

Divine King 391

Chapter 391 Seeing Lin Ruolan Again

The Bull Demon King was truly frightened.

Although he himself was a Demon Beast, the terrifying strength of the beast before him still scared him considerably.

He was certain that this Demon Beast was the most terrifying one he had ever encountered.

He even felt that it was more terrifying than the legendary Divine Dragon.

"Hey, brother, is this really your avatar?" the Bull Demon King asked, patting Xu Nian's shoulder.

"Yes!" Xu Nian said with a smile.

Seeing the Bull Demon King's uneasy expression, Xu Nian couldn't help but laugh inwardly.

Just a moment ago, the Bull Demon King had been so domineering.

Now, his appearance was like that of a shy young lady.

"So, what kind of Demon Beast is this avatar of yours?" the Bull Demon King asked again.

"It is called the Undying Devouring Sky Beast," Xu Nian said, still smiling.

He didn't hide anything from the Bull Demon King.

He felt that the Bull Demon King was trustworthy.

And simply telling him the name of his avatar was no big deal.

"Undying Devouring Sky Beast?" the Bull Demon King said, pondering hard as if trying to recall what kind of Demon Beast that was.

Xu Nian knew that the Bull Demon King would not possibly know about the Undying Devouring Sky Beast.

After all, there was only one of these beasts in the entire world.

"Alright, Brother Niu, since they are all dead, let's rest for a while," Xu Nian said, smiling.

He then retracted the Undying Devouring Sky Beast into his Dantian and promptly sat down on the ground.

The battle had left him not lightly injured.

Though he had already taken Healing Holy Medicine, healing completely would still take some time.

The Bull Demon King, seeing Xu Nian retract the Undying Devouring Sky Beast, finally let out a sigh of relief.

With the Undying Devouring Sky Beast around, he always felt a bit oppressed.

"By the way, Brother Niu, what exactly are these tokens in the Desolate Hall that everyone is looking for? I heard them mention they are related to the Immortal Treasure, but what exactly is this Immortal Treasure?" Xu Nian asked.

Hearing this, the Bull Demon King sighed helplessly.

"Actually, I don't know where exactly the Token is hidden. I only know that my ancestor, with the power to move mountains and seas, built this Bull Head Mountain and hid the token within it. But as to its exact location, I am clueless," the Bull Demon King sighed.

"And what about the Immortal Treasure?" Xu Nian persisted.

"This Immortal Treasure is only a legend. It's said that in the depths of the Forbidden Sea lies a huge Immortal Treasure. This continent we are on was once a battlefield of Immortals, and the treasures of the deceased Immortals were all moved to that Immortal Treasure in the Forbidden Sea. Only those who possess the Token can enter that sacred treasure site," the Bull Demon King explained.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian nodded in enlightenment.

He then fell into deep thought.

The Token, the Immortal Treasure, the Forbidden Sea!

And what Emperor Bai had mentioned about the restrictions on this continent.

As well as the battlefield of the Immortals!

These matters filtered one by one through Xu Nian's mind.

He always felt there must be some connection between them.

And all of it might possibly be related to the said Immortal Treasure.

"By the way, Brother Niu, when I came in just now, I noticed that there were restrictions laid down around Bull Head Mountain, but there was no response whatsoever. What exactly is the function of these restrictions?" Xu Nian asked again.

The Bull Demon King chuckled upon hearing this.

"These restrictions have existed here for a long time, possibly left by our ancestors. As for their exact purpose, I also do not know. However, there's one thing I find very strange," the Bull Demon King spoke.

"What did you find?" Xu Nian asked, puzzled.

"Deep within our Bull Head Mountain, there is a bell. Every time someone triggers the restrictions, the bell rings. I think it serves as a detection mechanism," the Bull Demon King explained.

"What's so strange about that?" Xu Nian was still confused.

However, with a grave expression, the Bull Demon King said, "But just now, when you entered this restricted area, the bell did not ring. Otherwise, those people from the Desolate Hall wouldn't have failed to notice your arrival."

"Is that so?" A look of surprise appeared on Xu Nian's face.

This was indeed very strange.

"Clang Clang!"

At this moment, deep within Bull Head Mountain, the crisp sound of a bell rang out again.

"People have come!" Both Bull Head Mountain and Xu Nian's expressions tensed.

This barrier was indeed used as an alarm.

But who would come to Bull Head Mountain at this time?

Regardless of who it was, Xu Nian was not afraid.

With the Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar by his side, as long as the newcomer's strength wasn't too high,

he could rely on the Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar to kill them.

"Whoosh!"

Just at that moment, a figure in a red dress fluttered down in front of everyone.

The Bull Demon King's eyes lit up upon seeing the woman.

Such a beautiful and enchanting woman was a first for him.

However, Xu Nian's brow furrowed tightly next to him.

Because the newcomer was none other than Lin Ruolan.

Lin Ruolan scanned the area, glanced at the bodies on the ground, and finally her gaze landed on Xu Nian.

"Junior Brother Xu, long time no see. I didn't expect you to be so powerful now, to think you've even killed a Peak of One-star Body Saint," Lin Ruolan said seductively, her gaze always carrying a hint of seduction.

"What are you doing here?" Xu Nian asked coldly.

He did not want to deal with the woman in front of him.

He always felt that this woman was strange and dangerous.

Yet she was persistently following him.

Sometimes, he really wanted to strike out and put an end to this woman.

But he always suppressed that impulse.

Because he had a feeling that even if he went all out, he might not be a match for her.

"I came to find you, of course. I missed you! I didn't expect you to be so fierce at first sight, it really hurt my feelings," Lin Ruolan pouted.

That voice was utterly bone-tingling.

The Bull Demon King was totally mesmerized by her voice.

However, Xu Nian felt a chill.

He knew the woman before him was definitely a femme fatale. Once you dropped your guard,

she would bite you viciously and fatally.

"If you don't want to be turned into beef jerky by her, it's best you don't harbor any ideas about her."

Xu Nian saw that the Bull Demon King was being enchanted.

He quickly spoke out to remind him.

The Bull Demon King's body shivered.

Xu Nian's words, he naturally believed them.

He also realized that this woman's charm was unusually powerful.

So he hastily pinched his own thigh to regain his composure.

However, it wasn't long before his eyes became muddled again.

Pinch again!

Become muddled again!

Such repetition!

Xu Nian helplessly shook his head.

This Bull Demon King turned out to be quite lustful.

But when he looked at Lin Ruolan again, his expression turned cold once more.

"Let's talk business!" Xu Nian demanded coldly.

"Always in such a hurry, fine, I came to tell you that your lover, Leng Yanran, has been taken back by her family," Lin Ruolan said with a smile.

"What?" At those words, Xu Nian was visibly shaken.

Chapter 392: A Chess Piece

Leng Yanran left?

Didn't wait for him, and went straight back to the Imperial Capital?

Could something have happened?

Seeing Xu Nian's uncertain expression, Lin Ruolan knew what Xu Nian was thinking.

With a seductive smile, she said, "You probably don't know, but your lover Leng Yanran actually already has a marriage arrangement with the Imperial Crown Prince. In three months, their wedding will take place, and the entire empire will celebrate together."

"Imperial Crown Prince?"

Xu Nian was startled.

He furrowed his brows instantly.

He had already guessed that Leng Yanran had a marriage arrangement.

But he had never imagined it would be with the Crown Prince of the Tianhen Empire.

Although he and Leng Yanran had not defined their relationship,

seeing Leng Yanran marry the Imperial Crown Prince was something he absolutely could not accept.

He knew the relationship between him and Leng Yanran had always been unclear.

Now was the time to resolve it.

At this moment, he made up his mind that he must go to the Imperial Capital to ask Leng Yanran face to face.

Did she truly want to marry this Imperial Prince?

If it was truly her own wish, he would only silently bless her in his heart.

But if she were being forced,

even if it meant causing a great disturbance in the Imperial Capital, he would never let Leng Yanran marry the Imperial Crown Prince.

This action would not only settle his own feelings,

but also fulfill the promise of the two-year agreement.

Fortunately, there were still three months.

As long as he got to the Imperial Capital within three months, everything could still be amended.

"Thank you for telling me all this. If there's nothing else, please leave, Senior Sister," Xu Nian said, having made up his mind, as he looked up at Lin Ruolan.

Though his words were grateful, his tone was unapologetically cold.

He knew that Lin Ruolan had ulterior motives for telling him this.

"How heartless, coming here with good intentions to tell you this news, and you can't even show a little kindness. I really don't see what's so good about Leng Yanran, how am I any worse than her in terms of

body or looks! What she knows, I also know; what she doesn't, I also know. Why are you so cold to her!" Lin Ruolan pouted and complained with a face full of resentment.

Xu Nian was speechless.

If one did not know Lin Ruolan's true nature,

they might actually be deceived by her seemingly meek appearance.

If one really believed her words, they would end up swallowed whole without even bones left.

"Since you're not welcoming, I'll leave then," Lin Ruolan said resentfully, giving Xu Nian a look, then stamped her foot and turned into a streak of light that vanished on the spot.

Xu Nian watched this scene, yet was filled with doubts.

Did Lin Ruolan really leave just like that?

Did she come here just to tell him the news of Leng Yanran's departure?

The more Xu Nian thought, the more he felt something was off.

Lin Ruolan's departure was indeed too strange.

Bull Demon King, standing nearby, watched Lin Ruolan's disappearing direction, filled with regret.

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On a mountain peak outside Bull Head Mountain,

Lin Ruolan's figure appeared as a streak of light.

And on that mountaintop, a Black Robed Man was waiting.

The face of this Black Robed Man was unclear, under the black hat was pitch black, nothing visible.

"Hall Master, why did you give up?" a deep voice came from beneath the black robe.

The Black Robed Man was clearly puzzled.

The Hall Master had already decided to make a move, so why suddenly retreat?

Lin Ruolan did not look at the Black Robed Man, but instead gazed towards Bull Head Mountain, her face revealing a seductive smile.

"Not urgent, I just thought of a good idea, perhaps in three months, he might bring us an unexpected surprise, by then the Imperial Capital will definitely be bustling," Lin Ruolan said with a smile.

She had indeed planned to take action and completely deal with Xu Nian.

But when she saw the corpses all over the ground, she suddenly held back.

The Body Saint's subordinate had died so miserably, clearly crushed to death by overwhelming power.

To truly take action against Xu Nian, there was no guarantee of complete control.

Thus, she decided to hold back and told Xu Nian about Leng Yanran's departure, letting him stir up trouble in the Imperial Capital.

"But what about the Token and the dragon vein?" the Black Robed Man asked.

"There's no rush, after all, these will eventually be ours, but during this period, you must follow this Xu Nian closely, watch every move he makes. I need to recover my strength as soon as possible, otherwise even if we obtain the dragon vein and the Token, it would be of no use," Lin Ruolan suddenly spoke with a serious tone.

"Yes, Hall Master!" the Black Robed Man replied.

His tone was somewhat excited.

If the Hall Master could regain her peak strength from those years, their Desolate Hall would truly not fear the Tianhen Empire.

They would no longer need to operate in the shadows.

By then, the entire Tianhen Empire might be theirs.

"Alright, I'll take my leave now, keep a close eye on them for me," Lin Ruolan instructed, then her figure once again disappeared into the horizon.

The Black Robed Man walked to the edge of the cliff, looking in the direction of Bull Head Mountain, scoffing with disdain, "What so-called genius, he's just a pawn under our Desolate Hall, the moment the Hall Master regains her strength, it will be your death."

After finishing his words, the Black Robed Man's figure directly vanished into thin air, hiding in the darkness.

As time passed, three days went by.

During these three days, Xu Nian had been healing.

After three days of recuperation, not only had his injuries healed,

But his Spiritual Cultivation had even unexpectedly broken through to the Eight-star War King Realm.

For Xu Nian, this was undoubtedly a pleasant surprise.

Though he couldn't break through to the Battle Saint Level, any improvement in strength was a good thing.

In addition to the breakthrough in cultivation,

Xu Nian had been pondering the sword strike he used to kill Yuan Feng.

He wanted to see if he could recall the inspiration from that moment.

However, after three days, not only had he made no progress,

But he had completely forgotten the feeling he had at that time.

This left Xu Nian feeling helpless.

It seemed touching the legendary Profound Argumentation was not an easy task.

The inspiration he had had before was fleeting.

Having failed to grasp it, he could only start from scratch.

"Brother Xu, you're awake, come on, I'll take you to a place," Bull Demon King said as soon as he saw Xu Nian open his eyes.

"Where to?" Xu Nian asked curiously.

"You'll know once we get there," Bull Demon King said with a smile.

After speaking, he headed towards the interior of Bull Head Mountain.

Although Xu Nian was curious, he still followed.

When Bull Demon King reached a certain cliff face, his figure actually passed through it.

Xu Nian was stunned; the cliff was actually an illusion.

Was there a hidden realm inside?

Xu Nian immediately followed.

Indeed, as he passed through the cliff, he came directly into a huge cavern.

It turned out that there was a cave inside.

The entrance was enchanted with an Illusion Array, and even Spiritual Sense Power could not detect it.

However, the cave was quite simple inside.

Other than a bell floating in the air,

There were just some simple stone tables and stone beds.

The only peculiar thing was a huge painting on the wall on the west side of the cavern.

Chapter 393: Token Acquired

The mural depicted a giant tower.

Around the tower were long, sturdy iron chains.

The tower was filled with an aura that seemed primeval, as though a prehistoric giant beast lay curled within.

And those iron chains were meant to trap the beast, preventing it from breaking the confines of its cage.

The iron chains gave off a feeling of coldness and rigidity.

Indomitable!

This was still the aura emanating from the painting.

In all likelihood, the actual object would be even more terrifying than this mural.

"Who painted this?" Xu Nian asked, turning towards the Bull Demon King.

"My ancestor left this behind. On his deathbed, he prophesied that whoever could decipher the secret of this painting would find the Token's whereabouts. Yet a thousand years have passed, and my forebears have all died without grasping its meaning," the Bull Demon King said, scratching his head.

Xu Nian nodded.

The Bull Demon King had brought him to this cave.

In fact, he was hoping Xu Nian would look at this painting.

With his own intelligence, it was impossible for him to comprehend the meaning within the painting.

So he had no choice but to seek help from Xu Nian.

Hoping Xu Nian could unlock the secret of the painting and locate that Token.

Xu Nian remained silent, beginning to scrutinize the painting carefully.

The Bull Demon King did not interrupt and sat quietly to the side.

Xu Nian sat there for three days.

The Bull Demon King went mad!

He fidgeted, scratching his ears and cheeks.

He couldn't fathom how Xu Nian managed to sit for three days without speaking, just staring at the painting.

Every time he tried to spend time understanding the secret of the painting,

he would fall asleep while looking at it.

Let's not even talk about whether Xu Nian could comprehend it.

Just this level of mental fortitude was enough to earn his deep admiration.

"Brother Xu, how is it, have you deciphered the secret within?" the Bull Demon King finally asked.

Xu Nian shook his head.

He tried everything.

Spiritual Sense Power, Gray Dragon Eye, but still, he found nothing special about the painting.

The Bull Demon King, seeing Xu Nian's headshake, also showed a look of disappointment on his face.

He had thought that Xu Nian would gain something.

But three days passed with no clue at all.

"Let's just go drink, forget about the painting," the Bull Demon King waved his hand and said.

Xu Nian, although reluctant,

still decided to give up.

He needed to hurry to the Imperial Capital and couldn't afford to spend too much time here.

"Buzz!"

However, just as Xu Nian was about to turn and leave,

a thought flashed directly through his mind, making his eyes light up instantly.

"What's wrong?" the Bull Demon King noticed Xu Nian's reaction and asked.

Xu Nian didn't answer the Bull Demon King; instead, he stared intently at the mural.

"So it is, so it is!"

A gleam of revelation burst forth in Xu Nian's eyes.

He had figured it out.

He finally understood the secret of the mural.

He knew where the Token was.

"Brother, have you discovered something?" asked the Bull Demon King excitedly.

Xu Nian nodded.

"Quick, tell me, where exactly is the Token?"

The Bull Demon King's expression immediately became agitated.

This puzzle had confounded them for a whole millennium.

Finally, someone had unraveled it.

"Actually, the moment you saw that painting, you saw the Token," Xu Nian said with a smile.

"The painting itself is the Token? The Token is this big?" Bull Demon King's eyes widened.

The painting was at least five meters long and three meters wide.

If this painting was the Token, just how big would the Token be?

Hearing this, Xu Nian immediately burst into laughter.

He had known that the Bull Demon King would have such a reaction.

So, he began to channel his Spiritual Energy, pouring it all into the painting.

As the Spiritual Energy infused into it, the painting suddenly lit up.

The bell that floated in midair started to tremble rapidly.

The restriction enveloping Bull Head Mountain also began to contract swiftly at this moment.

"Humm!"

Eventually, the entire restriction retracted into the mural, and at that moment, the bell came to a halt.

Yet, the painting on the wall had disappeared.

In its place was a metal Token emitting strong, fluctuating rays of light.

The Token floated in the air,

radiating an intense aura of antiquity.

"Is this the Token that they've been searching for?" Bull Demon King asked, his eyes round with awe.

He still didn't understand what was happening.

Why had the mural turned into a Token when Xu Nian infused it with Spiritual Energy?

Xu Nian chuckled and explained, "Actually, this Token was merged with Bull Head Mountain by your ancestors through powerful means, so no matter how you searched, you could never find it. Only by activating it with Spiritual Energy could you trigger the surrounding restrictions, causing them to lift, and reveal the true Token."

"So that's how it is! No wonder we couldn't find it for a thousand years," Bull Demon King exclaimed, slapping his forehead.

Xu Nian smiled faintly and took the floating Token into his hand.

On the front of the Token were two characters: Azure Dragon!

The back was the pattern that had been on the mural.

Azure Dragon?

Could it represent one of the Four Divine Beasts?

Xu Nian suddenly realized something.

If his guess was correct, there should be three other Tokens besides the one in his hand,

likely engraved with Vermilion Bird, Xuanwu, and White Tiger—the other three Divine Beasts.

"Brother Xu, since you found this Token, you should take it. Our ancestors said that whoever finds the Token, it shall belong to them," said Bull Demon King.

Xu Nian was taken aback.

The Token harbored a massive secret.

It seemed that Bull Demon King's deity ancestor did not wish for their descendants to get involved lightly.

If their descendants discovered the Token through their own wisdom, it signified they were capable.

If not, then even if they took part, they would end up shattered to pieces.

It must be said that the deity ancestor of the Bull Demon King was someone of great wisdom.

"Alright, I'll take care of the Token for now. If there's a chance in the future, I'll call you to join me," Xu Nian said.

Bull Demon King nodded with a smile.

He liked Xu Nian's decisiveness; there was no dilly-dallying.

It was the people who professed not to want something, yet harbored ulterior motives, that irked him.

"Let's go drink!" Bull Demon King gestured.

"Next, I must leave this place and head to the Imperial Capital, Brother Niu. I'm afraid I can't join you for drinks," Xu Nian replied, turning him down.

"Imperial Capital? Great, then I'll come with you. We can drink while we travel," Bull Demon King laughed heartily.

Xu Nian, however, looked troubled.

The Bull Demon King accompanying him?

If he walked with a creature with a bull's head by his side, it would be a wonder if they didn't attract attention.

But there was no stopping Bull Demon King if he wanted to go, so all Xu Nian could do was ask, "Brother Niu, could you change your appearance? With the way you look, entering a human city might be..."

"Oh, that so! Alright!"

Bull Demon King shifted, transforming into a young man about 1.8 meters tall.

Yet, there were still two bull horns on top of his head,

as if he was worried that others might not realize he was a bull.

Chapter 394 Imperial Princess

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At last, Xu Nian still hit the road with the Bull Demon King.

The Bull Demon King refused to hide his two horns.

Xu Nian had no choice but to let him be.

However, the Bull Demon King also knew that swaggering through the city with his big horns was not a good idea, so he shortened them quite a bit.

And covered them with thick hair.

If one didn't look closely, it was difficult for the average person to notice.

As such, they didn't attract too much attention.

Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King hurried towards the direction of the Imperial Capital.

But before long, Xu Nian and his companion encountered an incident.

A figure was seen flying towards them.

The figure was flying somewhat erratically, and her dress was spotted with fresh blood.

She seemed to be seriously injured.

Behind her, three young men were in pursuit.

Clearly, they were trying to kill the injured woman.

The woman, not expecting to encounter someone in the air, almost crashed into Xu Nian in her panic.

"Ah!"

Moreover, since she was seriously injured, she couldn't control her spiritual energy, and she started to plummet towards the ground.

Xu Nian's gaze sharpened, and he immediately flashed, appearing below the woman.

Just as she was about to hit the ground, he caught her in his arms.

It was not until this moment that Xu Nian could see the woman's appearance clearly.

The woman was beautiful with fair, smooth skin.

Most importantly, she had reached the Six-star Battle King Realm.

Considering she was only around twenty-four years old but had already reached Six-star Battle King,

it was indeed a rare occurrence.

"Are you okay?" Xu Nian set the woman down.

The woman hastily took a couple of steps back.

However, due to her severe injuries, blood still seeped from her mouth.

Xu Nian had already detected with his spiritual sense that many of the woman's meridians were damaged.

By rights, she shouldn't operate her spiritual energy anymore as it would only worsen her injuries.

But to escape from her pursuers, she had to forcibly circulate it.

That had led to the current signs of rupturing in her meridians.

The woman's complexion was not good.

Having already had difficulty escaping, her encounter with Xu Nian had caused a further delay.

The people chasing her could easily catch up now.

"I'm fine, you guys go ahead!" the woman said coldly.

With that, she turned to leave.

Seeing this, Xu Nian's face revealed a trace of a smile.

The woman's cold words had surprisingly won quite a bit of Xu Nian's favor.

Clearly, she was facing pursuers and did not want to involve Xu Nian in her troubles.

Initially delayed by Xu Nian, she now did not want to implicate them further.

Such a kind-hearted woman was really rare.

The woman did not know that this small act of hers had directly saved her life.

"Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!"

But before the young woman could get far, three sounds of breaking the air came.

Three figures landed around Xu Nian and the young woman.

Xu Nian glanced at them, and these people were all of Battle King Level Cultivation.

Among them, two were Eight-star Battle Kings, while another was a Nine-star Battle King Level.

Facing such strong opponents, the fact that this young woman had managed to hold on for so long was impressive.

It was undeniable that the woman had extraordinary capabilities.

As the three men surrounded her, the young woman's eyes turned icy cold.

"Ice Spirit Princess, where do you think you can escape to now?" The leading Nine-star Battle King said with a light laugh as he looked at the young woman.

"Princess?"

Xu Nian was taken aback.

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Was the woman before him actually a princess?

Then, does that mean she is a member of the Imperial Family?

This took Xu Nian by surprise.

He had not expected to encounter the Imperial Princess while he was on his way to the Imperial Capital.

Moreover, the Imperial Princess was being chased for assassination?

Xu Nian couldn't help but lament the irony of fate.

"You from Tianji Pavilion must be insane to intercept me. If my father, the Emperor, finds out, your entire Tianji Pavilion will be annihilated," Princess Ice Spirit said coldly.

There was a thick anger in her voice.

Tianji Pavilion?

What kind of power is that?

He had never heard of such a force within the empire!

Of course, it was normal for Xu Nian not to have heard of it.

Some powers exist in the dark, nurtured secretly by certain individuals.

It was very likely that Tianji Pavilion was one of them.

"Haha, Princess, are you joking? This is within East Field County. How would the Emperor know, and besides, the Emperor is in seclusion now and couldn't possibly know you're in danger. As long as we kill you and destroy the body and evidence, who would know it was us from Tianji Pavilion?" The leader man laughed heartily.

His eyes were filled with intense madness.

"You..." Upon hearing this, Princess Ice Spirit was immediately furious.

Xu Nian, on the other hand, found it almost amusing.

He was standing right there, and yet these three people completely ignored him.

Destroy the body and evidence?

Doesn't that mean they would also need to kill him to silence him?

It seemed he would have to intervene today, whether he liked it or not.

"Ahem!"

Xu Nian coughed deliberately.

Only then did the three assassins turn to look at Xu Nian.

Although they had noticed another person from the start,

their attention had been entirely focused on Princess Ice Spirit.

Now, hearing Xu Nian cough, they finally sized him up.

The young woman, hearing Xu Nian's cough, slightly furrowed her brows.

This young man would probably get involved.

These people would never let him leave anyway.

However, she couldn't help it, so she mentally apologized to Xu Nian.

"Young man, what do you want to do?" The leader man asked, his gaze filled with disdain.

They had not seen Xu Nian flying; looking at his young age, they naturally thought his cultivation wasn't very high.

"Well, I have nothing to do with this. Can I leave now?" Xu Nian asked with a smile.

"Leave? Boy, do you think we'll let you leave?" The leader man laughed out loud, then ordered his two subordinates, "Kill him!"

One of the two Eight-star War Kings, a skinny man, glanced at Xu Nian, and a battle saber appeared in his hand, coming straight down towards Xu Nian.

In his view, this slash would surely split the young man in half.

"Wait!"

However, just as the Eight-star War King's saber was about to strike Xu Nian, Xu Nian suddenly shouted out.

"Young man, have you anything else to say?" The leader asked.

"You can't kill me, I've raised a bull, and it's very ferocious. If you kill me, it will devour all of you," Xu Nian said with a smile.

The three assassins burst out laughing, their eyes filled with ridicule.

A bull?

They thought the young man would say something substantial.

But soon, their laughter stopped abruptly.

Their necks stiffly turned behind them.

As they saw the scene before them, their faces changed drastically.

"A Saint Level Demon Beast?"

The leader shivered, his hands trembling.

The young woman's face also showed utter surprise.

There stood a giant black bull, as huge as a mountain, behind them.

Just its height reached dozens of meters, and its length was a terrifying hundred meters.

Most crucially, the aura exuding from the giant bull had the presence of Saint Level.

Chapter 395: Introducing You

The three assassins gazed at the giant ox in front of them, its size akin to a mountain peak.

They felt their hearts were about to leap out of their chests.

They really wished they could slap this young man dead at this moment.

And then thoroughly question the young man.

What the hell?

Is this the ox you said you were raising?

Your ox is this huge?

And it's even a Saint Level Demon Beast?

Princess Ice Spirit was also shocked beyond measure.

Although she had seen Xu Nian flying, considering how young he was,

it was already incredible that he could reach the Battle King Realm; how could he possibly be a match for these three assassins?

But now she had to start doubting.

Did this young man actually possess a Saint Level Demon Beast?

Then what level of Cultivation could this young man have?

"Run for it!"

The three assassins realized something was wrong and hurriedly tried to scatter in all directions.

"Think you can escape? Do you think this king would let you get away?"

Bull Demon King huffed loudly, his voice booming like thunder.

Then, the three assassins saw an enormous hoof descending fiercely upon them.

One of the assassins, an Eight-star Battle King, didn't have time to dodge and was immediately crushed into a pulp by the hoof.

Another Eight-star Battle King saw this scene and was scared out of his wits.

He quickly took to the sky in flight.

"So eager to flee? Let me give you a push!"

The Bull Demon King chuckled lightly and gave the Eight-star Battle King a kick.

"Whoosh!"

That Eight-star Battle King turned into a shooting star, disappearing into the horizon.

That kick probably sent him beyond the atmosphere.

At the Battle King's strength, there was no chance of survival out there.

Therefore, the kicked Battle King was undoubtedly dead.

In the blink of an eye, two of the three assassins had been killed.

Only the last Nine-star War King remained.

Seeing the situation was grim, the Nine-star War King realized the likelihood of escaping from this Saint Demon Beast was next to impossible.

His eyes blazed with a fierce light.

Instead of choosing to flee, he charged at Xu Nian.

Since the young man had said this Saint Demon Beast was his own,

if he could kill the master, the Spiritual Beast would follow suit in death.

Thus, not only could he save himself, but he could also kill Princess Ice Spirit.

As for the strength of the young man, he truly believed he could kill him instantly.

"Buzz!"

The Nine-star War King swung his Battle Saber as he rapidly rushed toward Xu Nian.

He thought himself to be incredibly clever.

Those other two fools.

Actually trying to escape from the clutches of a Saint Demon Beast.

It was sheer idiocy.

In a flash, the Nine-star War King was in front of Xu Nian.

The next moment, his Battle Saber was about to dismember Xu Nian.

But Xu Nian seemed oblivious, standing still without moving a muscle.

Princess Ice Spirit also showed a look of panic, seemingly wanting to step in and stop the Nine-star War King.

However, her speed could not keep up with the Nine-star War King's movements.

She could only watch helplessly as the Battle Saber swung towards Xu Nian.

Princess Ice Spirit furrowed her brow tightly.

She thought to herself that it was over!

If this young man could just block or dodge, it would be something!

How could he stand there without moving, letting the Battle Saber slash towards him?

Is this not waiting for death?

The young hero's death would surely lead to the Saint Demon Beast's destruction as well.

The hope that had sparked was thus extinguished alongside.

"Clang!"

However, just when Princess Ice Spirit thought Xu Nian would be cleaved in twain by the saber,

An astonishing scene unfolded.

Xu Nian, at some unknown time, had produced a hand that caught the Battle Saber.

And on Xu Nian's palm, a gauntlet had appeared.

Indeed, it was the Spiritual Artifact gauntlet he had acquired from killing a One-star Body Saint.

Blocking the Nine-star War King's peculiar metal Battle Saber was more than sufficient.

"How could this be?"

The Nine-star War King was taken aback.

He had not expected this young hero to possess a Spiritual Artifact as well.

But even with a Spiritual Artifact, how could the young man withstand such a powerful strike?

"Crack!"

Before the Nine-star War King could come to a conclusion, his weapon, made of peculiar metal, was snapped in half by Xu Nian's palm.

"What?"

The Nine-star War King's eyes widened in shock.

If Xu Nian had blocked his strike with the Spiritual Artifact gauntlet,

Then breaking this peculiar metal Battle Saber was certainly not as simple as just relying on a gauntlet.

Ice Spirit Princess was equally astonished on the side.

She turned to look at the Demon Saint Giant Bull beside her only to find that the Giant Bull had maintained a mocking expression, showing no intention to intervene.

It was at this time that she realized the young hero's strength might be far more terrifying than she had imagined.

"Who... who exactly are you?"

The Nine-star War King realized this was no ordinary young hero. He retreated several steps in fear.

"Who I am isn't important, what is important is that you'll soon be dead. I didn't want to get involved, but since you're trying to kill me to silence me, I have no choice but to kill you," Xu Nian explained with an expression of helpless regret.

Enraged, the Nine-star War King rued not the act of silencing witnesses,

But lamented his own terrible fortune for encountering such a disaster right before completing his mission.

"If you kill me, the Crown Prince won't let you off. You won't have a good death either," the Nine-star War King said with venomous resentment.

"The Crown Prince?" Xu Nian paused.

Could it be that the Tianji Pavilion is a power cultivated by the Crown Prince?

But why would he want to kill Princess Ice Spirit?

She's supposed to be his sister, isn't she?

Upon hearing this, Princess Ice Spirit's gaze turned icy cold.

Xu Nian instantly understood that the Imperial Family was not as united as he had imagined.

Undercurrents were swirling, ready to erupt.

Of course, this was none of his business. As long as they did not provoke him, he was too lazy to bother.

Seeing Xu Nian pause, the Nine-star War King thought Xu Nian was intimidated and quickly continued, "If you know what's good for you, you'll let me go. The Crown Prince will be Emperor Tianhen in the future, with an unparalleled status. If you submit to the Crown Prince, I can recommend you to him!"

When he said this, his tone was smug.

He believed that anyone hearing these words would surely be moved.

"Ha ha, a recommendation? Don't you know what I detest most are threats? Actually, I'm quite familiar with King Yan; let me give you an introduction right now!" Xu Nian laughed heartily, but as he finished speaking,

His eyes suddenly sharpened.

With a flick of his finger, the broken piece of sword transformed into a frightening shadow.

"Spurt!"

Instantly, the Nine-star War King was sent flying backward, impaled by the blade tip.

The tip pierced through his chest and pinned him firmly against a massive rock.

"You..."

The Nine-star War King's eyes were filled with intense unwillingness, pointing at Xu Nian as if he wanted to say something.

However, after uttering only one word, his raised hand drooped down lifelessly.

The blade had pierced his heart, sealing his fate.

Xia Bingling stood by, her eyes brimming with surprise.

A Nine-star War King so easily slain.

What level of strength did this young hero possess?

Chapter 396 Delicacies of the World

Xu Nian wasn't the least bit surprised by Xia Bingling's amazement.

He didn't bother with Xia Bingling and called over the now human-shaped Bull Demon King to prepare to leave.

"Wait a second!"

But before Xu Nian could get far, Xia Bingling suddenly called out to them from behind.

"What is it?"

Xu Nian asked.

He didn't want to get too entangled with members of the Imperial Family.

Although the princess before him seemed quite kind, given his enmity with the Imperial Family,

Who knew what could happen?

"Where are you heading? It looks like you're going to the Imperial Capital. I wonder if I could join you," said Xia Bingling.

Her voice carried a hint of weakness.

Xu Nian frowned slightly.

If he were to just leave her here, should Tianji Pavilion find her again,

She would definitely be doomed.

But if he took her with him, he had no idea what kind of trouble that might invite.

He was headed to the Imperial Capital on important business and didn't want to attract too much attention.

"Alright then, you can follow me, but without my permission, you are not to act on your own," Xu Nian finally agreed.

He couldn't bear to leave such a seriously injured lady in the wild.

"Thank you!" Xia Bingling said gratefully.

As soon as she finished speaking, she fainted.

Xu Nian caught her.

He shook his head helplessly.

He had long noticed that Xia Bingling was at her limit.

He didn't expect her to have held on for so long.

The moment Xu Nian agreed to her request, she completely relaxed her mind.

Once her mind relaxed, she naturally passed out.

For an Imperial Princess to have such perseverance was indeed very rare.

...

In a cave within a desolate wilderness and forest.

Xu Nian was silently roasting a massive wild boar, at least five or six meters long.

Beside him, there was not only the Bull Demon King but also Black Wind and Xu Yu, who were both eagerly eyeing the fragrant boar meat.

This was already the sixth Demon Beast.

The three of them were simply gluttons.

Each had hunted down two Demon Beasts and brought them back for Xu Nian to cook for them.

Xu Nian had never seen anyone eat with such ferocity in his life.

"Big brother, is it ready yet? Hurry up! I'm starving," Little Xu Yu urged anxiously.

At the moment, its body was only the size of a human's.

A Divine Beast Bloodline Demon Beast at the level of a Battle King could change its size at will.

Even though it had become much smaller, its appetite had not diminished.

"Hey, little bird, don't fight with me for it. I was the one who brought back this blood pig," interrupted the Bull Demon King before Xu Nian could reply.

"Cut it out, you dumb bull, didn't you eat the two Gale Leopards I just caught? No way, I have to try some of this blood pig meat," Little Xu Yu immediately retorted, not willing to back down.

"That's right, just now you were the one eating the most fiercely. The two Earth Dragons I brought back were almost entirely eaten by you. This blood pig meat belongs to me and Xu Yu, you are not allowed to eat any," Black Wind joined in.

Upon hearing this, the Bull Demon King was so angry that smoke seemed to be coming from his nostrils.

This dog and bird had been bickering with him from the start.

But if it really came down to a fight, even he was no match for the two of them together.

Xu Nian stood by with the Bull Demon King's steel fork, prodding the blood pig meat, listening to the three creatures bicker.

By now, Xu Yu and Black Wind had both reached the Peak of Nine-star Battle King.

After all, they had consumed so much flesh from Demon Beasts, including those of the Demon Saint Level.

The main way Demon Beasts increased their Cultivation was through eating.

As long as they had the body of a powerful Demon Beast to consume, they could enhance their strength rapidly.

Plus, given that they inherently bore the Divine Beast Bloodline, their absorption ability was naturally stronger than that of ordinary Demon Beasts.

So when Black Wind and Xu Yu joined forces, even Xu Nian couldn't match them.

Of course, that was without using the Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar. Should that be employed, even if a Bull Demon King were added to the mix, Xu Nian would still manage to subdue them without error.

"You guys might be out of luck! Someone's awake!"

Xu Nian said with a smile.

Upon hearing this, the three great Demon Beasts all looked towards the entrance of the cave.

Indeed, a slender figure emerged from within.

Seeing this, all three Demon Beasts shook their heads in disappointment.

Xia Bingling was also startled by the scene before her.

She had seen the Bull Demon King before.

But what was the deal with a dog and an eagle? Were they actually speaking human language just now?

Before their Transformation Form, only Divine Beast Bloodline Demon Beasts were capable of speaking human language.

And the aura emanating from them was that of Nine-star Demon Kings at their peak.

Two peak-level Demon Kings with Divine Beast Bloodlines?

For a moment, Xia Bingling's gaze towards Xu Nian changed.

This young man had so many powerful Demon Beasts by his side.

What exactly was his identity?

And this young man's own strength was not weak either.

"Are you awake? Sit down and have something to eat." Xu Nian said as he cut off a pig's leg with a blade and handed it to Xia Bingling.

"Thank you!" Xia Bingling responded as she took the pig's leg.

The three great Demon Beasts beside her stared eagerly at the pig's leg in Xia Bingling's hands, continuously swallowing their saliva.

Xia Bingling wondered in her heart—could this pig's leg really be that delicious?

Out of curiosity, Xia Bingling took a bite of the pig's leg.

But as soon as she bit into it, her eyes lit up.

She then set aside any airs of being an Imperial Princess and began to eat heartily.

The three great Demon Beasts, seeing this, could only shake their heads helplessly.

"It's over, now there'll be another competitor. To think that an Imperial Princess herself would succumb," Black Wind said helplessly, shaking its head as it watched Xia Bingling eat.

Xu Nian laughed at the scene.

He couldn't deny it.

He truly had a remarkable talent for grilling.

Nowadays, the meat he grilled was absolutely a delicacy of the mortal world.

Generally, whether human or Demon Beast, anyone who tasted his grilled meat couldn't resist wanting more.

Soon, Xia Bingling had polished off the entire pig's leg.

"It's so delicious, I couldn't help myself. Are you a cook?" Xia Bingling realized her lapse and asked with a smile.

As a Cultivator, eating had become something she could take or leave.

But that pig's leg had made her crave for more.

So, her immediate suspicion was that this young man was of a culinary background.

"Haha, not at all. I just grill in my spare time for fun. Initially, I only grilled for them, but they became increasingly addicted. Whenever there was time, they'd bring me a Demon Beast to grill, and over time, my grilling skills improved," Xu Nian explained with a chuckle.

Xia Bingling nodded in realization, showing a rare smile on her face.

This was the most delicious meal she ever had since childhood.

Although she had eaten many a delicacy from mountains and seas when she was younger, none could compare to the grilled meat before her now.

She really had no idea how this young man managed to grill something so tasty.

"Could you tell me about your situation with the Imperial Crown Prince?" Xu Nian ventured to ask.

Upon hearing this, Xia Bingling's expression turned cold again, but eventually, she nodded at Xu Nian.

Chapter 397: The Secret of the Crown Prince

"In fact, the Imperial Family isn't as harmonious as you all imagine. There is strife among the members of the Imperial Family. Unless they are born from the same mother, it is very difficult for them to get along," Xia Bingling began.

Xu Nian nodded.

He had long suspected that the competition within the Imperial Family was brutal.

But he hadn't expected it to be so ruthless.

In just a few words from Xia Bingling, one could see the undercurrents swirling within the Imperial Family.

"But why does the Crown Prince want to kill you? You're just a princess. Is he afraid that you'll compete with him for the throne?" Xu Nian asked, puzzled.

"It's not about that. He's not after me because of the throne; it's because of something else," Xia Bingling said.

"What is it?" Xu Nian pressed.

Hearing this, Xia Bingling hesitated for a moment, then said coldly, "It's because he was secretly practicing evil techniques and I discovered it. I once saw him bring a palace maid into his sleeping quarters in secret, and afterwards, that maid never came out again. After some investigation, I found out he was practicing a Yin Yang Replenishment evil technique, specializing in absorbing the Yin Vitality of women to boost his own cultivation. Any woman used for his practice would undoubtedly end up in a terrible state. Moreover, I discovered he had been practicing this evil technique for almost ten years, and the number of women who have died by his hands is probably no less than a thousand."

"What?"

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian immediately showed a shocked expression.

If the Imperial Crown Prince was practicing such an evil technique, wouldn't Leng Yanran be in great danger?

Leng Yanran was said to possess the Xuanyin Body.

The ideal furnace for all those who practice evil techniques.

It was probably precisely because of this that the Crown Prince wanted to marry Leng Yanran.

Thinking of this, Xu Nian's fists clenched tightly, his eyes filled with intense killing intent.

Before, he had decided to first ask for Leng Yanran's wishes.

But now, he had already decided that even if Leng Yanran didn't end up with him, he would never let her marry the Imperial Crown Prince.

"Well played, Imperial Crown Prince, to actually practice such an evil technique that disregards human life," Xu Nian's eyes were filled with killing intent.

Xia Bingling didn't understand why Xu Nian was so agitated.

She could only assume it was because the young man had an innate hatred for evil.

"But since he is already the Imperial Crown Prince, what cultivation resources doesn't he have? Why would he still practice such an evil technique?" Xu Nian wondered aloud.

"It's because of the Eighth Prince. The Eighth Prince was born with extraordinary talent and his cultivation speed was extremely fast. Then he acquired the Star Body bloodline, which made his cultivation speed soar even more. A year ago, he had already officially broken through to the Saint Realm, whereas the Crown Prince's talent isn't that high. In order not to be too far outstripped by the Eighth Prince, he resorted to such crooked methods. I discovered it by chance, and if I tell the Eighth Prince, he would surely use this to inform our father, and by then, the position of Crown Prince might not be secure," Xia Bingling explained.

Xu Nian's gaze turned dark.

Although he had never met this Crown Prince, just from Xia Bingling's words,

He could easily tell that the Crown Prince was a sinister and ruthless person.

"So Tianji Pavilion is a force cultivated by the Crown Prince?" Xu Nian asked.

"Exactly. Right now, in the Imperial Family, only the Crown Prince and the Eighth Prince have the chance to compete for the throne. Besides some forces supporting them, they each have cultivated their own

strengths. The force cultivated by the Crown Prince is called Tianji Pavilion, which is used to control intelligence and assassinate enemies!" Xia Bingling replied.

"What about the force of the Eighth Prince?" Xu Nian asked again.

"The Eighth Prince's force is called Star Pavilion, but it's very secretive. No one has actually seen it, and I've only heard some rumors," Xia Bingling said.

Star Pavilion?

Xu Nian silently repeated these three words in his mind.

He could easily connect them to Chen Wudi.

It was the Eighth Prince who had snatched away the origin of Chen Wudi's Star Battle Body, causing Chen Wudi to waste years of time and endure much pain.

So, this Eighth Prince wasn't a good person either.

"Then, Princess, which of the princes are you close to?" Xu Nian asked.

From Xia Bingling's words, one could tell that she was dissatisfied with both the Crown Prince and the Eighth Prince.

"I naturally favor my Sixth Brother, he is honest and sincere, treats others with genuine kindness, and never involves himself in such struggles. However, his talents are lacking, not qualifying him to compete for the imperial throne. Both the Crown Prince and the Eighth Prince have never taken my Sixth Brother seriously," Xia Bingling answered.

Xu Nian nodded.

So it seemed that the Sixth Prince was indeed born to the same mother as Xia Bingling.

Xia Bingling was also puzzled; she didn't know why she was spilling so many of the Imperial Family's secrets to an outsider today.

Usually, she hardly even spoke.

Perhaps it was because the youth before her gave her a sense of security, and also because the meat was truly too delicious.

With her spirits lifted, she had spilled everything she knew.

Xu Nian then stood up.

He silently moved to the top of the mountain and looked up at the huge Mysterious Moon.

There were still over two months until the Imperial Crown Prince and Leng Yanran's grand wedding.

Within these two months, he must rapidly enhance his cultivation.

Otherwise, even if he reached the Imperial Capital, he might be unable to do anything and might even risk losing his life in vain.

Although he had the Black Hou, a Half-Emperor Senior Person.

The Imperial Capital also harbored powerful Battle Emperors.

Once Black Hou made a move, the Battle Emperor Experts were equally justified in acting.

After all, the imperial restrictions did not prohibit Emperor-level strong men from acting against each other.

So, everything still depended on Xu Nian himself.

With this thought, Xu Nian no longer hesitated. He sat down cross-legged and began to operate his cultivation technique.

The time left to him was short.

He had to enhance his cultivation to the Holy Realm before entering the Imperial Capital.

Therefore, he needed to make every minute and every second count.

But not long after he began the cultivation technique.

The heavens and earth started to undergo a dramatic transformation.

The surrounding Spiritual Energy began to wildly converge in Xu Nian's direction.

Xia Bingling and Bull Demon King, among others, lifted their heads to look towards the mountaintop.

This glimpse left them utterly astounded by what they saw.

Above Xu Nian's head, there was an immense vortex of Spiritual Energy.

The vortex had a diameter reaching a thousand meters.

Spiritual Energy from a radius of several hundred miles was all converging towards this spot.

It was fortunate that this place was remote and uninhabited.

Had this happened in a densely populated city.

The scene might have caused a significant uproar.

In fact, they didn't know that this was the effect of Xu Nian running both the Dan Sea Species Green Lotus and the Divine Demon Refining Body Technique simultaneously.

If the Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar also operated the Undying Devouring Sky Technique at the same time.

It wouldn't just be the convergence of Spiritual Energy from a hundred miles around.

More likely, Spiritual Energy from a thousand miles radius would be drawn in, and the scene would absolutely rock the entire East Field County.

Chapter 398: The Mysterious Tianlin City

...

Over the next several days,

Xu Nian led the Bull Demon King and Xia Bingling toward the Imperial Capital.

However, this time, they did not fly but walked.

Xu Nian knew that although walking would greatly slow down his speed of reaching the Imperial Capital,

it allowed him to cultivate while on the move.

First, Xu Nian used the Gravity Ring to apply nearly two hundred times the force of gravity on himself.

At first, Xu Nian found it extremely difficult to walk under two hundred times gravity.

But as he persisted, he gradually adapted to the immense force.

And with the blessing of this gravity, the operation speed of his Divine Demon Refining Body Technique became even faster.

He was even absorbing the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Energy constantly.

While walking, he pondered the heavens and the earth,

creating his own more powerful methods of attack.

Like Xu Nian's continual exploration into the Wind Attribute Profound Argumentation,

although he had not yet reached the threshold,

the power of his One Slash Hair Technique had doubled compared to before.

As long as he continued to comprehend it, he believed he would eventually grasp the threshold of the profound arguments.

Besides that, Xu Nian also walked barefoot, using this to feel the Power of Earth beneath his feet.

The Yetian God Emperor had already awakened.

During this period, Xu Nian had sought advice from the Yetian God Emperor on the matter of profound arguments.

The Yetian God Emperor had set two directions for him,

tackling the profound arguments of both the Wind and Earth Attributes.

For the Wind Attribute, he was to use the One Slash Hair Sword Technique as a starting point and continue the research.

For the Earth Attribute, the Yetian God Emperor told him to feel the Power of Earth beneath his feet and the Gravity Domain he added to himself.

Whatever came first in terms of comprehension, that's the aspect he would focus on more.

After all, when Xu Nian used Earth God Devouring Sky, he had experienced the power of the Power of Earth.

And with the Gravity Domain, Xu Nian had the Gravity Ring, which would make comprehension much more convenient than others.

With the plan set by the Yetian God Emperor,

Xu Nian was always cultivating.

He felt the Cutting Force of the Wind Attribute on one hand,

and on the other hand, he used his soles to sense the Power of Earth.

At first, the Bull Demon King and Xia Bingling found Xu Nian's actions a bit odd.

But with time, they got used to it.

In this way, what would have taken only four to five days to travel beyond the bounds of East Field County by flight,

Xu Nian took nearly a month to complete by walking.

However, within this month,

Xu Nian's Spirit Cultivator and Body Cultivation both broke through to the Nine-star Marquis Level, reaching their peak.

Just one more step, and he would be able to break through directly to the One-star Saint Realm.

For him, who had already comprehended Unity of Heaven and Man, there was no such thing as a Semi-Saint.

As soon as he broke through, he would reach the One-star Saint Realm.

The breakthrough, however, was not easy, as the accumulation of Spiritual Energy needed was incredibly significant.

"Ahead is Tianlin City, once we pass through this city, it's another three hundred miles until we reach the foot of the Imperial Capital," Xia Bingling said.

She had just the right time to heal her injuries.

Now, after a month, the injuries to the meridians in her body were all healed.

Xu Nian looked towards the city walls in front of him, his expression growing solemn.

A month and a half had passed of the three-month period.

With the remaining three hundred miles, according to their pace, it would only take a few days to arrive.

At that point, what awaited him would be one storm after another.

"Let's go, we'll rest in Tianlin City today, and continue towards the Imperial Capital tomorrow," Xu Nian said.

Neither the Bull Demon King nor Xia Bingling had any objections.

They had let Xu Nian make all the decisions throughout the journey, so they followed whatever decision he made.

...

"What are you doing?"

However, just as Xu Nian and his party arrived at the gates of Tianlin City.

The soldiers guarding the gate stopped the three of them.

Each of these men held a battle saber, and although their cultivation was not high, their faces bore a fierce and malevolent expression.

Their gaze on Xu Nian and his companions was also very vigilant.

"Big brother, we're from out of town and would like to enter the city," Xu Nian responded.

"Enter the city? You should go back. The City Lord has decreed that no outsiders are allowed in. If you cause any trouble, you will be killed without mercy," the leading soldier said with a cold shout.

Xu Nian frowned.

Not allowing entry to the city?

What was going on?

Normally, even at nightfall, city gates would not be shut, and it was only dusk now.

Why was Tianlin City closing its gates?

"Damn it, when Grandpa Niu wants to enter the city, I'd like to see who can stop me!" The Bull Demon King's temper flared upon hearing the soldier's words, ready to force his way through.

But Xu Nian reached out and stopped him.

Killing these guards would be easy.

However, Xu Nian did not want to cause unnecessary trouble, and these guards were simply following orders, after all.

"Brother, may I know why we can't enter the city? Has something happened inside?" Xu Nian asked with a smile.

Upon hearing Xu Nian's words, the guard sneered disdainfully and arrogantly responded, "Hmph, what happens in the city is none of your business. If you know what's good for you, get lost immediately, or I'll kill you right now."

The Bull Demon King grew even angrier at this.

Xu Nian could only helplessly shake his head.

He had intended to speak kindly and spare these soldiers.

But he hadn't expected this leader to be so arrogant.

"Bang!"

Xu Nian casually dispatched a palm strike.

The soldier leader was sent flying backward, crashing down over ten meters away, spitting out a mouthful of blood.

This was Xu Nian holding back; otherwise, if he had struck with full force, the soldier would have been turned into a mist of blood.

"Damn it, how dare you strike me—attack, kill them!"

But the captain of the soldiers did not grasp his situation and immediately shouted orders.

The surrounding soldiers, hearing his command, swiftly drew their swords and charged at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian, resigned, shook his head, preparing to strike back and repel all the soldiers.

"Cease!"

Just then, a stern shout came from within the city gates.

Next, everyone saw a middle-aged man dressed as a general stride forth.

"General Tie Yan!"

Upon seeing the newcomer, the guards at the gate all addressed him with respectful expressions.

Xu Nian also assessed this suddenly appearing general.

He found that this General Tie Yan.

Was actually a powerhouse at the Battle General Level.

And he was at the Peak of Battle General.

Generally, for a minor city lord to reach the Battle General Level would be quite difficult.

Let alone the Peak of Battle General Level.

Now, a mere general had emerged with the strength at the Peak of Battle General Level.

This suggested Tianlin City was rather extraordinary.

Xu Nian was sizing up General Tie Yan.

And General Tie Yan was also assessing Xu Nian and his companions.

However, he did not discern any useful information.

"Who are you, and why did you injure my guards?" General Tie Yan asked, looking towards Xu Nian and the others.

"We just wanted to enter the city. It was your men who stopped us and wouldn't let us in, so we had no choice but to take action," Xu Nian replied.

Hearing this, General Tie Yan glanced at Xu Nian and said, "Come with me."

He then led Xu Nian and his companions toward the interior of the city.

Chapter 399: The City is Slaughtered

Xu Nian followed this General Tie Yan toward the city.

Actually, it would have been really easy for them to enter the city.

These soldiers would definitely not be able to stop them.

It was merely out of curiosity, wondering why these soldiers were so repulsed by their entry into the city.

But, when Xu Nian and his group entered the city, they were shocked by the scene before them.

The streets and alleys within the city were completely devoid of people, which is to say, the entire city had turned into a ghost town.

And there was a thick, putrid stench pervading the city, the smell of decaying corpses.

Xu Nian's eyes suddenly turned sharp.

Could it be that everyone in the city had died?

Xia Bingling and the Bull Demon King noticed this too, a trace of astonishment on their faces.

"Now you understand why these soldiers didn't want you to enter the city, right? Indeed, all the residents of the city have died," stated General Tie Yan as he turned back to them.

"Died? How did they die?" Xu Nian hurriedly asked.

"I don't know, but judging from the condition of the corpses, it seems they all died from having their souls sucked out. Millions of people in the city perished, including the City Lord. No one survived. I was ordered here by the Prefectural Governor, and by the time I arrived, the residents' bodies were already rotting," continued General Tie Yan.

"Killed by soul absorption?"

Upon hearing this, a look of horror appeared on Xu Nian's face.

Millions of souls had been devoured.

Who could be such a cold-hearted monster?

"It must be the work of someone cultivating an Evil Technique, using these residents' souls for their practice. Such a Cultivation Technique is truly despicable," Xia Bingling remarked.

Xu Nian frowned upon hearing this.

He couldn't help but think of Lin Ruolan.

Lin Ruolan was capable of absorbing souls.

However, Xu Nian felt that this massacre wasn't her doing.

After all, Lin Ruolan primarily fed on the essence of blood and rarely on souls.

Moreover, it was even less likely for her to target common civilians.

Hence, the real perpetrator must be someone else.

"Alright, now that you know about the massacre, I advise you to leave. It's possible that the demon hasn't left yet, and you could end up losing your lives for no reason," urged General Tie Yan.

After speaking, he was ready to lead Xu Nian and the others back.

However, both Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King stood still, their expressions solemn as they looked ahead.

General Tie Yan and Xia Bingling were both taken aback, not understanding what was going through their minds.

"We can't leave anymore; the evildoer you mentioned has already arrived," Xu Nian said with a faint smile.

Within his soul perception,

A shadowy figure was rapidly approaching them.

The speed was incredibly fast.

General Tie Yan and Xia Bingling's expressions changed drastically upon hearing this.

Then they saw an elder dressed in a blood-red robe appear before them.

The elder's figure was skinny, like a mummy.

His aura, however, was extremely powerful.

He exuded a thick scent of blood.

At this moment, the elder's gaze was fixed intently on Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King, his face showing a strong greed,

As if he had found an exceptionally delectable prey.

"Is he the culprit behind the massacre? Quick, call for help!" General Tie Yan, seeing this person, immediately grasped a Long Spear in his hand.

He was about to attack the elder.

The elder, seeing this, gave a mocking look, not taking General Tie Yan seriously at all.

"General Tie, step back. You are no match for him. This person's Cultivation has reached the Holy Realm," Xu Nian stopped General Tie.

"Holy... Holy Realm!" General Tie Yan, hearing this, was stunned.

Was this demon actually a master of the Holy Realm?

"The five thousand elite soldiers you had stationed in the city have all been killed by this demon," Xu Nian spoke up once more.

"What?" General Tie Yan instantly looked around upon hearing this.

Indeed, following his loud shout earlier, not a single person showed up.

Did this mean that all five thousand of his subordinates had died?

General Tie Yan clenched his fists tightly, his eyes filled with boundless fury.

He had personally trained those soldiers, and now they had been annihilated without his knowledge.

How could he not be enraged?

"Ga ga, your soldiers were quite good, their souls were much stronger than those of the ordinary civilians. It's a pity there were only five thousand of them. If there were a hundred thousand or even eighty thousand, I might have been able to break through to the Two-star Holy Realm. But now, I've found two prey that are even better than a hundred thousand soldiers," the Blood Robed Elder said with a sinister laugh.

Towards the end, he turned his gaze towards Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King.

Both the Bull Demon King and Xu Nian had opened their Mud Ball Palace.

Their soul power was undoubtedly much more formidable.

Even after Xu Nian's soul had split, his soul strength was still equivalent to that of a One-star Saint.

So the two decent preys mentioned by the Blood Robed Elder were none other than Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King.

Upon hearing the Blood Robed Elder's words, a surge of anger also welled up in Xu Nian's eyes.

Although he was not an extremely compassionate and kind person, the thought of the massacre of the city's populace filled him with intense killing intent.

Among the million civilians, many were women and children.

They toiled all their lives, merely hoping to live out their days in peace and stability.

Yet the arrival of this Blood Robed Elder had turned the entire city into hell.

Based on this alone,

Xu Nian had already decided that he must kill this elder today.

To prevent him from harming more lives.

"Hmph, old man, you want to devour the soul of this old bull? I think you're tired of living!" The Bull Demon King stepped forward, with the cultivation of a One-star Demon Saint bursting forth in an instant.

A One-star Demon Saint?

General Tie Yan stared fixedly at the Bull Demon King.

He hadn't paid much attention to this young man before, but he hadn't expected the young man to be a One-star Demon Saint.

It was rare to encounter a Saint on ordinary days, yet suddenly two had appeared.

And it seemed they were both about to take action.

General Tie Yan felt utterly shocked.

The situation unfolding before him had completely surpassed his expectations.

However, he could only hope that this Demon Saint could stop this demon.

Otherwise, they would all be doomed!

However, upon seeing the aura emanating from the Bull Demon King, a look of disdain appeared on the demon's face.

"Meet your demise!"

Seeing that the elder looked down upon him, the Bull Demon King instantly summoned a steel trident in his hand.

Swinging the trident directly at the elder, the weapon contained terrifying might and its speed was like a shooting star.

"Hmph, mere child's play!"

But at that moment, the elder let out a cold snort.

His figure flashed, appearing directly above the Bull Demon King, and then he slapped his palm onto the Bull Demon King's chest.

The Bull Demon King's body instantly shot like a straight line, crashing into the distant city wall.

"Boom!"

A loud noise followed.

A large section of the city wall collapsed instantly.

Seeing this scene, General Tie Yan felt a suffocating sensation.

His eyes widened in shock, revealing an expression of utter astonishment.

Chapter 400: Frenzied Strike

"Damn it hurts!"

Bull Demon King crawled out of the rubble pit, shaking off the debris from his body.

His chest hurt as if it had exploded.

Xia Bingling, standing nearby, also furrowed her brows deeply.

Could it be that even a One-star Demon Saint is no match for this old demon?

Then are we doomed?

"Hehe, a One-star Demon Saint, so what? In front of me, you're just here to be tormented. Although I am only at the One-star Peak, my Demon Technique is extraordinarily powerful. Not to mention a novice One-star Demon Saint, even a One-star Peak Demon Saint may not be my match," the elder laughed heartily.

But his smile appeared incredibly eerie and sinister.

Bull Demon King was furious.

This human old man dared to look down on him.

With a single gesture, the steel fork returned to his hand.

He was about to strike again.

He refused to believe he would lose to this human-demon hybrid of an old man.

"Brother Niu, you're no match for him, let me handle this!"

However, at that moment, Xu Nian suddenly spoke up.

"You're going to fight?"

Bull Demon King was startled.

General Tie Yan was also stunned.

This young man wants to fight?

Even a noble One-star Demon Saint is no match for this old demon, how could this young man possibly stand a chance?

Could he be seeking his own death?

Xia Bingling was also full of surprise.

During this time, she had always been curious about the actual strength of this young man in front of her.

All along the way, Xu Nian had been cultivating.

And the methods of his cultivation were indeed extremely strange.

This made her completely unable to gauge the actual strength of this young man.

However, there was one thing she was sure of.

This young man certainly hadn't reached the Holy Level.

Now he was asking a One-star Demon Saint to step aside and choosing to take action himself?

Could it be that his strength surpassed that of the One-star Demon Saint?

How could a War King be more formidable than a Demon Saint?

"Haha, boy, although your spirit is strong and you have already opened the Mud Ball Palace, your strength is merely at the Peak of Nine-star War King and Peak of Nine-star Body King. Although your Spirit Body Dual Cultivation is not weak, none have reached the Holy Realm. Do you think you can be a match for me?" the old demon laughed out loud.

This young man in front of him actually said he would take him on.

To him, it seemed like a joke.

However, Xu Nian was not joking.

He had been cultivating all this time.

It was now time to test the results of his cultivation.

And perhaps he could gain some new insights through real combat.

"Alright, then you handle it, take good care of him for me, this is damn frustrating," Bull Demon King put away his steel fork and stepped back, cursing loudly.

With Xu Nian taking action, he could be completely at ease.

Not to mention Xu Nian has a super powerful avatar, even the strength of his human avatar alone, Bull Demon King wasn't sure he could overcome.

With Xu Nian making a move, this old man was undoubtedly doomed.

Xia Bingling and General Tie Yan were both surprised.

The Demon Saint actually let this young man take action.

While they were still in shock, Xu Nian had already slowly stepped forward.

He stood face to face with the old demon.

The atmosphere on the field suddenly became extremely intense.

The ten soldiers outside the city gate also heard the commotion and rushed over.

When they saw the standoff, their faces also showed a look of surprise.

The old demon's expression also darkened.

This young man taking the initiative to fight was an insult to him.

This sparked a strong killing intent in his heart.

"Boy, since you're so eager to seek death, I'll oblige you. Today, I'll show you how formidable I, the Hundred Ghosts Demon, am," the Blood Robed Elder shouted, then his eyes sharpened.

He charged towards Xu Nian with a terrifying momentum.

His figure was like a falling meteor, bringing a strong sense of oppression to everyone around.

People in the distance instinctively stepped back a few paces.

His heart was filled with astonishment.

What terrifying power of a Saint?

Don't even mention fighting.

Merely under the intense pressure of this aura,

they couldn't even muster a thought of resistance.

If they were to face this Saint's attack, they would undoubtedly die.

However, Xu Nian stood his ground, unmoving.

His robe fluttered and rustled under the terrifying force.

Yet, Xu Nian's lips bore a faint, light smile.

He maintained a calm demeanor, as if Taishan were collapsing in front of him without changing his expression.

"Ha, still pretending when death is upon you, watch as I smash you into pulp!" The elder was very dissatisfied with Xu Nian's expression.

With a cold snort, he directly struck out with his palm, aiming for Xu Nian's face.

If this palm had landed,

Xu Nian's entire head would likely have exploded instantaneously.

The crowd surrounding them gasped in horror, as if seeing a scene of brains splattering.

However, just when they thought Xu Nian's head was about to be smashed by the Elder's palm, Xu Nian moved.

"This is your strength? A bit slow!"

Xu Nian burst out with these words.

Then, everyone saw Xu Nian punch out swiftly, taking the initiative.

Before the Demon's palm could hit Xu Nian's face, Xu Nian's fist had already smashed into the Demon's abdomen.

"Phew!"

The Demon doubled over like a shrimp, his eye sockets nearly splitting open.

An immensely terrifying force poured out from his abdomen.

The terrifying force created a strong sonic boom in the air.

The crowd could even see the air ripples produced by that punch rapidly spreading outwards.

"Bang!"

The Demon's figure rapidly flew backwards, even more fiercely than when he had attacked Xu Nian.

Xia Bingling and General Tie Yan were dumbstruck.

The soldiers also gasped in shock.

How... how is this possible?

This youth is so strong?

He actually blew away a Demon of the Saint Level with one punch?

The Demon's body rapidly flew backward, smashing all the buildings behind him.

At this moment, his heart was also filled with shock.

The speed and power of the youth's punch just now were simply terrifying.

This was definitely not the speed and power that someone at Marquis Peak should possess.

But before his shock subsided, he heard a thunderous Collapse Thunder sound approaching from a distance.

And this thunderous sound grew increasingly intense.

He suddenly looked up, only to see that the youth was rushing towards him barefoot.

With every step he took, the air seemed to explode like thunder.

And with each step, the youth's speed increased dramatically.

Collapse Thunder Hammer Technique, performed using the feet!

It had already pushed Xu Nian's speed to the extreme.

When he reached the Demon, his speed was already frighteningly fast.

"Go to hell!"

The Demon tried to counterattack.

But before his fist could reach Xu Nian,

Xu Nian's figure had already appeared above the Demon's head.

Two hundred times the gravity was applied.

He stomped down!

Then, everyone saw Xu Nian forcefully stomping on the Demon's chest from the air, rapidly plummeting downward.

"Boom!"

A thunderous sound rang out.

All the surrounding buildings were reduced to rubble.

Leaving only a huge crater with a diameter of several hundred meters.

Xia Bingling and Tie Yan were petrified on the spot.

Is this guy even human?