry Sky Fragment? No, I've never seen it, but I've heard someone mention that an auction item at an auction in East Field County was indeed the Starry Sky Fragment. Later, I heard it was bought by someone, but who specifically acquired it, I don't know," Fang Mo replied.

Xu Nian was slightly disappointed.

It turns out that Fang Mo had only heard of this Starry Sky Fragment, and it wasn't in his possession.

Who holds that Starry Sky Fragment?

Could it be the wealthy merchant?

Thinking of this, Xu Nian couldn't help but feel somewhat troubled.

In his view, the most unlikely person to possess the fragment would be a wealthy merchant.

But now both Li Qingxian and Fang Mo said they've never seen the Starry Sky Fragment, which makes the wealthy merchant the primary suspect.

"Looks like I'll have to talk with that wealthy merchant," Xu Nian thought silently.

Suddenly, his expression changed, and he quickly turned to look north, a hint of surprise showing on his face.

"It seems they're really coming for this direction," Xu Nian murmured to himself.

Just moments ago, his Spiritual Sense detected that a large group of martial artists was approaching this way.

Shockingly, there were thirty martial artists, eighteen of whom were Marquis Level, nine were Saints, and three were Battle Emperors, including two One-star Battle Emperors and one Nine-star Battle Emperor.

With Fang Mo's Three-star Battle Emperor cultivation, he could handle those twenty-nine strong attackers, but he couldn't deal with the Nine-star Battle Emperor.

As for the Star River Mercenary Corps leader, he was certainly no match for these people.

Of course, if Xu Nian were to take action, no number of Nine-star Battle Emperors would be a match for him.

Fang Mo also sensed the threat, his expression growing solemn.

"Enemy attack, everyone protect the cargo!"

At this moment, Li Qingxian shouted.

Instantly, the members of the Mercenary Corps leaped to the nearby carriages, vigilantly observing the surroundings.

"Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!"

A succession of sounds slicing through the air followed.

In the next moment, thirty strong individuals appeared above Xu Nian's caravan, surrounding them from above in mid-air.

The Star River Mercenary Corps members were immediately alarmed at this sight.

These thirty people were all capable of flying, meaning they were at least Marquis Level in strength, weren't they?

Li Qingxian's expression also turned serious because he observed there were actually nine individuals at the Saint Level among them, and most critically, there were also three experts at the Battle Emperor level.

This meant he was completely incapable of resisting this group.

The face of the wealthy merchant also changed to one of fear and despair.

He couldn't comprehend how this cargo, which he had hidden so carefully, could have its information leaked.

"Who are you, and why are you blocking our path?" Star River Mercenary Corps leader Li Qingxian asked aloud.

"We are none of your concern. If you hand over all the goods, we may spare your lives," a man replied.

He was one of the nine Saints, and the only Nine-star Battle Saint among them.

Upon hearing this, Li Qingxian frowned. Their target was indeed the cargo.

Yet he couldn't understand why Ice Jade Stone, although precious, would have such immense allure.

Chapter 1155: Li Qingxian's Strength

Li Qingxian couldn't figure it out, so he stopped thinking about it.

Since he had taken on this mission, he must complete it.

If the goods were lost, then the people of the Star River Mercenary Corps would not survive.

"Want us to give up the goods? Absolutely impossible, unless the people of the Star River Mercenary Corps perish in battle." Li Qingxian said coldly.

The next moment, he floated up from his warhorse, exuding the power of a Saint Peak Level.

"Courting death!" The Nine-star Saint sneered, and the next moment charged towards Li Qingxian.

The same Saint Peak power, with spiritual energy surging within like a rainbow.

A battle saber in hand, slashing through the air as if to split mountains and seas.

The three Battle Emperor experts did not rush to act, but quietly watched this scene.

Li Qingxian's eyes grew sharp in an instant, a long spear appearing in his hand.

The spear thrust forward, like a nimble snake hunting.

Incredibly fast!

All around, people only saw a flash of white light, the next moment, the Nine-star Saint was directly pierced through the head by Li Qingxian's spear, dying on the spot.

Everyone was astonished, this Li Qingxian was also just at the realm of a Nine-star Saint, yet he could kill a peer with one strike.

This Li Qingxian's strength was indeed extraordinary.

Xu Nian also looked on with appreciation.

This spear strike, even in his view, was nearly perfect, without any flaws to be found.

Whether it was the spear's thrust or the rapidity of the Spear Intent, Li Qingxian executed it excellently.

It could be said that for Li Qingxian to defeat a peer in one move was completely reasonable in Xu Nian's eyes.

The twenty-nine strong men were also astonished, not expecting Li Qingxian's strength to be so formidable.

"All of you together!" a Battle Emperor expert commanded the remaining eight Saints.

The lowest among these eight in Holy Realm were at Six-star Saint Level, with four at Eight-star Saint Level.

It could be said that their combined strength could absolutely crush a Nine-star Saint.

The eight attacked simultaneously, directly charging at Li Qingxian.

Their coordination was extremely tight and skillful.

However, Li Qingxian was clearly no pushover, facing the assault of eight, he was not at a disadvantage at all.

The long spear in his hand turned into dozens of phantoms, like nimble snakes dancing, constantly countering and dissolving the eight's attacks.

He was not in a hurry, just continuously defending, responding to the attacks of the eight.

He was waiting for an opportunity; as soon as one of the eight showed a flaw, he could instantly break them.

Sure enough, one among the eight soon lagged a bit in cooperation.

Li Qingxian seized the opportunity, immediately thrusting a spear and directly killing that Saint.

The killing of a companion exposed flaws in the other seven.

Seizing this opportunity, Li Qingxian unleashed a massacre.

Soon, the eight were completely slain by Li Qingxian.

"Great!" The people of the Star River Mercenary Corps shouted excitedly.

The wealthy merchant and Wu Xiaoxi both showed looks of surprise.

Such a fierce battle scene was truly a first for them to witness.

In just a few moments, the Nine-star Saints were utterly annihilated.

The eighteen Marquis Level figures watched in jaw-dropping disbelief, their gazes towards Li Qingxian now filled with fear.

If not for the fact that there were still three Battle Emperors on their side, they might have already turned and fled in terror.

Even the three Battle Emperors were somewhat surprised, though their eyes did not show much fluctuation.

The deaths of the nine Saints seemed not to matter much in their view.

"Such exquisite spear technique, let me have a go at you!" a One-star Battle Emperor exclaimed, and the next moment, a long sword appeared in his hand.

The long sword slashed, emitting a fierce Sword Radiance slicing towards Li Qingxian.

Li Qingxian was startled, immediately wielding his spear to block.

"Bang!"

The spear thrust met the fierce Sword Radiance head-on.

Li Qingxian was sent flying backward with his spear, crashing heavily to the ground.

"So strong!"

Blood trickled from Li Qingxian's mouth as he looked at the Battle Emperor expert in the sky with sharp eyes.

After all, a Battle Emperor is at the Battle Emperor Level, holding a substantial gap over the Saint Level.

Even though Li Qingxian's spear technique was formidable, the opponent's strength overwhelmed him, making it hard for Li Qingxian to avoid suffering a significant loss.

"Seems your strength is just so-so, you've killed my nine underlings; today, your blood will repay." The Battle Emperor expert snorted coldly.

His long sword in hand, overwhelmingly arrogant.

The Star River Mercenary Corps members felt a surge of intense anger, each clenching fists, staring at the figure in the heavens.

This fellow was already bullying using his Battle Emperor Level against their leader, yet showed such mocking demeanor.

If their leader were also a Battle Emperor, he would definitely be able to take him down instantly.

Li Qingxian wiped his mouth, gazing sharply at the Battle Emperor expert in the sky.

His back straight as a spear, with no sign of yielding.

"Great spirit, but without enough strength, even the most spirited become bones, die!" the One-star Battle Emperor scoffed, another sword slash followed.

Instantly, a massive Sword Radiance cleaved forth.

Li Qingxian swung his spear, another thrust out.

In an instant, the long spear shattered, his body sent flying backwards.

"Poof!"

Li Qingxian spewed blood as he fell.

The Battle Emperor's gaze grew more disdainful, a foot tapped into the void, his body trailing in pursuit, the long sword aimed to pin Li Qingxian dead.

Xu Nian signaled to Fang Mo beside him, who immediately understood and dashed forward.

Fang Mo moved swiftly, appearing behind Li Qingxian.

With a decisive strike, an iron whip in his hand swung out.

It bypassed Li Qingxian, like a nimble serpent, piercing through the Battle Emperor's brow.

The One-star Battle Emperor was struck down immediately.

All around, people were astounded, looking at the coachman standing in mid-air, eyes filled with extreme surprise.

Li Qingxian looked on in shock as well, not expecting the coachman to be a hidden expert.

Wealthy merchant Wu Tiande's face turned somber.

Such a powerful figure lurked by his side in secrecy, undoubtedly here for the Ice Jade Marrow.

"Thank you for the life-saving grace, may I ask who you are?" Li Qingxian steadied himself, looking at the coachman.

Fang Mo glanced at Li Qingxian and replied, "Divine River Palace, Ghost Whip Fang Mo!"

Li Qingxian was stunned upon hearing this.

An individual from the Divine River Palace!

The other two Battle Emperors in the heavens narrowed their eyes, filled with murderous intent.

The Divine River Palace had been lying in ambush all along, it seemed they were a step late.

"Fang Mo, I didn't expect your Divine River Palace to be a step ahead, but you only have three-star strength; you actually dare to step forward, if I were you, I'd ensure to hide well." The Nine-star Battle Emperor looked at Fang Mo and chuckled coldly.

He, with the strength of a Nine-star Battle Emperor, was entirely confident he could slay Fang Mo instantly if it came to a fight.

Fang Mo sneered; if it were before, he might not have dared to step out.

But with Xu Nian present, he had no reason for concern.

After all, even years ago, Xu Nian had easily slain Peak of Battle Emperor experts.

Chapter 1156: Killing With a Glance

Fang Mo looked at the Nine-star Battle Emperor before him, his eyes unwavering.

"Hmph, don't think I don't know who you are. The Desolate Hall has been growing more brazen in recent years, amassing power. Our Hall Master had long predicted that you would come to rob this batch of goods." Fang Mo sneered as he looked at the Nine-star Battle Emperor in the sky.

The reason he concluded these people were from the Desolate Hall was that he sensed a sinister power emanating from them.

"Desolate Hall?" Xu Nian below was a bit surprised.

He had almost forgotten this organization.

When he hadn't left yet, the Desolate Hall was always sneaky. He didn't expect it to have grown to such an extent over the years.

He originally thought these people were sent by Emperor Xing, but now it seemed they were more likely from the Desolate Hall.

"Good eyesight, but even if you know, what can you do? With your strength, how could you possibly stop me?" The Nine-star Battle Emperor snorted coldly.

As soon as he spoke, the faces of the Star River Mercenary Corps turned grim.

Their leader was just at the Nine-star Saint Level, and couldn't possibly be a match for the Nine-star Battle Emperor.

And this concealed coachman was only at the Three-star Battle Emperor Level, far from being a match for a Nine-star Battle Emperor.

The situation was still utterly hopeless.

Li Qingxian also frowned tightly and said to Fang Mo: "Brother Fang, your strength is high, you might be able to leave. There's no need to accompany us to die. This person's cultivation is too high; we are simply not his match. Better for one to live than all to die."

Hearing this, Fang Mo only smiled and shook his head, his expression composed and calm.

But this smile, in the eyes of the people, was one of someone facing death without fear.

"It's over, it's all over, how can I be so unlucky," the merchant Wu Daniu wailed in grief.

His heart was bleeding at that moment.

These ten carts of goods were acquired with his entire fortune, holding secrets that no one knew.

He had hoped to make a huge profit, but never expected to be ambushed halfway.

In fact, he didn't fully know the preciousness of the Ice Jade Marrow, he only knew that the essence born from the Ice Jade Stone must be an extremely valuable treasure, hence he dared to bet so big.

If he had known that such an item would be coveted by Earth Immortal Experts, he definitely wouldn't have dared to touch it.

After all, an innocent man gets into trouble because of his wealth.

"Brother, how about we make a deal?" Suddenly, someone patted Wu Daniu's shoulder and said.

Wu Daniu was stunned, turned his head to see that it was the young man he picked up halfway.

Wu Daniu originally thought the young man had long slipped away, but he didn't expect him to still be around.

As for Wu Xiaoxi, upon seeing Xu Nian, she was overjoyed and quickly called out, "Brother Nian!"

Xu Nian smiled and nodded, then looked at Wu Daniu.

"What kind of deal?" Wu Daniu asked.

"I help you kill all these people, and you sell these goods to me, how about that?" Xu Nian asked with a smile.

"Kill all these people? Sell the goods to you?" Wu Daniu could hardly believe his ears.

Who are these people?

The weakest are at the Marquis Level, with the strongest at Nine-star Battle Emperor Level.

Even the leader of the Star River Mercenary Corps and the experts of the Divine River Palace were no match. How could a mere young man be their opponent?

And selling the goods to him, could he really afford such an amount?

Seeing Wu Daniu's expression, Xu Nian smiled and said, "Here are ten million top-grade Spirit Stones to buy all your goods. If you think it's not enough, we can negotiate further."

Xu Nian handed an ownerless storage ring to Wu Daniu.

Ten million top-grade Spirit Stones?

Wu Daniu was doubtful.

Although he only had Battle Sect Level strength, he was always dealing with martial artist business, and knew more about Spirit Stones than regular martial artists.

So, when he heard 'ten million top-grade Spirit Stones,' his first reaction was that Xu Nian was bluffing.

But when he picked up the storage ring and checked, he was astonished.

Inside the storage ring, Spirit Stones were piled up like a mountain.

Moreover, the Spirit Stones had immense Spiritual Energy, definitely top-grade Spirit Stones beyond doubt.

This was the first time Wu Daniu had seen so many Spirit Stones in his life, let alone top-grade ones.

Even one top-grade Spirit Stone is enough for an ordinary person to live their entire life.

"So, is it enough?" Xu Nian asked with a smile.

"Enough, enough, are you sure you want to buy these ten carts of goods?" Wu Daniu asked again, excitement in his eyes.

Though the Ice Jade Marrows were precious, even if brought to the Imperial Capital, they wouldn't sell for ten million top-grade Spirit Stones.

Plus, these goods could be plundered at any moment.

This young man was willing to pay such wealth, of course, he was extremely willing.

"I'm sure to buy these goods, but I also need something from you," Xu Nian continued.

"What is it? As long as I have it, you can have it," the merchant Wu Daniu, still basking in the joy of gaining such wealth, said.

"I heard you have a very old beast skin map. Would you sell it to me as well? I like to collect old artifacts," Xu Nian said with a smile.

"A beast skin map? You mean this? Here you go. I got it from an auction, spent a thousand gold on it, but it's incomplete, and the marked place isn't even on our Tianhen Continent," Wu Daniu said disdainfully, pulling out a tattered map.

Seeing this map, Xu Nian's eyes lit up.

Yes, this beast skin map was indeed the fourth Starry Sky Fragment he was looking for.

Now, he had found all four fragments.

Next, he would wait for the return of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast to piece together the four maps.

"Sir, since you've bought the goods, they're yours now. If anyone wants to seize them, it's none of my business," merchant Wu Daniu said.

"Naturally, now that they're mine, I will guard them well," Xu Nian smiled, then waved his sleeve, collecting all the Ice Jade Stone carts into the God King Tripod.

Everyone under the Heavenly Dome was staring at Xu Nian.

They had heard Xu Nian's conversation with Wu Daniu.

When they heard he was using ten million top-grade Spirit Stones to buy these goods, they thought it was a joke.

But now, it seemed true.

"Kid, who are you? Hand over your storage ring, and I might spare you from death," said the One-star Battle Emperor, rather than the Nine-star Battle Emperor.

Xu Nian slightly smiled and merely glanced at the One-star Battle Emperor.

"Boom!"

The One-star Battle Emperor instantly exploded into a blood mist.

What just happened?

Everyone around was dumbfounded.

Li Qingxian was also shocked; to kill a One-star Battle Emperor with just a glance, what kind of power was this?

Fang Mo was equally astonished, although he knew Xu Nian was powerful, he hadn't expected him to be this formidable.

Chapter 1157: Zhen Shocks the Entire Arena

Wu Xiaoxi's eyes widened, looking at the scene in disbelief.

Although she had long felt that Xu Nian's strength was extraordinary, she hadn't held much hope in her heart.

But now she felt that even the Xu Nian brother she imagined wasn't as formidable in reality.

A single glance that could kill someone, what kind of power is this?

Xu Nian observed the astonished gazes of the crowd, a faint smile on his face.

In that moment, he had activated the Gray Dragon Eye.

Using the soul power of the Gray Dragon Eye, he instantly harnessed the power within that One-star Battle Emperor, causing self-destruction.

Although Xu Nian's cultivation was suppressed, the essence of his soul could not be restrained.

Therefore, Xu Nian's soul power was still beyond the imagination of these people.

The Nine-star War Emperor watched as his companion's body exploded, disbelief in his eyes.

He looked at Xu Nian with uncertainty.

"Hmph, pretending to be mysterious, kid, don't think I don't know, everything just now was just a trick to scare me away, I don't believe you can kill me with just a look," the Nine-star War Emperor sneered, convinced that the young man before him was using some means to deliberately intimidate him.

"Scare you? Do you know who he is?" Fang Mo asked coldly, his tone full of disdain.

The Nine-star War Emperor hesitated momentarily at Fang Mo's words.

"He is none other than Xu Nian, our former Hall Master of the Divine River Palace, who once unified the Tianhen Continent," Fang Mo said.

As soon as these words were spoken, everyone around widened their eyes at Xu Nian.

They had all heard of Xu Nian's feats.

They all knew that several years ago, there was a young man who once unified the continent, completely overthrowing a dynasty.

Afterward, that young man crossed the sea and ventured into the distant Cultivation World.

Who would have thought that the young man standing before them now was that very boy from before?

Wu Xiaoxi was also surprised, not expecting that Brother Xu Nian was the legendary Genius Emperor.

Wu Daniu was now sweating profusely, finally understanding who he had just dealt with.

The thought alone sent a chill down his spine; if Xu Nian wanted to kill him, it would be effortlessly easy.

But, thinking back, it was obvious that someone capable of producing ten million top-grade spirit stones couldn't be someone ordinary.

Upon hearing this, the Nine-star War Emperor's face turned pale with fear.

"Retreat!"

The Nine-star War Emperor gave the order and immediately turned to flee.

The remaining eighteen Marquis Warriors swiftly followed.

If even the Nine-star War Emperor had fled, staying behind was certainly suicidal.

Xu Nian watched them run without a hint of panic on his face, waving his hand.

A small stone from the ground flew up, spinning rapidly in the palm of his hand.

"Whizz!"

Xu Nian flicked his finger.

The stone shot out at high speed.

The scene that followed left everyone stunned.

The nineteen warriors were chased down by the stone and absorbed.

Yes, absorbed.

Even the Nine-star War Emperor was absorbed by the stone.

Li Qingxian and Fang Mo exchanged a look of shock.

Li Qingxian couldn't help but fly to where the stone fell, picking it up.

He found that the stone was no different from an ordinary stone, except that there were nineteen extremely tiny human figures on it.

"This..."

Li Qingxian was instantly terrified, throwing the stone away in horror.

What kind of method was this?

To be powerful enough to this extent?

Using an ordinary stone to devour nineteen people, is this the power a cultivator possesses?

Xu Nian, seeing the astonished Li Qingxian and Fang Mo, smiled and said: "With your current strength, it's impossible to understand, but when you reach the Earth Immortal Realm or the Fourth Level of Profound Argumentation Domain, you will understand."

Li Qingxian and Fang Mo shook their heads helplessly.

Earth Immortal Realm, what a level that is.

As for the Fourth Level of Profound Argumentation Domain, they had no idea what it was.

Seeing their expressions, Xu Nian didn't offer further explanations.

Some things are of no use being explained now.

And the move he just performed was the Gravity Space Profound Argumentation Sky Heavy Finger he had recently comprehended.

Unlike before, he only used overwhelming gravity to forcibly compress the nineteen individuals.

This kind of technique can only be used on those with a vast difference in power, not effective on those with equivalent or not vastly different strength.

The members of the Star River Mercenary Corps looked at Xu Nian with eyes akin to gazing at an Immortal.

In their eyes, the techniques Xu Nian had just performed were completely the handiwork of an Immortal.

Killing with a gaze!

Killing with a flick!

These were things beyond their wildest imaginations.

But it also showed them how strong one could become if they cultivated.

"Since Wu Daniu has sold all the Ice Jade Stones to me, your mission as the Star River Mercenary Corps is complete, and you may leave," Xu Nian said to the mercenary group.

"Thank you!" Li Qingxian bowed to Xu Nian and then led the mercenary group away.

The others likewise paid respects.

Because they knew, Xu Nian was doing this for their good.

The risk of this mission had surpassed what they could bear, and continuing on might lead them to a dead end.

The Star River Mercenary Corps departed quickly.

Wu Daniu was also about to leave with his daughter, Wu Xiaoxi.

Wu Xiaoxi felt somewhat reluctant.

"Wu Daniu, I've already taught your daughter cultivation, so don't be stingy with those spirit stones, as long as she cultivates well, her future strength will surely not be inferior to this Nine-star War Emperor," Xu Nian said to Wu Daniu.

"Really, thank you, Lord Xu Nian!" Wu Daniu said excitedly.

Although he was a businessman, it was also due to his lack of talent.

Now, hearing that his daughter could become a Nine-star War Emperor, he was thrilled.

Xu Nian waved his hand, signaling them to leave.

"Brother Xu Nian, take care!" Wu Xiaoxi said reluctantly, finally leaving under Wu Daniu's urging.

Thus, only Xu Nian and Fang Mo remained on the imperial capital trail.

"Hall Master, what are your plans next?" Fang Mo asked, now even more respectful after witnessing Xu Nian's power.

If Xu Nian could impart even a small portion of his skills, it would be immensely beneficial.

"Come with me to the Imperial Capital first, also, send a message to Wu Dong, telling him to meet me in the West Desert," Xu Nian instructed Fang Mo.

"Yes, Hall Master!" Fang Mo responded immediately, filled with joy.

Traveling with Xu Nian was undoubtedly a great fortune.

Xu Nian seemed to read his thoughts, smiling as he said, "Anyway, there's nothing much on the road, if you have any questions about cultivation, feel free to ask me."

"That's great!" Fang Mo's eyes lit up.

Xu Nian smiled, flying onward while absorbing the Ice Jade Marrow from the Ice Jade Stone, beginning to transform his Immortal Essence.

Chapter 1158: Zhao Yunshen Pays a Visit

At the same time Xu Nian's true self set out for the Imperial Capital.

Within the headquarters of the Heavenly Court Gang on the Tianlan Continent, a guest arrived.

The Divine Demon Avatar walked out from the Cultivation Room, quickly arriving at the main hall.

When he saw the figure standing in the main hall, he immediately paused for a moment.

"Greetings, Commander!" Xu Nian quickly bowed respectfully.

Indeed, the visitor was none other than Zhao Yunshen, the commander of the Blue Gold Army in the Denor Star System.

Xu Nian had been invited to join the Blue Gold Army by Zhao Yunshen himself.

Xu Nian held a sense of respect towards Zhao Yunshen.

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yunshen turned to look at Xu Nian, his eyes showing a hint of scrutiny.

"Not bad, indeed the Divine Demon Refining Body. Where is your true self now?" Zhao Yunshen asked with a smile.

Xu Nian was somewhat surprised, not expecting Zhao Yunshen to know of this matter.

In fact, the truth of him being a descendant of the Divine Demon Sect was not something he intended to hide, but he didn't expect the Denor Empire to find out so quickly.

"You don't need to worry, even if you are a descendant of the Divine Demon Sect, as long as you have joined the Blue Gold Army, the Empire will not trouble you. I was just curious earlier, so I asked casually," Zhao Yunshen said with a smile.

Xu Nian breathed a slight sigh of relief.

If the Denor Empire had come after him because of the Divine Demon Sect, he would indeed be in quite a bit of trouble.

After all, he had already offended the Four Great Sects, and if he were pursued by the Denor Empire as well, he would truly be at odds with the entire Cultivation World.

"May I know if there is any particular reason for the Commander's visit this time?" Xu Nian invited Zhao Yunshen to sit down, asking as he opened his mouth.

"Can't I come to see you without a reason?" Zhao Yunshen asked with a smile in return.

Xu Nian, upon hearing this, also began to smile.

He did not expect Zhao Yunshen to joke with him.

"Commander, you jest. With your busy schedule, if there wasn't an important reason, why would you come to this small place?" Xu Nian said with a smile.

"This place is not small at all, I just took a look, you have a total of 250,000 cultivators here, plus the 100,000 you have throughout the Denor Star System, a total of 350,000. Your Heavenly Court Gang surpasses many major forces," Zhao Yunshen said with a smile.

Xu Nian smiled too; he knew that no matter the number of cultivators, lacking top experts meant nothing to someone as strong as Zhao Yunshen.

"Alright, enough joking around, let's get to the point. I've come here to tell you that the Sovereign wishes to see you," Zhao Yunshen said with a smile.

"The Sovereign wishes to see me?" Xu Nian was stunned, showing an extremely surprised expression.

There was no need to guess who Zhao Yunshen referred to as the Sovereign; it was definitely the Sovereign of the Denor Empire.

He just didn't expect that the Sovereign of the Denor Empire would want to see him.

Could it be because he is a descendant of the Divine Demon Sect?

"You don't need to worry, this has nothing to do with you being a descendant of the Divine Demon Sect. The Sovereign wants you to participate in this Cultivation World's Immortal Order Competition," Zhao Yunshen said with a smile.

"Immortal Order Competition? What is that?" Xu Nian asked in surprise.

"The so-called Immortal Order Competition is a great competition held every hundred years in the Cultivation World, where all the forces from the Cultivation World can participate. As the fifth largest force in the Cultivation World, the Denor Empire naturally has to send participants," Zhao Yunshen explained.

"What benefits does participating in such a competition have?" Xu Nian asked curiously.

A force like the Denor Empire has long held a significant position in the Cultivation World.

Is it still necessary for such a sect to participate in such a competition?

"This is what you don't know, the so-called Immortal Order Competition is hosted by the Immortal Realm. Once you win the competition, you will receive rewards from the Immortal Realm," Zhao Yunshen said with a smile.

Xu Nian was surprised, a competition hosted by the Immortal Realm, with rewards from the Immortal Realm?

"Could it be that the Immortal Realm will send someone down?" Xu Nian asked in surprise.

"You really guessed right. At that time, the Immortal Realm will indeed send someone down to host. An Immortal descending is actually not impossible, just very troublesome to implement," Zhao Yunshen said with a smile.

Xu Nian was amazed; it was the first time he had heard that beings from the Immortal Realm would descend.

"Commander, there are so many strong fighters in the Denor Empire, why choose me to participate?" Xu Nian asked again, voicing his doubt.

Zhao Yunshen smiled and said, "I guessed you'd ask. Let me tell you this: to participate in such a competition, contestants must not be older than a hundred years. To reach the Earth Immortal Realm before a hundred years, even in the Denor Empire, there are only a few, and you are one of the Sovereign's highly regarded individuals."

Xu Nian instantly understood that such a competition had age restrictions.

Otherwise, if several Sovereigns themselves participated, they would undoubtedly crush everyone else.

"Commander, what benefits do I get from participating in such a competition?" Xu Nian asked with a smile.

"Haha, you truly aren't the sort to suffer a loss. Rest assured, the benefits will not disappoint you. As for what benefits, once you meet the Sovereign, the Sovereign will naturally tell you," Zhao Yunshen said with a smile.

Xu Nian nodded, agreeing, "Alright, I will accompany you, Commander, on this trip."

Zhao Yunshen smiled and nodded.

"But don't be so quick to agree. The ones participating in this competition are undoubtedly the top talents of the entire Cultivation World. Crossing swords with them may give you plenty of experience, but if your strength is insufficient, you might be killed," Zhao Yunshen warned.

Xu Nian nodded; he had thought about this beforehand.

However, to duel with the top talents of the Cultivation World is indeed something to be delighted about.

Moreover, the Four Great Sects will also be participating, providing an opportunity to settle the conflicts with them.

"But before we go, I want to assess your strength. How about a spar with me?" Zhao Yunshen looked at Xu Nian and said.

"A spar? Commander, I am no match for you," Xu Nian said with a wry smile.

"Don't worry, I won't use soul power, and I will only use the Fourth-level Domain for my Profound Argumentation comprehension," Zhao Yunshen said with a smile.

"Alright, then Commander, please instruct me," Xu Nian nodded and said.

After saying that, he led Zhao Yunshen to the training grounds of the Heavenly Court Gang.

The newly built training grounds of the Heavenly Court Gang were especially large, enough to accommodate hundreds of thousands of people.

Such a vast distance was enough for their sparring battle.

The members of the Heavenly Court Gang, hearing that Xu Nian was going to spar with an Earth Immortal Peak-level expert, were all immediately thrilled.

They withdrew to a far distance to watch, even calling friends, fearing they might miss such a splendid battle.

Facing Zhao Yunshen, Xu Nian stood across from him. Zhao Yunshen stood with his hands behind his back, exuding an overwhelming aura.

"Commander, I would ask you to show mercy," Xu Nian said with a smile, then his eyes filled with a strong fighting spirit.

"Haha, use whatever means you have and show me what level your strength can reach," Zhao Yunshen laughed loudly, as his aura burst forth, displaying the undisguised might of an Earth Immortal Peak-level.

Chapter 1159: Sparring of Strength

"Offended you!"

Xu Nian shouted loudly, and the next moment the Divine Demon Power within his entire body began to boil.

"Bang!"

A thunderous explosion resounded, Xu Nian's figure shot out violently, leaving a space ripple in the air.

Everyone around who saw this scene showed expressions of surprise.

"Such speed!"

A member of the Heavenly Court Gang couldn't help but exclaim.

Zhao Yunshen was also somewhat astonished, Xu Nian's speed was even faster than he imagined.

However, very quickly, his expression became serious.

Because Xu Nian had already thrown a punch at him, the fist containing an immense amount of power.

"The posture looks good, but I wonder about the strength."

Zhao Yunshen smiled slightly and also threw a punch, releasing his Immortal Essence.

"Boom!"

An earth-shattering explosion sounded.

Divine Demon Gang Qi collided with Immortal Essence, instantly forming a storm that swept in all directions.

The floor beneath them cracked, and the entire plaza sank abruptly.

Xu Nian was blown away by the terrifying power, his figure landing far away.

Zhao Yunshen's stance remained unmoved, his robes fluttering lightly, exuding an immortal air.

"Not bad, the power of this punch, even a Late Stage Earth Immortal expert couldn't achieve, it seems the Divine Demon Refining Body Technique is indeed powerful," Zhao Yunshen praised.

Xu Nian smiled slightly and then clenched his fist.

The space in his palm directly shattered, and the Divine Demon Gang Qi within his body surged again.

"Boom!"

The Divine Demon Gang Qi surged, resembling thunder.

At this moment, Xu Nian's entire body seemed to be burning, continuously emanating power.

Everyone around who saw this scene was amazed.

Even from a distance, they could sense the terrifying power contained within their Gang Leader.

This power was extremely violent, as if it could destroy heaven and earth.

This was different from the Immortal Essence of ordinary Earth Immortal experts.

When Earth Immortal experts fought, the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Energy around them would surge like tides.

But in Xu Nian's Divine Demon Body Refinement state, all the power was concentrated in his body.

Although it didn't look as magnificent as the Earth Immortal Realm, it felt even more impactful in battle.

"Commander, how about taking another punch from me?" Xu Nian said with a smile.

"Feel free to go ahead, if you can hurt me, not only will I not blame you, but I will reward you instead," Zhao Yunshen replied with a smile.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian immediately activated the Fourfold Space Profound Argumentation.

"Heavenly Heavy Fist!"

Xu Nian shouted loudly, and the next instant rushed out again.

This time his speed was even more swift than before.

At the same time, when the fist struck out, it carried an extremely immense force.

With this punch, not just a giant mountain, but even a planet could be smashed.

"Huh, Fourfold Profound Argumentation?" Zhao Yunshen showed a look of surprise.

In his view, it was already impressive for Xu Nian to execute the Third Level Profound Argumentation, but he didn't expect Xu Nian had actually comprehended the Fourth Level.

So Zhao Yunshen dared not be careless, and immediately activated his Profound Argumentation Domain.

"Buzz!"

A surge of dark power instantly emerged from around him, all gathering into the palm of his hand.

Xu Nian could even see a small black hole condensing in Zhao Yunshen's palm.

Dark Profound Argumentation, Black Hole Devour?

Xu Nian showed a face of surprise, but soon his gaze turned fierce.

"Boom!"

Xu Nian's fist collided with Zhao Yunshen's palm, producing an earth-shattering explosion.

Then Xu Nian was sent flying, his figure flew back a thousand feet, his toes directly shattering the ground, leaving a long trail before barely coming to a halt, with a trace of blood at the corner of his mouth.

On the other side, Zhao Yunshen also retreated a dozen steps, his sleeves shattered.

Everyone around was knocked onto the ground, looking at this scene with shocked expressions.

The attack was terrifying!

Their Gang Leader had grown stronger.

Zhao Yunshen stood firm, looking at his shattered sleeves with a face of astonishment.

"Such domineering power, and to have concentrated it at a single point, if I'm not mistaken, this should be a finger skill rather than a fist technique," Zhao Yunshen looked at Xu Nian appreciatively.

"The Commander indeed has keen eyesight, yes, this is the Heavenly Heavy Finger I just comprehended, but even so, when facing you it still falls short," Xu Nian said with a bitter smile.

The same Fourth-level Domain Profound Argumentation, yet he was knocked back a thousand feet and spat blood.

Whereas Zhao Yunshen only retreated a dozen steps, his face remained unchanged.

The gap was obvious.

"It's not really like that, although I only used the Fourth-level Domain Profound Argumentation, my understanding is at the Sixth Level Domain Realm, and the move I used has already surpassed the ordinary Fourth-level Domain Realm in power. The fact that you can withstand a strike is already quite remarkable, especially since you're only at the Early-stage Gang Immortal. I can't imagine what your

strength will be like when you reach Late-stage Gang Immortal or even Peak of Gang Immortal," Zhao Yunshen also wore a wry smile.

This kid wins but feigns humbleness.

Every time this kid acts modest, he feels an urge to beat him.

Upon hearing Zhao Yunshen's words, Xu Nian smiled a bit embarrassedly.

He had indeed forgotten the fact that he had just stepped into the Gang Immortal Realm. He was solely focused on competing with Earth Immortal Peak experts, forgetting he was already far beyond the Early-stage Earth Immortal Realm.

"However, with your current strength, it will still be challenging to achieve a top ten position in the competition. The Cultivation World has many monstrous geniuses and most of them have already reached Earth Immortal Peak, whereas your realm is only at Early-stage Gang Immortal, which might be disadvantageous. Moreover, their Profound Argumentations aren't low either, for example, Jiang Shengtian, who I've heard reached Fourth-level Domain Realm long ago, so in this competition, you still need to work hard," Zhao Yunshen said.

Xu Nian nodded, his expression becoming solemn.

The Cultivation World was vast, full of countless geniuses, and those visible were already numerous, not to mention those who remained unknown.

This Immortal Order Competition will probably reveal them all.

These geniuses will undoubtedly be significant challengers.

But the more Xu Nian thought about it, the more excited he became.

That's how he was, the greater the pressure, the greater the potential he could unleash.

"Luckily, there are still a few months before the Immortal Order Competition, and during this time the National Lord will help you improve your strength," Zhao Yunshen smiled as if fearing him being afraid, comforting him.

Xu Nian, hearing this, smiled too.

He hadn't expected such benefits from participating in the competition.

At least the National Lord could help enhance his Cultivation Realm.

"Alright, go make some arrangements and follow me to leave," Zhao Yunshen instructed Xu Nian.

Xu Nian nodded, then gave some instructions to Wu Gang and the others.

Then he departed Tianlan Star with Zhao Yunshen, heading to the Denor Star System Empire.

Chapter 1160: Denor Emperor

The Divine Demon Avatar quickly reached the Denor Star System by relying on the interstellar teleportation array with Zhao Yunshen.

Upon arriving at the Denor Planet again, Xu Nian still felt it was immensely vast.

The entire Denor Star System had undergone exaggerated transformations, the entire planet suffused with a metallic atmosphere.

"Let's go, follow me, and don't get lost, or you will trigger the Great Formation," Zhao Yunshen said with a smile.

Xu Nian nodded and followed Zhao Yunshen toward the interior of the Denor Planet.

Soon, Xu Nian and the others arrived inside the Denor Star System.

Led by Zhao Yunshen, Xu Nian soon came to the palace of the Denor Empire.

Upon entering the grand hall, Xu Nian felt a tremendous pressure.

This pressure felt like eyes staring at him.

Indeed, at the top of the hall, a man was seated.

This man appeared middle-aged, with eyes tightly closed, and he had flaming red hair, wearing robes forged from some unknown exotic beast, exuding an extremely noble and domineering aura.

Xu Nian was astonished, his expression becoming grave.

He could sense that this man was strong—strong enough to kill him instantly.

And that locking aura earlier wasn't deliberately released by the man but naturally emanated from his presence.

Xu Nian immediately guessed the identity of this individual.

The ruler of the Denor Empire, the supreme overlord controlling a Star Domain.

If his guess was right, the ruler's strength before him was at least beyond the late-stage Primordial Immortal Realm, very possibly the Peak of Primordial Immortal.

"Subordinate Zhao Yunshen greets the ruler!" Zhao Yunshen knelt on one knee and respectfully saluted.

Even the powerful Zhao Yunshen remained extremely respectful in the presence of the ruler of the Denor Empire.

Although Xu Nian didn't speak, he also knelt on one knee alongside Zhao Yunshen.

The Denor Emperor slowly opened his eyes, revealing sharp, fierce eyes.

Xu Nian was surprised to find that the Denor Emperor's pupils were purple.

"Rise, Commander Zhao, you've worked hard this time. Presumably, this is Xu Nian," the Denor Emperor said, his gaze shifting from Zhao Yunshen to Xu Nian.

Those purple pupils emitted a strange, enchanting glow.

Xu Nian instantly felt as if he was being seen through.

"Indeed the Divine Demon Refining Body technique. Are you a disciple of that old Bai Tianhan?" the Denor Emperor asked.

Xu Nian was taken aback, not expecting the Denor Emperor to know his master.

"The ruler knows my master?" Xu Nian asked.

"Not exactly know, but we've crossed paths once," the Denor Emperor replied with a faint smile.

Xu Nian was even more surprised, not expecting his master to have interacted with the Denor Emperor.

He wondered who was stronger.

The Denor Emperor did not elaborate, and Xu Nian naturally refrained from asking further.

"Xu Nian, you should know the reason I summoned you this time," the Denor Emperor inquired.

Xu Nian nodded, saying, "I know a bit. Commander Zhao already briefed me before coming, it's for the Immortal Order Competition."

The Denor Emperor nodded, saying, "This Immortal Order Competition is critically important to us. The rewards from the Immortal Realm are not only immensely attractive to our Denor Star System, but also to the Four Great Sects. For instance, regarding Tianze, if a Star System wins, the Immortal Realm will infuse Immortal Qi into it, which means that the cultivators of the entire system will have an opportunity to significantly enhance their abilities."

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian displayed a look of surprise.

Tianze?

To have such a reward.

Does that mean the winning party's entire force would greatly enhance their cultivation?

No wonder the Four Great Sects and the Denor Star System value this so much; it's a great opportunity to strengthen the entire force.

"But considering my abilities, I fear I might disappoint the ruler," Xu Nian pondered before speaking.

"I'm aware of your capabilities. Without counting soul cultivation, your combat strength rivals those at the Earth Immortal Peak level. Although this makes you an exceptional talent, it is still not stunning. Perhaps if your true self and avatars join together, you might barely squeeze into the top twenty," the Denor Emperor explained.

Xu Nian nodded; his strength in the Divine Demon Avatar and true self was almost the same now.

If the avatar and true self merged, his strength would indeed multiply drastically.

He just didn't anticipate that merging his true self and avatar would place him only within the top twenty.

Is the Cultivation World filled with such formidable strongmen?

Of course, Xu Nian had an Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar; if he merged with it, his strength would surely rise to another level.

The avatars of the same soul could cultivate separately and also merge to fight.

This is the extraordinary aspect of avatars.

When Xu Nian and his three avatars reunite, he dares to contend with the Earth Immortal Peak.

"Ruler, do you know in which place Jiang Shengtian of the Tiancang Sect could rank?" Xu Nian asked after thinking.

"Jiang Shengtian's strength should rank within the top five, but aiming for the top three might be challenging," the ruler considered before responding.

"Huh, only the top five? Isn't Jiang Shengtian reputed as the number one in the Cultivation World?" Xu Nian asked in surprise.

"The so-called number one in the Cultivation World, that's just others' exaggerations. Xu Nian, you must understand, true powerhouses are not usually nurtured by major forces. Those who grow independently as loose cultivators or those trained by some hidden power, these are the true brilliant figures. And don't forget, this competition also features those Demon Beasts from the Sky Wind Star Domain," the ruler explained with a smile.

Xu Nian was startled, not expecting Jiang Shengtian to rank only in the top five.

Nonetheless, even if only the top five, it's far better than his own barely squeezing into the top twenty.

Moreover, as the ruler said, those Demon Beasts from the Sky Wind Star Domain are participating, and some are naturally gifted with powerful bloodlines, their strength not to be underestimated.

"Haha, how about it, are you scared?" the Denor Emperor laughed.

Xu Nian smiled slightly, replying, "The ruler jests. I'm delighted, not frightened. Engaging with top talents in the Cultivation World is an honor, and it's a perfect chance for me to boost my abilities."

"Haha, not bad, no wonder Zhao Yunshen recommended you. Since you said so, three months remain until the competition. During these three months, I'll find a way to guide your cultivation, though it may be arduous and perilous, even risking life. Do you accept?" the Denor Emperor looked at Xu Nian.

"Delighted to accept!" Xu Nian responded with a smile.

"Haha, excellent. Since you said that, I won't let you down. Here are three Low Grade Immortal Pills, Heavenly Immortal Pills, consider them as a welcome gift. Consume them, and your Divine Demon Refining Body technique should break through to middle-stage Gang Immortal," the Denor Emperor said.

With a wave of his sleeve, a bottle of pills appeared before Xu Nian.

Xu Nian accepted the pills, showing a look of surprise.

The Denor Emperor indeed was generous, gifting three Immortal Pills at once.

"Thank you for the rewards, ruler!"

Gripping the pills, Xu Nian's eyes gleamed with brilliance.

"Go now, come to me after three days, and I'll guide your cultivation," the ruler instructed.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian was overtaken by joy.

It appeared this visit was truly worthwhile.