

Divine King 431

Chapter 431: The Origin of Ancestor Vein Power

His maternal grandfather?

Although Xu Nian had long suspected the identity of the old man, he was still very surprised when he heard him say those words.

He had heard Xu Xin mention that after his mother was taken back to the family,

she was supposed to be strictly punished according to the family rules, but thanks to his grandfather's pleading,

his mother was spared a lot of suffering.

And it was also because of the care of this grandfather that Xu Xin, a girl who should have been rejected by Xu Family, was recognized by the family.

"Xu Nian pays respect to Grandfather."

Xu Nian spoke respectfully and then bowed to the old man.

No matter what, the old man had helped his mother so much, and he must express his gratitude.

"Young man, since you call me Grandfather, there's no need for such formalities. I helped your mother because she is my daughter!" Xu Tianxu said.

His gaze towards Xu Nian was also filled with approval.

Xu Nian's talent and strength were beyond doubt, so the only thing to pay attention to was his character.

Xu Nian's regard for his mother and sister was enough to show he was a person of affection and righteousness.

Therefore, from the moment he first saw Xu Nian, he took a liking to him.

Xu Nian also felt fairly good about this grandfather he was meeting for the first time.

Because there was none of the usual indifference and callousness of a large family in this grandfather.

"Grandfather, my mother, she..."

Xu Nian had just begun to speak when Xu Tianxu beside him interrupted.

"I know what you're going to say. Your mother is fine, I know where she is." Xu Tianxu said.

"Really?" Upon hearing this, a look of joy immediately appeared on Xu Nian's face.

He believed Xu Tianxu was telling the truth.

After all, Xu Tianxu had no reason to deceive him.

"Yes, if I'm not mistaken, your mother must have been taken by Xu Xin into the Xu Family Ancestral Land," Xu Tianxu continued.

"Xu Family Ancestral Land?" Xu Nian was startled.

Two middle-aged men standing nearby also showed surprise on their faces.

"Last night, there were signs of the Xu Family Ancestral Land being opened, and Xu Xin has the Token needed to open it. I've just found out that Xu Xin's Token is no longer with her, so I'm certain that last night, Xu Xin must have used it to take your mother into the Ancestral Land," Xu Tianxu explained.

"I see, that's what happened. But is the ancestral land safe?" Xu Nian promptly asked.

"Normally, it's safe. As long as your mother doesn't leave the secure areas, even without Cultivation, she will be fine," Xu Tianxu replied.

The anxiety in Xu Nian's heart finally subsided.

If something unexpected really had happened to his mother, he didn't know to what extent he might have gone mad.

"Grandfather, is it possible then to bring my mother out from the ancestral land?" Xu Nian asked again.

However, this time, Xu Tianxu shook his head.

Xu Nian's brows furrowed immediately.

Xu Tianxu began to speak, "The Xu Family Ancestral Land is somewhat special, being an independent Small World found by the Xu Family ancestors. Once you enter, it's very difficult to leave. Inside the ancestral land, there's a Forbidden Forest. Only by hunting enough Exotic Beasts to enrich the Dragon Ancestor Vein within to a Fifth Rank can the door to the ancestral land be reopened."

"Hunting Exotic Beasts to enhance the Ancestor Vein? Could it be that the Xu Family's Ancestor Vein power is obtained from those Exotic Beasts?" Xu Nian asked in surprise.

"Actually, you may not yet know that there are two ways for members of the Xu Family to obtain Ancestor Vein Power. One is through Innate Awakening, and the second is by hunting Forbidden Beasts, thereby continuously enhancing the Bloodline Power within their bodies. However, there's a limit to the Ancestor Vein Power that each person can sustain. Those with higher levels of Innate Awakening can acquire much more Ancestor Vein Power from Forbidden Beasts than those who have not awakened.

Therefore, the family generally allows members with greater potential to enter the ancestral land," Xu Tianxu explained.

Xu Nian nodded in understanding.

So, that was the situation.

In other words, the resources of Forbidden Beasts in the ancestral land are limited.

Only those with a high level of Innate Ancestor Vein Awakening qualify to enter the ancestral land.

Those who have not awakened or possess a lower level of awakening do not have the right to enter the ancestral land to hunt Forbidden Beasts.

As a result, they would live their lives without Ancestor Vein Power or with only a very low level of it.

Xu Xin's possession of the key to open the ancestral land indicated that her Bloodline Awakening reached a level qualifying her to enter.

"What level of awakening is needed to qualify for entry into the ancestral land?" Xu Nian pressed on.

Since one must reach the Fifth Rank of awakening to leave the ancestral land,

it's certain that the threshold for awakening won't be set too high.

"Second Rank. Only when one reaches the Second Rank do they qualify to enter the ancestral land. However, not many disciples can achieve Second Rank. Out of the hundred-odd disciples of the Xu Family, be they from the main or collateral lines, seventy percent have no Bloodline Awakening, twenty percent are at First Rank, and only the remaining few reach Second Rank," Xu Tianxu patiently answered.

"What rank is my sister?" Xu Nian asked.

"Third Rank. Your sister is a genius the likes of which the clan has not seen in a hundred years; she awakened to Third-Rank at the age of sixteen," Xu Tianxu stated with a sense of pride.

Xu Nian nodded.

He understood that a large part of the reason why the Xu Family accepted Xu Xin,

was due to her high-level Bloodline Awakening.

"Grandfather, may I ask, after perfecting the Bloodline Power, what's the highest rank reached in the history of the Xu Family?" Xu Nian inquired.

"Seventh Rank. In the history of the Xu Family, there has only been one master with Seventh-Rank Ancestor Vein Power. Those who reached Sixth Rank are rare as phoenix feathers and unicorn horns. Most have perfected at Fifth Rank. For example, I am at Perfect Fifth Rank," Xu Tianxu answered.

Xu Nian had essentially figured out what was going on.

Only those above Second Rank could absorb the power of Forbidden Beasts and evolve their Ancestor Vein to Fifth-Rank.

Otherwise, even if First Rank individuals entered, they would likely never be able to leave.

"So, what about my mother? Without any Cultivation, how will she hunt Forbidden Beasts? It's simply impossible for her to enhance her Ancestor Vein Power. How then will she leave this Ancestral Vein Land?" Xu Nian asked with tightly knitted eyebrows.

Xu Tianxu smiled as he looked at Xu Nian upon hearing this.

He had actually been waiting for Xu Nian to ask this question.

"It's up to you. If you want to rescue your mother, you'll have to enter the ancestral land yourself and bring her out. Everyone gets one chance to enter the Ancestral Vein Land. Xu Xin has already had hers; it's impossible for her to enter the ancestral land, so if you want to rescue your mother, you must go yourself," Xu Tianxu said.

"Me, go?" Xu Nian was momentarily taken aback upon hearing this.

"Absolutely not!" Two middle-aged members of the Xu Family immediately objected upon hearing this.

Chapter 432 Are You Satisfied, My Lord?

"Great Elder, this absolutely cannot be allowed. Xu Nian is not one of the Xu Family, how can he possibly enter the Ancestor Vein?" Xu Ming immediately spoke up.

"Yes, Great Elder, there are rules within the clan that only Xu Family members can enter the ancestral land. Moreover, Xu Nian has not even awakened the Ancestor Vein Power; he simply does not qualify to enter the ancestral land," another middle-aged man named Xu Zhong quickly added.

Upon hearing this, Xu Yu and the others instantly became enraged.

These two were clearly targeting Xu Nian.

Obviously, they did not want Xu Nian to enter the Xu Family Ancestral Land.

"Hmph, Xu Nian is the grandson of Xu Tianxu and his surname is Xu, how can he not be considered a member of the Xu Family? You bunch of pedantic fools. As for the fact that Xu Nian's bloodline has not awakened, that's because he has not yet undergone the baptism. I believe, with his talent, he will certainly reach the Second Rank," Xu Tianxu retorted coldly.

"But..." Xu Ming and Xu Zhong seemed to want to argue further.

However, they were directly interrupted by a wave of Xu Tianxu's sleeve.

Xu Ming and Xu Zhong were not Xu Tianxu's sons; they were the sons of Xu Tianxu's elder brother, Xu Tianhong.

Xu Tianxu originally had one son and one daughter, namely, Xu Nian's mother's brother.

However, this uncle had died before Xu Xin was even born.

Thus, Xu Tianxu now had only one daughter.

Xu Tong was Xu Ming's son, who died by Xu Nian's hand.

Naturally, Xu Ming opposed Xu Nian at every turn.

Seeing Xu Tianxu actually intending to let Xu Nian undergo the Ancestor Vein Awakening baptism was far from acceptable to Xu Ming.

As for Xu Zhong, it was for the sake of his son.

His son was currently the highest in the Xu Family ever to have awakened the Ancestor Vein Power.

He had reached the Fourth Rank.

He was considered a peerless genius disciple who had always been secretly nurtured by the Xu Family.

He was bound to be the future Family Head of the Xu Family.

Although he did not believe that Xu Nian could surpass his own son, having one less competitor was always better.

Moreover, Xu Nian had achieved the Saint Realm at such a young age.

What if he awakened some powerful Ancestor Vein Power? Wouldn't that mean one more competitor?

Xu Nian had been silent all along.

In fact, he indeed wanted to enter the ancestral land.

Emperor Ye Tian had once said that the piece of Black Jade he carried was related to the ancestral land.

Only by entering the ancestral land could he unlock the secrets of this Black Jade.

Now that the opportunity was right before him, he naturally did not want to miss it.

Besides, his mother was still inside, and he had an unavoidable reason for going.

"Swoosh!"

Just then, two figures flew over.

Leading them was an elderly man.

This elder had a youthful appearance despite his white hair, carrying an unspoken authority.

The aura emanating from him was even that of a Half-Emperor Level.

Next to him was a Saint, who was none other than the Xu Family Saint Xu Nian had met twice.

Xu Nian easily guessed the identity of the Half-Emperor Senior.

Who else could it be but the Family Head Xu, his grandfather's brother Xu Tianhong?

"Greetings, Family Head!"

Xu Ming and Xu Zhong promptly bowed.

Although they were sons of the Xu Family Head.

On normal occasions, they all referred to him as the Family Head.

It showed just how strict the Xu Family customs were.

Upon seeing Xu Tianhong arrive, Xu Tianxu also slightly nodded as a greeting.

From this, Xu Nian could tell that the relationship between Xu Tianhong and his own grandfather wasn't too good.

Xu Tianhong paid no mind to Xu Tianxu but instead focused his gaze on Xu Nian

"Family Head, the Great Elder insists on having Xu Nian undergo the Ancestor Vein Power awakening. He is not our Xu Family's member, and even if he indeed awakens the Ancestor Vein Power and reaches the Second Rank, he must absolutely not be allowed to enter the ancestral land. That is the foundation of our Xu Family, how can we tolerate an outsider..." Xu Ming spoke up upon seeing his father arrive.

He immediately started to speak.

But before he could finish,

Xu Tianhong slapped Xu Ming's face fiercely.

"Smack!"

Xu Ming was instantly dazed.

He didn't understand why his father would suddenly hit him.

Wasn't he always at odds with the Great Elder?

Xu Tianxu was also surprised.

He didn't quite understand his elder brother's actions.

Back when he had protected Xu Xin, his elder brother had strongly opposed it.

In the end, it was only through threats using his status as the Great Elder that he had reluctantly agreed.

Now why was he suddenly siding with Xu Nian?

The Xu Family Saint who came with them knew the reason.

It was obviously due to Xu Nian's new status.

Alien Minister Elder of Divine River Palace, a position just below one and above tens of thousands.

Every power wanted to curry favor with Divine River Palace.

But Divine River Palace had not offered an olive branch to any power.

Now, Xu Nian was a breakthrough for the Xu Family.

How could Family Head Xu possibly want to give up this opportunity?

After learning this news, Xu Tianhong had pondered for a long time.

He decided to first seal the news about Xu Nian and then personally visit the Divine River Palace to talk with Xu Nian.

But before he could go to Divine River Palace, Xu Nian had already arrived in advance.

And to happen at the time when Master Qingluo had kidnapped Xu Xin.

This infuriated him terribly.

If Xu Nian was truly angered,

And later used the power of Divine River Palace to suppress the Xu Family,

Then the Xu Family would truly be finished.

So after much thought, Xu Tianhong concluded that Xu Nian absolutely could not be offended.

He hadn't imagined his own son to be so incompetent.

Before he could even speak, he had, for his personal vendetta, pushed Xu Nian to the opposite side of the Xu Family.

How could Xu Tianhong not silence him?

"Hmph, you go stand aside. How is Xu Nian not a member of my Xu Family? The Great Elder is right; since he is the Great Elder's direct external grandson and carries the Xu surname, how could he not possibly awaken the Ancestor Vein Power? I see you are acting out of personal desire, deliberately targeting Xu Nian. I'll have you go to the Cliff of Reflection for three years to reflect on your actions, and only return when you truly realize your mistake," said Xu Tianhong coldly.

"What? Reflect for three years?" Xu Ming and Xu Zhong both showed shocked expressions.

The Cliff of Reflection was filled with strong winds and cold snow. Reflecting there for three years in such conditions was a very severe punishment.

They hadn't expected their father to impose such a harsh punishment on them for the sake of Xu Nian.

Xu Tianxu was also puzzled, wondering if his elder brother had taken the wrong medicine today.

Xu Nian, although a bit surprised, soon understood what was going on.

It seemed that Xu Tianhong was not such a rigid person; although ruthless, he was willing to go to any lengths for the benefit of the family.

This was him extending an olive branch.

"I wonder, Lord Xu Nian, if you find my handling of this situation satisfactory?"

Just then, Xu Tianhong walked up to Xu Nian with a smile and spoke.

"Lord?"

Xu Ming and Xu Zhong heard this, and their hearts surged like tumultuous waves.

Their own father was actually calling Xu Nian "Lord"?

They even doubted whether they had heard wrong.

Xu Tianxu also looked surprised.

Could it be that this grandson of his had secrets unknown even to him?

Chapter 433 Xu Tianxu's Probe

Xu Nian, upon hearing Xu Tianhong's words, sneered inwardly.

Truly, Xu Tianhong was worthy of being a family head—his cunning was downright terrifying.

He even went so far as to address him, a mere junior, with such respect in front of so many people.

In reality, given his position as the Family Head Xu, he wouldn't be much inferior to him as an Alien Minister Elder of the Divine River Palace.

The fact he called him "sir" was actually to elevate Xu Nian very high.

By satisfying his vanity, the perception of the Xu Family would naturally improve as well.

An old fox is still an old fox after all.

However, he might have underestimated Xu Nian.

To know, after more than two years of experience,

Xu Nian had gradually grown into a Little Fox himself.

How could he possibly fail to see through Family Head Xu's little schemes?

Still, since Family Head Xu had extended an olive branch, there was no reason not to accept it.

Only, he would never pour his heart out for the Xu Family—that was absolutely impossible.

Perhaps, Xu Tianhong never genuinely considered having Xu Nian pour his heart out for the Xu Family.

He only wished to borrow the influence of the Divine River Palace.

"Family Head, there's no need to be so formal. They've only made a small mistake; merely punishing them for seven or eight years should suffice, rather than being too harsh," Xu Nian said with an air of nonchalance.

Xu Ming and Xu Zhong, however, were utterly flabbergasted.

Not harsh? This was exactly what they were talking about?

Their own father had only proposed a three-year punishment.

Xu Nian, on the other hand, casually suggested seven or eight years,

While asking their father not to be too harsh.

If they weren't afraid of angering their father, they truly wished they could slap Xu Nian to death.

What they couldn't figure out was why their father was going to such lengths to please Xu Nian.

On the side, Xu Tianxu was also hanging by a thread of curiosity.

He was eager to learn what was so special about Xu Nian.

"Tianxu, perhaps you are not yet aware, but Xu Nian has become the new Alien Minister Elder of the Divine River Palace. As for the status of an Alien Minister Elder within the Divine River Palace, you ought to know," Xu Tianhong said to Xu Tianxu.

"An Alien Minister Elder of the Divine River Palace?" Xu Tianxu showed a surprised expression.

Although the Divine River Palace hadn't seen an Alien Minister Elder for thousands of years,

Xu Tianxu still knew something about the history of the Divine River Palace.

He just hadn't thought that Xu Nian would become an Alien Minister Elder of the Divine River Palace.

No wonder his usually cold and ruthless big brother was going to such lengths to win over Xu Nian.

Xu Ming and Xu Zhong were also surprised.

Xu Nian was an Alien Minister Elder of the Divine River Palace?

How could the Divine River Palace let someone not even twenty years old become an Alien Minister Elder?

"Now that it's settled, Family Head, when can I undergo the Ancestor Vein Awakening Baptism?" Xu Nian asked.

He did not want to delay for too long.

Because every moment he delayed, his mother's safety was all the more at risk.

He had to take his mother out of the ancestral land as soon as possible; how could Xu Nian rest easy otherwise?

"I understand your feelings, but it's impossible to conduct the Ancestor Vein Awakening Baptism today. The Ancestor Vein Awakening Baptism requires the preparation of Dragon Transformation Pond Water, and filling the Dragon Transformation Pond with Dragon Transformation Pond Water will take three days. So, Xu Nian, you'll have to wait another three days," Xu Tianhong explained.

"Three days? That long?" Xu Nian frowned.

"Xu Nian, it indeed takes three days to prepare the Dragon Transformation Pond Water. Rest assured, as long as your mother stays in the safe area, her life will not be in danger," Xu Tianxu interjected.

Xu Nian, upon hearing this, could only helplessly nod his head.

Originally, he had thought he would finally see his mother, yet unexpectedly he still had to wait three days.

"Xu Nian, during these three days, why not stay at the Xu Family residence?" Xu Tianhong spoke up.

"Stay with us, I have much that I want to discuss with you," Xu Tianxu joined in.

"That would be fine, then I'll be imposing," Xu Nian replied, nodding his head, after Xu Tianxu had spoken.

"Imposing? From now on, the Xu Family is your home. I'll arrange accommodations for you," Xu Tianhong said with a smile on his face.

"There's no need for me, I will stay where my sister is. These people are my friends, I'll have to trouble the Family Head to arrange something for them," Xu Nian said.

At his words, Xu Tianhong immediately signaled the Xu Family Elder standing behind him to arrange accommodations for Xu Yu and the others.

Xu Nian, carrying the still unconscious Xu Xin, followed Xu Tianxu to his abode.

Xu Tianxu's dwelling came as a surprise to Xu Nian.

Rather than living in a grandiose hall akin to a palace like the rest of the Xu Family,

Xu Tianxu resided in a small bamboo house deep within a secluded bamboo grove on the back mountain.

The path was secluded, and all around were only the sounds of rustling bamboo leaves and birdsong.

After placing Xu Xin on the bed inside the bamboo house, Xu Nian stepped back outside.

To his astonishment, Xu Tianxu was holding a broom, sweeping the bamboo leaves that had fallen to the ground.

In that moment, Xu Tianxu seemed not at all like a warrior of the Saint Peak Level, but rather an ordinary old man.

He had a simple, unadorned air about him.

But upon closer inspection, Xu Nian was startled.

He found that Xu Tianxu stood there, completely blending in with his surroundings.

No matter from which angle

you considered launching an attack, there were no flaws.

Even if one were to attack, Xu Tianxu would be able to respond immediately.

And if Xu Tianxu wanted to kill him, it would surely be done in a single move.

"What kind of comprehension has he reached?" Xu Nian wondered to himself in shock.

He was certain that Xu Tianxu's level of comprehension was far superior to his own,

for a mere Peak of Body Saint could not possibly exude such immense pressure.

"You've comprehended the Wind Attribute Profound Argumentation?"

Just as Xu Nian was internally marvelling at Xu Tianxu's level of comprehension, Xu Tianxu suddenly turned and asked.

"Yes, Grandfather!" Xu Nian responded.

"Strike at me with all your might; I wish to see the extent of your comprehension," Xu Tianxu stopped his sweeping and addressed Xu Nian.

Xu Nian heard him but did not move.

"What's the matter — afraid your attack might injure me? Haha, within the Saint Realm, I dare not claim to be undefeated, but those who can injure me are truly few and far between. If you truly manage to hurt me, I'll be satisfied even in death. Just go ahead and strike," Xu Tianxu laughed heartily.

"Alright, then I must apologize in advance, Grandfather." Xu Nian no longer hesitated, and as he spoke, an Immortal Sword appeared in his hand.

"An Immortal Sword? Interesting. That should be something from the Imperial Family. It seems the rumors of you killing two Princes of the Emperor's Royal Family are not unfounded," Xu Tianxu's gaze was sharp, instantly recognizing the origin of the Immortal Sword in Xu Nian's hand.

Xu Nian merely smiled faintly, his eyes brimming with intense fighting spirit.

He had agreed to fight because he too wanted to see just how far his grandfather's level of comprehension had reached.

"Grandfather, be careful!"

With a loud shout from Xu Nian, the Green Silk Sword Energy surged forth.

With a single slash,

green Sword Threads instantaneously swept towards Xu Tianxu.

The green Sword Threads exuded a strong sense of cutting power.

Chapter 434 Wind Vibration

"Such powerful Cutting Force!"

Xu Tianxu's face revealed a look of surprise at the sight of the green Sword Threads.

The green Sword Threads even gave him a sense of threat.

Even with his Peak of Body Saint strength,

he dared not to contend with these green Sword Threads using his physical strength alone.

Such powerful Cutting Force could definitely cut through even the most peculiar metals.

However, this did not mean that Xu Tianxu couldn't block this sword strike.

"Hum!"

Xu Tianxu swung the broom in his hand and smacked down hard on the green Sword Threads.

Xu Nian's green Sword Threads, which could cut through peculiar metals, completely dissipated under the strike of that ordinary broom.

"How is this possible?"

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

How could an ordinary broom possibly withstand his Green Sword Energy?

It's known that an ordinary broom cannot be imbued with powerful Spiritual Energy or Gang Qi, otherwise it would explode from the force.

Moreover, Xu Nian had not felt any fluctuations of Gang Qi from his grandfather just now.

This meant that his grandfather hadn't used any Gang Qi at all.

To say that the broom's hardness could withstand his Green Silk Sword Energy was even more impossible.

After all, even peculiar metals couldn't withstand it.

How could a broom made of bamboo possibly be harder than peculiar metals?

"Are you surprised? Wondering why my broom could break through your Sword Qi?" Xu Tianxu said with a slight smile.

Xu Nian nodded.

He really couldn't understand it.

But he was certain that his grandfather had also used a Profound Argumentation.

Just what this understanding was, Xu Nian couldn't feel.

"Actually, what I've comprehended is the same as what you have, both being Wind Attribute Profound Argumentation, just that mine is in a different direction," Xu Tianxu spoke.

"Grandfather means to say, you've comprehended Wind Vibration?" Xu Nian asked, surprised.

There are only three kinds of Wind Attribute Profound Argumentation: Wind's Extreme Speed, Wind Vibration, and Dimension Cutting.

What his grandfather had just used was clearly not Wind's Extreme Speed.

And his own Dimension Cutting was even less so.

Therefore, the only possibility was that his grandfather had comprehended Wind Vibration.

"That's right. What I've comprehended is indeed Wind Vibration, and my comprehension has reached the Bright Mirror Realm. Otherwise, relying on Profound Argumentation alone, I would not have been able to block your sword's Sword Radiance," Xu Tianxu said.

Xu Nian showed a look of surprise.

His grandfather had actually brought Wind Vibration to the Bright Mirror Realm.

One should know that the Bright Mirror Realm is the final realm before crossing the threshold of Profound Argumentation.

This was the highest level of comprehension Xu Nian had seen among all the people he knew.

Now, he finally understood why he felt there were no weaknesses in his grandfather from head to toe.

It was definitely related to Wind Vibration.

Yet Xu Nian still didn't understand what Wind Vibration actually was.

"Are you wondering what kind of Profound Argumentation my Wind Vibration is?" Xu Tianxu said with a smile.

Xu Nian's face was a picture of embarrassment.

Indeed, he could not hide any thoughts from his grandfather.

"Profound Argumentation is something that can only be understood and not conveyed in words. I will only demonstrate it once; it's up to you to see how much you can comprehend," Xu Tianxu said.

Xu Nian nodded; Profound Argumentation was indeed not something they could easily explain.

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If he were asked to explain what the Dimension Cutting Profound Argumentation was, he would also find it impossible to articulate clearly.

Only through observation could one come to comprehend it on their own.

Of course, whether Xu Nian could discern the essence of this technique from Xu Tianxu's demonstrated moves depended on his own ability to comprehend.

"Buzz!"

Xu Nian activated the Gray Dragon Eye without hesitation,

to prevent himself from missing any details.

Xu Tianxu then walked up to the bamboo forest, his gaze sharpening.

"Watch closely!"

With a fierce shout from Xu Tianxu, Xu Nian saw him slap towards the vast bamboo forest in front of him through the air.

The bamboo forest trembled momentarily, as if waves were pushed out and transmitted to the distance, then settled back to calm.

"Huh?"

Xu Nian was stunned.

The expected scene of the bamboo splintering explosively did not occur.

It was as if nothing had happened at all.

"Why is this happening?" Xu Nian asked, puzzled.

That instant, he had clearly sensed a terrifying fluctuation.

How come not even a single bamboo was shattered?

Xu Tianxu, on the side, simply smiled and said, "You can go closer and have a look."

Hearing this, Xu Nian walked toward the bamboo forest.

As he approached, his face revealed an utterly astounded expression.

"So... so powerful!"

Xu Nian murmured in shock to himself.

He reached out and touched a bamboo next to him.

The stalk instantly crumbled into countless pieces, falling to the ground.

The surrounding bamboo was just like the one he touched, covered with dense cracks.

In fact, the bamboo had not been left unshattered; it had been pulverized.

And such a scene had spread nearly three thousand meters outward.

That is to say, the bamboo within a three-thousand-meter radius had all been pulverized by Xu Tianxu's palm strike.

Such frightening destructive power was truly chilling.

He couldn't believe it, if this palm strike were to land on a person, what would be the result?

"Is this the power of Wind Vibration at the Bright Realm level? How terrifying," Xu Nian mused internally.

"I named this palm strike Shattering Wind Palm. With one strike, even a strong person at the Saint Peak Level couldn't defend against it because my attack would penetrate their body and directly damage their heart," Xu Tianxu said proudly.

Hearing this, Xu Nian was also immensely shocked.

Previously, he had felt slightly self-satisfied, believing the Dimension Cutting he had comprehended to be the strongest among the three Wind Attribute Profound Argumentations.

Now it seemed that, once cultivated to a certain realm, every Profound Argumentation could unleash overwhelmingly terrifying power.

"Xu Nian, I displayed the Shattering Wind Palm not to make you abandon Dimension Cutting in favor of cultivating Wind Vibration, but to make you understand that while Profound Argumentations have differences in strength, the true power when they are employed still depends on the individual. The same Profound Argumentation, the same realm, different people may unleash different powers. Your Dimension Cutting is very strong, and if it reaches the Bright Mirror Level, its power will definitely surpass my palm strike. So cultivate well, making the Profound Argumentation your own is the real comprehension of Profound Argumentation," Xu Tianxu spoke earnestly.

"Thank you for the guidance, Grandpa!" Xu Nian nodded his head.

Then he turned and walked straight into the bamboo forest.

Deep within the forest, he sat down cross-legged.

Seeing this, Xu Tianxu smiled and stroked his beard.

His gaze toward Xu Nian was filled with even more admiration.

"Little guy, I'm becoming more and more anticipatory of your growth now. I hope that my guidance today will make you more steadfast. Your sky is not confined solely to the Tianhen Continent," Xu Tianxu murmured to himself.

He, Xu Tianxu, had waited so many years, and finally, he had seen such a grandson.

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Chapter 435 Bright Mirror Level

Time had slipped away, and three days had passed.

Xu Xin had awakened a day and a half ago.

Then she discovered Xu Nian, motionless, seated in the middle of the bamboo forest.

Another day and a half went by, and Xu Nian remained unmoving.

"Xu Nian, what is he doing? He has been sitting there for three days now," Xu Xin asked, puzzled.

"He is comprehending the Profound Argumentation, though I am not sure how much he has grasped in these three days," Xu Tianxu replied with a smile.

During these three days, he had stood guard here, ensuring that no one disturbed Xu Nian.

He didn't want Xu Nian's comprehension to be interrupted.

Yet, three days had passed, and Xu Nian was still immersed in his cultivation.

It was unclear if he had gained anything during these days.

"The Dragon Transformation Pond Water is ready, Xu Nian can now undergo the baptism. The new generation of Xu Family Disciples has already gathered at the Dragon Transformation Pond. Now, we're just waiting for Xu Nian," Xu Xin said, frowning.

When she woke up yesterday, she had learned from Xu Tianxu about the events that had occurred during her unconsciousness.

At that time, Master Qingluo had intended something untoward towards her mother, but thankfully she arrived in time.

Although she managed to suppress Master Qingluo using poison, the poison didn't take effect immediately.

With no other choice, Xu Xin had to engage Master Qingluo and use the Ancestral Land Key to send her mother away.

It was a desperate moment, forcing her to take a dangerous gamble.

"Alright, if that is the case, we'll have to forcefully wake him up," Xu Tianxu said. After speaking, he prepared to get up and awaken Xu Nian.

However, just then, a strong fluctuation was felt.

"Eh!"

Xu Tianxu was startled, and immediately a powerful Gang Qi burst forth from him.

It formed a massive Gang Qi shield, protecting him and Xu Xin within it.

And just at the moment the shield had formed,

a terrifying Wind Blade storm swept through the entire bamboo forest behind the mountain.

Even Xu Tianxu's bamboo hut, which wasn't much to begin with, was shredded to pieces at that instant.

Even the defensive Gang Shield summoned by Xu Tianxu was heavily scarred, nearly shattering.

Xu Xin, witnessing this scene, showed a look of surprise.

"Damn boy, if you had to break through, why did you have to destroy my bamboo forest and hut?" Xu Tianxu scolded angrily.

Yet there was not a trace of blame on his face, rather, there was a hint of excitement.

He knew that these three days had not only brought Xu Nian achievements but that they were significant.

Xu Nian had actually broken through the Dimension Cutting to the Bright Mirror Level.

Initially, it had taken him a whole ten years to break through from the Insight Realm to the Bright Mirror Realm.

And Xu Nian had done it in just three days, not even counting the time before that, which wouldn't exceed three months.

Such a terrifying speed of comprehension, how could it not excite Xu Tianxu?

"Woosh!"

Xu Nian flew over from a distance, and said awkwardly, "I apologize, Grandpa, I got a bit carried away and destroyed your bamboo forest."

"Haha, what does ruining this bamboo forest matter? You, at the age of eighteen, have comprehended Dimension Cutting to the Bright Mirror Level, truly a genius among geniuses. Even if you had demolished all of Longyu Mountain, I wouldn't be angry. Xiuxue truly bore a splendid son!" Xu Tianxu laughed heartily.

He did not stint his praise.

Xu Nian smiled slightly.

Xiuxue was the name of his mother.

At that moment, hearing the name Xiuxue, Xu Nian immediately thought of his Ancestor Vein Awakening.

"Grandpa, now is not the time for this. Hurry, take me to undergo the Ancestor Vein Awakening Baptism!" Xu Nian said hastily.

"Don't rush, first show me your newly comprehended Dimension Cutting. I am eager to see the power of the Dimension Cutting Profound Argumentation at the Bright Mirror Level," Xu Tianxu said.

Xu Nian was momentarily speechless.

He was already extremely anxious, yet his grandfather had still asked him to display the Profound Argumentation technique.

Fine, just this once, to show him.

Xu Nian's eyes instantly turned sharp, and then he pointed his finger as if it were a sword, cutting at the mountain ahead.

"Buzz!"

A blue Sword Radiance instantly burst out.

The terrifying Cutting Force split a gigantic chasm directly into the ground before him.

That chasm stretched for three hundred meters and was nearly one meter deep.

Xu Xin was stunned.

Even Xu Tianxu was also stunned.

"This is the power of Dimension Cutting True Intent at the Bright Mirror Level, isn't it too terrifying? And this was just a casual strike from Xu Nian, what if he exerted full strength, wouldn't the power be even more fearsome?" Xu Tianxu thought, shocked.

"Grandfather, can you take me to the Dragon Transformation Pond now?" Xu Nian asked.

Xu Tianxu was momentarily startled, then nodded, "Yes, I can take you there now."

Having said that, he led Xu Nian, turning into a streak of light, and looked toward another direction of Longyu Mountain.

Xu Xin stood before the massive chasm, her pretty face full of astonishment.

Her little brother's growth rate was too terrifying.

Such a frightening sword scar, maybe not even a Six-star Saint could withstand it?

When she first saw Xu Nian, he was only at the early stage of Battle King.

In just a few short months, he had grown to this extent.

Even for the talented Xu Xin, it was extremely shocking.

"Buzz!"

However, just as Xu Xin reached out her hand toward the edge of the massive sword scar, she suddenly felt a terrifying Sword Qi burst out from within the scar.

The Sword Qi was fast and powerful.

Had Xu Xin not dodged in time, she likely would have been injured by it.

"The sword scar still contains Sword Qi, how strong was that strike?" Xu Xin looked on in stunned silence.

Xu Nian's strike seemed even stronger than what she had witnessed.

...

While Xu Xin was astonished by Xu Nian's strike,

Xu Nian had already followed Xu Tianxu to the Dragon Transformation Pond.

The Xu Family's Dragon Transformation Pond was the core site of the Xu Family.

Normally, no one was allowed to enter, except for the once-a-year Ancestor Vein Awakening.

This year's Ancestor Vein Awakening hadn't started yet, it was originally scheduled for a month later.

Due to Xu Nian's circumstances, the Family Head Xu had specially moved up the date.

Therefore, today's Ancestor Vein Awakening was not just for Xu Nian alone.

Along with Xu Nian, there were three other Xu Family young disciples.

One of them was a girl.

And they were all about two years younger than Xu Nian.

All around sixteen years old.

They've been waiting here for fully two hours already, and were quite impatient.

Now seeing Xu Nian arrive,

Each of them suddenly became displeased,

Their eyes also carried a mix of contempt and arrogance.

They didn't know the exact background of Xu Nian, nor did they know his Cultivation.

They only knew that Xu Nian was the son born to that 'despicable woman' from the Xu Family.

The Xu Family Disciples who considered themselves of noble blood naturally looked down on this 'bastard.'

Chapter 436: Ignorant Young Boys and Girls

Nine-Star and his companions' disdainful gazes did not escape Xu Nian's attention.

Yet Xu Nian couldn't be bothered to take issue with them.

Although he was only two years their senior, Xu Nian far surpassed them in both cultivation and temperament.

All three were of the Battle Sect Level, and among them, only one youth had reached the Nine-star War Sect.

The other young man and woman were at the Peak of Eight-star Martial Sect Level.

With such cultivation, Xu Nian could crush them to death with just a finger.

Therefore, their scornful looks seemed utterly ignorant and presumptuous to him.

"Kid, are you that bastard Xu Nian who's been getting famous lately? Have you the audacity to come back to the Xu Family, now showing up for the Ancestor Vein Power baptism, thinking of acknowledging your ancestors?" said the Eight-star Martial Sect youth with a cold snort.

Xu Nian's brows furrowed instantly.

The word "bastard" was grating to his ears.

He hadn't wanted to bother with these ignorant Xu Family Disciples.

But he hadn't expected them to be so recklessly courting death.

"If you don't want to die, then keep your mouth shut."

Xu Nian snapped harshly, his eyes shooting daggers at the Eight-star Martial Sect.

The Nine-star War Sect youth was forced to step back by Xu Nian's piercing gaze.

In that instant, he felt as if the Death God himself was clutching his throat.

Startled by Xu Nian's intimidating look, the Eight-star Martial Sect youth no longer dared to speak ill of Xu Nian.

Nevertheless, feelings of defiance pulsed through him, and after glaring bitterly at Xu Nian, he whispered into the ear of the Nine-star War Sect youth.

Their words boiled down to how arrogantly Xu Nian, a pitiable charity case of the Xu Family, dared to glare at them.

Xu Nian heard their murmurings but dismissed them like wind past his ears, paying them no mind.

It wasn't because he avoided conflict, but rather these Xu Family Disciples simply weren't worth his attention.

It was like a peerless master encountered a child who knew some fighting moves and was challenged while walking on the street.

How could such an unparalleled expert kill a child for a mere challenge?

"Alright, now that we're all here, let's begin," Xu Tianxu said.

He had always been in charge of the Dragon Transformation Pond, and today was no different.

The four people, including Xu Nian, became serious upon hearing Xu Tianxu's words.

"You will now enter the Dragon Transformation Pond together, absorbing the Dragon Transformation Power from its waters. Only by absorbing more of the Dragon Transformation Power can you unlock higher levels of the Ancestor Vein Power," Xu Tianxu stated.

Xu Nian nodded upon hearing this.

So this was what the so-called Ancestor Vein Awakening Baptism was all about.

He wondered how much of the Dragon Transformation Power he could absorb.

"Kid, quit dreaming. A mongrel like you will never awaken the Ancestor Vein Power. It's a complete waste for the family to let you join the Ancestor Vein Awakening Baptism; they're simply squandering the Dragon Transformation Stone," the same Eight-star Martial Sect youth scoffed, seemingly forgetting the previous terror of Xu Nian's gaze, again taunting Xu Nian with his biting remarks.

"And you think you can awaken the Ancestor Vein Power?" Xu Nian asked with a cold laugh.

This Xu Family youth was simply ignorant.

He was jumping to conclusions about matters that hadn't even occurred yet.

Such people usually ended up being embarrassingly disproven.

But this guy's boldness surely meant someone was instigating him from behind.

Sure enough, when Xu Nian looked behind the young man, he spotted a pair of eyes coldly observing him.

The gaze belonged to no other than the Nine-star War Sect youth.

Without a doubt, this one had the audacity to target him again,

certainly under the instigation of the Nine-star War Sect youth.

"Hmph, of course I can awaken the power of the Ancestor Vein, and so can my Brother Hao. He's the newly risen genius of our Xu Family. This time, he will at least awaken the power of the Second Rank Ancestor Vein or higher. He's simply not someone you, a bastard, can compare to," Xu Yue disdainfully retorted.

In his eyes, the Xu Hao standing behind him was the one with the highest talent among their peers in the Xu Family.

He was certain to awaken the power of the Second Rank Ancestor Vein or higher.

As long as Xu Hao awakened the power of the Second Rank Ancestor Vein or above,

His status in the family would skyrocket.

By then, even if he didn't reach the Second Rank requirement, with Xu Hao looking out for him, his own status among the young generation of the Xu Family would naturally rise along with the tide.

And the reason he was targeting Xu Nian so much was precisely because Xu Hao took a strong dislike to Xu Nian.

As for why Xu Hao was targeting him, it was because Xu Nian was the younger brother of Xu Fen.

Xu Nian had killed his brother, so naturally, he was filled with dissatisfaction towards Xu Nian.

He knew Xu Nian's cultivation was high, so he deliberately let Xu Yue mock him on the basis of identity and status.

The purpose was to make Xu Nian uncomfortable.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian couldn't help but sneer with disdain.

These Xu Family youths were still too naive.

They clearly didn't have the strength to seek revenge, yet they were still trying to provoke the enemy in such a way.

It was simply seeking death.

Years of experience told Xu Nian,

Before one is absolutely certain, never provoke one's enemy.

Otherwise, the end result would be not only a failure to take revenge but also the potential loss of one's own life.

The disdain shown by Xu Nian made Xu Yue very angry.

His original intention was to anger Xu Nian, but Xu Nian simply responded with a smile.

This actually kindled a fire of rage in his heart.

"I'd like to see just how arrogant you can be! Once we enter the Dragon Transformation Pond, just you wait to weep!" Xu Yue said with scorn.

Behind him, Xu Hao, who had been quietly observing everything, also had a flash of anger in his eyes.

His stratagem had failed.

Xu Nian was more difficult to deal with than he had expected.

"Have you said enough? If so, then hurry up and get to the Dragon Transformation Pond. If you don't want the baptism, then just get lost."

However, at this moment, the girl who had been silent until now suddenly erupted in anger.

At the girl's outburst, Xu Yue and Xu Hao immediately shut their mouths.

Clearly, they were somewhat fearful of the girl.

Xu Nian was also somewhat surprised.

Such a hot-tempered woman was something Xu Nian was seeing for the first time.

So, he couldn't help but take a second look at her.

"What are you looking at, freak, bumpkin? Our Xu Family is allowing you to undergo the Ancestor Vein Awakening Baptism - you should be grateful. Yet, you have the audacity to act so aloof. Do you realize how utterly hideous you look?" the girl shouted angrily at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian was momentarily at a loss for words.

It seemed that the girl's temper was indeed the worst he had ever encountered.

If a man were this venomously sharp-tongued, Xu Nian would indeed be provoked and might slap him to death.

"Alright, enough chatter. Hurry down to the Dragon Transformation Pond!" Xu Tianxu commanded.

Hearing Xu Tianxu speak,

The girl finally restrained her angry gaze,

And started walking towards the Dragon Transformation Pond.

Xu Hao and Xu Yue also scoffed with a mocking smile, and then followed the girl towards the Dragon Transformation Pond.

Xu Nian felt a ripple of helplessness. After giving a nod to Xu Tianxu, who was beside him, he began to slowly make his way towards the Dragon Transformation Pond.

Unknown to him, was just how many ranks of the Ancestor Vein Power he would be able to awaken.

Chapter 437: The Tragic Xu Hao

The Dragon Transformation Pond was a huge pool.

It was filled with the translucent water that shimmered like glazed glass.

A dense mist rose from the surface of the pool,

making it seem like an earthly Immortal Realm.

Within this water of the Dragon Transformation Pond, Xu Nian felt a special and tremendous power.

If he wasn't mistaken, this must be the so-called Dragon Transformation Power.

"Whoosh!"

The hot-tempered girl directly flew down onto the platform at the center of the pond.

She sat down cross-legged on the platform.

That place bore the richest concentration of Dragon Transformation Power in the entire pool.

Clearly, the young girl had no intention of being polite and had directly taken the best spot for herself.

As for Xu Yue and Xu Hao, they were also quite impolite, choosing a relatively good spot and sitting down.

After they sat down, they did not forget to look provocatively at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian just smiled slightly and sat down in a secluded corner.

Seeing Xu Nian sitting in the corner, Xu Yue and Xu Hao's faces immediately revealed a mocking expression.

"This guy is an idiot, right? Sitting in the corner, does he not know that the richer the Dragon Transformation Pond, the more beneficial it is for the awakening of the Ancestor Vein Power?" Xu Yue mockingly laughed.

"Don't bother with him," Xu Hao said with scorn, "Xu Wei was right, this guy is just a bumpkin. How could he know anything? Besides, he's destined to be unable to awaken any Ancestor Vein Power, so no position will make any difference for him."

His gaze toward Xu Nian also carried a hint of contempt.

So what if Xu Nian had high cultivation? The Xu Family valued the richness of the Ancestor Vein Power.

Even if Xu Nian currently had high cultivation,

if the richness of the awakened Ancestor Vein Power wasn't significant, the family would not place much importance on him.

Therefore, he didn't take Xu Nian seriously at all.

"That being said, Brother Hao, your talent is remarkable. This time you will certainly awaken Second Rank or higher Ancestor Vein Power," Xu Yue spoke.

Hearing this, Xu Hao's face also showed a smug smile.

"Humph, stop chattering and concentrate on absorbing the Dragon Transformation Power. If you don't believe me, I will kick you all out," Xu Wei finally lost patience and shouted angrily.

Upon hearing this, Xu Hao and Xu Yue immediately shut their mouths.

Xu Nian also shook his head helplessly and no longer paid attention to these two fools.

He closed his eyes and began to sense the power within the Dragon Transformation Pond.

The power of the Dragon Transformation Pond was very peculiar.

You couldn't absorb it by being proactive; no matter what Combat Technique you used, it wouldn't be drawn out.

But the Dragon Transformation Pond Power would actively penetrate your body,

then merge into your blood, eventually forming Ancestor Vein Power.

This meant that the amount of Dragon Transformation Power one could absorb wasn't determined by your own ability but was innately predetermined.

Xu Nian felt a surge of Dragon Transformation Power entering his body, flowing through his meridians and permeating his entire body before finally blending into his bloodline.

As this Dragon Transformation Pond Power merged into his blood, Xu Nian distinctively felt a powerful force inside himself being awakened.

"Roar!"

A faint dragon's roar resounded within Xu Nian's body.

This Ancestor Vein Power seemed to share some similarities with the Dragon Qi he had absorbed.

However, there was a fundamental difference.

The Nine Great Dragon Qi that Xu Nian had absorbed were all Bloodline Powers from a True Dragon's body.

Meanwhile, this Ancestor Vein Power seemed more like a peculiar energy.

This power could integrate with Spiritual Energy and Gang Qi,

greatly enhancing them during combat and allowing attacks to unleash tremendous force.

Ancestor Vein Power continued to be born within Xu Nian's body,

and as it did, the dragon roars inside him became ever clearer.

"Dragon Roar Thunder Sound? How is this possible?" Xu Yue, not too far from Xu Nian, widened his eyes in shock and murmured to himself.

He had been sitting there for nearly half a two hours.

But so far, only a faint trace of Dragon Transformation Power had entered his body.

And the Ancestor Vein Power formed by this Dragon Transformation Power was so negligible that it might as well not exist.

He then realized his Bloodline Awakening had failed.

The failure of the awakening made Xu Yue extremely disappointed.

So he had wanted to find some consolation by comparing himself to Xu Nian.

But when he looked at Xu Nian, to his amazement, he discovered

that the Dragon Transformation Pond Water surrounding Xu Nian was much denser than around the rest of them.

He even heard the Dragon Roar Thunder Sound that one would only expect at Second Rank or higher.

This indicated that Xu Nian would at least awaken the Second Rank Ancestor Vein Power.

"How is this possible? How could a country bumpkin awaken Second Rank Ancestor Vein Power?" Xu Yue muttered to himself.

His face burned with humiliation.

Previously, he had mocked Xu Nian, saying it was impossible for him to awaken any Ancestor Vein Power.

But now he himself had awakened nothing,

while Xu Nian had achieved Second Rank.

This was a slap in the face, pure and simple.

When he turned to look at Xu Hao and Xu Wei,

he found that the concentration of Dragon Transformation Power around them was far less than around Xu Nian.

This meant that their absorption speed was much slower than Xu Nian's.

"Could this yokel truly defy the heavens?" Xu Yue pondered resentfully,

his heart filled with a strong sense of unwillingness.

Although he was extremely reluctant to admit it, this was now the reality.

"Boom!"

The sound of dragon roars coming from Xu Nian's body grew louder and louder.

The Ancestor Vein Power in his bloodline became increasingly dense.

However, he noticed that instead of slowing down, the speed at which he was absorbing the Ancestor Vein Power was actually increasing.

"Hum!"

A blue dragon-shaped mark appeared directly on Xu Nian's forehead.

As this Azure Dragon Mark emerged, two blue dragon shadows appeared directly behind Xu Nian.

"He really has stepped into the Second Rank, and his absorption speed hasn't slowed—could it be that he's about to break into the Third Rank?" Xu Yue said to himself in shock.

Third-Rank!

That would make him a genius within the family, a rarity that appeared only once every century.

And here Xu Nian was, possibly about to awaken Third Rank Ancestor Vein Power.

Meanwhile, Xu Wei and Xu Hao had only reached the First Rank.

Given their pace, they should just barely be able to break into the Second Rank.

But what of it?

Xu Nian was possibly reaching the Third Rank, Xu Hao was still to be overshadowed by Xu Nian.

"Hum!"

But as Xu Yue was stewing in his unhappiness,

he suddenly felt all the Dragon Transformation Power around him flowing towards Xu Nian.

Even the Dragon Transformation Power originally attracted by Xu Hao and Xu Wei started to converge toward Xu Nian.

"What's going on?"

Xu Yue showed a look of surprise.

Xu Hao and Xu Wei were also jolted awake by this development.

Seeing the clear water-like Dragon Transformation Pond Water around them, and then looking at the extremely dense Dragon Transformation Power surrounding Xu Nian,

they all showed expressions of surprise and anger.

The Dragon Transformation Power that was originally theirs had been stolen?

In this way, Xu Nian was going to draw all the power of the Dragon Transformation Pond to himself.

Wouldn't that mean they no longer had any Dragon Transformation Pond Power to break through to the Second Rank?

Chapter 438 Black Jade's Mischief

Xu Nian was also somewhat surprised at this moment.

He could clearly feel the power of the Dragon Transformation Pond continuously surging into his body.

However, these powers from the Dragon Transformation Pond did not form into Ancestor Vein Power.

Instead, they vanished without reason.

"What's going on?"

Xu Nian was very perplexed in his heart.

How could the power of the Dragon Transformation suddenly rush into his body so quickly, yet he did not form even the slightest bit of Ancestor Vein Power?

"Could it be because of this?"

Thinking of this possibility, Xu Nian hurriedly looked inward to his Dantian.

Indeed, he saw the Black Jade in his Dantian vibrating incessantly, and the Dragon Transformation Power that had flowed in before was all absorbed by it.

"It really is this thing causing trouble," Xu Nian muttered helplessly to himself.

This Black Jade had absorbed all of the Dragon Transformation Power.

As a result, Xu Nian himself was unable to continue absorbing the Dragon Transformation Power.

Even if he could continue the Ancestor Vein Awakening, he had no way to proceed.

Although somewhat regretful, not knowing to what rank he could have awakened to,

at least he had already reached the level of Second Rank, which qualified him to enter the ancestral land.

"Xu Nian, what trick are you playing? Why has all our Dragon Transformation Power been absorbed by you?" Xu Hao could not help but curse in anger.

He had been capable of reaching the level of Second Rank but since all the Ancestor Vein Power had been absorbed by Xu Nian,

he could only remain at the First Rank level.

One should know that Second Rank is fundamentally different from First Rank, relating to one's status within the clan and the qualification to enter the ancestral land.

Now all this had been ruined by Xu Nian.

How could he be reconciled?

The short-tempered girl also furrowed her brows tightly, her gaze towards Xu Nian extremely unfriendly.

"The power of the Dragon Transformation Pond has always been dependent on personal absorption ability. If your abilities are inadequate and all the Dragon Transformation Power is taken by me, are you going to blame me?" Xu Nian opened his eyes, responding with a cold laugh.

Although he was also frustrated, seeing Xu Hao and the girl in worse states balanced his mood somewhat.

As for why this was happening, Xu Nian had no intention of explaining to them.

"You..." Xu Hao was so angry he was nearly beside himself.

But what Xu Nian said was not wrong.

The baptism of the Dragon Transformation Pond indeed depended on personal absorption ability.

Whoever had stronger capabilities would absorb more Dragon Transformation Power.

This was also the reason why they fought for good positions at the beginning.

However, a situation like this, where the entire pool's power was absorbed by one person, had never happened before.

If they were to blame Xu Nian for this, they probably could not really justify it.

But to let things go as they were, how could they just accept it?

"Hmph, the Ancestor Vein Power inside you has not increased, yet this Dragon Transformation Power has disappeared. You must be playing tricks," Xu Wei said coldly.

Xu Nian just responded with a disdainful snort, "You have seen this Dragon Transformation Power. Do you think there's some method that can absorb the Dragon Transformation 'Power'?"

At these words from Xu Nian,

Xu Hao and Xu Wei both were startled.

That's right, Dragon Transformation Power can't just be absorbed at will.

Unless one has the bloodline of the Xu Family, it can attract the power of the Dragon Transformation, allowing it to actively enter the body.

Otherwise, no matter the method, it is impossible to absorb this Dragon Transformation Power.

But now, how had all the power of the entire Dragon Transformation Pond been absorbed by Xu Nian?

If it was merely due to bloodline attraction,

it was absolutely impossible to attract all the power of the entire Dragon Transformation Pond.

So, they all suspected that Xu Nian was up to no good, yet they couldn't find any evidence.

This left them so infuriated they were itching with vexation, but they were helpless against Xu Nian.

"If there's nothing else, get lost and don't disturb me as I continue to absorb the Dragon Transformation Power," Xu Nian said with a cold sneer.

Hearing this, Xu Hao and Xu Wei became even more enraged and stormed away in a huff.

As for Xu Yue, he didn't leave.

"What else do you want?" Xu Nian asked with a cold sneer.

Seeing Xu Nian's expression, the corners of Xu Yue's mouth twitched, and he quickly gave an awkward laugh, "Brother Nian, all those things I said to you before were forced by Xu Hao. I didn't really mean to target you, so I hope you can be magnanimous and forgive me this once. Whatever you command, brother, I'll get it done immediately."

Xu Nian's cold smile grew more intense upon hearing this.

Xu Yue really was an undeniable sycophant.

Previously, to ingratiate himself with Xu Hao, he had been relentlessly targeting him.

Now, sensing a shift in the tide, he began to shift all the blame onto Xu Hao.

Such people, Xu Nian despised the most.

"Anything you can do?" Xu Nian asked with a smile.

"Of course! What would you have me do, Brother Nian? If it's about beautiful women, that I, Xu Yue, am best at. It was me who used to take Xu Hao to the brothels," Xu Yue said with immense pride.

Xu Nian smiled faintly and spoke, "I don't want any beautiful women. I just want you to help me kill someone."

"Kill someone? Who? Who would dare trouble my Brother Nian? Just give the word, and I guarantee I'll get it done," Xu Yue said, momentarily taken aback, then striking his chest in assurance.

"Xu Tianhong!" Xu Nian replied with a smile.

"Xu Tianhong? Why does that name sound so familiar?" Xu Yue muttered to himself.

Soon enough, he realized and broke out in a cold sweat.

Wasn't Xu Tianhong their Family Head?

If Xu Nian was asking him to kill the Family Head, wasn't that sending him to his death?

"If you can't do it, then get lost!" Xu Nian coldly snorted.

Xu Yue opened his mouth, seemingly wanting to say something more,

but he found Xu Nian had already closed his eyes, forcing Xu Yue to leave in silence.

...

While Xu Nian and Xu Yue were talking,

the open space outside the Dragon Transformation Pond was now surrounded by quite a few people.

Two middle-aged men were leading the group.

One was named Xu Chong, and the other was Xu Bao.

Xu Chong was Xu Hao's father, and Xu Bao was Xu Wei's father.

At this moment, both were eagerly anticipating their children's awakening of a decent Ancestor Vein Power.

"Xu Bao, although Wei'er is a bit hot-tempered, her talent is exceptionally good. She will definitely awaken at least Second Rank Ancestor Vein Power this time. I'm afraid Hao'er might be overshadowed," Xu Chong said with a smile.

"Haha, when it comes to talent, my Wei'er might not match your Xu Hao, but Second Rank Ancestor Vein Power should be no problem for him. Maybe he could even awaken Third-Rank Power," Xu Bao responded.

Although they were modest with their words, their faces couldn't hide the pride they felt.

Xu Chong too smiled faintly, delighting inwardly at Xu Bao's words.

Although they appeared amicable on the surface, there was always a subtle rivalry between them.

Now, this Ancestor Vein Awakening was the time to witness the ultimate achievements of their offspring.

They complimented each other outwardly, but inwardly, they were constantly vying.

"Look, they're coming out!"

While the two were competing, the cry of a Xu Family Disciple was heard from the side.

Xu Chong and Xu Bao, hearing this, directed their gaze toward the direction of the Dragon Transformation Pond.

Indeed, they saw Xu Wei and Xu Hao walking out from within.

Both middle-aged men frowned simultaneously.

So soon?

Something was off!

Chapter 439 No Need to Explain to You

"Xu Hao, how did it go?"

Xu Chong quickly approached Xu Hao when he saw him approaching.

"Wei'er, what about you, did the Ancestor Vein Awakening reach the Second Rank level?" Xu Bao also hurriedly asked.

However, Xu Hao and Xu Wei exchanged a glance, their eyes revealing a thick bitterness.

Seeing the expressions of the two children,

Xu Chong and Xu Bao immediately understood.

Both children had failed.

"How could this be, both of you have great potential, according to your potential, reaching the Second Rank shouldn't be a problem, how come it only made it perfect at First Rank?" Xu Chong frowned and asked.

Xu Bao also wore a face of solemnity, his expression displeased.

He was clearly somewhat dissatisfied with Xu Wei's lack of effort.

"We didn't even reach perfection," Xu Wei finally couldn't hold back her grievance and exclaimed.

"If you didn't reach perfection, then what are you doing coming out?" Xu Bao's eyes widened instantly as he bellowed.

At his words, Xu Wei's eyes immediately reddened.

She was famously hot-tempered, but her temper was inherited from her father.

Therefore, in front of her father, she dared not show any temper,

because once she lost her temper, she would be harshly rebuked by her father.

At this moment, hearing her father scold her, she naturally felt incredibly wronged.

Her resentment toward Xu Nian also intensified.

"What's going on? Xu Hao, you tell me!" Xu Chong was somewhat calmer.

He vaguely felt that both children were forced to come out unwillingly.

"Actually, it's not that we wanted to come out, we also wanted to continue staying in the Dragon Transformation Pond to awaken further, but all the Dragon Transformation Pond Power had been drained; there was nothing we could do if we stayed," Xu Hao said dejectedly.

"Drained?" Xu Chong exclaimed in surprise upon hearing this.

"Impossible, the waters of your Dragon Transformation Pond were specially prepared for you, infused with a whole Dragon Transformation Stone, and this time there were only four of you. In the past, ten people awakening together only absorbed half of the Dragon Transformation Power from the entire pond," Xu Bao immediately retorted.

"We also found it impossible, but that guy was just too monstrous. All the Dragon Transformation Power surged towards him, and we had only enough time to absorb the First Rank Dragon Transformation Power before we had to leave; there was nothing we could do," Xu Hao spoke again.

"Who? Who is so monstrous to have absorbed all the power of the entire Dragon Transformation Pond?" Xu Chong asked.

"Who else could it be except that bumpkin Xu Nian? Who else would do such a thing?" Xu Wei cried out defiantly.

Xu Chong then looked at Xu Hao.

"Yes, it was him, he absorbed all the Dragon Transformation Power from the entire pond, and we could only watch helplessly," Xu Hao confirmed.

Both Xu Chong and Xu Bao furrowed their brows upon hearing this.

Absorbing all the Dragon Transformation Power from the pond—how many ranks of Ancestor Vein Power would that awaken?

Meanwhile, the Xu Family members who had been listening to the conversation from afar also displayed surprised expressions.

To have absorbed the entire Dragon Transformation Pond, how could that be possible?

You should know that Xu Bai, the top genius of the Xu Family, had only absorbed one-fifth of the entire pond's Dragon Transformation Power when he awakened the Fourth Rank Ancestor Vein Power.

And Xu Nian had managed to absorb the entirety of the Dragon Transformation Pond's power?

"So, how many ranks did this Xu Nian reach?" Xu Chong quickly asked.

"Second Rank!" Xu Hao answered.

"Second Rank, impossible. If what you say is true, this Xu Nian is absolutely not just Second Rank; he must be at least Tenth Rank or higher, otherwise it's impossible for him to have absorbed the entire pond's Dragon Transformation Power just like that," Xu Bao argued back.

"We also found it strange, but we saw with our own eyes all the Dragon Transformation Pond Power entering his body. Dragon Transformation Power can't be drawn out; it has to enter a person's body on its own, so there's nothing we can suspect," Xu Hao said helplessly,

his face showing a deep frustration.

"There's definitely something fishy going on, Xu Nian must've used some method we don't know about. We always believed that Dragon Transformation Power couldn't be absorbed actively, but that might not be absolute," Xu Chong said.

"Yes, it must be Xu Nian's doing, absorbing so much Dragon Transformation Power and awakening just to the Second Rank. Dad, we absolutely must not let him go," Xu Wei also quickly grabbed Xu Bao's arm and said.

"Hmph, if it's as you said, how could I let this Xu Nian harm you so? I will definitely seek justice for you," Xu Bao said with a cold snort.

His eyes also filled with anger.

Upon seeing this, Xu Hao and Xu Wei immediately showed smiles on their faces.

With their father stepping in, Xu Nian would definitely not have a good outcome.

"Look, Xu Nian is coming out."

At that moment, a shout came from the crowd.

The people around all turned their eyes toward the direction of the Dragon Transformation Pond.

They saw a tall figure walking out.

"Is that Xu Nian?" The people around looked toward Xu Nian's figure, each showing a curious expression.

Although they had heard the name Xu Nian before, they had never actually seen him.

Xu Nian also felt somewhat frustrated at this moment.

After Black Jade had absorbed all the Dragon Transformation Power in the pond, it returned to calm.

He had hoped that Black Jade would undergo some changes, but nothing noteworthy happened.

And it even resulted in him awakening only to the Second Rank.

It seemed the Second Rank was merely a handout from Black Jade, otherwise from the beginning Black Jade would absorb.

He might not have been able to absorb even a trace of Dragon Transformation Power.

"Boy, show me your Ancestor Vein Power,"

At the moment Xu Nian felt frustrated over the results brought by Black Jade, a man like an Iron Tower appeared in front of him.

This man was none other than Xu Wei's father, Xu Bao.

And behind him followed Xu Chong, Xu Hao, and Xu Wei.

Xu Nian looked at the four, then turned to the watching crowd.

He immediately understood what had happened.

Wasn't it all caused by this damned Black Jade?

Xu Nian glanced at Xu Bao and Xu Chong's cultivation levels, and a light smile appeared on his face.

Half-Saint Realm?

Cultivators of such level dared to trouble him.

It seemed that his killing of Master Qingluo and becoming an Elder of the Divine River Palace was something these lesser members of the Xu Family weren't aware of!

"Why should I show you my Ancestor Vein Power?" Xu Nian coldly responded.

"Hmph, we suspect you used dishonorable means to absorb the Dragon Transformation Power from the Dragon Transformation Pond. Today, if you don't give us an explanation, you're not leaving," Xu Bao coldly snorted.

Having said that, he placed a hand on Xu Nian's shoulder.

A massive force pressed down on Xu Nian.

This great force was enough to force a Nine-star War King to kneel.

Seeing this, Xu Hao and Xu Wei immediately showed cold smiles.

Xu Bao had a famously violent temper; once he made a move, Xu Nian would either die or be severely injured.

However, the next scene shocked everyone.

Xu Nian glanced at the hand on his shoulder, his eyebrows slightly furrowing.

Then he struck out like lightning with a palm, and in an instant, Xu Bao was sent flying backwards.

Chapter 440: Shocking the Entire Audience

Xu Bao was still brooding over how his heavy palm had landed on Xu Nian's shoulder without any reaction from the latter.

Suddenly, he saw the surroundings rush forward rapidly.

"Boom!"

A loud noise erupted.

Xu Bao slammed directly into a large rock, creating a thunderous sound.

The rock shattered, and a trickle of blood seeped from the corner of Xu Bao's mouth.

The faces of the people around were filled with surprise.

Who was Xu Bao?

He was an elder of the Xu Family.

Although his status was not the highest, it was certainly not low.

Furthermore, he was a Half-Saint Level expert; how could he possibly be sent flying by a young man with a single palm strike?

Xu Wei and Xu Hao were also shocked, not expecting Xu Bao to be thrown away by Xu Nian.

However, they quickly concluded that it was because Xu Nian had suddenly made a move.

"Xu Nian, how could you be so despicable? Uncle Bao was just trying to test your Ancestor Vein talent, and you suddenly attacked, utterly reprehensible!" Xu Hao promptly exclaimed.

"Shameless!"

Upon hearing this, the people around all began pointing fingers at Xu Nian.

Just now, Xu Bao had merely touched Xu Nian's shoulder, and he had suddenly attacked.

That was basically a sneak attack.

Xu Nian faced the accusations from the people around with a faint cold smile on his face.

He saw no need to explain himself to these people.

Was Xu Bao's touch on his shoulder really that simple?

If his strength had not surpassed Xu Bao's just now, that palm strike would have been enough to make Xu Nian kneel.

Others might not see it, but Xu Chong surely could.

Therefore, at this moment, Xu Chong's gaze towards Xu Nian was filled with intense wariness.

Originally, he had not considered Xu Nian worthy of attention, but now he found himself somewhat unable to see through this young man.

To send Xu Bao flying with a palm strike, even under his guard, was something not even he could achieve.

"Xu Nian, Xu Bao is, after all, your elder, and by all accounts, he is also your uncle. Isn't what you did somewhat impolite?" Seeing that Xu Nian wanted to leave, Xu Chong quickly stepped forward to speak.

"Uncle? Impolite?" A hint of a smile appeared at the corner of Xu Nian's mouth.

This Xu Chong was indeed much more cunning than Xu Bao.

Seeing that he was not someone easily bullied and not daring to act rashly, he tried to suppress him with the status of an elder.

However, he did not know that the last thing Xu Nian tolerated was this approach.

"If you don't want to be sent flying, you'd best not meddle in other people's business," Xu Nian said to Xu Chong.

After speaking, he turned to leave.

The people around were astonished.

Xu Nian actually spoke to Xu Chong in such a manner.

Xu Chong's face turned ashen.

He had not expected Xu Nian to be so arrogant, not taking him seriously at all.

Xu Hao could no longer bear it; his gaze towards Xu Nian was filled with murderous intent.

"Hmph, dare to disrespect my father, you're seeking death!" With a loud shout, Xu Hao surprisingly drew a sharp sword and slashed it towards Xu Nian.

The sword, covered in Sword Qi and pulsating with Sword Intent, aimed at Xu Nian's back.

In Xu Hao's eyes, even if he was not as strong as Xu Nian, the difference couldn't be too great.

Besides, with his father there, he didn't believe Xu Nian would dare to hurt him.

"Hum!"

However, just as Xu Hao's Sword Qi was about to strike Xu Nian's back.

Xu Nian suddenly turned around, catching Xu Hao's Meteorite Iron Sword between two fingers.

The Sword Qi on the Meteorite Iron Sword was instantly crushed.

"Huh?"

Xu Hao was taken aback.

His own sword was caught by Xu Nian?

"Hmph, overestimating your abilities, didn't you know I hate it most when people attack me from behind?" A flash of anger appeared in Xu Nian's eyes.

His finger suddenly exerted force, and in an instant, the sharp sword forged from meteorite iron was broken in half by Xu Nian.

"What?"

Xu Hao's eyes bulged instantly.

Xu Nian broke a meteorite iron sword with his bare hands?

This was a sharp sword cast from meteorite iron, ah! To break it with bare hands, even father couldn't possibly do that, could he?

People in the distance also showed surprised expressions one after another.

Breaking a sword with bare hands, what kind of terrifying strength would that take!

"Not good, Xu Hao, get out of the way!"

Just then, Xu Chong, who was nearby, suddenly shouted.

His figure darted out at great speed.

Upon hearing Xu Chong's roar, Xu Hao's figure also retreated swiftly.

Xu Nian saw this scene, but the corner of his mouth revealed a trace of disdain.

He picked up the half-broken sword between two fingers.

With a flick of his finger.

The tip of the half-sword shot out instantly.

Covered with a layer of cyan light, the half of the sword tip became incredibly sharp.

As the sword tip tore through the void, it actually let out a piercing screech.

Xu Hao, seeing the rapidly approaching sword tip, a dense color of fear welled up in his eyes.

The sword was too terrifying, coming too fast.

He simply didn't have time to dodge.

Fortunately, Xu Chong arrived in time to push him to the side.

Facing the half-sword tip flicked by Xu Nian himself.

Xu Chong conjured up all the spiritual energy in his body, forming a defensive light shield to fend off Xu Nian's strike.

"Hum!"

However, Xu Chong's defensive light shield was as flimsy as paper in the face of the broken sword.

The sharp sword instantly pierced through his shield and penetrated through his shoulder.

"Pff!"

Blood sprayed, and Xu Chong, under the terrifying impact, was sent flying heavily.

"Father!"

Xu Hao cried out in shock upon seeing this scene.

He was immensely startled.

Even his father couldn't block this sword?

The crowd around them was also stunned.

Xu Chong got up from the ground and looked at Xu Nian with a sense of fear in his eyes.

That sword just now was too terrifying.

It was the most horrifying sword he had ever seen in his life.

If he hadn't avoided the vital spot in time, he would probably be dead by now.

"Hmph, a pair of Half-Saint ants, I don't want to kill you, don't force me to act. This is my last warning; if you provoke me again, you won't be so lucky next time," Xu Nian stepped forward, a formidable Saint aura bursting from his body.

His words sent a chill down everyone's spine present there.

Xu Hao and Xu Wei were both stunned as well.

They previously looked down on Xu Nian, but never expected that Xu Nian's cultivation had already completely surpassed their father's.

And their previous actions were just like clownish antics in his eyes.

But he was only eighteen years old, how could he have already reached the Saint Level?

Of course, the most shocked were Xu Chong and Xu Bao.

What they felt was not just the simplicity of Xu Nian's cultivation.

What truly made them feel chill to the bone was the terrifying level of comprehension exuding from Xu Nian.

They could be sure that Xu Nian's realm of comprehension had far exceeded their imagination.

In front of Xu Nian, they truly were like mere ants.

Xu Nian, however, didn't even glance at the surprised looks from the crowd around him and turned around to leave directly.

In the crowd, Xu Yue stood there stunned.

A chill ran down his back.

Only now did he understand the kind of person he had offended.