

Divine King 401

Chapter 401 Power of Earth

A foot stomped down.

Xu Nian's figure reappeared in the air.

Over the past month, his body had been under the augmentation of two hundred times gravity.

Once he freed himself from the gravity binding,

he felt an indescribable sense of exhilaration.

Now his body felt as light as a feather.

Coupled with the assistance of his Spiritual Energy and Divine Demon Gang Qi,

even without reaching the Saint Realm, in terms of speed and strength alone,

not even a One-star Saint might be able to catch up to him.

Such was the advantage of gravity training.

However, wanting to kill a One-star Saint, especially one who had cultivated the Demon Technique, was not so easy.

Therefore, after stepping down, Xu Nian swiftly darted to one side,

just to avoid giving the old demon a chance to counterattack.

"Boom!"

As expected, a loud explosion followed.

A strong red power burst forth from the old demon's body.

This power was saturated with a thick bloodthirst, and its aura was terrifyingly fearsome.

From afar, everyone except for the Bull Demon King felt as if they had fallen into the abyss of hell,

as if a peerless demon was about to emerge before their eyes.

"Boy, it seems I have truly underestimated you. A young Marquis Peak Realm, possessing the strength to surpass a One-star Saint, has indeed surprised me immensely," the old demon crawled out of the crater.

His blood-colored robes were filthy, tattered, and torn.

The hair previously bound by a hairpin had become disheveled, wildly dancing under the terrifying momentum.

His eyes had turned completely blood-colored, staring dead at Xu Nian, filled with fierce killing intent.

Seeing this scene, Xu Nian's mouth still wore a faint, light smile.

If he said this elderly person had no real strength, he wouldn't believe it.

Now, finally willing to unleash it,

it was undeniable that the power he emitted was indeed terrifying.

"Hum!"

A wave of fluctuation came, and the old man's fingernails began to grow.

Thick blood power swirled around his nails.

His entire aura became even more eerie and ominous.

"You've forced my hand, boy. To die under my Hell Blood Claw is also a kind of honor for you," the old demon roared loudly.

Then, with a flash, he appeared in front of Xu Nian, his claw reaching out for him in mid-air.

The Blood Claw was enveloped in a thick blood power.

Its speed was incredibly fast.

With a single swipe, it seemed as though even the void was torn apart by his claw.

Xu Nian dared not be negligent, quickly splitting his body into three.

He launched his Dark Third-Level Avatar to surround and attack the old man.

Nevertheless, a cold smile appeared on the old man's face.

His hands transformed, and the Blood Claw moved swiftly.

He shattered one of Xu Nian's Dark Avatars with a strike.

Xu Nian and another clone gained no advantage, instead being suppressed and beaten by the old demon.

"Puchi!"

Another vicious Blood Claw struck, and the last Shadow Clone was also shattered.

Before Xu Nian's true self could counterattack,

the Blood Claw of the old demon's other hand had already reached Xu Nian's true self.

A claw directly gripped Xu Nian's chest.

The clothes were torn apart, and Xu Nian was instantly sent flying.

Looking at his chest, the Blood-colored Dragon Scale had five deep claw marks.

The Dragon Scale was actually penetrated.

Although Xu Nian's Dragon Scale was not as terrifying as the Scale Armor of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast,

it was comparable in hardness to Meteorite Iron.

Yet, under the old man's Blood Claw, it was so easily shattered.

If not for Xu Nian hastily condensing the Dragon Scale just now, it would not have been just the Dragon Scale that had been ripped open.

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It was a whole chunk of flesh torn from his chest.

"I absolutely can't let his claws touch me, or, even if I don't die, I'll be gravely injured," Xu Nian muttered to himself.

The old demon before him was even more formidable than he had imagined.

No wonder he had never taken the Bull Demon King seriously.

With such strength, the Bull Demon King would probably be killed instantly in front of him.

"Buzz!"

At this moment, a Blood Claw rapidly reached out from the Void.

It viciously aimed for his head.

If caught, his entire head would likely be ripped apart.

"It seems I have no choice but to get serious," a sharp light surged in Xu Nian's eyes.

Then, a powerful and invisible fluctuation rippled out from around him.

"Boom!"

A loud noise reverberated.

A huge hand suddenly extended out of the soil below.

It instantly grasped the old demon.

And Xu Nian took advantage of the appearance of the giant hand to dodge the old demon's Blood Claw attack.

"Eh, what kind of move is this!"

Xia Lengling and the others watching from a distance were stunned.

The battle between these two was completely beyond their imagination.

Looking at the giant hand that suddenly emerged from the soil, they were all perplexed.

Even the Bull Demon King was puzzled; this was the first time he had seen such a technique.

Xu Nian swiftly retreated.

Seeing the old demon firmly caught in the grip of the giant hand, he breathed a slight sigh of relief.

Indeed, this giant hand was the result of what Xu Nian had comprehended in the past month.

The manifestation of the Power of Earth!

Using the Power of Earth to control the ground beneath his feet for an attack.

However, he had only scratched the surface of its understanding.

He was still far from reaching the threshold of the Earth Power Profound Argumentation.

Of course, merely scratching the surface was enough to stop the old man temporarily.

But it wouldn't hold him for long.

"Buzz!"

A wave of vibration passed through.

The hand formed by the Power of Earth crumbled to pieces.

The old demon's figure was revealed once again.

The old demon didn't rush to attack this time, but stared intently at Xu Nian.

"I didn't expect you to have reached such a high level of understanding on the path to the Realm, almost touching the threshold of Profound Argumentation. Fortunately, you haven't grasped the true Profound Argumentation, otherwise, this hand could have simply crushed me," the old demon exclaimed in surprise.

Xu Nian revealed a wry smile.

The old demon was right.

If his understanding had been a bit more profound,

The hand made from the soil just now could have indeed crushed the old demon to death.

However, for a first attempt, Xu Nian was already quite satisfied.

"Young man, your understanding of the Power of Earth is merely superficial; it's impossible for you to kill me with that. If you have no other tricks up your sleeve, I'm afraid today will be your end," the old demon said with a sneer.

His gaze became even more sinister.

Xu Nian, however, merely smiled faintly and said, "I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you, I do have other abilities."

With that, an Immortal Sword appeared in Xu Nian's hand.

He hadn't made much progress with the Earth Power Profound Argumentation, but don't forget, he had also been comprehending the Wind Attribute Profound Argumentation during this period.

This was his real trump card.

The old demon in the sky frowned deeply upon hearing this.

This youth was indeed unpredictable.

A young man possessed a combat power that rivaled that of someone at the Peak of One-star Saint, and was even close to touching the threshold of Profound Argumentation.

Now, who knew what other surprising abilities this youth would unveil.

Xia Bingling and the others around were also tense; the development of the battle had completely exceeded their expectations.

They did not know whether Xu Nian could defeat this old demon.

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Chapter 402: The Old Demon Body Seizing

The demon sneered as he stood above the ground.

Blood-colored spiritual energy continuously surged upwards.

The might of a Saint swept across in waves,

oppressing everyone to the point of gasping for breath.

Xu Nian, however, held the Immortal Sword with an arrogant stance.

A misty and celestial aura emanated from him.

He was not affected in the slightest by the thick Blood Qi.

"Hmph, I'd like to see how you intend to block my Hell Blood Claw," the elder snorted coldly and, with a flash of his figure, transformed into a streak of blood light, rapidly clawing towards Xu Nian.

The power of the blood enveloped the Blood Claw, directly doubling its size.

The force on the claws was utterly terrifying; it could easily crush meteorite iron.

If one were caught by the claws, death was an absolute certainty.

Yet, Xu Nian let out a cold laugh and waved the Immortal Sword in his hand.

He slashed the air with one strike.

The sword light turned into a cyan crescent of Sword Radiance, emitting an exceedingly sharp aura.

"Trivial tricks!"

The elder snorted coldly, and with one grasp of his Blood Claw, he shattered the Sword Radiance.

At the same time, his other Blood Claw reached for Xu Nian again.

Xu Nian blocked horizontally with his sword.

The Blood Claw struck the Immortal Sword,

and the sharp claws came within an inch of Xu Nian's eyes.

Had they moved a hair's breadth closer, Xu Nian's eyes would have been completely ruined.

"Clang!"

Xu Nian tapped a finger onto the surface of the sword.

A clear and resonant sword cry rang out.

Subsequently, the elder was sent flying by the Sword Qi bursting from the sword.

Xu Nian also took the opportunity to retreat a distance, widening the gap between them.

He breathed a sigh of relief, nearly having lost his eyes.

"Ha ha, it seems your swordsmanship is nothing special after all, today you are surely doomed," the Blood Robed Elder laughed heartily.

His eyes were full of mockery.

Initially, when he saw Xu Nian draw the Immortal Sword, he was somewhat wary.

But now, seeing Xu Nian's mediocre display of swordsmanship, all caution in his heart vanished in an instant.

In the distance, Xia Bingling and General Tie Yan heard this and their faces grew solemn.

"It's over, it looks like this young man truly cannot match this demon, and if the young man loses, doesn't that mean they all have to die?" General Tie Yan sighed inwardly.

They had still harbored a glimmer of hope for this young man.

But now, it seemed the young man was too young after all.

Not a match for this demon.

Xia Bingling also frowned deeply, her spirit heavy with concern.

She had not expected that she would ultimately be unable to escape death.

On the field, only the Bull Demon King remained utterly composed.

He knew that Xu Nian had yet another formidable sword technique that he had not employed.

Even if that sword technique could not fend off the elder, he still had a powerful clone.

In other words, it was impossible for them to die.

Hearing the demon's words, a faint, almost imperceptible cold smile appeared on the corner of Xu Nian's mouth.

That sword strike, so lacking in force, was deliberately so.

If he had revealed his true strength from the start, perhaps the elder would have been on guard.

He intentionally concealed his strength in order to make the demon overconfident.

Now, it seemed the demon had fallen into his trap.

"The end is now, boy; your soul, this old man shall take," the demon bellowed, his aura instantly exploding in strength.

He darted towards Xu Nian at extreme speed.

But this time, he did not choose a frontal attack; instead, he circled behind Xu Nian.

His dreadful blood-colored claw reached straight for the back of Xu Nian's head.

Its speed was incredibly fast.

Those in the distance could only see a blood-colored afterimage.

"Be careful!"

Xia Bingling urgently cried out in warning.

But by the time they saw the demon circling behind Xu Nian,

it was already too late.

The demon's claw had extended, and in the next second, it was about to pierce through Xu Nian's heart from the back.

"Now is the moment!"

Xu Nian's eyes erupted with an intense glint.

Then, everyone merely saw Xu Nian's figure transform into a blur, as he incredibly avoided the Demon Beast's lethal claw strike by a hair's breadth.

At the same time, the Immortal Sword in his hand waved through the air like a strand of silk.

Sword Radiance was like a cyan phantasm.

Fast!

So incredibly fast!

The Demon Beast watched, eyes wide, as the cyan Sword Radiance flashed past his face.

And his body couldn't catch up in time to defend against that sword strike.

"Putt"—

The silken thread of cyan Sword Radiance vanished in a flash.

Xu Nian and the Demon Beast stood back to back.

Both remained motionless.

"What just happened?"

From a distance, General Tie Yan and Xia Bingling, among others, were stunned.

Just moments ago, Xu Nian's back was on the verge of being impaled.

Then, their vision blurred, and the scene before them changed to what it was now.

"Clang!"

The steel pitchfork dropped to the ground.

The Bull Demon King's face was blank with shock.

Xia Bingling and the others might not have seen clearly, but as a being of the Holy Realm, he saw everything with crystal clarity.

The sword strike that Xu Nian had just performed was too fast.

So fast that it even startled him, a One-star Demon Beast.

In that last moment, the fusion of Xu Nian's Body Skill and Swordsmanship was simply astounding.

The power of that sword strike was seamlessly natural.

If he were to face that sword strike, death would be the only outcome!

"Thud!"

The Demon Beast's body slanted and split into two halves, the cut as neat as a mirror.

Everyone around was agape with astonishment.

Just how sharp must a sword be to cut flesh so evenly.

If they looked closely,

they would certainly notice that there wasn't a single drop of blood on Xu Nian's sword.

"Dead... dead?" General Tie Yan was dumbfounded.

A Saint Level powerhouse had just been slain right before their eyes.

And the one who made the move was a teenager who appeared to be only eighteen years old.

Xia Bingling was filled with immense surprise as well.

Although she had long suspected that this young man was extraordinary, she had not expected him to be this powerful.

He had easily slain a Peak of One-star Saint.

Truly terrifying.

However, Xu Nian's expression did not relax.

He turned to look at the Demon Beast's body that lay on the ground, his eyes filled with vigilance.

This Demon Beast wasn't dead yet!

His physical form might have died, but the aura of his soul lingered on.

"Ha ha, what a perfect body, your flesh shall be mine."

A booming voice sounded.

Then, everyone saw a black silhouette burst out from the body, and in an instant, it dove into Xu Nian's forehead.

And in the moment that the black silhouette entered Xu Nian's forehead, his body stood unmoving in place.

"Is this guy trying to seize the body?" Xia Bingling, true to her status as a princess and having seen much of the world, recognized the true intentions of the Demon Beast at a glance.

"It's over, after consuming so many souls, that Demon Beast's soul power is incredibly strong, this doesn't bode well," General Tie Yan immediately exclaimed with a sigh.

He had thought the Demon Beast was dead.

But he hadn't expected that the Demon Beast still had such a trick up his sleeve.

If the young man's body really were to be taken by this Demon Beast,

it would likely mean disaster for all.

Xia Bingling's expression grew grave.

"You all need not worry, if this Demon Beast thinks it can possess my brother, it's just seeking its own death."

However, just then.

The Bull Demon King let out a cold laugh.

Anyone else might be subject to possession, but Xu Nian, never.

Xia Bingling and General Tie Yan turned to him in surprise, unable to understand why the Demon Saint was so assured.

Chapter 403 Devouring Hundred Ghosts Ancestor

At this moment, within the Mud Ball Palace where Xu Nian resided.

Xu Nian's Condensed Soul materialized a body that stood confronting an old demon who had invaded his Mud Ball Palace.

The physical form of the old demon, materialized by his soul, was clearly much more condensed than Xu Nian's Condensed Soul.

That is to say, the old demon's soul power was clearly above that of Xu Nian's.

"Kid, you didn't expect this, did you? I said I'd devour your soul, and I meant it. You killed my flesh, but I can still consume your soul. Afterwards, this body of yours will belong to me, Hundred Ghosts Ancestor. Considering the strength you've achieved at such a young age, your talents must be quite exceptional," the Hundred Ghosts Demon said with a loud laugh, his eyes filled with a strong sense of triumph.

Xu Nian smiled slightly, so the old demon actually knew the Body Seizing Technique.

This was indeed something he had not anticipated.

However, if this old demon thought he could devour his soul, that seemed a bit too fanciful.

"Do you really think you can devour my soul?" Xu Nian asked with a cold sneer.

"Haha, kid, can't you see the situation clearly? Although I am but a One-star Saint, having devoured so many souls, my soul level has reached that of a Two-star Saint. Your soul, comparable to a One-star Saint, has no chance against me," the old demon laughed.

He looked at Xu Nian with a mocking gleam in his eyes.

Xu Nian also started to laugh upon hearing this.

The old man was not wrong.

His soul power was indeed not as strong as this old man's.

If he were really to fight this old man, even using the Ten Thousand Divine Hammer Technique might not make him a match.

However, this was referring to the soul power of his true self; the power of his Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar was certainly not as simple as that of a One-star Saint.

"Hum!"

A wave of fluctuation spread, and then behind Xu Nian, a tremendously huge beast appeared.

And the aura emanating from the giant beast was incredibly strong, comparable to a Three-star Saint.

"How... how is this possible?"

The old demon, upon seeing the massive beast appear behind Xu Nian, showed a look of utter astonishment.

He couldn't understand how such a terrifying beast could emerge within the young man's Mud Ball Palace.

"Sorry, I forgot to mention that there is also an avatar. My soul was originally on par with that of a Three-star Saint, it's just that my soul had been split. This giant beast behind me is my second soul," Xu Nian said with a smile.

His Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar's split soul was not much different from his original soul.

However, after merging with the Soul Fragment of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast, his soul was enhanced and now rivaled the soul level of a Three-star Saint.

Upon hearing this, the old demon's face revealed a look of terror.

This young man had another avatar?

And it was so powerful?

What kind of abomination was he?

Escape!

He had to escape!

The old demon muttered to himself internally.

At this moment, he realized that the young man before him was a freaking monster.

If he stayed any longer, he might not even escape with his life.

He then attempted to flee from the Mud Ball Palace.

Xu Nian gave a slight smile and said, "Since you've come, why don't you stay?"

No sooner had his words fallen than the giant paw of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast ferociously struck at the old demon.

The old demon instantly felt a terrifying pressure bearing down on him with immense force.

By now it was too late for him to escape.

He could only grit his teeth and try to resist.

"Boom!"

However, his soul did not hold out for long before it was utterly crushed by the paw of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast.

"No!"

Before his death, the old demon let out a cry of unwillingness.

At this moment, he was filled with regret for provoking the young man before him.

This young man was entirely a monster.

As the soul shattered, it turned into pure Soul Power, pervading the entire Mud Ball Palace.

Xu Nian watched the scene unfold before him, his eyes revealing a sense of contemplation.

This guy had devoured the souls of millions of people, but in the end, it all became his wedding dress.

Now, under the transformation by the old demon, these soul powers had turned into pure soul power.

They no longer had any connection to the common folk.

Even if Xu Nian absorbed it, it wouldn't matter.

If he didn't, it would be nothing but misplaced kindness, a complete waste of these valuable soul powers.

The Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar exited Xu Nian's original Mud Ball Palace.

He didn't absorb these soul powers but left them all to his original self.

A person's level of enlightenment is closely linked to the strength of their soul.

If Xu Nian wanted to make a breakthrough above the Insight Realm, he still needed to increase his own soul power.

Thus, without any hesitation, Xu Nian swallowed all this soul aura in one gulp and then slowly digested it.

As long as he digested all this soul power, Xu Nian believed that his soul level would surely rise significantly.

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"It's been so long, why is there still no movement? Could something have really happened?" General Tie Yan asked with concern as he watched Xu Nian, who hadn't moved an inch.

Xia Bingling also furrowed her brows tightly, her face filled with worry.

Although Bull Demon King trusted that Xu Nian was capable of dealing with the old demon, he too began to feel uneasy after such a long period of silence from Xu Nian.

"Gaga!"

Just then, a sneering laugh came from Xu Nian's mouth.

Fuck!

Everyone around was startled.

They then looked at Xu Nian with caution.

Seeing everyone's anxious faces, Xu Nian couldn't help but find it funny inside.

"Little girl, you've grown up quite well. I haven't tasted the flavor of a woman for hundreds of years, and tonight I shall truly enjoy myself," Xu Nian deliberately scared Xia Bingling by saying so.

Xia Bingling turned pale with fright, instinctively grasping the hilt of her sword and taking two steps back.

Bull Demon King also tightened his grip on his pitchfork, ready to strike at any moment.

Watching the tension on everyone's faces, Xu Nian couldn't help but burst into laughter.

"Alright, I won't tease you anymore. The old demon is already dead, and you all can rest assured," Xu Nian said with a smile.

Xia Bingling and Bull Demon King heard this but still found it somewhat hard to believe.

Out of options, Xu Nian had to say, "Don't you all want to eat my roasted meat?"

Upon hearing this, Bull Demon King and Xia Bingling finally sighed in relief.

Now they were sure that Xu Nian hadn't been seized by another entity.

Nevertheless, Xia Bingling still glared at Xu Nian resentfully.

That damn guy, actually scaring her like that.

Even saying such things!

General Tie Yan, observing this, also let out a long sigh.

A moment ago, he'd nearly been scared half to death.

But looking towards Xu Nian again, his gaze was filled with nothing but reverence.

The young man before him was someone who could kill even Saints!

The soldiers who had once crossed swords with Xu Nian now felt even more nervous inside.

They feared Xu Nian was displeased with them for blocking the road earlier and might slay them all with a single stroke.

They knew that if this young man wished to kill them, even their General wouldn't be able to stop him.

"By the way, who exactly is this Hundred Ghosts Ancestor? Why did he dare to slaughter an entire city?" General Tie Yan asked, puzzled.

Generally, Saint Level cultivators wouldn't attack ordinary civilians.

Once they did, it was easy to provoke the empire's powerhouses, and that spelled certain death.

It was rare for someone like the Hundred Ghosts Ancestor to dare to bloodwash an entire city.

Hearing this question, Xu Nian's eyes also turned cold as he said, "This Hundred Ghosts Ancestor is a person from Star Pavilion."

"Star Pavilion?"

Xia Bingling's eyes widened in shock.

Chapter 404: Breaking Through into the Holy Realm

Xu Nian's eyes narrowed slightly as a murderous intent burst forth.

If he had not devoured the soul of the Hundred Ghosts Ancestor, Xu Nian would never have learned the ancestor's secret.

It turned out that the Hundred Ghosts Ancestor came from the Star Pavilion, where the Eighth Prince resided.

And the so-called Star Pavilion was incredibly eerie.

All its members were at Saint Level.

All kinds of people were there, including some who, like the Hundred Ghosts Ancestor, had raised their cultivations by wicked and crooked paths.

And it was for that reason the Hundred Ghosts Ancestor had increased his cultivation.

It was because they planned to steal the position of the Eastern Palace on the Crown Prince's wedding day.

According to the ancestor's memories, the Eighth Prince had already gained support from a powerful Battle Emperor Level figure.

By then, even the Emperor would be helpless against him.

Xu Nian had initially thought the Crown Prince was ruthless enough, but it turned out that the Eighth Prince was even more so than both of them.

Their fight for the imperial throne was something Xu Nian could ignore.

But they had to choose Leng Yanran's wedding day.

At that time, Leng Yanran would be the first to be hit and would undoubtedly struggle to escape the disaster.

This was also the reason why, after hearing about this, Xu Nian's eyes flared with intense killing intent.

"No, I must break through to the Holy Realm tonight, and head to the Imperial Capital tomorrow."

Xu Nian clenched his fists and muttered to himself.

The Imperial Capital had already become a place of strife and intrigue, with undercurrents surging wildly.

Perhaps things would come to a head even before the day of the Crown Prince's wedding.

If his sister, mother, or Leng Yanran encountered any accident, Xu Nian would feel guilty for the rest of his life.

So the earlier he reached the Imperial Capital, the better.

Xu Nian made up his mind.

He decided to challenge the Saint Realm tonight, aiming to break through to the Saint Realm with his Spirit Cultivation first.

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The moon shone brightly amidst sparse stars.

Atop the highest loft in Tianlin City.

Xu Nian was sitting cross-legged on the roof of this loft.

This place had the richest concentration of Spiritual Energy in the whole city.

Xu Nian looked out over the empty city with a fierce glint in his eyes.

"Let's begin, and hopefully, this will be a success."

He muttered to himself.

After speaking, he closed his eyes and began to operate the "Dan Sea Species Green Lotus."

As he executed the Cultivation Technique, the surrounding Heaven and Earth Spiritual Energy was immediately drawn in.

"Buzz!"

A vortex of Spiritual Energy formed instantly.

Dark clouds tumbled across the sky.

Spiritual Energy furiously transformed into a storm and poured into Xu Nian's body.

The vortex of Spiritual Energy covered a radius of a thousand meters.

Xia Bingling, Bull Demon King, and the others were all attracted by this disturbance.

Although such an event had often occurred in the past month,

They always felt today was different somehow.

General Tie Yan and the rest of his subordinates were completely shocked by this sight.

Now they finally understood why this young man was so formidable at such a young age.

Such a terrifying speed of devouring Spiritual Energy was aptly described as horrifying.

Inside Xu Nian, the Spiritual Energy surged, pumping crazily into the Dan Sea within his Dantian.

The Dan Sea was boiling, with Spiritual Energy roaring in.

The entire Dan Sea was continuously expanding.

If anyone saw the inside of Xu Nian's body, they would be astounded.

Such a terrifying reserve of Spiritual Energy, not even a One-star Saint could compare.

Yet, this supply of Spiritual Energy was still increasing exponentially.

"No, this is too slow. At this rate, I'll never break through to the One-star Saint Realm."

However, Xu Nian was speaking to himself in disappointment.

He had already pushed the "Dan Sea Species Green Lotus" to its extreme.

But the absorption rate was still far too slow, nowhere near enough to achieve a breakthrough.

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Moreover, the spiritual energy of the entire city was finite, and as it was absorbed, the speed would only get slower and slower.

He needed more spiritual energy.

Only more spiritual energy could enable him to break through to the Battle Saint Realm.

"Is he planning to break through to the Holy Realm? If he succeeds, he will become the youngest Saint in the history of Tianhen Continent," Xia Bingling seemed to catch on to Xu Nian's thoughts, murmuring to herself.

"It's no use, with such a speed, it seems that he still can't break through," lamented the Bull Demon King.

Upon hearing this, Leng Yanran also showed a hint of disappointment on her face.

In fact, deep down, she hoped that Xu Nian would be able to make the breakthrough.

That way, another miracle would be added to this continent.

Unfortunately, breaking through to the Saint Realm didn't seem so easy.

"Boom!"

However, just as they were feeling disappointed,

A terrifying roar came.

Then, they were shocked to see that the vortex above Xu Nian's head had suddenly doubled in size.

And the trend of this vortex was still increasing at a very fast speed.

In just a moment, the spiritual energy vortex had expanded to cover dozens of miles radius.

The bright moon in the sky was already obscured.

Dark clouds rolled in, with lightning flashing and thunder rumbling.

The spiritual energy within a hundred-mile radius was all converging towards Xu Nian.

The loft beneath him also cracked open at this moment.

Cracks were spreading at an incredibly terrifying speed.

This was caused by the dense spiritual energy forming a powerful spiritual pressure.

"How... how is this possible?"

Xia Bingling and the Bull Demon King both widened their eyes with shock beyond measure.

They couldn't believe that a person's cultivation could cause such a huge fluctuation in spiritual energy.

How could one possibly withstand such a terrifying influx of spiritual energy into their meridians and Dantian?

The soldiers were even more ghost-stricken, staring in horror.

They had never imagined that the scene of a person cultivating could be so terrifying.

"Quick, quickly evacuate Tianlin City, the buildings are about to collapse."

General Tie Yan, looking at the buildings cracking around him, urgently shouted,

Then, he led the soldiers to rapidly escape towards the outskirts of the city.

Xia Bingling and the Bull Demon King also hovered in the air.

Looking at the figure of Xu Nian in the center of the vortex, their eyes were filled with shock and awe.

"Boom!"

A thunderous sound like none other.

The loft under Xu Nian collapsed with a deafening crash.

The buildings around also crumbled one after another, and the trend quickly spread outward.

Houses were ground to dust, and debris rolled.

Creating a terrifying storm.

Luckily, the soldiers had evacuated in time; otherwise, even if they weren't buried by the debris, they would have been killed by this stone storm.

The debris spun rapidly, yet its power was immense.

At this moment, Xu Nian was sitting cross-legged at the center of the storm.

He was unrelated to everything around him, as he was frantically absorbing the spiritual energy.

This terrifying momentum was, of course, caused by the Undying Devouring Sky Beast.

As the Undying Devouring Sky Beast frenziedly absorbed the spiritual energy, Xu Nian's true self naturally reaped the benefits.

Under such a terrifying absorption of spiritual energy, Xu Nian's meridians became incredibly swollen.

The Dantian within his body was rumbling like thunder, rapidly expanding.

"It's close, so close, I am about to reach the Saint Realm,"

Xu Nian whispered to himself.

He could feel that the spiritual energy inside his body had reached a bottleneck.

As long as he broke through this bottleneck, he would formally advance into the Saint Realm.

"Boom!"

Just then, a thunderous roar came from the sky.

A bolt of lightning smashed down towards Xu Nian.

At the same moment, his Dantian also emitted a booming sound.

This signified that Xu Nian's Spirit Cultivation had officially stepped into the Saint Realm.

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Chapter 405: Do You Want to Give It a Try?

Saintly fluctuations rippled outward.

Xu Nian seemed to be shrouded in a layer of sacred brilliance.

"He has broken through, he has actually broken through!"

Xia Bingling and Bull Demon King, feeling the Saintly might emanating from Xu Nian, showed expressions of surprise on their faces.

The youngest Saint in the world was thus born.

An eighteen-year-old Saint!

This was truly unprecedented.

If word of this gets out, it will certainly shake the entire Imperial Capital.

Xu Nian slowly stood up as well.

However, his gaze was on the thunderclap hurtling toward him from above.

It was at the very moment he broke through to the Saint Realm.

He distinctly felt a terrifying pressure bearing down upon him.

It was the oppressive feeling brought by heavens and the earth.

Then the thunderclap descended.

Upon that thunderclap, Xu Nian sensed a formidable aura of destruction.

"Could this be... Heavenly Tribulation?"

Bull Demon King and Xia Bingling exclaimed in unison.

Legend said that leaving the Tianhen Continent and crossing the Forbidden Sea would attract Heavenly Thunders.

And such thunders were known as Heavenly Tribulations.

Now, as Xu Nian broke through to the Saint Realm, he had actually invoked Heavenly Tribulation.

Could it be that his cultivation was so defiantly powerful

it angered the heavens?

Xu Nian watched the approaching Heavenly Thunder, standing tall and proud,

without a trace of fear.

"Boom!"

The thunderclap struck Xu Nian's body,

releasing a sound that was earth-shatteringly loud.

The power of the thunderclap exploded, yet Xu Nian's figure stood as steady as Taishan.

A layer of green Spiritual Energy Defense Light Shield had condensed on the surface of his body.

The thunderclap had just struck against this Defensive Light Shield.

Despite blocking the thunderclap, the terrifying power was immense.

The Spiritual Energy Light Shield shattered completely under the impact of the Heavenly Thunder.

If more thunders were to come, it would be difficult to withstand.

However, fortunately after that bout of Heavenly Thunder,

the dark clouds in the sky began to disperse, and no further thunders descended.

Peace returned to the world.

Moonlight spilled down once more.

Everything began to return to its original tranquility.

The only change was that the Tianlin City beneath his feet had been completely transformed into ruins.

Xu Nian hovered in mid-air, his face contemplative.

He thought about the origin of the Heavenly Thunder just now.

He felt that the appearance of the Heavenly Thunder was no coincidence,

but rather, there was some force in the dark wanting to kill him.

"Kid, no need to think about it, that's because you violated a taboo, which is why the Heavenly Tribulation came," Emperor Ye Tian's voice resounded in Xu Nian's mind.

"Violated a taboo? What taboo?"

Xu Nian asked, puzzled.

Breaking through a level of cultivation could violate what taboo?

"Heavenly Prohibition. Heaven and earth follow the Tao, and all things in the world adhere to certain rules. Once someone defies these rules, they trigger a prohibition, which leads to the descent of Heavenly Tribulation. And since you've broken through to the Saint Realm at eighteen, you naturally stirred the heaven and earth, violated the taboo. However, the prohibition you violated is not significant, which is why the power of this Heavenly Tribulation wasn't great," explained the Yetian God Emperor.

"I see. Then what would be considered a serious violation of the Heavenly Prohibition?" Xu Nian inquired further.

"The Heavenly Prohibition has nine levels, each bringing forth a different Heavenly Tribulation. The higher the level reached, the greater the power of the tribulation. That's why, although it's the same Crossing Immortal Tribulation, the power varies from person to person," the Yetian God Emperor explained.

Xu Nian nodded, as if he understood but did not quite grasp the full meaning.

He knew that anyone who wished to ascend to the Immortal Realm had to cross the Immortal Tribulation.

Only those who succeeded in the Tribulation Crossing earned the qualification to ascend.

Xu Nian also knew that above the Battle Emperor, there were six more realms.

Only by passing through these six realms could one ascend to the level of an Immortal.

However, as to which six realms these were, Xu Nian was temporarily unaware.

Emperor Ye Tian wouldn't say, so Xu Nian could only suppress the doubts in his heart.

"Brother Xu Nian, are you okay?"

The Bull Demon King and Xia Bingling flew over from a distance.

"I'm fine!" Xu Nian replied with a smile.

Relief washed over the Bull Demon King and Xia Bingling upon hearing Xu Nian's words.

Xu Nian simply smiled.

Previously on the way here,

Xu Nian had already told Xia Bingling his name.

But after hearing it, she showed no reaction,

it seemed she was unaware of Xu Nian's exploits.

It was only later that he found out,

Xia Bingling had always been secluded in the Emperor Palace, cultivating with her master.

She seldom traveled the continent and had only recently decided to venture out.

She had barely left the Imperial Capital gates when she encountered pursuit from the Tianji Pavilion.

Thus, she had not heard anything about Xu Nian's deeds.

This actually suited Xu Nian just fine.

If Xia Bingling knew too much about him, it could potentially lead to troublesome matters.

On the other hand, with her knowing nothing, Xu Nian felt more at ease keeping her by his side.

"By the way, Brother Xu Nian, what was that Heavenly Thunder just now? Was it the legendary Heavenly Tribulation?" The Bull Demon King asked, recalling the scene when the tribulation had struck.

"It wasn't, it was just the Spiritual Energy I had gathered that formed into clouds and coincidentally let loose a thunderbolt, it wasn't the legendary Heavenly Tribulation," Xu Nian said with a laugh.

The Bull Demon King and Xia Bingling nodded upon hearing this.

After all, if it had been the legendary Heavenly Tribulation, it truly would have been too astonishing.

It seems that the thunderbolt really was just a coincidence.

Seeing that the two believed him, Xu Nian's face also showed a faint smile.

The people of this continent knew far too little about the Nine Level Heaven Forbidden.

Therefore, they easily believed Xu Nian's words.

As for why he concealed the fact that he had provoked the Heavenly Prohibition,

it was because such matters could easily lead to a fatal predicament.

After all, he understood the principle that a tree that stands out in the forest will be cut down.

"By the way, Brother Xu Nian, what does it feel like to breakthrough into the Holy Realm? How much stronger have you become?" The Bull Demon King suddenly asked.

Xia Bingling also looked at Xu Nian.

She was curious about this question too.

Before entering the Holy Realm, Xu Nian was able to slay Saints.

Now that he had entered the Holy Realm, what kind of strength would he possess?

"Do you want to give it a try?" Xu Nian said with a smile, looking at the Bull Demon King.

"Alright, since you, brother, want to spar, I'll accompany you. But let's agree beforehand, you're not to use your swordsmanship," the Bull Demon King said spiritedly.

He was confident that as long as Xu Nian didn't use that swordsmanship, he would still be able to fight him.

After all, he was a venerable Demon Saint.

A Demon Saint's physique was not much different from that of a Body Saint Expert.

Xu Nian smiled, stood with his hands behind his back, signaling that he promised not to use his swordsmanship.

Seeing this, the Bull Demon King's nostrils instantly emitted a puff of green smoke.

Then he swung his Iron Fist at Xu Nian with a ferocious attack.

His fist was filled with the mighty power of a Saint.

Although he was confident he would not lose, he did not dare to take Xu Nian lightly.

But the next moment, he realized he had made a mistake, and it was quite a ridiculous one.

Just as the Bull Demon King's fist was about to strike Xu Nian,

Xu Nian suddenly slapped out with his palm.

Immediately, the Bull Demon King's body uncontrollably flew backwards at high speed.

Like a meteor crashing to earth, he directly punctured through a distant wall that had yet to collapse.

The wall, which was a full ten zhang thick, was hard enough to be pierced by the body of the Bull Demon King.

Xia Bingling on the side watched, utterly astounded.

The Bull Demon King also climbed out of the rubble.

He looked up at Xu Nian, who stood proudly in the sky, his body trembling.

Chapter 406: First Arrival at the Imperial Capital City

After their battle with the Bull Demon King, Xu Nian and his companions hastened toward the Imperial Capital through the night.

Along the way, the Bull Demon King no longer dared to suggest sparring with Xu Nian.

To spar with Xu Nian was to seek punishment.

Now, even without utilizing his swordsmanship, Xu Nian could battle a Three-star Saint.

If he were to employ his formidable swordsmanship, not a single Three-star Saint would be a match for him.

And this was merely Xu Nian having broken through at the Battle General Level.

If one day, by some accident, he also broke through to the Body Saint level,

Who knew what terrifying strength he would possess.

Let's not forget, Xu Nian also has a super clone.

This super clone has been continuously cultivating and has likely reached a frightful realm by now.

Moreover, Xu Nian has two Demon Beasts.

These two Demon Beasts have also reached the Nine-star Peak.

It's probable that before long, they would break through to the Demon Saint Realm.

By then, counting the Bull Demon King, there would be five Saints altogether; the thought alone was fearsome.

"We've arrived, right ahead is the Imperial Capital," said Xia Bingling.

Xu Nian looked forward upon hearing her voice.

Before them lay a towering city of unparalleled grandeur.

This city was many times bigger than any Xu Nian had ever seen, perhaps ten or even dozens of times larger.

Surrounding the city was a wall reaching a hundred zhang high, so tall that even an average Battle General Expert could not leap over it.

Above the entire city, there was also a terrifying Formation covering it.

The Formation shrouded the whole city, prohibiting flying for Battle Kings and Battle Saints within the city.

Flying in the Imperial Capital was strictly forbidden, lest one faced an attack from the City Protection Array.

This Great Formation was extremely fearsome.

Even Peak Saint Powerhouses did not dare to clash with it directly.

Once, a Battle Saint Peak Expert scoffed at the might of the Imperial Family and attempted to fly openly above the capital.

He was directly struck down by the Great Formation.

Since then, no one dared to fly over the Imperial Capital.

Xu Nian and his companions descended at the city gates.

It was early morning, and the great gates of the Imperial Capital were already open.

Travelers were gradually entering the city.

"So this is the Imperial Capital? Truly, it possesses the majesty that all other cities look up to," Xu Nian remarked with emotion as he stood at the gate, gazing at the immense city towers.

At this moment, he felt as if what lay before him was not just a city, but a crouching primordial beast.

The majesty that radiated from it would intimidate even Saints who came here.

"It truly is magnificent; it's a hundred times, no, ten thousand times more grand than my Bull Head Mountain," exclaimed the Bull Demon King, astounded as well.

"Let's go, the inside is even more impressive," said Xia Bingling with a slight smile as she led Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King into the city.

As Xu Nian stepped inside, he discovered the Spiritual Energy within the Imperial City was thrice as dense as the outside world.

The streets were incredibly spacious, and most of the shops on either side, aside from a few selling common wares, trafficked goods coveted by Cultivators.

Xu Nian was amazed at this.

In other cities, Cultivators were scarce, but in the Imperial Capital,

Virtually everyone was a Cultivator, even the children playing by the roadside were already at the Warrior Level.

"In the Imperial Capital, aside from the City Protection Array, a Spirit Gathering Array has also been laid down, so nearly all the citizens are Cultivators. With a large number of Cultivators, naturally, the shops sell items that Cultivators need," explained Xia Bingling with a smile upon seeing the surprised expressions on Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King's faces.

Xu Nian nodded in realization.

The Imperial Capital is truly different, with such a dense atmosphere of cultivation.

No wonder there are cultivators everywhere.

As the day grew brighter, more and more people appeared on the streets.

"Where are you going next?" Xia Bingling asked.

"First, we'll find a place to stay, and we'll discuss the rest later," Xu Nian replied.

He had thought it through on the way here—to first learn about the situation in the Imperial Capital before taking action.

Acting rashly would only attract the pursuit of the Ye and Fang Families as well as the Imperial Family.

He was mortal enemies with both the Ye and Fang Families and the Imperial Family.

He did not want to end up being chased around by their experts before he had even accomplished anything.

"Well then, I know a place that would be perfect for you to stay. You'll be absolutely safe there, undisturbed by anyone, unless the Emperor himself comes; no one else would dare to offend," Xia Bingling said with a smile.

"Oh? There's such a place in the Imperial Capital?" Xu Nian asked in surprise.

"Of course, there are many powerful and mysterious forces within the Empire. Few outsiders have heard of their names, but their power is undoubtedly formidable," Xia Bingling said proudly.

Xu Nian remained silent.

He knew he still understood too little about this continent.

He was unaware of some forces hidden in the shadows.

"So what exactly is this place you're talking about?" the Bull Demon King asked impatiently.

He could not understand why humans always liked to beat around the bush.

"Divine River Palace!" Xia Bingling declared.

"Divine River Palace? Hasn't that been extinct?" Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King exchanged glances.

They had heard of this force.

However, this force existed ten thousand years ago and had long become history.

They did not expect it to still exist in this world.

"Divine River Palace has not been wiped out; it has always been located in the Imperial Capital, but it belongs to no faction. Its existence is to break through the taboos of the Tianhen Continent, to research a way to surpass Battle Emperor Shackle. Therefore, it remains detached from worldly affairs, and even the Imperial Family cannot control it. My master is a Saint of the Divine River Palace," Xia Bingling explained.

Xu Nian immediately understood the situation.

On the Tianhen Continent, there was a formidable shackle preventing Battle Emperor experts from breaking through to Battle Emperor.

And the existence of Divine River Palace was to research a way to break this shackle.

They did not partake in conflicts, only pursuing higher realms of cultivation.

This was why they remained so detached from the world.

In that case, Divine River Palace truly seemed like a great place to go.

"Then let's head to Divine River Palace," Xu Nian nodded and said.

Upon hearing this, a hint of joy appeared on Xia Bingling's face.

"My master would be extremely pleased to meet you," Xia Bingling said.

After that, she happily led the way for Xu Nian.

Xu Nian shook his head in resignation.

But soon, his expression turned grave.

The waters of the Imperial Capital were deeper than he had imagined.

The Four Great Families, the Imperial Family, Tianji Pavilion, Star Pavilion—now a detached Divine River Palace had emerged as well.

So many forces converged in the Imperial Capital.

While the surface seemed calm, beneath it was an undercurrent surging with activity.

"Ice Spirit, you're back. Why didn't you give us any notice? If it weren't for this chance encounter, I wouldn't have known you'd returned," a voice suddenly called out.

However, just as Xu Nian and the others had only walked a few steps, they were stopped by a voice that arose suddenly.

Xu Nian turned his head to look and saw three young men approaching from behind.

Xu Nian recognized at once that one of the young men, who was in the middle of the trio from behind, was the Ye Family youth he had encountered at the Heavenly Slash Gang before.

And the Ye Family youth also recognized Xu Nian immediately, his gaze turning sharp.

Chapter 407: Dog catching a mouse

Xu Nian had never expected that upon his arrival in the Imperial Capital, he would encounter someone from the Ye Family.

Moreover, it was one of the living members of the Ye Family.

Aside from that Saint, the only person who had ever seen Xu Nian.

Given the vastness of the Imperial Capital, their chance meeting was truly the manipulation of fate.

From the expression on the face of this young man from the Ye Family, it was clear he had recognized Xu Nian's identity.

However, the cultivation of this Ye Family youth was not very high.

He was only at the Three-star Battle General Level.

In front of Xu Nian today.

A single finger could pinch him to death.

But the two young men beside him were quite extraordinary.

One was tall and formidable, looking to be around twenty-eight or twenty-nine years old.

His cultivation had already reached the Peak of Body King.

As for the leading youth, he was even more remarkable.

Looking to be twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old, he had already reached the Half-Saint Realm.

So young yet so advanced in cultivation.

In any power, such capabilities would mark him as a genius.

The one who just spoke was indeed the leading youth of twenty-seven or twenty-eight years old.

At this moment, the youth had also noticed Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King.

After sizing them up briefly, a trace of disdain flashed in his eyes.

Then he simply ignored the two of them.

"I've seen Elder Brother Wu Dong," Xia Bingling said to the newcomer, politely speaking.

"Ice Spirit, you've worried the Master sick with your outing this time. If you want to travel, you should say something or let me accompany you, so we can look after each other. It's too dangerous to be alone," the youth named Wu Dong said with a smile.

"Thank you for your concern, Elder Brother Wu Dong. I've safely returned and am planning to visit the Master. Since you seem busy, we won't bother you," Xia Bingling spoke.

Having finished speaking, she prepared to leave with Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King.

Wu Dong's brow furrowed slightly.

Although Xia Bingling hadn't exactly been fond of him in the past.

She had never been so indifferent as she was today.

Why was she in such a hurry to leave today?

He had pursued Xia Bingling for so long.

Although she had never explicitly accepted, she had also never once rejected his advances.

If nothing went wrong, Xia Bingling would definitely be his woman in the end.

But Xia Bingling's behavior today made him feel a bit of surprise.

Was it because of them?

Wu Dong immediately turned his gaze to Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King.

But after looking them over thoroughly, he couldn't see what might attract Xia Bingling in these two.

"Elder Brother Wu Dong, that guy in white is Xu Nian,"

At that moment, Ye Yun whispered into Wu Dong's ear.

"Xu Nian? The one who seized the dragon veins and left the Four Great Families and the Imperial Family in defeat?" Wu Dong was taken aback.

His gaze involuntarily shifted back to Xu Nian.

"Right, that's Xu Nian. The Fang Family, our Ye Family, and the Imperial Family are all hunting him down, and here he dares to come to the Imperial Capital," Ye Yun said.

Hearing this, Wu Dong's eyes gleamed with greed.

Xu Nian was in the Imperial Capital, which meant the dragon veins were now with Xu Nian?

If he could seize the dragon veins, even handing them over to the Divine River Palace would be a great achievement.

Even if it were handed to Emperor Tianhen, it would definitely result in many rewards.

At that time, having Xia Bingling marry him would simply be a matter of his saying the word.

"We absolutely cannot let this fellow escape," Wu Dong thought to himself.

He immediately followed and blocked Xia Bingling's and Xu Nian's way, along with the third person.

Ye Yun, watching from the side, also revealed a cold smirk at the scene.

He thought Xu Nian coming to the Imperial Capital was practically seeking death.

He had revealed Xu Nian's identity to Wu Dong just to tempt him to try Xu Nian's power.

If Xu Nian were killed just like that, it would be for the best.

Then he would notify the Ye Family's Elders at the first opportunity.

If Xu Nian truly had some other methods to block Wu Dong's attack,

it wouldn't be too late for the Ye Family to make a move.

Although his own power was not great, Ye Yun's mind was incredibly sharp.

Despite being a collateral branch member, his status within the clan was no less than those of the main branch.

It was all thanks to his clever mind.

If he could capture Xu Nian this time, his status in the clan might well climb higher.

"Brother Wu Dong, what are you doing?" Xia Bingling said with displeasure as she saw Wu Dong actually blocking their path.

"Ice Spirit, I mean no harm, I just want to ask who these two are?" Wu Dong asked with a smile.

"They are both my friends, and we've come to the Imperial Capital for a visit. I was about to take them to see my Master. Is there anything else, Brother Wu Dong?" Xia Bingling said impatiently.

At these words, a flash of anger passed through Wu Dong's eyes.

Xia Bingling was actually speaking coldly to him because of these two people.

This had never happened before.

Being a grandson of an Elder of the Divine River Palace, there was no woman he couldn't have.

If it weren't for Xia Bingling's beauty and her being the Imperial Princess, he wouldn't bother to humble himself so to a woman.

"Hmph, Xia Bingling, once I capture Xu Nian and present him to the Emperor, then I'll see if you still dare to be arrogant in front of me," Wu Dong thought coldly.

However, his face still bore a smile as he looked at Xia Bingling and said, "Ice Spirit, you are naïve. I fear that you are being used by some ill-intentioned people. Perhaps you don't know, but your seventh and ninth brothers died at the hands of the person beside you."

"Eh?"

Xia Bingling was immediately startled, looking at Xu Nian with a face full of astonishment.

Although she had heard that her seventh and ninth prince brothers had been killed over the dragon vein in the Demon Emperor's Tomb, she had not known who had killed them.

To think they had died at the hands of Xu Nian.

However, recalling Xu Nian's abilities, it indeed seemed possible.

"Ice Spirit, it seems you are still in the dark. He has used you to enter the Imperial Capital for some unspeakable purpose, so please step aside, and let me properly interrogate this fellow," Wu Dong said with a cold snort.

After speaking, he turned to Xu Nian and coldly demanded, "Xu Nian, you must have some ulterior motive for approaching Princess Ice Spirit. I advise you to simply surrender; otherwise, you won't leave the Imperial Capital alive today."

Xu Nian, hearing this, just laughed.

From start to finish, he had seen through Wu Dong's act.

Everything Ye Yun had told Wu Dong, he had heard clearly.

Knowing these people were eyeing the dragon vein in him.

It was laughable that Wu Dong, used as a pawn, was obviously ignorant, truly pitiable.

And Ye Yun, thinking himself clever, wanted to use Wu Dong to test Xu Nian's reality.

Such petty tricks were nothing but child's play in front of Xu Nian, who had long since trained to be as cunning as a fox.

"Brother Wu Dong, step aside. Xu Nian has saved my life; my life is owed to Xu Nian. Even if he harbors some scheme, I, Xia Bingling, accept it, but now, please step aside."

However, before Xu Nian could speak, Xia Bingling stepped forward, standing in front of Xu Nian, and coldly told Wu Dong.

At these words, the surrounding crowd was taken aback.

Wu Dong's face turned even more livid.

With those words, Xia Bingling had effectively made him look like a dog that meddles unnecessarily.

Chapter 408: The Arrogant Hu Jie

Wu Dong's face turned extremely awkward.

Xia Bingling actually said that her life belonged to Xu Nian, and if Xu Nian had intentions towards her, she would accept it.

What did this mean?

It meant that if Xu Nian really did something to her, she would agree.

Thinking of this, Wu Dong's teeth itched with rage even more.

It meant that what was originally his was forcibly taken away by Xu Nian.

How could he not be furious?

Even if it was not for the dragon vein, he would now tear Xu Nian into pieces.

Xu Nian was also somewhat surprised.

That Xia Bingling would say such words.

Saying such things in the middle of the street, an Imperial Princess stating this in front of so many people, was indeed shocking.

Xia Bingling also realized that she had been somewhat emotional in her speech, her pretty face blushed.

"Ice Spirit, step aside. Today, no matter what, I must capture this man," Wu Dong coldly huffed.

He was about to make a move on Xu Nian.

However, Xia Bingling firmly blocked his way.

"If you want to touch Xu Nian today, you must get past me first." Xia Bingling's eyes were firm, and she immediately produced a sharp sword in her hand.

Wu Dong was instantly furious.

That Xia Bingling would actually cross swords with him for Xu Nian.

Who in the Imperial Capital did not know that he was pursuing Xia Bingling?

Now for a man, Xia Bingling was pointing a sword at him.

Where could he put his face?

"You disgraceful woman, don't think just because I'm kind to you that I wouldn't dare to do something to you. The women Wu Dong wants, I've never failed to obtain. One day, you will kneel before me, begging for mercy. Today, step aside for now; once I deal with Xu Nian, I'll deal with you," Wu Dong coldly huffed, his eyes brimming with intense malice.

Xia Bingling was also enraged.

Her grip on the sword hilt tightened even more.

In the past, she had always thought of Wu Dong as a talented and polite person.

He was good to her, like a humble big brother.

Moreover, their elders both had that wish.

So she did not oppose Wu Dong's advances and tried to accept him.

But she had not expected to see Wu Dong's true nature until today.

So despicable.

And to publicly humiliate her in this manner.

"Let me handle this!"

However, just as Xia Bingling was about to take action.

A hand rested on Xia Bingling's shoulder.

Xia Bingling's body shivered, and she turned to look at the person behind her.

It was Xu Nian, standing behind her with a smile.

That smile, carrying nine parts confidence and one part disdain, was especially dazzling under the sunlight.

Yet, it was extremely charming.

Xia Bingling instinctively nodded and stepped aside.

She wasn't worried that Xu Nian couldn't handle Wu Dong.

It was just that she felt this was her territory and Xu Nian was a guest; she couldn't let him be bullied for no reason.

But now she understood that this young man was someone who wasn't afraid regardless of what storms he faced—he hardly needed a woman's protection.

"Kid, finally you step forward. I thought you would hide behind a woman forever," Wu Dong said as he watched Xu Nian step forward, sneering.

"Do you just want the dragon vein? Why bother with such grand excuses, let me tell you straight, the dragon vein is on me, what are you going to do about it?" Xu Nian said with a smile.

Just a Semi-Saint.

Honestly, he was too lazy to lift a finger.

The Bull Demon King also stood aside with a cold sneer.

These guys didn't know whether they were alive or dead, actually causing trouble for Xu Nian.

If Xu Nian had not told him before he came, not to make a move without his order,

he would have probably squashed these few flies into meat paste already.

When Wu Dong heard Xu Nian's words, his eyes suddenly lit up.

He hadn't expected that Xu Nian would actually admit that the dragon vein was on him.

Although he had heard that Xu Nian had killed several Saints, it was all through indirect and underhanded means.

As for Xu Nian's own strength, it definitely wouldn't be very high.

"Since you know my purpose, you'd better hand over the dragon vein, otherwise you will die miserably," Wu Dong said with a mocking look in his eyes.

Xu Nian smiled faintly.

This Wu Dong really took no one seriously.

He didn't realize how dangerous his situation truly was.

"Cut the crap, if you want the dragon vein, just try to take it, but I doubt you have the life to claim it," Xu Nian coldly replied.

Upon hearing this, a surge of intense killing intent flowed through Wu Dong's eyes.

He then wanted to make a move.

"Brother, let me do it, this sort of scum doesn't require your hands-on effort," said the Nine-star Body King.

"Fine, but remember to leave him breathing, I want to deal with him personally," Wu Dong coldly huffed.

"Rest assured, I will definitely make him kneel before you and beg for mercy."

Hu Jie replied, a scornful smile appearing on his face, his gaze towards Xu Nian also filled with killing intent.

Then a Peak of Nine-star Body King like powerful aura burst forth from him.

As Hu Jie's aura erupted, it instantly attracted the attention of many people around.

These people, seeing that Wu Dong and Hu Jie were making a move, revealed a look of surprise on their faces.

"Who is this kid? Daring to provoke the brothers Wu Dong and Hu Jie, doesn't he know that Wu Dong and Hu Jie are well-known geniuses in the Imperial Capital?"

"Yes, this Hu Jie is a veritable god of death. Those who offend him end up either crippled or dead. The last time, a disciple from a powerful family from another place not only got crippled but also had his beauty taken by Hu Jie. It's said that this rich disciple has been begging in the East City for over a month now and, to date, no one has come to collect him. His family might have already abandoned him; how pitiful!"

"Alas, what big family disciple, in the Imperial Capital, even the biggest forces have to be careful, it looks like this boy is a greenhorn, not knowing whether he will even keep his life."

...

Those newly arrived onlookers saw Hu Jie making a move.

One by one, they looked at Xu Nian with pity.

Ye Yun stood among the crowd with a face full of mockery.

Everything was proceeding perfectly according to his plan.

Now, all he had to do was wait for Xu Nian to be defeated.

Then he would inform the Ye Family Saint to come to close the scene.

When Xu Nian heard the surrounding people's conversation, his face revealed a light smile.

It seemed that this Hu Jie was indeed notorious in the Imperial Capital!

The Nine-star Body King, indeed having arrogant capital.

"Kid, I don't care how the outside world hypes you up, in front of your uncle Hu Jie, you are nothing. Today, Uncle Hu Jie will show you what real strength is," Hu Jie bellowed and then charged at Xu Nian.

He fiercely punched towards Xu Nian, bringing a wildly violent offensive.

Xu Nian, seeing Hu Jie's fist coming towards him, also flashed a hint of sharpness in his eyes.

He instantly made a move.

His fist directly collided with Hu Jie's.

"Crack!"

A sound of bones bursting echoed.

The crowd saw Hu Jie's entire arm completely deformed.

Bare white bones protruded from the shoulder joint, blood still clinging to them.

It was a ghastly sight!

"Ah..."

Hu Jie also let out a miserable scream.

The onlooking crowd all showed incredibly surprised expressions.

This... this wasn't what they expected at all!

Chapter 409 Unprecedented

Wu Dong was also stunned.

He looked at Hu Jie, who was screaming like a slaughtered pig in front, his face showing surprise.

Hu Jie's arm had actually been broken by Xu Nian with a punch.

And Hu Jie was a Nine-star Peak Body King!

One punch, and even he, a Half-Saint Expert, wouldn't dare to withstand it directly.

Yet Xu Nian had managed to break his arm with a single punch to such an extent.

How strong must Xu Nian's body be?

Hu Jie was also immensely shocked at this moment.

Since he had reached the Peak of Body King, among the young generation, no one had been able to compete with him physically.

But this young man in front of him had actually broken his arm with one punch.

This simply made him unable to believe that all this was real.

But the intense pain was absolutely undeniable.

"I heard you quite like crippling people, turning them into beggars. I think that method is really good, you might want to give it a try," Xu Nian said with a slight smile.

Then everyone saw Xu Nian grab Hu Jie's other arm.

"Puchi!"

With a strong tug, Hu Jie's arm was forcefully torn off.

The onlookers around were immediately dumbfounded.

How could this be?

Hu Jie was a Peak of Body King!

To have his arm forcefully torn off by someone.

What terrifying strength was this?

"Crack!"

But before they could recover, they heard the sound of something breaking again.

They saw one of Hu Jie's legs was directly kicked and broken by Xu Nian.

The knee twisted backward, the bone faintly visible.

"Ah..."

Hu Jie rolled on the ground in pain, and his screams made the crowd's scalp tingle.

Before, they had only seen Hu Jie torturing others like this, but they had never seen Hu Jie beaten so badly.

Throughout it all, Hu Jie had no chance to fight back against this young man.

"How does it feel? Is it not as good as your usual methods?" Xu Nian squatted in front of Hu Jie and asked with a smile.

However, that smile, to Hu Jie, seemed more terrifying than a demon from hell.

"Wu Dong, save me!" Hu Jie, enduring the pain, shouted out.

"Release Hu Jie immediately." Upon hearing this, Wu Dong finally came to his senses and shouted loudly at Xu Nian.

"What if I don't release him!" Xu Nian looked up and asked with a smile.

"You're seeking death!" Wu Dong was furious, and the aura of a Half-Saint fully burst out from him.

The people around all showed surprised expressions.

Was Wu Dong going to make a move?

They wondered if he would be a match for this mysterious young man.

From the beginning to now, they had not seen what strength this young man truly possessed.

Because up until this point, he hadn't used even a trace of Spiritual Energy or Gang Qi.

"You're dead!"

A long spear appeared directly in Wu Dong's hand.

With immense momentum, he directly lunged to stab Xu Nian.

Having witnessed the terror of Xu Nian's physical strength,

He had no desire to engage in close combat with Xu Nian.

So, he opted to use the long spear, not believing that Xu Nian could withstand his spear empty-handed.

"Such formidable spear technique, this Wu Dong has actually reached the Third Level of power, not far from achieving the Unity of Heaven and Man," said someone in the crowd with sharp eyesight.

Upon hearing this, the crowd showed surprised expressions.

As residents of the Imperial Capital, their knowledge greatly surpassed that of cultivators from other areas.

Of course, they knew what the Third Level of power meant.

So when Wu Dong deployed the Third Level Spear Technique, they all felt that the mysterious young man was doomed.

Wu Dong's face was filled with a cold smirk.

Looking at the indifferent Xu Nian in front of him, he viewed him with disdain.

Comprehending realms had always been his pride, once creating a spear technique based on realms that had killed several Half-Saint Level experts.

He believed Xu Nian would be no exception.

Under his spear technique, Xu Nian would undoubtedly meet his demise.

"Go to hell."

However, just when everyone thought Xu Nian couldn't withstand that spear,

a scene that left them dumbfounded occurred.

The mysterious young man suddenly grabbed Hu Jie's ankle from the ground, swung him around, and violently smashed him onto Wu Dong's chest as a weapon.

Xu Nian's move was extremely fast, and his figure was like a ghost.

Wu Dong's spear technique didn't even touch a corner of Xu Nian's clothes, but instead, he was viciously smashed in the chest by the weapon that was Hu Jie's body.

"Pfft!"

Blood spurted wildly.

A terrifying power erupted in his chest.

Wu Dong's body instantly flew backward in a straight line.

The long spear in his hand was also flung out, landing on the ground.

"Boom!"

A thunderous noise.

Wu Dong harshly smashed into the city wall far away, creating a huge, deep pit in the wall.

Hu Jie, who was used as a weapon by Xu Nian, was also vomiting blood wildly.

It was unclear whether it was from the shock of that colossal force or from sheer anger.

He, a pinnacle of Body King, was actually used as a weapon.

The surrounding crowd also took a while to recover.

Their looks towards Xu Nian turned into one of immense awe.

Even the most foolish among them now understood one thing.

The strength of the young man before them was far greater than both Hu Jie and Wu Dong.

Standing among the crowd, Ye Yun was also deeply shaken by this scene.

He then wanted to send a message to the Clan Elder.

But before he could take out his Communication Spirit Talisman, he saw a figure dragging a limp body standing in front of him.

Ye Yun's heart skipped a beat, feeling like his heartbeat had missed a beat.

Slowly lifting his head, he looked at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian was looking at him with a smiling face.

"Long time no see!" Xu Nian said with a smile.

"G-good to see you!" Ye Yun's mind went blank and he subconsciously responded.

The surrounding crowd was puzzled, was this a reunion with an old friend?

But before they could come back to their senses, they saw Xu Nian kick Ye Yun in the chest.

Then Ye Yun turned into a streak of light and flew backwards.

Simultaneously, Xu Nian also threw Hu Jie, who was in his hand.

Next, Xu Nian grabbed the long spear dropped by Wu Dong and hurled it out.

Then the crowd saw Wu Dong, Hu Jie, and Ye Yun all being impaled by the long spear.

Like skewered candied haws, they were pinned to the wall.

And the place they were pierced was all in their Dantian.

Yes, Xu Nian hadn't killed them; he had incapacitated their cultivation.

Incapacitating them was even more brutal than killing them.

Of course, being directly pierced by the long spear, even if they didn't die, they would have to lay in bed for a couple of months.

"Hiss!"

The onlookers all drew in a breath of cold air.

They had seen cruel methods of killing.

But they had never seen such a bizarre method.

Nailing people into a human skewer.

This must be an unprecedented event!

Xia Bingling was also dumbfounded.

Although she had anticipated a grim fate for Wu Dong and the others,

she hadn't expected such an outcome, being nailed into a human skewer by a long spear?

However, Xia Bingling felt no sympathy in her heart.

On the contrary, she felt a sense of satisfaction.

Right then, Wu Dong and the others, pinned to the wall, were infuriated to the point of fainting from extreme anger.

Chapter 410 This Isn't Good, Right?

"This is the Divine River Palace."

Xia Bingling, accompanied by Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King, arrived at a majestic palace in the eastern part of the Imperial Capital.

After nailing Wu Dong and his two companions to the wall, Xu Nian left.

He spared their lives because killing them would immediately attract the forces behind them.

Xu Nian wasn't ready to directly confront them yet.

If he lured those Saints, a fierce battle would inevitably ensue.

To fight and then escape was to send those Saints a warning.

This was not only satisfying, but also allowed him to secretly accumulate strength.

Let those enemies worry about the rest!

But now, after his disruption, the entire Imperial Capital knew he had come.

And his name had likely reached the ears of various powers.

After all, the legendary act of nailing three people to the city wall was bound to circulate throughout the city.

His exploits were probably already known throughout the entire Imperial Capital.

"Be careful. The Wu Dong you injured is Wu Changfeng's grandson, an Elder of Divine River Palace. He'll certainly come looking for you, but don't worry. I'll have Master protect you. With Master around, even Wu Changfeng won't dare do anything to you," Xia Bingling said.

Yet, her face was tinged with shyness, and she dared not look directly into Xu Nian's eyes.

Xu Nian smiled and nodded.

Ever since Xia Bingling had spoken those words in front of so many people.

She would always seem a bit shy when looking at him.

To this, Xu Nian could only pretend as if nothing had happened.

Soon, Xu Nian and the others were led into a grand hall.

At the upper part of the hall sat an old man with white hair.

The old man had the bearing of an immortal, exuding an awe-inspiring aura.

Xu Nian tried to probe the old man's cultivation level but found it was impossible.

This meant the old man's cultivation level reached at least that of a Three-star Saint.

The elder's cultivation level exceeded Xu Nian's ability to perceive with his Spiritual Sense Power.

Thus, sensing the old man's might, a wave of caution surged in Xu Nian's heart.

Facing such a powerhouse, he feared it would be hard to escape without using his full strength.

"You know how to come back. Do you realize how worried I was about you?"

However, the old man did not focus on Xu Nian or the Bull Demon King; instead, he glared at Xia Bingling who was walking at the front.

Xia Bingling immediately lowered her head.

Clearly, this elder was Xia Bingling's Master.

In front of her Master, Xia Bingling seemed more lively, unlike the cold demeanor she exhibited when they first met.

"Master, here I am back now, so please don't be angry," Xia Bingling said with a hint of coquetry.

The elder seated above sighed helplessly.

"Tell me, where have you been this past month?" the elder's tone softened.

"Where could I go? As soon as I left the Imperial Capital, the Tianji Pavilion pursued me. I intended to escape to East Field County, and if I hadn't run into them, I might already be dead," Xia Bingling said, growing more aggrieved as she spoke.

Xu Nian exchanged glances with the Bull Demon King nearby.

Clearly, the Xia Bingling in front of her Master was nothing like the Xia Bingling they usually saw.

At that moment, Xia Bingling had a mix of sharp wiliness and the air of a spoiled princess.

Xu Nian guessed correctly that upon seeing her Master, Xia Bingling completely relaxed and revealed her true self.

"Hmph, the Tianji Pavilion, becoming ever more arrogant. To think they'd dare lay a hand on my disciple. When there's an opportunity, I must meet with the Emperor and question his son," the elder slapped the chair beside him.

A terrifying aura instantly emanated from him.

Xu Nian and the Bull Demon King showed expressions of astonishment.

Saint Peak!

The elder in front of him was actually a Peak Powerhouse.

No wonder he couldn't probe the elder's cultivation.

Had the elder not gotten angry and revealed his aura,

Xu Nian would never have known that this elder was a high-level master at the Saint Peak.

Facing such a powerhouse, even if Xu Nian used his Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar, he likely wouldn't be his match.

"It seems the Imperial Capital is truly dangerous; bumping into any random person could be a Peak Saint. I need to be more careful," Xu Nian muttered to himself.

His actions today had been somewhat high-profile.

It was his good luck that no Saint Powerhouse had encountered him.

Otherwise, it was hard to say what his situation would be like now.

"Right, Master, let me introduce you to two friends I just made. They are the ones who saved me," Xia Bingling told the elder.

The elder glanced at Bull Demon King and slightly frowned his brow.

He had evidently recognized that the Bull Demon King was a Demon Saint.

It was rare indeed for a Demon Clan's Saint to come to the Imperial Capital.

"Eh!"

When he turned to Xu Nian, his face suddenly showed a light expression of surprise.

With a flash, he appeared in front of Xu Nian.

He began to circle around Xu Nian.

Xu Nian knew the elder had discovered his cultivation level and was amazed.

Yet, being sized up by a Peak Powerhouse like this was quite uncomfortable.

"Junior has seen the senior," Xu Nian respectfully said.

"One-star Battle Saint cultivation, and such a robust aura too. Your Body Cultivation has reached the Peak of Nine-star Body King, and your bone age is eighteen years old. If I'm not mistaken, young man, you must be Xu Nian, whose reputation has been growing across the continent recently!" the elder said, stroking his beard.

"That is indeed me!" Xu Nian respectfully replied.

He became even more vigilant in his heart.

If the elder had any thought of making a move, he would undoubtedly act without hesitation,

otherwise, he might not even have the chance to respond.

"Master, how do you know Xu Nian?" Xia Bingling exclaimed in surprise.

She didn't expect her master to know Xu Nian's name off the bat.

Could Xu Nian's reputation be that significant?

"My dear disciple, you probably don't know, but the young man before you killed three saints in Death Valley over two months ago, including powerful warriors of the Seven-star Level and had a Half-Emperor Pet. Moreover, he is the current Sect Master of the Artifact Refining Sect while his cultivation was only at the Four Star Battle King Level at that time," the elder answered with a smile.

"What?"

Xia Bingling was shocked and speechless upon hearing the elder.

Xu Nian's performance on their journey had already seemed miraculous.

But she never imagined Xu Nian had accomplished such heaven-defying feats.

Killing saints, having a Half-Emperor battle pet, becoming the Sect Master of the Artifact Refining Sect?

And crucially, just two months ago, he was merely a Four-star Battle King?

Yet now, he had already become a One-star Saint.

What an unbelievably terrifying speed of cultivation.

"Wow, little brother, you've accomplished such amazing feats. I said you couldn't possibly be so talented without some recognition, but the deeds you've done are truly heaven-defying!" Bull Demon King couldn't help but to exclaim.

He was only now learning of Xu Nian's achievements.

Listening to these feats was genuinely horrifying.

Xu Nian just helplessly shook his head and said to the elder, "Those were just some luck; elder shouldn't take it to heart."

"Ha ha, unassuming and calm, truly a peerless genius. Xu Nian, dare you have a fight with this old man? I won't bully you; I'll suppress my cultivation to the One-star Saint Realm. Do you dare or not?" the elder laughed heartily, his eyes filled with fighting spirit.

"This... might not be appropriate?" Xu Nian hesitated for a moment, then replied with a bitter smile.