

Divine King 271

Chapter 271: Bloodbath at the Governor Mansion

The giant sword phantom spanned across the ancient times.

It exuded a strong and ancient aura.

As if it had been floating in the expanse of antiquity for ages, it seemed to coexist with heaven and earth.

This was the miraculous aspect of the Dan Sea Species Green Lotus.

Each time Xu Nian made a major breakthrough, a new Talent Phenomenon would appear behind him.

And as the Talent Phenomenon became more powerful, it would bring different additional effects to Xu Nian.

Just like this giant sword phantom, it was the Talent Phenomenon that Xu Nian had gained after breaking through to the Battle General Realm.

However, he had always kept it hidden, not showing it off.

Now, facing this Demon Wolf, it was time to reveal this giant sword Talent Phenomenon.

"Hum!"

With the emergence of both the giant sword phantom and the Immortal King Laurel Map Talent Phenomena.

Xu Nian's aura not only increased sevenfold, but he also exuded an ancient Sword Intent.

"Roar!"

The roar of a dragon suddenly sounded behind him, and a burst of Azure Dragon Sword Qi sprang forth instantaneously.

This was the sword technique Xu Nian had newly mastered after reaching the Transformation Force Realm,

One Sleeve Azure Dragon.

Now, with the enhancement of the giant sword Talent Phenomenon, the Azure Dragon Sword Qi appeared even more lifelike.

"Die!"

Xu Nian slashed out with his sword.

The Azure Dragon Sword Qi instantly burst forth from the sword, viciously cleaving at the charging Demon Wolf.

The Sword Qi transformed into an Azure Dragon and instantly devoured the Demon Wolf.

In an instant, the entire body of the Demon Wolf was torn apart, turning into endless fragments that fell down.

"This... this is impossible, absolutely impossible."

Fang Qing was so frightened that he stumbled back several steps, his face full of shock and disbelief.

That Demon Wolf was not easily subdued by a powerful member of his clan.

It was comparable to a Nine-star War General Level expert's combat power, how could it possibly be shattered by Xu Nian's single sword strike?

"I said, all of you will die today, no one can stop it," Xu Nian said coldly, his voice echoing in the hall as his eyes icily fixed on Fang Qing.

After speaking, he walked towards Fang Qing step by step, sword in hand.

The Talent Phenomenon had not dissipated, still augmenting him.

It made Xu Nian's aura even more terrifying and intimidating.

Fang Qing, frightened, kept stepping back.

He hurriedly shouted to the guards outside the hall, "Quick, stop him!"

Those hundred guards outside heard Fang Qing's command.

Though somewhat fearful, they still rushed at Xu Nian with weapons in hand.

But Xu Nian let out a cold snort, his left hand spreading open.

Nine flying knives appeared instantaneously.

Then, the nine flying knives turned into nine streaks of light, speeding towards those charging guards.

"Ah ah ah..."

The guards screamed continuously.

They hadn't even managed to get close to Xu Nian when they were brought down.

Xu Nian strolled leisurely,

Walking step by step towards Fang Qing.

In just a breath's time, all hundreds of guards had fallen,

Their lives mercilessly reaped by the flying knives.

Sword control from afar, such a technique was not something these warrior guards could withstand.

Before Xu Nian's flying knives, they had no chance but to be slaughtered.

Fang Qing was truly petrified, retreating continuously.

Accidentally tripped over a corpse, he fell straight to the ground.

Watching Xu Nian approaching step by step, his eyes filled with extreme horror.

"Hum!"

Flying daggers tore through the sky.

Nine flying daggers flew straight towards Fang Qing.

"Please, don't kill me!" Fang Qing shouted frantically, begging for mercy.

The nine flying daggers then hovered in front of him, but the sharp tips all pointed at him.

Fang Qing was scared out of his wits.

In that moment just now, he truly felt the approach of the Death God.

"I will ask you one last time, was Sister Yanyun's body hidden by you?" Xu Nian asked in a cold voice.

"No... it wasn't me. When I arrived at this great hall, the basement was already empty, taken by the people of the Chen Family. I said that just to anger you on purpose. I really haven't seen any woman," Fang Qing said in terror.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian's heart relaxed slightly.

Just as he had guessed.

Sister Yanyun's body had been taken away by Chen Wudi and the others.

It must have been Chen Wudi using the Star Tower.

He had taken it with him when he made his escape at the last moment.

"You... please don't kill me, I really had no intention of going against you, the one who wanted to kill you was Fang Ming from the Fang Family, he's the older brother of Fang Chen, a direct descendant of the Fang Family. I'm just a collateral branch member, merely following orders," Fang Qing hurriedly explained.

"So the direct descendants of the Fang Family have all gone to Dong'an City?" Xu Nian asked coldly.

"Yes, the Fang Family's primary objective in this mission is the Demon Emperor's Tomb. This tomb involves a lot, now not to mention the Four Great Families, even the Imperial Family has joined in, all for the Demon Emperor's Tomb," Fang Qing quickly said.

"How many people did the Fang Family bring in total, and how many Saints?" Xu Nian asked once more in a cold voice.

"If I tell you... can you let me go?" Fang Qing asked tentatively.

"Puchi!"

A flying dagger instantly pierced Fang Qing's thigh, boring right through it.

Fang Qing let out a scream of agony.

"You're not in a position to negotiate terms with me. If you don't talk, your death will be exceedingly miserable," Xu Nian said indifferently.

"The Fang Family brought six people, four of whom are direct descendants. Among them, there is one Saint," Fang Qing said, enduring the pain.

"What level is that Saint?" Xu Nian pressed on with his questioning.

Fang Qing's face twisted in pain as he tried to stall for time.

But at that moment, another flying dagger descended, piercing through his other thigh.

"Ahhh..."

Fang Qing let out an utterly wretched scream.

"If you deliberately waste time again, the more pain you will endure," Xu Nian snorted coldly.

"Peak of Two-star! But they're just the first batch; later, more powerful individuals from the families will come," Fang Qing said through gritted teeth.

"The first batch?" Xu Nian frowned.

It seemed that the Demon Emperor's Tomb was indeed very important; otherwise, it would not have attracted the attention of so many powerful entities, even prompting the Imperial Family to act.

"What's inside this Demon Emperor's Tomb?" Xu Nian looked at the pained Fang Qing and asked.

"I... I don't know, I'm just from a collateral line. I only know that within the Demon Emperor's Tomb, there are treasures that even the Battle Emperor would covet. I beg you, please spare me," Fang Qing pleaded in agony.

Xu Nian was startled; treasures that even the Battle Emperor would covet.

"Spare you? Go beg King Yan for mercy," Xu Nian said with a fierce look.

The remaining seven flying daggers fell instantaneously, piercing right through Fang Qing, leaving him riddled with holes.

Darkness engulfed Fang Qing's vision, and then he collapsed.

Even in death, he could hardly believe he would ultimately die by Xu Nian's hand.

And what kind of terrifying calamity had the Fang Family brought upon themselves?

Meanwhile, Zhao Chong, who had been fighting the Black Gold Puppet, saw this scene and his pupils constricted suddenly.

He then fled straight to the rooftop, preparing to escape.

The Black Gold Puppet wanted to chase but was stopped by Xu Nian.

"No need, he's already a dead man," Xu Nian said with a cold laugh.

The Black Gold Puppet was startled, confused.

Just then, a thunderous noise came from the sky.

The Black Gold Puppet saw Zhao Chong's figure falling like a meteor, crashing down.

He smashed onto the great hall with a booming impact, shattering it into pieces.

A figure hovered in the air, standing aloft.

Who else could it be but Bai Feng?

Chapter 272 Imperial Prince

The disturbance at the Governor Mansion quickly alarmed the entire Commandery City.

When people saw the corpses lying inside the Governor Mansion, they were all shocked.

Who dared to be so bold as to massacre the Governor Mansion, even daring to kill members of the Fang Family and General Zhao Chong?

When the name "Xu Nian" was learned from the surviving servants, everyone was stunned.

Xu Nian had returned?

He, who was wanted by the entire Battle Mansion.

Instead of hiding far away,

he had returned to Commandery City and massacred the Governor Mansion.

Such audacity was simply astonishing.

...

Outside of the Commandery City.

On a mountain peak.

Xu Nian was standing there, overlooking the entire Commandery City.

Bai Feng was silently standing behind him.

When Bai Feng arrived at the Governor Mansion and saw the bodies scattered on the ground,

truth be told, he was also shocked.

This young man was only seventeen years old.

His strength, talent, and tactics were not something ordinary adults could compare with.

He really couldn't imagine.

What would this young man look like when he grew up?

"Bai Feng, send a message to the Great Elder and ask them to hurry to Dong'an City," Xu Nian suddenly said.

"What does the Sect Master mean?" Bai Feng asked in surprise.

"Since this Demon Emperor's Tomb is so important, our Artifact Refining Sect has no reason not to share in it, tell the Great Elder about the situation here. As for who and how many to send, let him decide," Xu Nian commanded authoritatively.

"Okay!" Bai Feng nodded.

He then took out a Communication Spirit Talisman and contacted the Great Elder.

Xu Nian was looking at the distant scenery, his eyes deep.

Now he was the Sect Master of the Artifact Refining Sect, albeit a hands-off leader.

But he still had to think of the Artifact Refining Sect.

Originally, he did not want to involve the Artifact Refining Sect in his feud with the Fang Family.

But now the situation was completely different.

All the forces had already poured into East Field County.

For the Demon Emperor's Tomb, they naturally couldn't miss this opportunity.

"I have already sent the message, the Great Elder said he will arrange it, so Sect Master, are you planning to go to Andong City now?" Bai Feng asked.

"I need to make a trip to Bingluo City," Xu Nian shook his head.

He must find Chen Wudi and the others as soon as possible.

If too much time elapsed, Zhao Yanyun would become even more dangerous.

Although he wasn't certain that Chen Wudi and the others were in Bingluo City,

since they had previously appeared there,

they would have likely left some information in Bingluo City.

Bai Feng nodded his head.

He knew that Xu Nian's primary objective for this trip was to save people.

So there was no other significance.

"Let's set off!" Xu Nian waved his sleeve and directly mounted Little Xu Yu's eagle.

Little Xu Yu let out a resonant cry and then soared into the sky.

Bai Feng stepped forward and quickly followed.

The two men and one eagle, heading towards Bingluo City.

However, just as Xu Nian and his party were about to reach Bingluo City,

a giant ship flew over their heads.

It was a huge flying Spiritual Artifact.

This flying Spiritual Artifact could easily accommodate hundreds of people.

And on the flying ship,

there was a pavilion that allowed people to enjoy and play.

The architecture on top was exquisitely beautiful.

It gave off an incredibly luxurious feeling.

A grand gesture!

Definitely only a superpower could afford such a Spiritual Artifact.

And to drive such a Spiritual Artifact, it required some kind of Spirit Stone treasure.

So even if a family owned such a flying Spiritual Artifact, ordinary families could not afford the Spirit Stones needed to power such a massive object.

"What a magnificent ship, such a ship crossing the sky, the mortals below would probably think an Immortal has descended, I wonder which force it belongs to, daring to be so ostentatious," Xu Nian couldn't help but exclaim.

Such a flying spiritual artifact could not even be produced by the Artifact Refining Sect.

The only people capable of producing such a masterpiece

besides the Four Great Families of the Imperial Capital, were the Imperial Family.

"It's the Imperial Family, Sect Master. You see, there's a silver emblem on the bow of the ship. That silver emblem is the national emblem of the Empire, and only the Imperial Family is entitled to use this emblem," Bai Feng pointed at the bow and explained.

Xu Nian followed Bai Feng's gesture and looked in that direction.

Indeed, there was a silver emblem on the bow of the ship.

This silver emblem resembled an eye.

And it also looked like a crack.

It shimmered like the stars.

"The Imperial Family. Moreover, those who own such a huge flying ship must hold high statuses. It's best not to provoke them," Bai Feng spoke.

Xu Nian nodded.

He was here to find someone.

As long as the people of the Imperial Family did not provoke him,

he naturally would not initiate any trouble with them.

Of course, if they touched his reversed scale,

he wouldn't care about their status or background; he would kill without hesitation.

He initially wanted to use his Spiritual Sense to investigate

and see who exactly was on this giant ship.

But after thinking it over, he decided against it.

In case there was a Saint on the ship,

it would bring unnecessary trouble.

After all, using Spiritual Sense to investigate was very impolite.

"We're approaching Bingluo City. Let's head down," Xu Nian said to Bai Feng.

"Alright!" Bai Feng nodded.

Then, the two of them flew towards the direction of Bingluo City.

However, what Xu Nian and Bai Feng did not expect was

that the giant ship that had been above their heads also began to descend gradually.

Finally, it hovered above the outskirts of Bingluo City.

This scene naturally attracted the attention of many people in Bingluo City.

Xu Nian and Bai Feng stood at the city gate, their faces showing surprise.

He didn't expect that the destination of this giant ship was also Bingluo City.

Just then, two figures swooped down from Bingluo City.

The one leading was a young man dressed in a white python robe.

The young man had a noble and spirited demeanor, radiating a heroic aura.

Just the look in his eyes exuded an imposing air,

as if he was looking down on the world and all its inhabitants.

This young man seemed to be around twenty-four or twenty-five years old, but his cultivation was quite impressive.

He had already reached the Eight-star War General Realm, just a step away from the Nine-star War General.

Behind him followed a man with a cold expression.

The man was dressed in battle armor and had also reached the One-star Marquis Level.

Such a combination immediately drew the eyes of everyone.

Xu Nian was also somewhat surprised.

If his guess was right,

This person must be one of the imperial princes.

Otherwise, how would he dare wear the python robe?

"I wonder what this prince is doing in Bingluo City?" Xu Nian mused quietly.

Currently, all the powers were gathered in Dong'an City.

Yet, this prince ran off to Bingluo City instead.

There must be something odd about this.

However, the next sentence from the two caught Xu Nian off guard and immediately stirred a murderous intent within him.

"Are you sure that Chen Family's Star Tower has appeared and that it is indeed in this Bingluo City?" the python-robed young man asked in a low voice.

"Absolutely, my Immortal Seeking Needle has pinpointed it here in Bingluo City, along with the external rumors, I am confident that it's definitely the Chen Family's Star Tower. Just give me three more days, and I will definitely find the exact location of the Star Tower," the cold-faced man responded.

"Mm, the Star Tower is a powerful Immortal Artifact from the era of the Star Battle Emperor. If I can get my hands on it, my cultivation speed will definitely increase greatly. Is the Refining Immortal Array ready?" the python-robed young man asked again.

"It's all set. Even if they hide inside the tower and don't come out, with the Refining Immortal Array refining them, I believe they definitely won't be able to withstand it. Moreover, Chen Tiansheng has

already been hit with Fang He's lethal poison. Even if he is still alive, his combat capabilities will be greatly reduced," the battle-armored man replied.

Upon hearing this, a cold smirk appeared on the face of the python-robed young man.

Together with the battle-armored man, they headed towards the interior of the city.

However, they were unaware that their quiet conversation

was being eavesdropped on by Xu Nian using his Spiritual Sense.

Murder flashed in Xu Nian's eyes.

So, this prince was after the Star Tower in Chen Wudi's possession.

Chapter 273 Playing the Thief Again?

Star Tower was indeed an Immortal Artifact.

In the entire Continental Empire, it was an exceedingly revered existence.

It was only natural for some to covet it.

However, Xu Nian never imagined

that the Imperial Prince had set his sights on Chen Wudi so quickly.

Immortal Seeking Needle?

What was that?

It could actually determine the location of the Star Tower.

Nevertheless, this turn of events also let Xu Nian know

that Chen Wudi was currently in Ice Luo City.

"It seems if I want to find Chen Wudi and the others, I must keep a close eye on this Imperial Prince," Xu Nian muttered to himself in his heart.

But before that,

he had another issue to resolve.

Refining Immortal Array?

It appeared to be a Formation specifically designed against the Star Tower.

Given the Imperial Prince's grand display, he obviously came prepared.

Therefore, he must find a way to counter this so-called Refining Immortal Array within these three days.

Next, Xu Nian and his companions quietly followed the Imperial Prince.

In the end, they found that the Imperial Prince had entered the City Lord Mansion.

Xu Nian and Bai Feng settled down in an inn within the City Lord Mansion.

And he had Bai Feng constantly monitor the movements of the Imperial Prince and the cold man.

Should they discover anything, they'd immediately report back.

As for Xu Nian, he locked himself in his room.

"Empress, Empress!"

After thinking it over carefully, Xu Nian still decided to ask Emperor Ye Tian for advice.

After all, Emperor Ye Tian had seen and understood far more than he had.

"You little brat, what are you doing, disturbing my beautiful dream? Do you believe I can turn you into an idiot right now?" Emperor Ye Tian's angered voice responded to Xu Nian.

Xu Nian sheepishly smiled.

Emperor Ye Tian's irritability upon waking up was indeed significant.

These past days, Emperor Ye Tian had been sleeping, barely showing her face.

Naturally, Xu Nian did not disturb her.

"Empress, I really didn't want to disturb your peaceful dream, but I've run into some trouble and need Your Majesty to help enlighten me," Xu Nian said with a smile.

"Speak quickly!" Emperor Ye Tian replied impatiently.

Xu Nian promptly replied with joy, "Might Your Majesty have heard of the Refining Immortal Array?"

"Refining Immortal Array? How could I possibly have heard of such a trashy Formation? But from the name, it should be an Immortal Level Array or something like that, boy, where did you hear this name from?" Emperor Ye Tian asked with interest.

Xu Nian then told Emperor Ye Tian everything he had seen and heard, without omitting a single detail.

"Based on what you've said, your brother Chen Wudi is indeed in some danger. Although the Refining Immortal Array can't burn the Star Tower to ashes, it can block the Spiritual Energy of the Star Tower, and even incinerate it. By that time, the entire Star Tower will become a furnace, and unless there's an Immortal-level expert, nobody can withstand it, not even the so-called Saints that you speak of," Emperor Ye Tian answered.

"Is there any way to resolve this?" Xu Nian asked with a serious expression.

"It's simple, the best way is to kill them before they release the Formation," Emperor Ye Tian said casually.

Xu Nian shook his head.

Although the Imperial Prince was just an Eight-star War General, Xu Nian couldn't claim to be able to kill him in an instant.

For one, the Prince had an extraordinary background and profound resources.

He must have many means to protect his life.

Killing him was definitely not going to be easy, let alone in a single instant.

And once he released the Refining Immortal Array, the only thing waiting for them would be a dead end.

After all, Emperor Ye Tian had already said.

Even Saints coming here would be of no use.

"There's actually another method," Emperor Ye Tian spoke.

"Eh, what method?" Xu Nian was immediately delighted.

"Break a formation with a formation. Set up an even stronger formation to directly destroy his nonsense Refining Immortal Array, and according to my estimation, his formation isn't truly at the Immortal Level. After all, this is the Mortal World, and there's no Immortal Jade available to set up an Immortal Level Array, so his array must have been weakened. It's likely set up with Spirit Stones," Emperor Ye Tian explained.

"But I don't understand formations, do I?" Xu Nian frowned.

"Kid, have you forgotten about me? It's just a minor Immortal Level Array. I can easily create a formation for you that's much stronger than his rubbish Refining Immortal Array," Emperor Ye Tian said disdainfully.

"That's great!" Xu Nian's eyes lit up instantly, and he called out excitedly.

"However, I need Spirit Stones, and the more, the better," Emperor Ye Tian said.

The smile on Xu Nian's face instantly froze.

Spirit Stones?

Where would he find those?

He had never seen a Spirit Stone in his life, only read about them in books.

Even the Artifact Refining Sect didn't have such things.

"Boy, you really are quite dense. While you don't have Spirit Stones, others do!" Emperor Ye Tian's voice echoed in Xu Nian's mind.

Xu Nian was stunned, then he realized what was meant.

"Do you mean..." Xu Nian's eyes brightened even more.

"That's right, the giant ship anchored outside the city. That ship can fly because it uses a formation, and to make such a huge ship take flight, it must need a lot of Spirit Stones. If you steal those stones, then won't you have the Spirit Stones for your formation?" Emperor Ye Tian said with a sly laugh.

Xu Nian's mouth twitched.

Stealing again?

He really began to suspect that this Yetian God Emperor had a thief's upbringing.

But this time was different from the last.

This time there wasn't a hint of guilt in stealing, but rather a bit of excitement.

This Imperial Prince wanted to deal with Chen Wudi.

So, what if he stole a bit of his Spirit Stones to use against him?

How about that?

Thus, Xu Nian was wholeheartedly in favor of Emperor Ye Tian's suggestion.

Just thinking about the Imperial Prince finding out that Xu Nian was using his Spirit Stones against him stirred an inexplicable urge within him.

"However, don't get too happy too early. That worthless Prince dares to leave the Spiritual Ship out there because he's naturally not afraid of it being stolen, so getting your hands on those Spirit Stones definitely won't be as easy as you think," Emperor Ye Tian's voice rang out again.

Xu Nian nodded upon hearing this.

He had already considered this point.

But even if it was dangerous, he had to go.

Because this involved the lives of four people from the Chen Family, including Zhao Yanyun.

He couldn't allow himself a moment of hesitation.

Additionally, Xu Nian was somewhat anticipatory.

He wondered what kind of formidable formation Emperor Ye Tian would produce.

After that, Xu Nian began to meditate and cultivate quietly until night fell.

Naturally, night time was most suitable for a thief to steal.

The sky gradually darkened.

Xu Nian quickly changed into a black outfit.

Then he silently slipped out of his room.

He didn't even alert Bai Feng.

After all, the fewer people involved in a theft, the better.

Next, Xu Nian turned into a shadowy figure, darting toward the giant, hovering ship outside the city.

Nobody knew that a shocking thief had been born on this night.

Chapter 274 There Is Such a Move?

Xu Nian swiftly darted through the shadows and soon arrived outside the city gates.

He looked up at the huge ship suspended in midair, a faint, light smile appearing on his lips.

By day, the Imperial Prince had ridden this vessel in a grand show of power.

Little did he expect that come night, it would attract a thief.

The Prince would likely never dream that someone would dare target his magnificent airship.

Xu Nian didn't rush into action but first used his Spiritual Sense to probe the great ship.

The search left him slightly taken aback.

Hidden within the vessel was a Marquis Level Demon Beast.

But this Demon Beast was somewhat special.

It was not an animal but a plant-based Demon Beast.

The Purple King Vine!

Although the Purple King Vine was just at One-star Marquis Level,

It was far more dreadful than an ordinary Three-star Marquis Level animal Demon Beast.

Because the tendrils of this Purple King Vine could extend infinitely, and their hardness was comparable to Meteorite Iron.

They couldn't be cut at all.

Furthermore, the tendrils of the Purple King Vine were highly poisonous.

Once ensnared, one would be instantly paralyzed, losing all sensation throughout their body.

Hence, even common Marquis Level powerhouses dared not provoke the Purple King Vine.

"No wonder this Prince is so confident leaving his ship here, turns out there's such a formidable creature hidden aboard," Xu Nian marveled inwardly.

Unless one had the ability to probe with Spiritual Sense, like him,

Even a Peak Marquis would

Unknowingly board the ship,

And might very well fall victim to the toxic touch of the Purple King Vine.

"It seems I'm in for some trouble; I'll have to deal with this Purple King Vine first," Xu Nian pondered internally.

A direct confrontation was definitely out of the question.

First of all, in single combat,

Xu Nian was simply no match for the Purple King Vine.

Secondly, should there be a direct clash, it would surely cause quite a commotion.

Moreover, the Purple King Vine was likely bound in a master-servant relationship with the Imperial Prince.

As long as a Spiritual Pet isn't too far away, it can communicate telepathically with its owner.

That means, the moment Xu Nian is discovered by the Purple King Vine,

The Imperial Prince would immediately become aware that someone had infiltrated his Spiritual Ship.

"Interesting, a plant-type Spiritual Pet, boy you've got yourself quite the predicament!" the voice of Emperor Ye Tian amusedly echoed in Xu Nian's mind.

Xu Nian offered a wry smile.

He was indeed in a headache of a situation right now.

To just give up?

Impossible!

Yet stealing Spirit Stones had become much more difficult than he initially expected.

"Call yourself stupid and you won't believe it, you see, killing this Purple King Vine unnoticed is impossible. The only method is to use Spiritual Sense hypnotism," Ye Tian God Emperor spoke again.

"Spiritual Sense hypnotism?" Xu Nian was startled.

This was the first time he had heard the term.

"Essentially, it's about putting the vine to sleep before it notices you, inducing a state of slumber. You've already awakened your Spiritual Sense and with the amplification from the Heavenly Gang Pearl, it should be quite easy to hypnotize it. I'll teach you the technique of hypnotism right now," explained the Yetian God Emperor.

Then, Xu Nian felt a surge of information flood into his brain.

This new data was the method for Spiritual Sense hypnotism.

In fact, the method was rather simple.

It was about playing a melody with the power of Spiritual Sense.

Transmitting it to the mind of the Purple King Vine.

Leading it into a state of deep reflection.

Once he grasped this concept,

Xu Nian immediately set to work.

The power of Spiritual Sense to play a tune was actually not a light task; it required significant control over Spiritual Sense Power.

Xu Nian started off a bit unfamiliar, but gradually he found his rhythm.

Others could not hear the tune played by the Spiritual Sense Power.

Only those who had awakened their Spiritual Sense, and those who were under the spell, could hear it.

It took about a half an hour of hypnotism.

Finally, Xu Nian had successfully hypnotized the Purple King Vine.

After completing all this,

Xu Nian let out a sigh of relief.

He turned into a streak of light and sped onto the giant ship.

Xu Nian had no need to worry about the Purple King Vine suddenly waking up.

Because once subjected to Spiritual Sense hypnotism,

it would not be possible to wake it for ten days to half a month.

That is to say, even if a huge battle were to occur next,

the Purple King Vine could not participate, for it would continue to sleep.

Of course, killing this Purple King Vine was out of the question.

The Purple King Vine had its Demon Core wrapped up tightly.

Xu Nian figured that even just to break through the vines around the Demon Core would take a full half day's time.

He did not have the luxury of wasting such time on this Purple King Vine.

Soon, Xu Nian arrived at the core of the giant ship.

There was an Array Plate at this core.

The Array Plate had thirty-six slots.

And in these slots were placed sparkling, translucent stones.

Each stone was only the size of an eyeball.

But Xu Nian could feel a formidable aura of Spiritual Energy from them.

"These are Spirit Stones, such rich Spiritual Energy, and there are thirty-six of them," Xu Nian expressed in surprise.

The Artifact Refining Sect not possessing a single Spirit Stone, yet this Imperial Prince had thirty-six all at once.

Truly extravagant.

"He must have refreshed these Spirit Stones before setting off on this journey. One Spirit Stone can maintain the flight of this giant ship for a month, while thirty-six Spirit Stones can sustain it for exactly three years. Kid, you're lucky; this fellow just replaced them with new ones. Actually, thirty-five of the Spirit Stones' Spiritual Energy is completely intact, with one using less than half of its energy," Emperor Ye Tian's voice rang in Xu Nian's mind.

Hearing this, a look of great joy appeared on Xu Nian's face.

What are we waiting for then?

Take them!

Take them all!

Next, Xu Nian, like a bandit, frantically pried all thirty-six Spirit Stones from their slots.

As all the Spirit Stones were removed, the entire giant ship began to shake and then started to fall.

"This giant ship has the Prince's Soul Mark, but what about this Array Plate? Can it be taken away?" Xu Nian transmitted his voice to Emperor Ye Tian to ask.

Emperor Ye Tian: "..."

Clearly, this guy had become addicted to stealing.

"Kid, you'd better leave quickly. Once the Array Plate runs out of the last bit of Spiritual Energy, the ship will fall. At that time, the Prince will surely be aware of the commotion here," Emperor Ye Tian persuaded.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian glanced regretfully at the Array Plate.

Then, reluctantly, he transformed into a stream of light and disappeared into the night.

"Boom!"

However, not long after Xu Nian left, the giant ship suspended in mid-air finally depleted its last trace of Spiritual Energy.

It plummeted from the sky and crashed onto the ground, creating a large crater.

The terrifying boom shook the entire Bingluo City.

The people in Bingluo City were instantly alarmed.

In the City Lord Mansion, a Prince who had been entwined with a woman was startled by the sudden roaring noise and immediately lost interest.

He hurriedly put on his clothes and rushed outside the city.

When he reached the core of the giant ship and saw the empty Array Plate,

his eyes instantly turned blood red, and he roared out with a voice that echoed through Bingluo City, "Don't let me catch you, otherwise I will annihilate your entire clan."

Chapter 275: Nine Gang Heavenly Thunder Array

Xu Nian, the Imperial Prince, quietly returned to his room amid his insane roars of rage.

Once inside his room, he locked himself in.

It was not hard to imagine.

At this moment, just how despicable the Imperial Prince must look.

As Xu Nian thought about the Prince's angry expression, a sense of indescribable satisfaction filled his heart.

"Empress, now that I have the Spirit Stones, do you think you can teach me about Formations?" Xu Nian communicated to Emperor Ye Tian through a psychic message.

"Boy, what's the rush? Didn't I promise to teach you? Besides, I don't break my word," Emperor Ye Tian's voice echoed in Xu Nian's mind.

Xu Nian gave a sheepish smile.

He was somewhat excited.

"Here is the Array Map and the basic principles of the formation; memorize everything here first."

Having said that, a stream of information transferred once again into Xu Nian's mind.

Feeling his head swell, a great deal of information soon filled Xu Nian's brain.

"Nine Gang Heavenly Thunder Array?"

A look of surprise appeared on Xu Nian's face.

It was actually a Thunderclap Array.

Among the nine major attributes, the Thunder Attribute was one of the most formidable in terms of offensive power.

Surely the might of the Nine Gang Heavenly Thunder Array wouldn't be small.

"This is merely a weakened version of the Nine Gang Heavenly Thunder Array, but it is already sufficient to deal with that so-called Refining Immortal Array. Unleashed at full strength, it's enough to annihilate a Saint Level expert. Of course, that kind of consumption of Spirit Stones is huge. With the number of Spirit Stones you have now, you can only activate it three times," Emperor Ye Tian continued to speak in Xu Nian's mind.

However, Xu Nian's eyes shone with brilliance.

To annihilate a Saint, this Great Formation was so formidable.

"Empress, do you have any small Sword Arrays or something similar that you could also teach me?" Xu Nian asked, grinning shamelessly.

"Hmph, insatiable greed. Let's see you master the Nine Gang Heavenly Thunder Array first," Emperor Ye Tian scoffed, then fell silent.

Xu Nian felt disappointed.

He had read in ancient books that Saints could command swords with their Spiritual Sense to form a Sword Array that could slaughter widely with immense power.

Of course, it was just a thought for Xu Nian, without any strong demands.

After all, biting off more than one could chew never ended well.

The Nine Gang Heavenly Thunder Array was already ample for his use.

"Hum!"

Xu Nian waved his sleeve, and twelve Spirit Stones floated in front of him.

Strong Spiritual Energy radiated from each Spirit Stone.

For an ordinary Four-star General, one Spirit Stone was enough to help them advance to the Five-star General Realm.

Of course, Xu Nian would need ten stones for any such advancement.

Although Xu Nian had them, he couldn't bear to use them so.

After all, once the Spirit Stones were absorbed, they would be gone, and that would mean one less opportunity for him to deploy the Great Formation.

"Hum!"

The twelve Spirit Stones were arranged according to their positions on the Array Map.

Using his own Spiritual Energy as a guide, Xu Nian soon fostered a powerful bout of Heavenly Thunder at the center of these twelve Spirit Stones.

The thunder accumulated, harboring immense power.

The terrifying fluctuations made one's heart palpitate.

"Such a powerful thunder, is this the Heavenly Gang Thunder? I've only triggered one percent of the formation's power, yet it's already so mighty," Xu Nian couldn't help but marvel.

At that moment, he truly wanted to push the formation to its limits to see how terrifying it could genuinely be.

Of course, it was just a thought. Actually doing it.

The whole inn would likely be razed to the ground by him.

"Boom!"

Just then.

Xu Nian, in a moment of negligence, failed to maintain the formation properly.

The thunder exploded suddenly, instantly sending Xu Nian flying out.

"Sect Master!"

Bai Feng, hearing the noise, immediately rushed over.

Xu Nian quickly gathered up the Spirit Stones and said to Bai Feng, who burst into the room, with a smile, "I'm fine, just tried out some martial arts and wasn't careful enough to control it."

Bai Feng looked at Xu Nian, who had turned into charcoal, his hair a mess, and still smoking.

Then he glanced at the white stone floor.

At the three-meter-long trench.

He couldn't help but cast a doubtful look.

"I'm really fine, don't worry about me," Xu Nian said again.

Only then did Bai Feng leave Xu Nian's room, still half in doubt.

Xu Nian sat down on the ground with a flop as soon as Bai Feng left.

Damn!

He had almost killed himself just now.

If not for his quick reaction.

And promptly consolidating the Dragon Scale Armor, he might have had his chest pierced by that thunder.

"It seems I need to be more careful, or else I'll end up killing myself before that Imperial Prince," Xu Nian cursed inwardly.

Then he tried once again to control the Nine Gang Heavenly Thunder Array.

Time quickly passed by two days.

In those two days, Xu Nian's mastery of the formation had become even more second nature.

Meanwhile, as Xu Nian was immersed in his arduous practice of formations.

The Imperial Prince, on the other side, was furious.

"Still haven't found out who did it, what are you, the City Lord, good for? Believe it or not, I'll kill you right now."

Xia Zhengfeng roared at the City Lord of Bingluo City, kneeling before him.

For the last two days, he had been bottling up frustration.

All the Spirit Stones on his flying spiritual ship had been stolen.

That was thirty-six Spirit Stones, his reserve for three years.

Now he didn't have a single spare Spirit Stone on him.

This flying spiritual ship was now completely useless.

Plus, his Purple King Vine on the ship had passed out and couldn't be woken up no matter how much he called.

How could this not infuriate and anger him?

Yet, this worthless City Lord.

Could not find out anything.

And the women he had found for him could not even arouse his interest.

Ever since he was startled that night.

It was as if he had lost some kind of instinct, uninterested in any woman.

He knew this was temporary.

But for him, an Imperial Prince, it was a total disgrace.

The City Lord of Bingluo knelt on the ground, shivering and not daring to utter a word.

His entire back was drenched in cold sweat.

Afraid that the Imperial Prince in front of him would indeed kill him in a rage.

"Your Highness, the Ninth Prince!"

Just then, a middle-aged man in battle armor came from outside the hall.

"Get out!" Xia Zhengfeng glared at the City Lord of Bingluo and bellowed.

The City Lord of Bingluo scurried away from the hall as if pardoned.

After the City Lord of Bingluo left, the middle-aged man in battle armor spoke up, "Your Highness, I have found the location of the Star Tower."

"Finally found it? After so many frustrations, a piece of good news at last," Xia Zhengfeng's eyes narrowed, and a sneaky smile appeared on his face.

"Where are they?" Xia Zhengfeng asked coldly.

"They are on a hill outside West Suburb City. They have turned the Star Tower into gravel and hidden there, only occasionally coming out," the man in battle armor said.

Hearing this, Xia Zhengfei's cunning smile grew more pronounced.

"Let's go, we'll head to West Suburb City now, set up the Refining Immortal Array, and turn them all into ashes. The Star Tower can only belong to this Prince," Xia Zhengfei huffed.

Having said this, he walked out of the hall with the man in battle armor, headed for West Suburb City.

Shortly after they left, Bai Feng also knocked on Xu Nian's door.

"Come on, let's follow them."

Xu Nian, without waiting for Bai Feng to speak, already knew what was happening and quickly leapt out of the inn.

Chapter 276 Crisis Situation

West Suburb City outskirts.

On a desolate hill.

A silver grain of sand, indistinguishable from the ordinary sand around it.

Yet, it hid within it both the Heavens and the Earth.

Indeed, this grain of sand was Chen Wudi's Star Tower.

At this moment, inside a thatched cottage on the second level of Star Tower.

Chen Wudi and his sister Chen Yao paced anxiously.

Not far from them.

Chen Tiansheng sat cross-legged under a tree, seemingly circulating his cultivation technique to force out the poison.

Chen Tiansheng had clearly lost much weight at this moment; his complexion was extremely pale and his lips had a purplish tint.

"Pugh!"

Finally, Chen Tiansheng spat out a mouthful of black blood and collapsed against the large tree behind him with a look of defeat.

"Dad! Are you okay?"

Chen Yao and Chen Wudi immediately ran over, asking with concerned expressions.

"I'm fine, I won't die for now, but this poison is too powerful. With my strength, I can only suppress it for three months, and during these three months, I can't use any spiritual energy. If I use cultivation, the poison will flair and I'll die immediately," Chen Tiansheng said with a resigned sigh.

Upon hearing his words, Chen Yao's face darkened instantly.

Tears couldn't help but fall.

Three months?

Did that mean her father only had three months to live?

On the other side, Chen Wudi clenched his fists even tighter, his eyes filled with intense anger.

"Those bastards from the Fang Family, if I don't exterminate you, I, Chen Wudi, won't kill you, I swear not to be human," Chen Wudi roared with rage.

His voice was filled with a strong killing intent.

"Wudi, calm down. You have the Star Tower; you need to learn to endure. When you're powerful enough, then you can seek revenge," said Chen Tiansheng, grasping Chen Wudi's arm.

Beside him, he saw Chen Wudi impulsively wanting to seek revenge on the Fang Family.

"Dad, rest assured, I won't be reckless. When Xia Zifeng crippled my cultivation and took my Star Body, I bore it. You don't have to worry about me. Moreover, be at ease, I will indeed figure out a way to cure the poison within you in these three months," Chen Wudi said with a determined gaze.

Having his cultivation crippled and Star Body taken away had taught him to be patient and strong.

Chen Tiansheng nodded, a smile emerged on his face.

"The only thing I'm worried about now is Yanyun; I don't know if Xu Nian will be able to find us," Chen Tiansheng said, looking towards the cottage with a helpless sigh.

"Dad, don't worry. I believe Xu Nian will find us. Before, I deliberately revealed my whereabouts in Ice Down City to send a message to Xu Nian. If he returns to East Field County, he will surely come to Ice Down City," Chen Wudi spoke.

He had the Disguise Technique taught to him by Xu Nian.

Had he not deliberately exposed himself,

It would have been impossible for anyone to discover him.

Chen Tiansheng nodded.

"Boom!"

However, at that moment, the Star Tower suddenly shook violently.

Causing Chen Tiansheng, Chen Wudi, and the others to sway dramatically.

"What's happening?" Chen Wudi and Chen Yao's expressions changed immediately.

Chen Tiansheng also furrowed his brows tightly, a bad premonition in his heart.

"Boom!"

Another loud noise.

The entire Star Tower shook even more.

"Someone is attacking the Star Tower, but rest assured, the Star Tower's defenses cannot be breached by ordinary attacks," Chen Wudi said with a grave expression.

He had formed a connection with the Star Tower.

Naturally, he sensed when the Star Tower was under attack.

Upon hearing this, both Chen Yao and Chen Tiansheng's faces changed.

They knew of the Star Tower's uniqueness.

Who could have discovered their Star Tower?

"Haha, Chen Wudi, hand over the Star Tower already, I know you're all here, and I have laid out the Refining Immortal Array all around. If you don't come out, in less than six hours, you will be burned to death."

At this moment, a loud laugh emanated from outside the tower.

The three members of the Chen family's faces went completely pale upon hearing this.

Refining Immortal Array?

Chen Wudi's expression became utterly somber.

He hadn't expected his opponent to have prepared such a powerful formation.

With the formation in place, although the Star Tower's defenses couldn't be breached, the terrifying heat would still infiltrate it.

Soon enough, those inside the tower would face the danger of being burned alive.

Indeed, shortly after the words were spoken,

Chen Wudi and his companions began to feel a scorching breath seeping in from outside the tower, causing the temperature within to rise.

"Who are you, and why are you targeting us?" Chen Wudi bellowed at the outside using his spiritual energy.

On a hill outside West Suburb City,

Xia Zhengfeng, hearing Chen Wudi's words, revealed a cunning smile.

By now, his Refining Immortal Array had already covered the entire hill.

All the trees on the hill had been burned to ash, and even rocks were being melted.

Thus, the whereabouts of the Star Tower were clearly exposed before him.

"Haha, who am I? I am none other than Xia Zhengfeng, the Ninth Prince of the Tianhen Empire. Chen Wudi, I know of you; back then, the Sixth Prince crippled your cultivation and took your Star Body. I wouldn't have guessed you could practice cultivation again. Hand over the Star Tower and swear loyalty to me, and not only will I spare your and your son's lives, but I might also help you deal with that Sixth Prince," Xia Zhengfeng laughed heartily.

His voice also transmitted into the Star Tower.

Upon hearing this, anger surged on the faces of Chen Wudi and the others.

The Imperial Family?

Xia Zifeng's brother, Xia Zhengfeng?

Did the Imperial Family think the Chen Family was so easy to bully?

It had been enough that the Star Battle Body had been taken away in the past.

And now they actually came to snatch his Star Tower.

Anger raged like a tempest in Chen Wudi's eyes, brimming with killing intent.

"Hmph, the thought of me submitting to you can die. Unless Chen Wudi dies, you will never get a single hair from the Chen Family," Chen Wudi roared in fury.

Upon hearing this, Xia Zhengfeng sneered and responded loudly, "Then wait to be turned to ashes by this Refining Immortal Array!"

He then commanded the battle armored man beside him, "Increase the power of the Formation, I want to see how long they can last."

"Yes!" The battle armored man immediately responded, then began to energetically stimulate the Formation.

Inside the Star Tower, the temperature continued to soar.

The thatched cottage began to burn, and the trees completely caught fire.

The searing temperature made the three of them break out in a profuse sweat.

Additionally, the Ice Coffin in which Zhao Yanyun rested inside another cottage started to melt.

"This won't do, we'll eventually be cooked alive," Chen Yao couldn't help but say.

Chen Wudi's brow furrowed deeply.

But he was at a loss for what to do.

Going out meant certain death.

Staying here meant waiting to die.

"Let me out, Wudi. Before my poisoning acts up, I should be able to unleash a brief burst of strength," Chen Tiansheng suddenly stood up and said.

"No! Absolutely not!" Chen Wudi quickly refused.

If Chen Tiansheng went out now, even if he could solve their dilemma,

Chen Tiansheng himself would have no chance of survival.

Chen Tiansheng, hearing this, felt helpless and was about to continue persuading.

Just then, a shocking explosion came from outside.

Followed by a voice filled with domineering power resounding through the air.

"Dare to burn my brothers, and I'll blast you to pieces!"

Chen Wudi and the others' eyes lit up upon hearing this voice, and they all excitedly said in unison, "It's Xu Nian!"

Chapter 277: Infuriating You

Xia Zhengfeng looked at the young man who had appeared out of nowhere.

His brow furrowed instantly.

Just now, a thunderclap had struck his Refining Immortal Array.

And it had actually shaken his Refining Immortal Array.

It almost caused the entire Refining Immortal Array to completely collapse.

And he knew that the thunderbolt had been summoned by the distant young man approaching.

"Who are you?" Xia Zhengfeng asked coldly, a hint of wariness in his eyes.

The man in battle armor standing behind him also had an exceedingly vigilant look.

Of course, his gaze was more focused on Bai Feng, standing behind Xu Nian.

"Who I am is not important, what's important is that you made a move against my brother, Chen Wudi is my brother, and since you dared to lay your hands on him, then none of you are leaving here alive today," Xu Nian said with a cold voice.

This Refining Immortal Array was even stronger than he had imagined.

The attack just now had actually failed to break the formation.

However, luckily the formation had stopped operating after that attack.

Chen Wudi and the others were temporarily out of danger.

"Kid, do you know who I am? You dare to speak to me in that tone."

Xia Zhengfeng stepped forward, arrogantly looking at Xu Nian.

Although he didn't know how this young man had just shaken his Refining Immortal Array,

he didn't believe that these two people had the ability to destroy the Refining Immortal Array.

Besides, he still had many tricks up his sleeve.

Even if these two wanted to hinder his plan, he was confident he could kill them both.

"Sorry, I really don't know," Xu Nian replied with a light laugh.

"Then you'd better listen up, I am the ninth prince of the Tianhen Empire Royal Family, Xia Zhengfeng. If you know what's good for you, you'd better get lost. Otherwise, if you anger me, you're going to die a miserable death," Xia Zhengfeng shouted angrily,

expecting Xu Nian to show a look of surprise.

However, what he didn't expect was

that the other party did not show even the slightest surprise but instead sneered.

"So, you're the ninth prince, my apologies, but what of it? You dare to touch my brother, even if your father himself came here, he'd have to ask for my permission, let alone you being just a worthless prince," Xu Nian snorted coldly,

his tone equally domineering.

Chen Wudi had helped him during his time of need,

never looking down on him because of his background.

Xu Nian didn't understand grand notions of national righteousness.

He only understood one thing.

If someone bullied him temporarily, he would bully them for a lifetime.

If someone respected him a yard, he would respect them a mile.

A thousand yards!

"You're courting death!"

When Xia Zhengfeng heard Xu Nian's words,

a strong rage immediately surged in his eyes.

This young man actually dared to be so insolent.

He was simply tired of living.

"Zhou Tong, activate the array and burn him to death!" Xia Zhengfeng said with furious eyes, commanding the cold man in the battle armor standing by his side.

"Yes, Your Highness!" The cold battle armor-clad man immediately responded,

and began to activate the array.

This Refining Immortal Array was also built using spirit stones.

However, this array was composed of only nine spirit stones.

As the cold man in battle armor activated the array, a terrifyingly intense heat wave surged from above the array.

"Roar!"

A roar resounded.

A massive crimson fire dragon surged out from the array.

The fire dragon shot into the sky and then charged fiercely towards Xu Nian.

The temperature emanating from the fire dragon was incredibly terrifying; likely even rare metals could melt in an instant.

Bai Feng, standing behind Xu Nian, turned pale instantly.

As an Artifact Refiner, his sensitivity to flames was much stronger than that of ordinary people.

At this moment, he could clearly feel the terrifying heat that the fire dragon exuded.

Such horrifying heat.

Even in such a terrifying temperature, he would have only faced certain death.

However, Bai Feng found that not a trace of fear was present on Xu Nian's face beside him.

Instead, a faint smile hung at the corner of his mouth.

He could not understand where Xu Nian's confidence came from.

Facing such an attack, yet showing no sign of fear.

Still, he chose to believe in Xu Nian.

From a distance, Xia Zhengfeng saw Xu Nian standing his ground without dodging and immediately sneered in mockery.

The flames of the Refining Immortal Array were so fierce that even Saints dared not confront them head-on, and yet this youth was courting death.

He imagined he could already see Xu Nian being devoured by the Fire Dragon and turning to ash.

"Think your fire formation is impressive? Then I'll let you watch with your own eyes as it gets destroyed."

Just then, Xu Nian's haughty voice sounded.

He stepped forward.

And suddenly, twelve Spirit Stones appeared floating overhead.

As soon as the twelve Spirit Stones appeared,

A terrifying Thunderclap aura instantly permeated the surroundings.

"Roar!"

With a roar like the previous,

From the Thunderclap Array formed by the twelve Spirit Stones,

A blue Thunderclap Dragon surged out, heading straight for the Fire Dragon descending from the sky.

"What? A Thunderclap Array? How is this possible?"

Xia Zhengfeng's face instantly went pale with shock.

He had never expected this youth to possess such a fearsome Great Formation.

The stern-faced Battle Armor-clad man also showed a look of astonishment.

Clearly, the appearance of the Thunderclap Dragon was completely unexpected to him.

Bai Feng, too, stared blankly at the terrifying and violent Thunderclap Dragon.

At this moment, he finally understood what the commotion in Xu Nian's room had been all about.

But how could their Sect Master know a Formation?

And such a powerful one at that?

"Boom!"

The two dragons collided with an earth-shattering rumble.

The power of Thunder and Fire exploded instantaneously, transforming into a storm that swept through the surroundings.

The cold man and Bai Feng both stepped forward, releasing Spiritual Energy in full force, forming a Spiritual Energy Light Shield to withstand the terrible power of Thunder Fire.

The Spiritual Energy Light Shield wavered, looking as if it might shatter at any moment.

Fortunately for them, they were not directly in the path of such horrific attacks, otherwise, even as Marquis Peak they would not be able to block it.

"It's not over yet!"

Xu Nian sneered coldly as the twelve Spirit Stones shone brightly once more.

Then, two Thunder Dragons surged out again, charging directly at Xia Zhengfeng and his ally.

The intertwined Thunderclap Dragons were unspeakably menacing in their might.

Xia Zhengfeng's face turned ashen.

The Battle Armor-clad man behind him also instantly stepped forward, pushing the Refining Immortal Array to its limit.

"Boom!"

An earth-shattering explosion.

Nine Spirit Stones shattered instantly.

The entire Refining Immortal Array was completely destroyed.

And the Battle Armor-clad man was sent flying by the horrific impact.

He flew a hundred meters before he could dissipate the force, and blood trickled from the corner of his mouth.

Xia Zhengfeng, however, was staring fixedly at the twelve Spirit Stones floating above Xu Nian, as if realizing something.

"Where did you get those Spirit Stones?" Xia Zhengfeng demanded furiously.

Xu Nian replied with a light laugh,

In a very casual tone, he said, "Oh, these Spirit Stones? I just picked them up. A couple of days ago, I passed by the city gate and noticed a broken ship hovering in the air. I went to take a look and just happened to pick these up. Are you saying you lost them?"

Upon hearing this, Xia Zhengfeng's eyes reddened in an instant.

A mad Killing Intent emerged all over him.

So, the root of all the trouble turned out to be this kid before him!

"If I don't kill you today, I no longer claim to be Xia Zhengfeng!"

Xia Zhengfeng roared in a fury, his aura surging wildly, overwhelming everything around.

Chapter 278: The Great Battle Erupts

Bai Feng had not expected the uproar in Bingluo City these past two days.

The instigator turned out to be his own Sect Master.

Now, seeing the furious rage of the Imperial Prince,

he found it both amusing and helpless.

To think that the Sect Master of the Artifact Refining Sect would stoop to theft.

Of course, he also deeply admired Xu Nian's courage.

Daring to steal even from an Imperial Prince truly demonstrated his exceptional skills and audacity.

Having witnessed the power of the Thunderclap Array, his admiration for Xu Nian only deepened.

He wondered just how high the Artifact Refining Sect could soar under the leadership of such a Sect Master.

After the Refining Immortal Array was broken, Chen Wudi and others also walked out from the Star Tower.

"Xu Nian!" Upon seeing Xu Nian, Chen Wudi and his companions immediately showed excited expressions.

"Are you all okay?" Xu Nian asked.

"We're fine, but father has been deeply poisoned and temporarily cannot use his cultivation," Chen Wudi responded.

Xu Nian glanced at Chen Tiansheng, then smiled at him.

"Have you all chatted enough?" Xia Zhengfeng said furiously.

Not only had Xu Nian stolen his Spiritual Sense, causing him to temporarily lose certain instincts,

but he had also destroyed his Refining Immortal Array, preventing him from obtaining the Star Tower.

If he did not avenge this insult, where would the face of a Tianhen Empire Prince lie?

Hearing Xia Zhengfeng's words, the crowd also turned to look at him with very unfriendly expressions.

The Chen family already had no love for the Imperial Family.

Now, after this incident, their anger was even more intense.

"Ninth Prince, I advise you to give up. If you insist on continuing, then I won't be polite with this Thunderclap Array," Xu Nian said coldly.

Truth be told, Xu Nian was not sure he could kill this Ninth Prince.

On him, there surely were powerful life-saving items.

A real fight would only lead to mutual destruction.

Of course, if the Ninth Prince really wanted to fight, Xu Nian was not afraid to engage in battle.

"Hmph, give up? I've said that if I do not kill you today, my surname isn't Xia. Your Thunderclap Array is indeed powerful, but it is utterly useless against me," the Ninth Prince said coldly.

As he spoke, his python robe suddenly exploded, revealing a suit of blue armor—Strange Metal Armor.

Xu Nian was startled. Although he had guessed that the Ninth Prince possessed extraordinary treasures,

he had not expected that the treasure the Ninth Prince casually displayed was the Strange Metal Armor.

"It must be crafted from Blue Blood Jade Thunder Gold, a strange metal that can absorb the power of thunderclaps. Almost all forms of thunderclap power are ineffective against it. On the contrary, the strange metal absorbs the power of thunderclaps and transforms it into his own strength; it's indeed a top-tier strange metal," Bai Feng explained.

As a talented disciple of the Artifact Refining Sect, he naturally knew well about various artifact refining materials.

Xu Nian furrowed his brows, not expecting the Ninth Prince to have armor specifically resistant to thunderclap power.

"Buzz!"

Nevertheless, Xu Nian still activated the Nine Gang Heavenly Thunder Array, launching a thunderbolt at the Ninth Prince, Xia Zhengfeng.

Xia Zhengfeng's eyes revealed a trace of mockery, and he did not dodge the incoming thunderbolt.

"Boom!"

The thunderbolt struck him, instantly absorbed by the armor.

He was not injured in the slightest.

On the contrary, as this thunderclap power was absorbed,

the aura of the Ninth Prince became even more ferocious.

"Ha ha, I told you your thunderclap attacks have no effect on me. I not only possess the Blue Blood Jade Thunder Armor, but even the battle techniques I cultivate are of the Thunder Attribute. Your attacks only make my power grow stronger," the Ninth Prince Xia Zhengfeng laughed heartily.

Terrifying blue thunderclaps surged from his body, forming dreadful electric snakes, enveloping his surroundings.

And the Ninth Prince seemed like a War God bathed in thunderclaps, his gaze haughty.

Seeing this, Xu Nian did not continue to employ the Nine Gang Heavenly Thunder Array.

He gathered up the twelve Spirit Stones that were mostly exhausted.

From afar, the ninth Prince saw Xu Nian packing up the Great Formation and a mocking smile crept onto his lips.

"Zhou Tong, leave the others to you. I'll handle this kid myself," Xia Zhengfeng said to the stern man in Battle Armor behind him. "I want him to know just how formidable this Prince is."

"Yes, Your Highness!"

At Zhou Tong's command, he then charged directly at Chen Wudi and the others.

The faces of Chen Wudi and his group changed, as the stern man in front of them was at the Marquis Level.

Though he was only a One-star Marquis, he was not someone they could handle.

However, just at that moment, Bai Feng stepped forward, turning into a blur as he met Zhou Tong's assault.

The two fought from the ground to the sky.

The battle was fierce and relentless.

It was then that Chen Wudi and the others realized.

The young man who had silently stood behind Xu Nian all this time was also a Marquis-Level powerhouse.

This young man seemed to be only about twenty-four or twenty-five years old, yet he was a Marquis-Level powerhouse.

Such a young Marquis-Level powerhouse was truly a prodigy among prodigies.

The ninth Prince was also stunned.

He hadn't expected the youth, who appeared about his age, to be a Marquis-Level powerhouse.

This stirred intense jealousy in his heart.

Most crucially, this youth had all along stood behind this teenager.

This clearly meant that the youth held this teenager in high regard.

"You are more impressive than I expected," Xia Zhengfeng said to Xu Nian with a cold voice.

"There's still much you don't know about," Xu Nian replied with a slight smile.

Xia Zhengfeng's expression darkened.

Immediately, his cultivation as a Peak Eight-star War General fully erupted.

His ferocious aura was not any less than those at the peak of War Generals.

Upon seeing this, Chen Wudi and the others' expressions changed.

They then looked towards Xu Nian with worry in their eyes.

Although they knew Xu Nian also possessed the strength of a War General,

But Xia Zhengfeng had the strength of a Peak War General.

They feared Xu Nian would be at a great disadvantage against him.

"I will join you in fighting him; I have also broken through to War General," Chen Wudi quickly said, stepping forward.

Xu Nian, however, waved his hand and said, "No need, I alone am enough to handle him, and besides, it's been a long time since I had a good fight."

Having said this, Xu Nian waved his sleeve, flinging out the Black Gold.

He summoned the Black Gold not to fight for him, but to protect Chen Wudi and the others, just in case.

Chen Wudi and the others were stunned.

They hadn't expected Xu Nian to forego even the Black Gold Puppet.

"Could he really have the strength to defeat Xia Zhengfeng?" Chen Wudi asked, somewhat in disbelief.

But then, Chen Tiansheng patted Chen Wudi's shoulder and said, "Let's just wait and see. Xu Nian is not a reckless person."

Hearing this, Chen Wudi and Chen Yao quietly watched as Xu Nian slowly walked forward.

"Kid, you've got guts, not even using a puppet. But by doing so, you're undoubtedly seeking death," Xia Zhengfeng sneered.

"Enough chatter! If you're going to fight, then fight, instead of spouting so much nonsense," Xu Nian disdainfully said.

"Since you're so eager to die, I'll indulge you."

At this, Xia Zhengfeng instantly flew into a rage.

Spiritual Energy surged, and he launched himself at Xu Nian.

His fist was covered with terrifying blue Thunderclap Power.

A single punch was something even a Nine-star Body General would not dare to underestimate.

Xu Nian, however, let out a cold laugh.

His Spiritual Energy surged similarly.

He fiercely struck out with a palm.

Xu Nian used the Luotian Palm!

Chapter 279: Exciting Contest

"Boom!"

A loud noise.

Xu Nian's palm and Xia Zhengfeng's fist collided.

Creating a terrifying impact.

Both were repelled by the rebounding force.

Xia Zhengfeng staggered back ten steps before he could dissipate the force from his body.

His face filled with surprise as he looked at Xu Nian.

"Peak of Four-star General?" Xia Zhengfeng said in shock.

The youth in front of him was actually a Four-star General in cultivation.

How old was he?

And this fellow with the cultivation of a Four-star General Level.

Could actually withstand his punch without falling behind?

Chen Wudi and the others in the distance also showed surprise.

They didn't expect Xu Nian to truly possess the strength to battle a Peak Powerhouse.

It had only been two short months since they last saw him.

Xu Nian's growth rate was still terrifying.

Xu Nian also took more than ten steps back, his lips curling into a slight smile.

"Isn't it shocking? I said before, even if you are a prince of the Tianhen Empire, there's nothing in front of me worth boasting about," Xu Nian said with a cold laugh.

Xia Zhengfeng squinted his eyes and snorted.

"Your arrogance is too premature. That punch was just fifty percent of my strength, and it would still be easy for this prince to kill you," Xia Zhengfeng said disdainfully, his eyes filling with pride again.

So what if you are a genius.

When faced with absolute power, all you have is a fall.

"Is that so? Then try to kill me and we'll see who dies," Xu Nian coldly retorted.

Green Lotus of Dan Sea spun rapidly, causing his spiritual energy to surge.

It was still the Luotian Palm, but its power was much greater than before.

A palm strike was launched, forming a massive spiritual energy phantom.

It ferociously suppressed Xia Zhengfeng.

"Seeking death!" Xia Zhengfeng sneered.

He clenched his fist, and Thunderclap Power surged instantly.

However, after Xia Zhengfeng threw his punch, he felt something was wrong.

Indeed, his fist simply passed through Xu Nian's body.

"Not good, it's an afterimage!"

Xia Zhengfeng's pupils shrank, his gaze becoming sharp instantly.

"Die!"

Indeed, just as Xia Zhengfeng realized something was amiss,

A figure suddenly appeared on his left side.

Then, an extreme radiance targeted his brow.

A Sword Point aimed directly at Xia Zhengfeng's forehead.

The Sword Qi at the fingertip was extraordinarily sharp, enough to penetrate a skull.

"Humph, you think you can kill me? You underestimate me too much."

Xia Zhengfeng snorted coldly, a cold smile reappearing on his lips.

A brilliant light burst from his eyes, transforming into a sharp sword that collided directly with Xu Nian's Finger Sword.

The Sword Qi exploded.

Xu Nian retreated again and again.

"Thinking of escaping? Dream on!"

Xia Zhengfeng snorted coldly, instantly turning into a bolt of lightning to pursue.

"So fast!"

Xu Nian was startled and quickly channeled his spiritual energy to form a Defensive Light Shield.

"Boom!"

A Thunderclap Iron Fist instantly pierced through his Defensive Light Shield, hitting him squarely in the chest.

The power of the Thunderclap exploded.

Xu Nian's figure was immediately sent flying backward.

His feet dragged a long mark on the ground.

He slid several dozen meters before stopping.

A trail of fresh blood spilled from the corner of his mouth.

Xia Zhengfeng stood proudly, his gaze dominating.

"Hmph, now you realize how formidable this prince is, I could kill you effortlessly." Xia Zhengfeng sneered as he looked at the blood trickling from the corner of Xu Nian's mouth.

Chen Wudi and the others, upon seeing this, also showed worried expressions.

Xu Nian was ultimately not a match for Xia Zhengfeng.

However, Xu Nian stood straight up, wiped the blood from the corner of his mouth with his hand, and a self-mocking smile appeared on his lips.

"It seems I still underestimated you, being a prince, you are indeed much stronger than those ordinary geniuses," Xu Nian said with a smile.

Xia Zhengfeng snorted disdainfully, unimpressed by Xu Nian's praise.

"However, your strength is ultimately just this, and in Spirit Cultivator combat, I am least skilled at hand-to-hand. If this is all your strength, then I'm afraid this battle is over already," Xu Nian took a step forward.

Instantly, a surge of Sword Qi shot into the sky.

The surrounding air and clouds were stirred, and a tide of wind began to surge.

The Black God Sword appeared directly in Xu Nian's hand.

"Haha, competing with me in swordsmanship is asking for punishment. I didn't want to draw my sword and kill you initially, but since you seek death, this prince will grant your wish," Xia Zhengfeng laughed heartily.

After speaking, a sharp sword appeared in his hand, followed by a powerful aura emitting from his body.

Sword Force?

Xia Zhengfeng had actually reached the Realm of Sword Force?

Xu Nian was also taken aback; this was his first time encountering an opponent who had grasped Sword Force.

"Haha, are you surprised? Sword Force, that's the true utility of swordsmanship. You probably don't even know what Sword Force is, and you want to compete with me in swordsmanship?" Xia Zhengfeng sneered disdainfully.

He considered himself unmatched in swordsmanship among his peers.

And this young man had the audacity to challenge him in a sword duel.

Wasn't this courting death?

From a distance, Chen Wudi and the others' expressions grew solemn.

They had still held a glimmer of hope, thinking that Xu Nian, who had grasped Sword Force, might be able to completely overpower Xia Zhengfeng.

But now they realized that Xia Zhengfeng had also stepped into the Realm of Sword Force.

Didn't that mean Xu Nian had no chance of winning?

Although Xu Nian was somewhat surprised, he quickly smiled.

Xia Zhengfeng might have entered the Realm of Sword Force, but it was clear he had only just entered.

Compared to him, who had already stepped into the Second Level of Sword Force in the Realm of Transformation Force, there was still a significant gap.

"The words you just said to me, I now return them to you unchanged. Your arrogance is a bit premature," Xu Nian said with a slight smile.

Then his gaze became piercing, and a powerful Sword Force radiated from his body.

Sword Force surged.

The surrounding winds seemed to transform into endless Sword Qi.

They began to scatter everywhere.

The Sword Force that Xia Zhengfeng had just gathered crumbled instantly under the surge of Xu Nian's powerful Sword Force.

"What? How... how is this possible?" Xia Zhengfeng said with a horrified expression.

The young man before him had also entered the Realm of Sword Force, and his level was even higher?

"Impossible, absolutely impossible!" Xia Zhengfeng said in utter disbelief.

Comprehending realms had always been his pride.

Yet now, under the surging Sword Force of Xu Nian, it completely fell apart.

Watching this scene, Chen Tiansheng also showed a highly shocked expression.

Unbelievably staring at Xu Nian surrounded by the Sword Force.

Second Level of Sword Force, the Realm of Transformation Force.

How long had he been in the Realm of Sword Force to step into the second level?

Two months!

Now, think about himself.

It had taken him a full five years to move from the first level to the second.

This caused a strong feeling of defeat to emerge in Chen Tiansheng's heart.

"Receive my sword strike! One Sleeve Azure Dragon!"

Xu Nian ignored the shocked gazes of the crowd and swung the Black God Sword in his hand.

The sword light flickered.

A spectral Azure Dragon tore forth from the sword edge, roaring toward Xia Zhengfeng.

Xia Zhengfeng, watching the roaring Azure Dragon Sword Qi, instantly turned pale.

He hurriedly swung his sword to block.

However, his Sword Qi did nothing to hinder the Azure Dragon Sword Qi.

It was torn apart by Xu Nian's Azure Dragon Sword Qi.

Then Xia Zhengfeng was completely engulfed by the powerful Azure Dragon Sword Qi.

"Did we win?"

Chen Wudi and the others all widened their eyes, watching Xia Zhengfeng wrapped in the Azure Dragon Sword Qi.

Chapter 280: Concealed Strength

Azure Dragon Sword Qi devoured Xia Zhengfeng.

No one could see the figure of Xia Zhengfeng.

They could only guess by feeling.

This Azure Dragon Sword Qi was composed of countless Wind Blades.

Each Wind Blade contained an immensely powerful Sword Qi and an imposing sword presence, each capable of killing a Battle Sect Level powerhouse.

Now, with so many Wind Blades congregating to form an Azure Dragon, Xia Zhengfeng was being devoured.

The chances of Xia Zhengfeng surviving were very low.

Of course, it wasn't certain.

After all, Xia Zhengfeng possessed Strange Metal Armor.

Xu Nian, holding a sharp sword, coldly watched the devoured figure of Xia Zhengfeng ahead.

There wasn't a trace of relaxation in his eyes.

"Boom!"

A loud explosion.

The Azure Dragon Sword Qi instantly burst apart.

The figure of Xia Zhengfeng also became visible.

Xia Zhengfeng hadn't sustained any serious injuries.

His Strange Metal Armor had protected him.

"Indeed, he's not that easy to deal with. This Strange Metal Armor is too heaven-defying, capable of protecting every inch of the body's skin; ordinary attacks are utterly ineffective," Chen Wudi couldn't help but sigh.

Chen Yao and Chen Tiansheng both nodded in agreement.

Xia Zhengfeng, with strange metal protecting his body, could almost be said to be fearless against any attack.

Although Xu Nian's attack was powerful, it had not yet reached the point where it could break through the Strange Metal.

While Xia Zhengfeng hadn't been injured, his eyes at this moment were exceptionally dark.

His gaze towards Xu Nian was filled with endless killing intent.

If it weren't for the Strange Metal Armor protecting his body, he would probably be dead by now.

"You really surprise me, I must admit that your talent is indeed terrifying. You are the second person among countless geniuses I've seen whose potential makes me feel frightened," Xia Zhengfeng said coldly.

"Only second?" Xu Nian's lips revealed a hint of light smile.

He was curious who the first person was in Xia Zhengfeng's mouth.

And how strong their potential was.

"But everything will ultimately come to an end. Although your potential is frightening, don't forget, I've cultivated for many more years than you. These extra years weren't for nothing. What you've seen is merely the surface of my strength; next, I'll let you see my hidden true power."

Xia Zhengfeng's voice remained as cold as ever, but his tone contained a strong sense of authority.

"Oh? Hidden strength?" Xu Nian smiled slightly.

It seemed that Xia Zhengfeng, as an Imperial Prince, had a deeper foundation than he had imagined.

The expressions of Chen Wudi and others who were at a distance changed as well.

Xia Zhengfeng had even hidden his strength?

"Could it be... the Purple Dragon Technique?"

Chen Tiansheng seemed to have thought of something, his face showing surprise.

"The Purple Dragon Technique? What's that?" Chen Yao and Chen Tiansheng asked, puzzled.

"The Purple Dragon Technique is a powerful Body Refinement Realm unique to the Imperial Family, and essentially every member of the Imperial Family practices it. At first, when I saw him displaying Spiritual Cultivation, I thought he hadn't undergone Body Cultivation, it seems I thought too simplistically," said Chen Tiansheng.

Chen Wudi and Chen Yao's expressions changed.

So, this Xia Zhengfeng was engaged in Spirit Body Dual Cultivation?

"Spirit Body Dual Cultivation? Interesting, my Spiritual Sense actually didn't detect that. This Purple Dragon Technique must be quite special!" Upon hearing Chen Tiansheng's words, Xu Nian's expression also revealed a hint of surprise.

However, even if Xia Zhengfeng truly was engaged in Spirit Body Dual Cultivation, Xu Nian did not feel any fear.

After all, no matter how powerful the Body Refinement Realm was, in the face of Divine Demon Refining Body, it would still be easily defeated.

"Since you've already guessed, then I'll let you see our Xia Family's Purple Dragon Technique!" Xia Zhengfeng proclaimed proudly.

He then stepped forward, and a powerful dragon's might radiated from his body.

"Roar!"

A dragon's roar emanated from within Xia Zhengfeng's body, followed by a purple dragon's shadow bursting forth, coiling directly around Xia Zhengfeng.

A formidable momentum instantly swept the surroundings, shaking everything in every direction.

"Eh, the Peak of Body General?"

Chen Wudi and the others all showed looks of astonishment on their faces.

Xia Zhengfeng's Body Cultivation had actually reached the peak of Body General.

Moreover, it was obvious that Xia Zhengfeng's Body Cultivation aura was several times stronger than that of an ordinary Body General at its peak.

Xu Nian was also somewhat surprised; he had not expected Xia Zhengfeng's Body Cultivation to be so advanced.

Moreover, within that purple Dragon Energy, Xu Nian actually felt a hint of the true essence of Dragon Energy.

It was very similar to that of the Extreme Purple Emperor Dragon ranked fifth among the Nine Great Divine Dragons.

"I haven't used the Purple Dragon Technique in a long time. You should be proud to have pushed me to use my Body Cultivation abilities, boy. Now, no matter how powerful your swordsmanship is, it's of no consequence before me, so it's time to end this," Xia Zhengfeng said arrogantly, emanating an emperor's might.

Chen Wudi and the others all wore grave expressions on their faces.

Although they knew Xu Nian practiced Spirit Body Dual Cultivation,

it was already quite an accomplishment for Xu Nian to have elevated his Spiritual Cultivation to the level of Four-star Battle General in such a short period.

His Body Cultivation likely hadn't made much progress, after all, Xu Nian hadn't used his Body Cultivation abilities from the start.

A smug smile curled on Xu Nian's lips as he planted his black sword firmly into the ground.

"You might be a bit premature in your declarations; just because you've hidden your strength, do you think I haven't?" Xu Nian laughed heartily.

With that, he also took a step forward.

The Divine Demon Gang Qi burst forth from his body.

The overturning power of a Four-star Body General surged out.

Moreover, this powerful Divine Demon Gang Qi was also mixed with potent Dragon Energy.

This was true Dragon Energy,

more authentic and powerful than the Dragon Energy Xia Zhengfeng had conjured with his Body Technique.

Therefore, the moment Xu Nian released his Body Cultivation presence, Xia Zhengfeng's Purple Dragon Technique actually began to tremble.

"How... how is this possible?"

Xia Zhengfeng's eyes widened, staring at Xu Nian, whose aura was not a bit inferior to his own, his face showing a look of utmost shock.

Chen Wudi and Chen Tiansheng were also wearing expressions of extreme surprise.

Peak of Four-star Body General?

It was one thing for his spiritual power to rise by several realms, but for his Body Cultivation to have soared this much too?

What exactly had Xu Nian experienced in these two months?

Could it be that he consumed some Immortal Pill?

"It's over, Xu the Monster has now evolved into Xu the Freak, who knows if he will turn into Xu the Horror?" Chen Wudi said, unable to help but make a quip while looking at the surging Xu Nian.

Chen Yao and Chen Tiansheng both nodded in agreement.

At this moment, Xia Zhengfeng's gaze also became utterly gloomy, with a strong Killing Intent emerging from the depths of his eyes.

Indeed, Xu Nian's potential had even made him, the Imperial Prince, feel fear.

"Die!"

With a loud roar, Xia Zhengfeng transformed into a purple shadow.

His fist thundered out, accompanied by a terrible roaring dragon cry.

Xu Nian, watching the punch Xia Zhengfeng hurled at him, simply curled the corners of his mouth into a light smile.

"Three-Forging Fist, Collapse Thunder!"

Xu Nian shouted softly, throwing a punch as well.

"Boom!"

The terrifying Spiritual Energy exploded instantaneously.

Xia Zhengfeng was immediately sent flying by this fearsome Gang Qi.

"What? How can he be this strong?" Xia Zhengfeng exclaimed in utter shock.

The power in Xu Nian's fist far exceeded his imagination.

"The real surprise is yet to come!"

However, just then,

a cold voice exploded in Xia Zhengfeng's ear.

Xia Zhengfeng's pupils instantly constricted, his expression one of terror.

Unbeknownst to him, Xu Nian had already reappeared in front of him.