

Divine King 521

Chapter 521: Great Increase in Cultivation

Adam's caravan quickly set up camp beside Moon-shaped Lake.

Xu Nian then used his Shadow Clone, leaving it behind to grill meat for the group.

As for his true self, he took advantage of the moment when no one was paying attention.

And plunged headfirst into Moon-shaped Lake.

Knowing that there were treasures at the bottom of the lake, Xu Nian naturally couldn't let this opportunity slip by so easily.

However, he soon realized he had made a mistake.

After they had dived more than a thousand meters below the surface of the lake,

his whole body began to stiffen, and a terrible cold swept toward him.

"Damn, it's so cold; if this continues, I'll be frozen," Xu Nian cursed inwardly.

The icy chill around him had already invaded his body,

significantly slowing his blood flow.

Under this terrifying assault of cold, his thinking began to dull.

"Kid, the temperature of the Earth Core Heavenly Origin Liquid is naturally terrifyingly low. The average Saint Level cannot withstand it, and even Battle Emperor Level ones would fear this stuff. Otherwise,

why do you think it's been left here untouched for so long?" The voice of Wentian Demon Sovereign echoed in Xu Nian's mind.

"What should I do, then?" asked Xu Nian, frowning.

This Earth Core Heavenly Origin Liquid is so terrifying.

Even if it's precious, it's useless if I can't obtain it!

"Kid, others may not be able to, but you can. With the strength of your true self's body, you can at most absorb a bit; the majority of the power must be absorbed by the Undying Devouring Sky Beast, whose physical body can surely withstand it," said Wentian Demon Sovereign.

Xu Nian nodded his head.

Without any hesitation, he summoned the Undying Devouring Sky Beast.

As soon as the Undying Devouring Sky Beast appeared, it rapidly dived downward.

With the descent of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast,

a layer of terrible frost condensed on the surface of its body.

But fortunately, the Undying Devouring Sky Beast's strong vitality was so formidable that the intense cold couldn't penetrate its body.

Thus, the Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar quickly reached the bottom of Moon-shaped Lake.

"Hey, is that the Earth Core Heavenly Origin Liquid?" the Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar asked in surprise as it gazed at a pool deep at the bottom of the lake.

The pool radiated a crystal-like luster, clearly distinct from the ordinary lake water.

"That's right, this is the Earth Core Heavenly Origin Liquid. I originally thought there was only a little, but I didn't expect there to be so much. Kid, with so much Tianyuan Liquid, it's enough for both your avatar and your true self to break through to the Nine-star Battle Saint Realm," Wentian Demon Sovereign's voice emerged in Xu Nian's mind.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian's eyes also shone with excitement.

If it's as Wentian Demon Sovereign said, then he has really stumbled upon something great this time.

"Hum!"

The Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar did not hesitate even for a moment.

It opened its gaping maw and began to gulp down the substance.

The liquid was immediately drawn in, flying straight into the mouth of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast.

"Hum!"

The moment the liquid entered the Undying Devouring Sky Beast's body, it emitted an unimaginably frigid cold.

The Undying Devouring Sky Beast Avatar felt as if its body might freeze solid.

It immediately began to wildly circulate the Undying Devouring Sky Technique, frantically absorbing the power contained within the liquid.

Sure enough, after offsetting the terrifying Ice Cold Power, a formidable strength burst forth like floodwaters after a dam break.

In an instant, it flowed throughout the entire body of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast.

And the aura of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast also surged incessantly.

Starting from the peak of the Seven Star Saint Realm, it directly broke through to Eight-star.

Not just that, with the absorption of this Earth Core Heavenly Origin Liquid,

its cultivation began to push towards the Nine-star Realm.

Meanwhile, Xu Nian's true self also reached the bottom of the lake with the help of Wentian Demon Sovereign's power.

Xu Nian's original body also tried to operate the Dan Sea Species Green Lotus, absorbing the energy of the Tianyuan Liquid.

"Buzz!"

The whole process lasted a full six hours.

Xu Nian and the original body of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast finally consumed that pool of Earth Core Heavenly Origin Liquid.

Most of the Tianyuan Liquid was absorbed by the Undying Devouring Sky Beast.

And the strength of the Undying Devouring Sky Beast had already broken through to the Nine-star Demon Saint Realm.

As for combat power, relying on terrifying Physical Strength and defense,

even Half-Emperor Senior People probably wouldn't be its match, and it might even be able to contend with a One-star Battle Emperor.

Xu Nian's original body also made significant progress, not only had his injuries completely recovered.

His Spiritual Cultivation had broken through to the peak of Eight-star War Saint, just one step away from Nine-star War Saint.

It could be said that Xu Nian now dared to fight even against Half-Emperor Senior People.

Of course, his Body Cultivation still remained at the Four-star Body Saint Realm.

However, there was no rush, once he reached the Death God Domain, the gap in his Body Cultivation would quickly be made up.

"Ha ha, this feeling of restored cultivation is truly wonderful." Xu Nian felt the abundant power inside his Dantian and his eyes revealed a brilliant sparkle.

These past few days, his Dantian had been depleted, and his qi and blood scarce, making him feel very uncomfortable.

Now, with his cultivation greatly increased, Xu Nian felt an immense sense of exhilaration.

"Eh, what's this?"

Suddenly, Xu Nian looked at the spot of the Earth Core Heavenly Origin Water that had been drained.

There actually lay a metallic block the size of a chicken egg.

This metallic block also emitted a terrifying coldness.

But when Xu Nian reached out to pick up this sphere,

he found that his original body couldn't lift it, and even the instant he touched the sphere,

Xu Nian felt like his soul had been frozen.

"Young man, this is Tianyuan Iron, a type of Divine Iron, extremely dense—in fact, something the size of a bean weighs a million pounds. This piece of yours, being so large, probably weighs no less than ten million pounds, and it has a Soul Attack Effect. It is the best raw material for forging Spiritual Artifacts that attack the soul internally," Wentian Demon Sovereign spoke.

"Ten million pounds? Soul Attack Effect? Doesn't that mean I could forge another heavy hammer?" Xu Nian looked at the Tianyuan Pearl with a joyous expression on his face.

Unexpectedly, there were secret gains.

Ever since his strength had surged, the Meteorite Iron Hammer had become useless.

And because he had not found suitable Artifact Refining Materials, he hadn't forged a new weapon.

Now, this Tianyuan Iron was perfect.

Without hesitation, Xu Nian had the Undying Devouring Sky Beast pick it up and put it into his storage ring.

But to forge a Spiritual Weapon Level weapon with Xu Nian's Artifact Refining Fragment was still not possible.

So, he could only put it away for now, and think about forging it later.

After Xu Nian finished all this,

he recalled the Undying Devouring Sky Beast avatar and returned to Adam's caravan.

During this process, no one had discovered anything.

Xu Nian had not shown any change in demeanor due to the restoration of his cultivation.

He continued as always, following Adam's caravan to Rom City.

After the last day of travel, everyone finally emerged from the vast, sea-like desert.

Approaching the foot of Rom City.

Hua Gesang looked at the magnificent Rom City with a surprised expression on her face.

Clearly, this was her first time coming to Rom City.

Xu Nian looked at Hua Gesang, who was astonished by Rom City, and a smile appeared on his face.

If he were to bring her to see the Imperial Capital, which was ten times more magnificent than Rom City, he wondered what her reaction would be.

She might be so surprised that her jaw would drop!

Chapter 522 Iron Blood Group Leader

"Wow, so majestic, so spectacular, so bustling!"

Hua Gesang looked at the shops on both sides of the street and the crowd, unable to help herself from letting out exclamations of amazement.

She had been marveling all the way, dancing with joy.

Although she had already broken through to the Battle General Realm, she was still a seventeen-year-old girl after all.

She was filled with intense curiosity towards all things new.

Soon, Xu Nian and the others arrived at a residence.

This residence was bought by Adam back when he was in Rom City, so they had a convenient place to stay each time they went to Rom City.

As for the caravan, they separated from Adam and the others to sell their own goods.

So in the end, from the nearly hundred people in the caravan, only Adam, Hua Gesang, and Xu Nian were left.

"Come on, Xu Nian, let's go out for a walk," Hua Gesang said, immediately after settling in, impatiently pulling Xu Nian to go shopping.

Adam did not oppose, only cautioned them to be careful before continuing with his own tasks.

Xu Nian, however, looked helpless as Hua Gesang dragged him along for shopping.

There were still two days until the election of the Luotian Sect Saintess.

That meant Xu Nian would have to wait another two days to use Hua Gesang's election as Saintess to infiltrate the Luotian Sect.

Xu Nian didn't care about the one or two days, so he simply waited.

Of course, Hua Gesang dragging Xu Nian along was purely for the sake of finding a companion.

Hua Gesang was seen darting through the streets and alleys, buying a lot of things.

Most of the things were items for ordinary people and were essentially useless for cultivators.

But since Hua Gesang was happy, Xu Nian just went along with her.

Eventually, Hua Gesang even took Xu Nian to a men's clothing store.

This made Xu Nian curious.

Why would Hua Gesang, a woman, run to a men's clothing store?

Could it be to buy clothes for Adam?

But when Xu Nian asked for clarification, he was left speechless.

Hua Gesang answered him, "Since you're my servant, you naturally need to dress nicely. Look at the ragged state of your clothes; how embarrassing would it be for me if we go out?"

Xu Nian had thought of retorting, but then he thought better of it.

His storage ring was filled with clothes.

He hadn't taken them out simply to avoid suspicion.

Yet, he didn't expect to be so disdained by Hua Gesang.

In the end, Hua Gesang picked out a rather nice piece of clothing for Xu Nian.

After Xu Nian changed into it, he actually stunned Hua Gesang for a few seconds.

She then realized how handsome the young man before her was.

Especially the aura emanating from him.

It was as if he was naturally elegant and carefree.

Hua Gesang even began to doubt if she had recognized the wrong person.

"Didn't expect you to be such a pretty boy. You looked so sloppy before, with your tattered clothes and unkempt appearance. Now that you've changed into a new set of clothes and combed your hair, you actually look presentable. Taking you out now, this missy can appear with some dignity."

Walking out of the clothing store, Hua Gesang circled around Xu Nian, then smiled and patted his shoulder.

Xu Nian just smiled wryly.

"Look like a human, sort of like a dog," indeed.

Hua Gesang really knew how to choose her words.

But he wasn't angry; after all, he had gotten to know Hua Gesang's temper.

She had a tough exterior but a soft heart.

"We've been around for a day now, time to head back?" Xu Nian suddenly frowned and said.

"Yes, we've pretty much been everywhere, it's time to go back, let's go!" Hua Gesang nodded and then turned to leave.

However, before Hua Gesang had taken more than a few steps, she was stopped by someone.

Four burly men dressed in black battle attire were staring coldly at her.

Hua Gesang's brow furrowed, clearly sensing ill intentions from the newcomers.

Xu Nian's expression also tightened slightly.

The cultivation of these four burly men was not low, they were all of Battle General Level.

And from the looks in their eyes, it was clear they were battle-hardened mercenaries.

Obviously, their target was Hua Gesang.

After all, with Xu Nian's strength, no one would be foolish enough to send people of Battle General Level against him.

But Xu Nian was somewhat puzzled.

Hua Gesang had just arrived in Rom City, how had she managed to provoke these men?

"Who are you? What do you want?" Hua Gesang asked warily.

At the same time, she retreated to Xu Nian's side and whispered, "Run, go find my father."

However, Xu Nian stood still as if frozen, foolishly remaining in place.

This infuriated Hua Gesang.

Had the boy been scared witless?

Xu Nian was certainly not scared witless.

He simply did not want to leave.

After all, these people had come for Hua Gesang, if he left, she would likely be in danger.

"We are from the Iron Blood Mercenary Group. Our leader wishes for the lady to accompany us to Tianhua Restaurant for a talk."

One of the burly men spoke and without waiting for Hua Gesang's response, they blocked the way for both Hua Gesang and Xu Nian, making a gesture to invite them.

Seeing that the situation was not good, Hua Gesang did not resist and reluctantly followed them in the direction of Tianhua Restaurant.

Xu Nian naturally followed closely behind Hua Gesang.

"Why didn't you run when I told you to? Now who will save us?" Hua Gesang glared at Xu Nian fiercely and whispered angrily.

Xu Nian just gave a naïve smile and did not reply.

Seeing Xu Nian's expression, Hua Gesang couldn't help but seethe with anger.

But there was no help for it, the four men were watching her closely.

Even if she wanted to escape, it would be impossible.

Soon, Xu Nian and Hua Gesang were brought to a very luxurious restaurant.

Under the escort of the four men, Xu Nian and Hua Gesang finally met the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Group.

He was a muscular man with a beard and a slanting scar across his nose.

At first glance, he gave off a very ferocious impression.

What surprised Xu Nian even more was that the leader was a Nine-star Body King level powerhouse.

A Nine-star Body King, in this remote region of Beimo, was definitely a dominant force.

The Iron Blood Group Leader looked at Hua Gesang, a faint smile on his lips, his eyes carrying a hint of lascivious amusement.

"Your chest is a bit small, but your face and legs are nice. Little beauty, would you like to be my woman?" the Iron Blood Group Leader said bluntly.

"Pah!" Hua Gesang immediately displayed a look of contempt, anger welling up in her eyes.

She hadn't expected this middle-aged man to say such a thing.

Seeing Hua Gesang's disdain, the corners of the Iron Blood Group Leader's mouth curled into a cold smirk.

He started to walk toward Hua Gesang step by step.

Hua Gesang quickly drew her sword and attacked the leader.

But as soon as her sword was swung, the leader caught it between two fingers.

Hua Gesang tried to pull her sword back, but found it was as immovable as if pressed down by a mountain.

"With your level of strength, you think you can kill me? It's just like throwing an egg against a rock. I advise you to submit quietly, or else you only have a death sentence waiting for you. Someone has offered ten million Gold Coins for your life," the Iron Blood Group Leader said with a smile.

After speaking, the Iron Blood Group Leader exerted force in his fingers, and Hua Gesang's curved sword snapped in two.

And Hua Gesang was sent reeling back by the force of the blow.

Xu Nian quickly supported Hua Gesang.

Chapter 523: Kicking Against an Iron Plate

"A Battle King Level expert?"

Hua Gesang looked at the Iron Blood Group Leader in surprise, feeling utter despair in her heart.

She could never have imagined that the middle-aged man before her was a Battle King Level expert.

With such a powerful expert, even if her father were to come, it would probably be of no use.

"Is this really the fate destined for me, Hua Gesang?" she muttered to herself.

Her facial expression was filled with resentment and despair.

"Who exactly sent you to kill me?" Hua Gesang stared intently at the Iron Blood Group Leader, demanding.

She couldn't comprehend why someone would spend a million gold coins to hire such power to kill her.

"Haha, who paid us to kill you? You needn't worry about that; not revealing our employer's information is our Mercenary Corps' rule. However, if you agree to be my woman, I might just spare your life," the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader laughed heartily.

"Then just kill me! You're not worthy of possessing me, Hua Gesang," she said resolutely.

The commander of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps, upon hearing this, had a flash of savage energy in his eyes and said coldly, "You think you can die that easily? Once you're here, it's not up to you anymore."

He then reached out a hand toward Hua Gesang.

Hua Gesang stepped back in fright.

Throughout, Xu Nian had been completely ignored by the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader.

"Hold on!"

Just as the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader was about to grab Hua Gesang.

A voice suddenly rang out in the hall.

"Move aside if you don't want to die," the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader shouted angrily, then proceeded to make a move on Hua Gesang.

However, before his hand could touch Hua Gesang, a figure stood directly in front of her.

"You're courting death?" The Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader looked angrily at the young man who had suddenly stepped forward.

In his view, this young man was merely Hua Gesang's servant.

Even if he was a cultivator, his cultivation wouldn't be very high.

Now daring to interfere in his matters was truly courting death.

Hua Gesang was also stunned, not expecting Xu Nian to stand in front of her at this moment.

Watching Xu Nian's back, she felt an indescribable sense of security.

But then she remembered Xu Nian had no cultivation at all, and her sense of security instantly vanished.

She also started worrying about Xu Nian.

Having angered this Battle King powerhouse, Xu Nian's fate would be absolutely miserable.

"Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader, right? I'd like to have a private chat with you," Xu Nian said with a smile, looking at the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader.

As he spoke, a strong blue light surged in Xu Nian's eyes.

The Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader's gaze went momentarily dazed, and he nodded, agreeing, "Okay!"

He then led Xu Nian toward the inner hall.

Just as Xu Nian was about to follow.

Hua Gesang suddenly grabbed Xu Nian.

"Don't worry, I'll be fine; I know this Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader," Xu Nian said with a smile.

After speaking, he broke free from Hua Gesang's grip and followed the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader into the inner hall.

Hua Gesang stood there stunned.

Her mind was filled with Xu Nian's words: I know the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader?

How could Xu Nian possibly know the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader?

This leader is of the Battle King Level.

Xu Nian has no cultivation; how could he possibly know a Battle King Level powerhouse.

And isn't Xu Nian from the distant East Field County?

How could he know their well-known Iron Blood Mercenary Corps from Beimo?

Hua Gesang couldn't figure it out.

Left with no choice, she could only stand in the hall and silently wait.

...

At that moment in the inner hall, the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps had also sobered up.

When he saw the place he was in and the youth before him, his face immediately showed a look of horror.

Because he had no memory of what had just happened.

He didn't know how he had entered the inner hall.

But he was certain that all of this was the young man's doing.

"What have you done to me? Speak up, or I'll kill you!" the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps roared furiously, his Peak of Body King aura bursting forth instantly.

Xu Nian, however, let out a cold laugh.

He was not at all intimidated by the aura emanating from the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps.

"Buzz!"

Xu Nian quickly reached out his hand and instantly gripped the neck of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader, lifting him gradually off the ground.

The Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader's eyes widened like a bull's as he struggled to free himself from Xu Nian's grip.

However, he found that his internal Gang Qi was completely suppressed and could not be mobilized at all.

"How... how is this possible?" the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader looked at Xu Nian in utter astonishment.

A Peak Powerhouse like him, facing a youth, was completely powerless to fight back.

At the moment, he felt as if he were a three-year-old child, and the youth before him was a towering giant.

A single finger from the opponent could easily crush him.

"Surprised? Do you feel that a Peak of Body King like you shouldn't be caught by the neck by a youth and unable to move?" Xu Nian said with a light chuckle.

The face of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader turned red.

Indeed, that was exactly what he was thinking.

"Since you want to know, I will give you an answer," Xu Nian said with a cold laugh, releasing the neck of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader.

But before the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader could catch his breath,

a pressure of an Eight-star Peak Saint level was imposed on him.

"Thud!"

The Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader was instantly forced down to his knees by the terrifying pressure.

It was as if a giant mountain pressed heavily upon him, making it impossible to straighten his back.

But none of these were important.

At the moment, the heart of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader was furiously pounding.

His expression was as if he had seen a ghost, his eyes filled with intense shock.

"Eight... Peak of Eight-star War Saint?" These words hammered down on the heart of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader.

The youth before him was actually a Battle Saint-level powerhouse.

And a Peak of Eight-star War Saint?

In this region of Beimo, that might well be an almost unrivaled presence, right?

How could he have encountered such a terrifying existence?

And aren't such super powerhouses usually old, at least in their seventies or eighties, or even if they are younger, still in their thirties or forties?

Yet this youth was a Peak of Eight-star War Saint.

"Do you still want to kill me now?" Xu Nian crouched beside the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps.

"No... I dare not!" the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps said with a pale face, hastily speaking out.

At the moment, he was cursing internally.

He must have had bad luck for eight lifetimes.

To have tallied with such a super powerhouse,

Damn it, even if he wanted to kill, he couldn't!

Xu Nian, seeing the terrified look of the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps, laughed and said, "I can spare your life. In a moment, when you go out with me, and that girl asks you something, just answer as I instructed. Of course, do not mention a word about my identity and strength, just say that you have been to East Field County before, and that you were once saved by me when you were injured. Do you hear me?"

"Yes, yes, yes!"

The leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps nodded repeatedly.

But inside, he was at a loss for words.

Damn it, is this how strong people pursue girls these days?

Chapter 524 Beimo County Governor

Hua Gesang paced back and forth outside.

Several times she desired to step forward and eavesdrop.

But the big man beside her was watching, so she had to suppress her curiosity.

Yet she still didn't understand, what on earth was Xu Nian talking to the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader about?

"Could Xu Nian possibly be selling his own... " Hua Gesang suddenly had a very dirty thought.

The thought frightened even herself.

"Creak!"

Just as Hua Gesang felt ashamed of her bold thoughts,

The door to the inner hall swung open.

Xu Nian and the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader came out.

Most importantly, Xu Nian and the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader were actually shouldering each other.

This surprised Hua Gesang momentarily.

Xu Nian was actually shoulder to shoulder with the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader.

This was a man at the Peak of Body King, how could he be so intimate with Xu Nian?

Could there really be some unspeakable secret?

"What were you talking about inside? He didn't hurt you, did he?" Hua Gesang saw Xu Nian come out and quickly pulled him to ask.

"No, we were just catching up. Brother Tie Xue has been to East Field County before and got injured. It so happened that my father saved him, so we've known each other for a while," said Xu Nian with a smile.

"Is that really so?" Hua Gesang looked at the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader with a puzzled face and asked.

"Yes, yes, yes, it's really like flushing away the dragon temple, the family doesn't recognize its own!" the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader said, nodding repeatedly.

However, as he spoke, the corners of his mouth twitched.

"So you're not going to kill me anymore?"

Hua Gesang looked surprised, not expecting the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader's attitude to change so quickly.

Hearing Hua Gesang's words, the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader hurriedly said, "No killing, how dare I... oh no, why would I kill you. Since you're Brother Xu Nian's friend, we're all family, all one family."

As the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader spoke, his gaze couldn't help but flick over to Xu Nian.

Cold sweat broke out on his back.

One sign of dissatisfaction from the god of death at his side, and he would be snuffed out with a flick of a finger.

Peak of Eight-star War Saint!

Killing him would really be as easy as slaughtering a chicken.

Hua Gesang saw the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader's expression and became puzzled in her mind.

Even if Xu Nian's father had once saved him, he wouldn't be so humble, would he?

It seemed like he was quite afraid of Xu Nian.

"So, do you still want me to be your woman?" Hua Gesang continued to ask.

At this question, the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader nearly cried.

Granny, please stop asking such questions.

How would I dare to have you as my woman, I'm more like your son.

Yet these words were ones that the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader would never say out loud.

So, he could only put on a smiling face and said to Hua Gesang, "You're so beautiful, I simply don't match up to you. I was just joking just now."

After speaking, he even wiped the cold sweat from his forehead.

This detail, of course, did not escape Hua Gesang's eyes.

She just couldn't comprehend why the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader would do such a one-hundred-eighty-degree turn in attitude.

"Alright, Brother Tie Xue, you might as well tell us who hired you to kill our miss," Xu Nian said to the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader.

"Right, you just mentioned someone offered a million for my life, surely that wasn't a joke?" Hua Gesang quickly asked.

The leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps, upon hearing these words, hesitated for a moment.

However, when he saw Xu Nian's piercing gaze, he dared not hide anything.

He began to speak, "Yes, it's the Lord of Beimo County, his daughter and Miss Hua Gesang are both contenders for the Luotian Sect Holy Daughter in two days. I'm sure Miss Hua Gesang is aware of the fierce competition for the Holy Daughter of the Luotian Sect. Since Miss Hua Gesang has always been extraordinarily talented, naturally, she poses a significant threat to the Lord of Beimo County's daughter."

"So it's her," Hua Gesang said, anger welling up in her eyes at his words.

She had heard about the Lord's daughter.

She was known in Beimo as the Heavenly Pride Girl, who had broken through to the Battle General Realm before the age of eighteen.

She just hadn't expected this wretch to want to get rid of her before the competition.

Xu Nian furrowed his brow as well.

It was an assassination attempt due to the competition for the Holy Daughter.

The Lord of Beimo County's daughter was definitely no good either.

"And how strong is the Lord of Beimo County?" Xu Nian inquired.

"The Prefectural Governor is a Saint Level master, rumored to have broken through to the Three-star Saint Realm. Given the election for the Holy Daughter is forthcoming, he will surely bring his daughter along. If Miss Hua Gesang intends to participate, she must be cautious. After all, open assault is easy to evade, but hidden attacks are hard to guard against," said the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader.

Hearing this, an expression of anger and tension appeared on Hua Gesang's pretty face.

Clearly, she realized this election would be more difficult than she'd anticipated.

And the opponent had a father who was a Three-star Saint Level.

If he really made a move against her in secret, it would be challenging for her to win.

The leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps could see what Hua Gesang was thinking.

However, he thought Hua Gesang was really quite lucky.

What good is a father who is a Three-star Battle Saint if you stand beside an Eight-star War Saint at the peak?

But he was a bit puzzled.

The Holy Daughter of the Luotian Sect was forbidden to engage in romantic affairs.

Did this man named Xu Nian truly want her to compete for the position?

It was apparent that the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps already listed Hua Gesang as one of Xu Nian's women.

Xu Nian knew there had been a misunderstanding, but he rarely bothered to explain.

However, Hua Gesang's desire to compete for the Holy Daughter definitely required careful consideration.

Since the Lord of Beimo County had already sent someone to kill her, there was no way he would take no action during the competition.

As the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps mentioned, open assault is easy to evade, but hidden attacks are hard to defend against.

It was likely very dangerous for Hua Gesang and her father to participate in the election.

Soon after, Xu Nian took Hua Gesang and left the Tianhua Restaurant.

As they left, the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps personally saw them down to the ground floor.

Only after watching them walk away did he let out a sigh of relief.

After returning to the restaurant, the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps quickly fled Rom City with his men overnight.

He was genuinely afraid that Xu Nian would suddenly come back for them.

On the other hand, Hua Gesang also began to suspect Xu Nian.

All the way, she was observing him.

The more she looked, the more she felt the young man before her was not simple.

"Tell me, what exactly did you talk about with the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps leader, and why did his attitude change so drastically?" Hua Gesang stared at Xu Nian, asking.

Xu Nian immediately gave a wry smile, knowing that he had aroused Hua Gesang's suspicion.

"What else could I have said? I just mentioned our encounter with a Saint in the desert who lent us a hand, and that made him scared," Xu Nian quickly explained.

"Really?" Hua Gesang asked, puzzled.

Xu Nian promptly nodded.

Today, there are only five releases!

Chapter 525 Luotian Sect

Two days passed quickly.

Today, the election for the Holy Daughter of the Luotian Sect was held.

Early in the morning, Rom City began to bustle.

Everyone, with their children, headed toward the Luotian Sect.

Xu Nian followed Adam and Hua Gesang, joining the crowd flowing toward the location of the Luotian Sect.

The Luotian Sect was situated at the center of Rom City, owning the tallest and most majestic building, the headquarters of the Luotian Temple.

In terms of status, the position of the Luotian Sect was far superior to that of the Beimo County Prefectural Governor.

After all, the Luotian Sect was the largest sect in Beimo, with millions of followers.

Followers were spread across dozens of cities throughout Beimo.

Among them were not a few mortals without any cultivation.

One could imagine just how terrifying the status of the Luotian Sect was in Beimo.

Over these past two days, Xu Nian had learned many things about the Luotian Sect from Wentian Demon Sovereign.

Originally, the Luotian Sect was not its name but was called the Great Brightness Sect.

The cultivators of the Great Brightness Sect almost entirely practiced Light Attribute Profound Argumentation.

The Great Brightness Sect also had a Holy Scripture called Light Profound Argumentation.

The combat techniques and skills taught in this scripture were based on the three types of light argumentation.

Once one comprehended the Light Attribute Profound Argumentation and combined it with these combat skills, a cultivator could exert tremendous combat power.

And those who could practice this Light Profound Argumentation were precisely the Luotian Pope and the Holy Daughter.

The Holy Daughter was the candidate for the next Pope.

Becoming the Holy Daughter meant possessing the qualifications to become the Pope.

Thus, the Pope of the Luotian Sect was always a woman.

This was also why the Prefectural Governor so hoped that his daughter would become the Holy Daughter.

For once she became the Pope, she would hold the supremely exalted status.

And coupled with his position as the Prefectural Governor of Beimo, they would reign supreme over the entire Beimo.

After understanding all this, Xu Nian finally understood what the Luotian Sect was all about.

And what Xu Nian wanted from the Luotian Sect was precisely its treasure.

The Great Brightness Stone!

A stone that could emit endless radiance.

Only this stone could resist the Dark Devouring of the Death God Domain.

Hua Gesang followed her father, weaving through the crowd.

Yet, her gaze occasionally swept toward Xu Nian.

Although she didn't tell her father about yesterday's incident, she harbored persistent doubts in her heart.

The divergent behaviors of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader were too stark.

And if Xu Nian truly knew the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps Leader, why didn't the leader recognize him at first?

However, she observed Xu Nian closely, even deliberately testing him several times.

Xu Nian behaved as if he had no cultivation.

This forced her to accept the last words of Xu Nian, that the mysterious saint had scared away the leader of the Iron Blood Mercenary Corps.

Though somewhat far-fetched, she could think of no other explanation.

Xu Nian, for his part, appeared indifferent.

All along the way, he pondered how to obtain the Great Brightness Stone from the hands of the Luotian Pope.

Clearly, the Great Brightness Stone was the treasure of the Luotian Sect, undoubtedly personally guarded by the Pope.

And the power of this Pope was probably not simple.

It seemed impossible to forcibly take the Great Brightness Stone from her.

"Looks like we can only take it one step at a time."

Xu Nian thought about it and finally could not come up with a good solution.

He could only wait and see how the situation would develop before making the corresponding strategies.

Soon, Xu Nian and Adam arrived at the Luotian Sect's Luotian Square.

Luotian Square was vast and could accommodate millions of people.

Yet even so, the square was still packed at the moment.

The election for the Holy Daughter of the Luotian Sect was a rare grand event.

How could the people of Rom City miss it? Some had even come specially from other cities.

Of course, there were also some who had brought their daughters to participate in the election, holding a try-and-see attitude.

At the very front of the square was a huge platform.

That was where the election for the Holy Daughter would be held.

The election of the Holy Daughter would also be conducted in front of everyone.

Hua Gesang, looking at the dense crowd, showed a hint of nervousness on her pretty face.

Clearly, such a scene put a lot of pressure on her.

"Hey, isn't that Hua Gesang? You're here to participate in the election too!"

However, at that moment, a discordant voice sounded.

Xu Nian and Hua Gesang's group all turned their heads towards the direction of the voice.

They saw a tall, imposing man standing with a young girl nearby.

The girl who had just spoken was that young girl.

She was about the same age as Hua Gesang, and seemed to also be around seventeen.

After all, the requirement for the Holy Daughter election was not to exceed eighteen years of age.

The girl's appearance was slightly inferior to Hua Gesang, but she was still among the beauties.

Her cultivation had already reached the Battle General Realm, even more solid than that of Hua Gesang.

"Lianna, is it you?" Hua Gesang obviously recognized the girl.

And Adam seemed to also recognize the man beside the girl.

The man gave Adam a glance, with a hint of provocation in his eyes.

"Hua Gesang, I advise you to give up. You won't be elected as the Holy Daughter. Let me tell you something, I broke through to the Battle General Realm two months ago, while you're probably still wandering in the Battle Sect. What do you have to compete with me?" Lianna said with disdainful laughter.

"Hmph, the election for Holy Daughter isn't just about cultivation," Hua Gesang retorted.

Yet Lianna responded with a disdainful cold laugh, ignoring Hua Gesang's words.

At this moment, her gaze fell on Xu Nian as she teasingly asked, "Hey, quite a handsome fellow. Hua Gesang, he's not your man, is he?"

"He's just my attendant. Jealous of such a handsome attendant?" When Lianna commented on Xu Nian's looks, Hua Gesang immediately struck back proudly.

Xu Nian could only offer a helpless smile.

"Cut it, just an attendant, and he seems like a soft-shell shrimp. What use is good looks? In this world, power is everything. Hua Gesang, I tell you, I am determined to win the position of Holy Daughter." Lianna said with disdain.

After speaking, she swaggered into the crowd.

The middle-aged man also gave Adam a provocative look, then followed the girl and left.

Seeing this scene, Hua Gesang stomped her foot in anger.

Adam also had a look of anger.

"Who is she?" Xu Nian asked curiously.

This girl did not seem like the daughter of a Prefectural Governor.

"Her name is Lianna. Her father is also a merchant who wanders the desert, and we've known each other since we were children. But she has always liked to compete with me. I can't believe she broke through to the Battle General Realm two months ago, that's impossible. Her talent is clearly not as good as mine!" Hua Gesang said with anger and bafflement.

On hearing this, Xu Nian suddenly had a realization.

A meaningful smile appeared in his eyes.

Because he felt a familiar aura emanating from Lianna.

At first, he wasn't sure, but now it seemed likely.

He just hadn't expected the other party to extend their reach here.

Chapter 526: His Holiness the Pope

"Lord Governor has arrived!"

Just as Hua Gesang was still feeling angry about Lianna's words,

a shout came from the distant crowd.

Subsequently, Xu Nian and his companions saw two rows of soldiers charging into the crowd, dispersing people to create a path.

In the center of the crowd walked a fat man.

Though corpulent, his cultivation was extraordinarily high.

He had already reached the Three-star Battle Saint Peak.

His stride was as commanding as a dragon's, radiating a formidable oppressive aura.

A young girl walked beside him.

She was adorned in a red long gown, which was both magnificent and regal.

Gems like jewelry hung from her wrists and neck.

As she walked, her pale neck slightly lifted, her gaze lofty.

Like a proud phoenix.

She greatly relished the admiring glances from the people around her.

Xu Nian glanced at her and immediately discerned her cultivation.

She, too, had reached the One-star Battle General Level.

If Xu Nian was not mistaken, this girl must be the Governor's daughter who had hired the Iron Blood Mercenary Group to kill Hua Gesang.

Hua Gesang had certainly noticed this woman, her eyes flashing with intense fury.

Upon learning that the Governor's daughter had dispatched a powerful warrior to kill her, she was consumed by anger.

However, the opponent's power was too strong, and she was powerless to seek revenge.

At this moment, she could only suppress her fury deep within her heart.

Sensing Hua Gesang's angry gaze, the young girl looked toward Hua Gesang.

When she saw that Hua Gesang was still alive, she clearly paused, surprised.

But quickly, a hint of disdain flickered in her eyes.

She turned and whispered something to her fat father.

The father also looked toward Hua Gesang, his eyes nearly hidden by his chubby cheeks squinting even more.

Xu Nian saw this and slightly furrowed his brows.

"Uncle Adam, what is the name of Beimo's Governor, and what is he like?" Xu Nian turned and asked the Adam beside him.

"The Governor? His name is rarely known, but I was fortunate to hear it once; his name is Entas. He's cunning and ruthless, resembling a smiling Buddha. Whoever offends him meets a dismal fate, so we generally don't want to provoke him. I just didn't expect his daughter to also participate in the Holy Daughter election. I'm afraid he might harm the other contestants for his daughter's sake, and that puts Ge Sang in great danger," Adam said with concern.

Xu Nian nodded upon hearing this.

What Adam didn't know was that the Governor had already made a move against his daughter.

It was only resolved by Xu Nian.

"It seems Ge Sang's path to becoming the Holy Daughter is not going to be an easy one," Xu Nian mused to himself.

He still hoped Hua Gesang could be elected as the Holy Daughter.

After all, through their time together, Xu Nian realized she was actually not a bad girl.

Aside from being a bit temperamental and proud, she could make the right choices when it mattered.

And she truly was a kind-hearted woman at heart.

Therefore, Xu Nian still hoped she would realize her wish to be elected as the Holy Daughter.

Thinking this, while Hua Gesang was not paying attention, Xu Nian gently slapped her on the back.

A faint cyan light transferred into Hua Gesang's body.

This was a trace of Xu Nian's spiritual energy, which could save Hua Gesang's life at a critical moment.

Hua Gesang did not notice it at all.

Time slowly ticked by.

Then, the great doors of the Luotian Holy Scripture opened.

Out stepped two rows of knights clad in silver battle armor.

Shockingly, all these knights were uniform in their cultivation at the Battle General Level.

Knights dispersed on both sides, and eighteen warriors clothed in golden battle armor walked out from the center.

These warriors were all of Battle King Level.

Behind these Battle Kings, six men and women dressed in large red robes emerged.

Without exception, these six were all powerful beings of Saint Level.

"One hundred and eight Silver-armored Warriors, eighteen Golden Armor Soldiers, even the six Holy Temple Law Kings have appeared," someone in the crowd exclaimed.

Clearly, these Silver-armored Warriors, Golden Armor Soldiers, and Holy Temple Law Kings were the titles used within the Luotian Sect.

"Six Saints? And there are even two at the Saint Peak Level, it seems the strength of this Luotian Sect is truly formidable," Xu Nian inwardly praised.

The Luotian Sect actually had six Saints, their strength undoubtedly far surpassing the past Three Great Sects.

Even Xu Nian's Artifact Refining Sect was far inferior.

Of course, if Xu Nian were included, that would be a different story.

"His Holiness the Pope has arrived!"

At this moment, a loud voice resounded.

"Dang!"

A loud bell also tolled within the Luotian Sect.

"Shua!"

Suddenly, everyone around knelt down and chanted in unison, "Greetings to His Holiness the Pope!"

Even Hua Gesang and Adam knelt down.

Xu Nian stood there alone, suddenly appearing very conspicuous.

Hua Gesang quickly tugged at Xu Nian, signaling him to kneel.

Xu Nian, however, stood stiff as wood, with a blank face staring forward.

The only ones not kneeling were, naturally, the Prefectural Governors.

Entas also noticed Xu Nian.

When he saw that Xu Nian was just a youth, a look of surprise clearly emerged on his face.

However, he didn't have much time to think more deeply, as footsteps echoed from the depths of the great hall.

Xu Nian also turned to look in the direction of the great hall.

He saw a tall woman in a white silk robe emerge from within.

She wore a crown embedded with nine pigeon egg-sized gems on her head.

In her hand, she held a metal scepter, embedded with a dazzling stone that shone bright as the daytime sun at its top.

"The Great Brightness Stone," Xu Nian's eyes suddenly lit up.

However, that glint of excitement was quickly hidden by him.

When he looked at the Pope's face, however, he was stunned for a moment.

"Such a beautiful, noble woman," Xu Nian mused to himself.

The Pope, although appearing to be in her thirties, showed no difference from a woman in her twenties.

She even carried a mature charm about her.

But these were not what Xu Nian truly cared about, what he cared about was that the Pope was a One-star Battle Emperor.

That made Xu Nian quite troubled.

Taking the Great Brightness Stone from the hands of a One-star Battle Emperor would be very difficult.

And since the Pope was a leader and held the Great Brightness Stone, her strength could not be weak.

The Pope's gaze swept across the crowd and finally landed sharply on Xu Nian.

Somebody did not kneel?

Feeling the Pope's gaze, Xu Nian quickly concealed his entire aura.

Pretending to be completely foolish, he scratched his head.

Since the activation of the Black Jade, Xu Nian could use the Kun Cave within the Black Jade to absorb his entire aura.

Thus, even if a Battle Emperor Level fighter were present, it would be difficult to detect his cultivation, and they would assume he was just an ordinary person.

Therefore, after the Pope glanced at Xu Nian, she simply ignored him.

She assumed Xu Nian was just a clueless fool.

Chapter 527: Holy Daughter Election

"Welcome to the Holy Scripture of our Luotian Sect," declared the Pope of our sect, standing in for the Holy Master to select the new Holy Daughter, ensuring that the glory of our Lord may continue unceasingly. First, let us accept the baptism of our Lord's Holy Light and cleanse ourselves of any sin." The Pope's voice resounded, imbued with Spiritual Energy, echoing across the entire plaza.

Upon hearing these words, everyone placed their palms together in prayer in front of their chests.

"Om!"

The Pope raised the Scepter in his hands.

A beam of light shot straight into the sky in an instant.

Then, countless rays of brilliance scattered downwards.

These beams, like dazzling golden splendors, showered upon the people.

As if the sacred light rained down upon the earth.

And this Holy Light, descending upon people, brought peace and tranquility to their hearts.

Those with evil spirits within them would scream under the light, as wisp after wisp of black smoke rose from their bodies.

However, those with evil spirits did not resist in the slightest.

Instead, they silently endured the scorching purification of those evil energies.

In their eyes, it was their sins being washed away and cleansed.

Xu Nian couldn't help but laugh inwardly.

The so-called Holy Light was none other than the Star Purification he had comprehended.

It was just that the Pope's mastery of Profound Argumentation was clearly much higher than his.

Being able to perform such a large-scale purification all at once must mean that she had crossed into the threshold of Profound Argumentation.

As to whether she had reached the Initial level, it was still not clear.

Of course, even so, the Pope's ability to purify millions of people at once relied on the power of the Great Brightness Stone.

Looking at the Great Brightness Stone that shone as brightly as the Bright Sun,

Xu Nian couldn't help but marvel; the Great Brightness Stone was truly a Treasure for cultivators of the Light Attribute.

After a long while, the light finally faded.

The crowd displayed devout expressions and knelt in gratitude for the grace of the Holy Master.

"Ladies and gentlemen, please rise. You are all the children of the Holy Master. The Holy Master has washed away your sins. From now on, you must do good daily to be worthy of the Holy Master's grace," the Pope said.

People got up from their kneeling positions one by one.

Hua Gesang cast a somewhat hostile look at Xu Nian.

Xu Nian had not knelt to the Pope, which was a complete disrespect to both the Pope and the Holy Master.

Sensing Hua Gesang's anger, Xu Nian smiled and said, "Your Holy Master is merciful and broad-minded, able to encompass those who believe in him as well as those who do not. Why can't you?"

Hua Gesang, hearing Xu Nian's words, displayed a contemplative expression.

It seemed she found a hint of truth in what Xu Nian said.

"Xu Nian is right, the Pope didn't mind, so Gesang, you shouldn't blame Xu Nian either. After all, he has only recently arrived in Beimo and doesn't know the benefits that the Luotian Saint has brought us. Once he's been here longer, he will naturally join us in our faith in the Holy Master," Adam spoke out.

Hua Gesang dropped the matter after hearing this.

Xu Nian just smiled helplessly.

Even if he stayed much longer, he would never believe in the Luotian Saint.

After all, he had seen through the essence of it all.

"Next, we will commence the election for the Holy Daughter. The election is divided into three challenges: assessing talent, character, and strength. The person who ranks first overall in these three aspects will become the new Holy Daughter of the Luotian Sect," announced the Pope.

The surrounding crowd, hearing this, showed excited expressions.

Especially the competing young girls and their families, each one of them became nervous.

Hearing this, Hua Gesang too clenched her fists, her eyes filled with tension and excitement.

"Now we will begin the first challenge, the Talent Assessment. All women participating in the election, please come forward to the plaza," a Dharma King in a large red robe stepped forward and announced.

The surrounding crowd started to stir.

One by one, the young girls made their way to the plaza at the front.

"Go on, Ge Sang, just do your best," Adam said to Ge Sang.

Ge Sang nodded earnestly.

Then he stepped out from the crowd and walked onto the battle platform.

Xu Nian watched Ge Sang's departing figure, a smile appearing on his face as well.

Seeing Ge Sang easily brought to mind the image of Murong Xue.

He wondered how Murong Xue was getting on in the Tiancang Sect.

Soon, all the women participating in the election had taken their places on the platform in front.

To everyone's surprise, there were nearly a thousand women participating in the election.

"Next, I will use the Light Testing Technique, and at that time, light will fall upon you and sacred halos will appear around you. The more halos that appear, the higher your talent. Only those with at least three halos will qualify; all others will be eliminated. Those with more than three halos show higher talent, we'll proceed in groups of ten," the Dharma King in the great red robe announced.

After speaking, he began to perform the Light Testing Technique.

Instantly, a cascade of light fell upon the ten young girls in the center.

However, to everyone's astonishment, of those ten, nine did not have any halos light up.

Only one had a faint halo rise from beneath her feet.

Seeing this, surprise was etched on the faces of the people all around.

Could it be that the talent assessment of the Luotian Saint Sect was this difficult?

The young girls participating in the assessment immediately became even more nervous.

Not having a halo or having only one meant being eliminated in the first round.

Without a chance to become the Holy Daughter.

Xu Nian was also somewhat astonished.

Clearly, the Luotian Sect's assessment was not just about one's cultivation talent.

It also tested a person's power of insight into the light attribute elements.

Some people were naturally without the power of insight into the Light Element or had it only very weakly.

For such a person, cultivating the Profound Argumentation of the Light Attribute would be as difficult as ascending to heaven.

People like Xu Nian, who could perceive multiple attribute elements,

And each one impressively strong, could be described as monstrous.

Xu Nian had tested Hua Ge Sang's talent; it was definitely at the Emperor Level without a doubt, just a hair away from the Desolate Level.

In terms of cultivation talent, she had no issue.

But as for her power of insight into the Light Attribute, Xu Nian had no clue.

"All fail!"

Another group of girls was eliminated.

They all walked off the platform, faces filled with dejection.

Soon, more than half were filtered out, and less than ten girls who could manifest three halos remained.

This left the remaining young women extremely anxious.

"Look, five halos!"

Just as the Dharma King was conducting the test for the third-to-last group, an exclamation rang out in the arena.

Suddenly, all eyes turned to one girl among the ten, on whom flashed a conspicuous five halos.

Even the Holy Temple Law King showed a look of surprise.

This was the highest number of halos he had seen so far in the testing.

And five halos were the same level as the previous Holy Daughter.

The young girl stood with proud posture, her red dress extraordinarily enchanting under the sunlight.

"It's Miss Lisa, Lord Governor's daughter," someone in the crowd recognized the girl and exclaimed in surprise.

A buzz of astonishment rippled through the surroundings.

And on Lord Governor Entas's face, a radiant smile spread wide.

Chapter 528: Lucky Hua Gesang

Xu Nian was somewhat surprised as well.

If the Power of Insight into the Light Attribute could be divided into lower, middle, upper, and supreme upper levels,

then Lisa definitely belonged to the upper-class level.

And with such Power of Insight, if she were trained by the Luotian Church, becoming a Battle Emperor Level powerhouse would definitely not be a problem.

After all, cultivation could be supplemented by a vast amount of resources, but the insightful ability of perception could not be supplemented by nurture.

"Miss Lisa, I hadn't expected you to have five Light Rings, congratulations!" the Holy Temple Law King said with a smile.

If this Lisa were merely the daughter of the Lord Governor, he might not have cared so much.

But if she possessed the potential to become the Holy Daughter, that was an entirely different matter.

The Pope, watching from a distance, also nodded in approval.

"Thank you for the praise, Law King, but this is just the beginning. I, Lisa, am determined to secure the position of Holy Daughter," Lisa said proudly.

She then walked with her head held high towards the team that had passed the trial.

The other women who had passed made way for her, their faces showing humble expressions.

After she took her position, Lisa did not forget to cast a provocative glance at Hua Gesang.

Hua Gesang was angry in her heart but even more nervous.

At that moment, the penultimate group had already walked out, and Lianna was notably among them.

However, Lianna showed not a hint of nervousness; instead, she wore a proud smile.

It was as if she was confident of victory, knowing how many Light Rings she was about to display.

"Buzz!"

A holy radiance descended.

Most people did not manifest any Light Rings, and those who did only had one or two.

"I've got three, three!"

One of the girls who manifested three Light Rings shouted excitedly.

However, her smile soon froze.

She looked at the girl beside her.

At that moment, the girl radiated a brilliant light.

The number of Light Rings that appeared around her was six.

Although the sixth Light Ring was slightly faint, it was clearly one more than what Lisa had.

"Six, how is this possible?" Lisa's face immediately showed a resentful expression.

She had just declared her determination to win the position of Holy Daughter, and now she was being contradicted.

Looking at Lianna, who was now the center of everyone's attention, her eyes flashed with intense reluctance.

Both the Holy Temple Law King and the Pope were stunned; someone had managed to manifest six Light Rings.

This was already considered to be within the supreme upper-class level.

The audience below was also surprised, looking at the girl with envy and reverence.

Hua Gesang was also incredibly surprised.

She had not expected Lianna to manifest six Light Rings.

If she hadn't manifested any Light Rings, wouldn't she have been ridiculed to death by Lianna?

Thinking of this, Hua Gesang couldn't help but glance at Lianna.

The latter also looked back at Hua Gesang, her eyes filled with a mocking flavor.

It seemed to say: Hua Gesang, you've definitely lost this time.

Although Hua Gesang was reluctant, she felt less confident.

Xu Nian, standing below, watched this scene, but his face showed a smile.

Although he wasn't much older than them, watching their overt and covert struggles seemed as childish as squabbling to him.

He found it somewhat amusing.

Lianna was soon invited aside by the Law King, while the girl who had manifested three Light Rings was completely ignored.

"Continue!" declared the Law King.

The final ten stepped forward.

The Law King continued to perform as usual.

Hua Gesang felt a beam of light shining upon her.

Then, something inside her seemed to be stirred.

Hua Gesang stared intensely at her feet, but no light ring emerged.

"Could it really be a failure?" Hua Gesang muttered to herself in disappointment.

From a distance, Lianna sneered mockingly, her eyes filled with scorn.

Lisa also breathed a sigh of relief, and her gaze soon turned disdainful.

Having one Lianna was threatening enough; she did not want another formidable opponent.

The Law King looked at the ten people in front of him, not seeing a light ring among them, a look of disappointment immediately crossed his face.

He was just about to declare them all unqualified.

"Buzz!"

However, at that moment, an intense glow burst forth from one among the ten.

"What?"

Everyone couldn't help but widen their eyes.

Even the Pope quickly stood up from his chair, his face full of surprise as he looked at the young girl in front of him.

Xu Nian was also somewhat astonished as he watched Hua Gesang, his expression one of disbelief.

As for Adam, who was next to Xu Nian, he was completely stunned.

"Seven... seven!"

Lianna clenched her lips tightly, looking at the light rings emerging from Hua Gesang's body with intense jealousy in her eyes.

As for Lisa, her face turned pale, and she clenched her fists.

At that moment, Hua Gesang also looked at the light rings around her body in surprise, and soon a look of ecstasy appeared on her face.

There were fully seven light rings, each one immensely bright.

This was definitely a sign of a strong power of insight into the Light Element.

"May I ask, miss, what is your name?" the Law King asked with a smile, looking at the Pope who nodded in approval.

Hua Gesang was stunned, not expecting that the Holy Temple Law King would speak to her in such a tone, and hurriedly replied, "My name is Hua Gesang."

"Miss Hua Gesang, congratulations on passing the first round. Whether or not you become the Holy Daughter today, His Holiness the Pope is willing to take you as his disciple. Would you like that?" the Law King said.

"The Pope taking a disciple?"

The crowd immediately erupted into a clamor.

Everyone's gaze towards Hua Gesang suddenly became reverent.

Even if Hua Gesang did not become the Holy Daughter, becoming a disciple of His Holiness the Pope, she could at least rise to the level of a Law King in the future.

Moreover, her chances of becoming the Holy Daughter were undoubtedly the greatest at this moment.

Lianna and Lisa, hearing this, grew even more envious.

Their looks towards Hua Gesang were filled with killing intent.

Hua Gesang was also stunned, then glanced at the distant Pope, utterly amazed.

"This matter is not urgent, Miss Hua Gesang. Take your time to think it over. As for the matter of taking disciples, let's wait till after the Holy Daughter election," the Law King said with a smile.

His tone was exceptionally kind and gentle.

Hua Gesang nodded her head.

In truth, she was not hesitating; she was simply overwhelmed by the sudden surprise.

Who wouldn't agree to such an offer?

Xu Nian stood below, his lips also bearing a faint smile.

He was happy for Hua Gesang.

But soon his eyes glanced towards Entas.

Just as he suspected, a strong dark light emitted from Entas's eyes.

And the person Entas's gaze was fixed on was none other than Hua Gesang.

"Hmph, Entas, if you don't intervene, it's fine, but if you dare lay a hand on Hua Gesang, I'll make you know what regret means," Xu Nian thought coldly, a hint of chill flashing through his eyes.

Chapter 529: The Pope's Tactics

"The next phase will be the second-round assessment, 'Strength of Will.'"

Another Dharma King stepped forward from the crowd.

This Dharma King was noticeably more stern than the previous one, his tone domineering and incisive.

The dozen or so young girls who had passed the assessment trembled in fear at the Dharma King's words.

The aura emanating from the Dharma King was truly terrifying.

Everyone around showed surprised expressions.

How would the assessment of 'Strength of Will' be conducted?

Xu Nian had guessed a bit of it.

"The so-called test of will is to see the resoluteness in your hearts. Anyone who cannot withstand the pressure of my 'Great Brightness' for one Sandalwood Incense's time, a total of fifteen minutes, will be eliminated. I am about to release the pressure now, and if you fall, you lose," said the Dharma King sternly.

The onlookers all showed signs of astonishment.

So this was the method to test the will.

The dozen or so young girls also looked doubtful. All they had to do was stand?

Wasn't this a bit too easy?

However, they quickly realized they were mistaken.

A formidable majesty slammed down on them, making it difficult for them to breathe.

It was as if a huge mountain had suddenly pressed down on their hearts.

This pressure didn't act upon the body but targeted the soul instead.

Thus, it had nothing to do with one's physical strength.

"Thud!"

One girl couldn't withstand the pressure and knelt down on the spot.

On the other side, another girl was knocked out cold under the terrifying might.

Hua Gesang was gritting her teeth and enduring. The pressure was so intense upon her, it felt like a heavy force was bearing down on her.

Sweat poured down from her body incessantly, soon soaking her dress and leaving sweat stains on the ground.

Elsewhere, Lianna and Lisa were also striving to endure; their legs were trembling continuously under this overwhelming pressure.

Yet, their eyes were unwaveringly determined, refusing to concede to each other.

The audience below gaped at this spectacle.

Although they couldn't feel the pressure the girls on stage were enduring, their pained expressions indicated the ordeal was considerable.

"Thud!"

Figures kept falling beside her.

Hua Gesang's legs were shaking continuously.

The distant Sandalwood Incense had only burned halfway, meaning they needed to persist for another fifteen minutes.

Below the stage, Entas smirked coldly at the corner of his mouth.

His right hand's fingers began to curl, taking on the posture of a flick, and a slender silver needle appeared in his hand.

The material of this silver needle was quite special.

It was barely visible to the naked eye, and even the power of Spiritual Sense couldn't detect it.

It was an excellent concealed weapon.

And the direction it was aimed at was Hua Gesang's knee.

It was clear he intended to eliminate Hua Gesang.

Hua Gesang was on the brink of collapse; even a flick of wind could knock her down, let alone if a Battle Saint Level powerhouse made a move.

So if Entas were to take action, Hua Gesang was bound to fall without a doubt.

However, Entas's actions had attracted Xu Nian's attention.

Xu Nian had been secretly watching Entas's movements.

He had anticipated that Entas would strike at Hua Gesang but didn't expect him to be so malevolent.

It was clear that the needle was coated with a potent poison that could even cause a Holy Realm powerhouse to succumb to the toxin.

Let alone a girl of the Battle General Level, such as Hua Gesang.

"Swoosh!"

Entas flicked his finger, and the silver needle shot out in an instant.

Xu Nian also felt a chill pass through his heart.

He was about to release his Spiritual Sense Power to intercept the needle.

"Buzz!"

However, before Xu Nian's Spiritual Sense Power could be unleashed,

He discovered that the direction of the needle had shifted, directly hitting Lisa in the leg.

"Ah!"

Lisa immediately fell down.

Xu Nian was stunned.

Entas by his side was also stunned.

Clearly, neither of them had expected such an event to occur.

Besides them, was there someone else who had made a move?

Xu Nian immediately thought of who it could be.

He turned his head to look at the Pope seated high in the distance.

That kind of silver needle was made of a special material that was very difficult for even Saint Level experts to detect.

If anyone could detect it, perhaps the Pope was the only person present who could.

Entas seemed to realize something too and quickly transformed into a streak of light, rushing onto the platform.

At this moment, Lisa's face was ashen, and her lips were even darker, extremely black.

That silver needle was covered with deadly poison; now that it had entered his daughter's body, how could she not be poisoned?

"May the Pope please save my daughter's life!"

Entas, seeing his daughter in pain, immediately fell to his knees.

He had the deadly poison but did not possess the antidote.

Now, the only one who could save his daughter was the Pope.

"Entas, do you realize your crime?" The Pope's majestic voice echoed above the plaza.

"I admit my guilt; I should not have acted. But my daughter is innocent. Please save her, Your Holiness. Entas is willing to accept any punishment," Entas pleaded desperately.

The crowd, initially unaware of what had happened, after hearing this, eventually figured out an approximation of the events.

They began to whisper and point fingers at Entas.

"Hmph, even daring to manipulate the election of the Luotian Sect's Holy Daughter, you really think our Luotian Sect is vegetarian. But you are right; your daughter is innocent. I will spare her life, though her qualification to participate in the election has been revoked," the Pope declared.

After speaking, a beam of light shot out from her Scepter, directly shining upon Lisa.

The poison in Lisa's body was also dispelled bit by bit under the illumination of this light.

People all around expressed their admiration.

They felt that the Pope was compassionate and kind-hearted.

Xu Nian, however, let out a light chuckle.

The Pope's methods were indeed not simple.

Even he had only thought to block the silver needle and had not anticipated the Pope to act first.

Directly deflecting the needle's path, Entas's silver needle ended up shooting towards his own daughter.

This tactic of giving someone a taste of their own medicine was truly admired by Xu Nian from the bottom of his heart.

In the end, to come off as magnanimous in saving a life, he directly won over the hearts of all present.

At this moment, Entas's face was also extremely pale.

He had not only failed to kill Hua Gesang but also caused himself to lose face and furthermore, caused his daughter to lose the chance to compete for the Holy Daughter title.

For him, this was undoubtedly a fatal blow.

For a time, his hatred for the Pope reached an extreme.

However, since the Pope held great power, there was no way he could hold onto this grudge and could only suppress his anger for the time being.

Entas, holding his daughter, slowly walked down from the platform but did not leave.

Clearly, they were waiting for the final result of the Holy Daughter election.

The Pope did not pay more attention to Entas and his daughter and instead focused on Hua Gesang and Lianna.

Now, the time of one Sandalwood Incense had passed, and both of them had passed the assessment.

Among the dozen or so competitors, only these two had made it through the assessment.

Chapter 530: Xu Nian Takes Action (Make-up for the 11th Update)

Nearly a thousand people participated in the election, and after two rounds of assessment,

only Hua Gesang and Lianna were left.

You can imagine how difficult such an assessment must be.

Hua Gesang and Lianna were both seated on the platform, gasping for air.

The pressure they had just endured left them both completely exhausted.

The crowd below all looked up at the two young girls on the stage.

They all knew that the new Holy Daughter would be born from these two.

"Hua Gesang, I didn't expect you to last until the end, but I want to tell you that in the end, you will still lose," Lianna said with a cold laugh to Hua Gesang.

"Hmph, Lianna, don't get too happy too soon, don't think you're the only one who has broken through the Battle General Realm," Hua Gesang retorted with a cold snort.

Having said that, she got up from the ground.

Lianna also stood up at this moment, looking at Hua Gesang with eyes full of intense jealousy.

Had Hua Gesang also made a breakthrough?

How she managed to break through the Battle General Realm, Lianna knew all too well.

She had originally thought she could take this opportunity to suppress Hua Gesang, but she had not expected that Hua Gesang would also have a breakthrough.

"Hmph, even if you have broken through, what of it? You are still no match for me, prepare to die," Lianna said with a cold huff.

She then lunged directly at Hua Gesang.

A flash of anger crossed Hua Gesang's eyes as she mobilized her Spiritual Energy to meet the onslaught.

The audience below were all astounded.

The Pharaohs hadn't even announced the start of the third round of assessments, and these two were already fighting.

The Pharaohs were also surprised and wanted to step forward to separate the two,

but they were stopped by the Pope.

Seeing this, the Pharaohs no longer intervened, allowing the two to fight.

Xu Nian, however, was staring intently at the fight unfolding ahead.

A bad premonition surged in his heart.

He knew that everything was just beginning.

This grand event was going to be much more complicated than he had imagined.

After all, he could not have been mistaken about the aura he had felt from Lianna before.

"Clang clang clang!"

On the platform, the fight between Hua Gesang and Lianna had reached an intense stage.

The two kept swinging their curved sabers at each other.

It had to be said, the fight between the two beauties was indeed a sight to behold.

The audience below cheered them on,

thrilled by the spectacle of the fight.

As the fight continued,

Lianna began to gradually fall behind, getting pressed by Hua Gesang.

Hua Gesang was puzzled.

In her opinion, Lianna had broken through the Battle General Realm two months ago, while she herself had only just broken through a few days ago.

Lianna's strength should be above hers, so why was she being dominated?

Lianna was filled with an intense unwillingness.

Indeed, her Cultivation had been forcibly enhanced through certain means.

If it came to the stability of Cultivation, hers was naturally far less effective than Hua Gesang's natural breakthrough.

Although she had been working hard to eliminate the drawbacks of a forced breakthrough,

she had not yet completely succeeded.

Seeing herself about to be defeated, Lianna's eyes flashed with ruthlessness.

"Hua Gesang, don't blame me. Who told you to compete with me for everything?," Lianna's eyes suddenly erupted with fury.

Then an overwhelmingly powerful Light Power burst forth from her body.

This aura was so strong that even warriors at the Peak of Battle General couldn't compare.

At that moment, Lianna swung her Battle Saber, the Sword Light incredibly fierce.

With one slash, it was impossible for Hua Gesang to resist.

Xu Nian's eyes also became sharp in an instant.

He glanced in the direction of the Pope; these people were actually indifferent.

This made him even more annoyed.

Clearly, in their view, Lianna was not breaking the rules.

Moreover, the power erupting from Lianna at this moment was the very Light Power unique to the Luotian Sect, giving them even less reason to intervene.

Hua Gesang's complexion drastically changed.

She couldn't understand why Lianna's attack had suddenly become so formidable.

She quickly moved her saber in defense.

"Clang!"

Her curved saber was instantly severed, and she was sent flying backward, crashing to the ground beside her, a trickle of fresh blood spilling from the corner of her mouth.

"Die!"

Lianna's voice thundered as she swung her curved saber.

The Sword Light instantly transformed into a crescent arc, fiercely slashing towards Hua Gesang.

"Ge Sang!" Adam cried out in alarm.

Hua Gesang was scared to death, her face turning ashen.

Watching the descending Sword Light, a flash of horror crossed her eyes.

"Am I going to die?" The thought crossed Hua Gesang's mind.

The Sword Light was too terrifying; she couldn't possibly defend against it—at its mercy, her death was certain.

The crowd below cried out in alarm.

However, just when everyone thought this young girl was about to meet her demise,

a tall figure suddenly appeared in front of Hua Gesang, forcefully gripping the Sword Light in his hand.

"Huh?"

Everyone stared at the figure that had appeared out of nowhere, at the Sword Light caught in his hand, their faces revealing looks of astonishment.

Surprise was written all over Hua Gesang's face, too.

Although she had her suspicions about him, at this moment, she still felt somewhat stupefied.

That broad and majestic back caught the terrifying Sword Light barehanded.

Was this really the same boy who had been so scared that he buried himself in the sand?

Adam was stunned, staring at the young man standing in front of Hua Gesang, exuding an overwhelming aura.

His face also showed extreme shock.

"How... How is this possible?" Adam murmured to himself.

He had probed Xu Nian's cultivation several times, but Xu Nian had not shown a hint of Spiritual Energy.

How could he suddenly become so powerful?

Of course, the most astonished was Lianna.

She recognized the face of the youth in front of her—the same one who had been following Hua Gesang as her servant.

She had previously mocked him as a spineless shrimp.

Yet now, he had stopped her cleaving Sword Light with his fingertips.

What horrendous power was this?

At this moment, the only one leisurely smiling was the Pope, sitting aloft, musing to himself, "It seems you just couldn't hold back any longer and made your move."

In fact, the moment Lianna had unleashed that unique Light Power, the Pope had already felt the desire to act.

But she held back purposely to test Xu Nian, waiting to strike at the right moment.

And now, her strategy had finally paid off.

"Who are you, daring to disrupt the Holy Scripture of the Luotian Saint Sect, seeking death!"

Just then, one of the Six Great Dharma Kings stood out and roared.

Following that, a terrifying surge of Light Power welled up in his palm, launching directly at Xu Nian.

The aura emanating from this Dharma King was incredibly mighty, having reached the Four-star Battle Saint Realm.

In the blink of an eye, he was upon Xu Nian.

The palm, with its fear-inducing power, struck straight towards Xu Nian's face.

"Xu Nian..."

Upon seeing this scene, Hua Gesang couldn't help but cry out.

The crowd below showed expressions of terror.

Was this newly arrived young man about to die just like that?

However, when everyone thought Xu Nian was about to be killed,

a cold smile played on Xu Nian's lips.

In an instant, his hand transformed into a blade, piercing directly through the Dharma King's heart.

The entire place fell silent, everyone dumbstruck.