

## **Divine King 581**

Chapter 581 Tianhuang City

Just as the Eighth Prince had his breakthrough,

the entire Imperial Capital was shaken.

However, Xu Nian headed towards the border of Southern Wilderness County.

"Big Brother, weren't we going to the Imperial Capital? Why are we going in the opposite direction? Besides, we are almost out of Southern Wilderness County now, and if we go further, it will be the Beast Forest," Black Wind asked, looking puzzled.

Logically, Xu Nian should have returned to the Imperial Capital, so why come to the Beast Forest?

"Ha-ha, my second brother, you wouldn't understand. You haven't been with Big Brother as long as I have, so naturally, you don't know what he is up to. Big Brother is going to meet his little wife," Xu Yu couldn't help but laugh and tease.

"Little wife? Brother Xu Nian, you are quite the lucky one with a lady like Leng Yanran and Princess Xia Bingling. I didn't expect you to also have a dear friend here in the Beast Forest. Could it be some beautiful Nine-tailed Fox Demon?" Bull Demon King also couldn't help but join in the teasing.

Xu Nian just gave them a look.

The imagination of Bull Demon King was boundless.

"Xu Yu, don't talk nonsense. Yan Xi is my sister, and I am somewhat concerned about her constitution, so I came to check on her," Xu Nian said as he knocked on Xu Yu's head.

Xu Yu just stuck out his tongue.

Black Wind and Bull Demon King exchanged smiles at this.

Even Mo Hen was amused.

However, compared to Black Wind and Bull Demon King,

He looked at Xu Nian with awe-filled eyes.

Thus, he dared not joke with Xu Nian like that.

"Big Brother, no offense, but although Yan Xi is a bit young, her beauty is truly exceptional. It's been over two years now; she must have grown very beautiful by now. You might change your mind once you see her," Xu Yu still wouldn't give up.

Xu Nian simply shook his head helplessly.

He turned a deaf ear to Xu Yu's words.

However, his eyes showed a trace of melancholy.

Indeed!

In just a blink, more than two years had passed.

He reckoned that Yan Xi was nearly of age now.

The little girl from back then must have turned quite beautiful by now.

Thinking this, Xu Nian couldn't help but think of Murong Xue.

The woman who first made her way into his heart.

If he couldn't see her again in this lifetime, even death wouldn't allow him peace.

But right now, he was still very weak.

To cross the Forbidden Sea and reach the other shore was still impossible.

He had to become stronger and stronger, only then would he be worthy to stand before her again.

And with Murong Xue's beauty, there would certainly be many around her.

When the time came to take Murong Xue away, he would likely face significant obstacles.

"No matter how difficult, I will take you away, Xue'er. Wait for me," Xu Nian firmly told himself in his heart.

Seeing Murong Xue now was the motivation for his relentless cultivation.

As Xu Nian and the others flew, a city gradually came into their sight.

"Tianhuang City, Big Brother, is your little wife here?" Black Wind asked, looking at the city gate plaque.

"Yes, this is a small ordinary city; we should try to keep a low profile and try not to reveal your identities as Demon Beasts to avoid causing panic," Xu Nian nodded and said.

Initially, Yan Xi's uncle was the commanding officer guarding Tianhuang City.

The reason Tianhuang City needs protection is that it is located on the edge of the Beast Forest.

In this part of Southern Wilderness County, should a Beast Tide occur, this place would be the first to be hit.

Thus, the Prefectural Governor of Southern Wilderness County dispatches troops to Tianhuang City all year round as a precaution against Demon Beast invasions.

Although Beast Tides rarely occur, it is still necessary to be prepared.

Of course, with the military strength stationed in Tianhuang City, they could only fend off small-scale Beast Tides.

In the event of a large-scale Beast Tide, Tianhuang City's defenses would be crushed to ruins in an instant.

"Swoosh!"

Xu Nian and his three companions alighted in front of the city gates.

They proceeded to walk into the city.

Because they frequently dealt with Demon Beasts, the people of Tianhuang City harbored a strong hostility towards them.

This was why Xu Nian did not allow Xu Yu and the others to reveal their identities.

After Xu Nian and his companions passed through the guards' inspection, they were allowed to enter the city gates.

His aura was contained, making him indistinguishable from an ordinary person.

With their level of expertise, these gatekeeping warriors couldn't discern Xu Nian's cultivation.

They couldn't even imagine that they just brushed shoulders with a Battle Emperor Expert.

Tianhuang City was quite bustling since it was the primary source of materials from Demon Beasts, attracting a large number of merchants.

Over time, the merchants started calling it Beast City.

Not only that, but it was also home to the largest Beast Fighting Arena in the entire empire.

Beast fighting was a well-known entertainment in the empire.

Some powerful cultivators would venture into the wild beast forest to capture live, formidable Demon Beasts for combat to entertain spectators.

Thus, although Tianhuang City was a border town, its popularity was no less than that of Southern Wilderness County.

This could be observed from the bustling streets and the beast material products displayed in shops along the roadside.

There were necklaces strung with beast teeth and knives made from hard beast bones.

There were also lower-grade Demon Cores for sale, offering a dazzling array of options.

However, seeing this scene made the four companions, Xu Yu included, rather unhappy.

After all, they were Demon Beasts, and seeing their kind displayed and sold like this left them with a bitter taste.

"Actually, you shouldn't be angry. Demon Beasts and humans are naturally competitors. Demon Beasts eat humans, and humans hunt Demon Beasts. These grudges are too complicated to clarify. Both sides have accumulated a bloody debt, and it's hard to tell right from wrong anymore. However, I still hope that one day Demon Beasts and humans can coexist peacefully," Xu Nian, sensing their mood, spoke up.

The four nodded in agreement upon hearing Xu Nian's words.

Their anger also dissipated significantly.

Humans had indeed hunted many Demon Beasts, but hadn't Demon Beasts also killed numerous humans?

A large-scale beast tide had resulted in millions of human deaths.

"Let's go; we'll head straight to the General Mansion," Xu Nian told Xu Yu and the others.

They followed him, believing in Xu Nian's words.

Peaceful coexistence between humans and Demon Beasts was an age-old difficult problem.

If anyone could solve it, it would be him.

After all, he possessed the Supreme Divine Dragon Body, a level above the Divine Dragons.

Soon, they arrived at the General Mansion.

Seeing the grand mansion, Xu Nian was somewhat excited.

After all, he would soon meet Yann Xi.

He had occasionally thought of this young girl over the years.

He wondered how she was doing now.

"Stop, this is General Zhen Yuan Mansion. This is not a place for you; get out!"

However, just as Xu Nian and his companions were about to enter the General Mansion, two guards at the entrance stopped them.

The two guards looked fierce and menacing.

Xu Nian frowned, clearly displeased.

Xu Yu and the Bull Demon King were even angrier and were about to take action.

These two insignificant warriors dared to disrespect their big brother; they were courting death.

But Xu Nian stopped them.

Chapter 582 Yann Xi Goes Missing

"Brothers, my name is Xu Nian, and I am Miss Yann Xi's friend. Could you please announce my arrival?"

Xu Nian stopped Xu Yu and the others, speaking politely to the two men.

Since this was Uncle Yann Xi's territory after all, Xu Nian did not want any unpleasantness.

"A friend of Miss Yann Xi? Hmph, who are you trying to fool? Miss Yann Xi never entertains guests and has no friends to speak of. Besides, Miss Yann Xi passed away over a month ago. Claiming to be her friend, what exactly are your intentions?" One of the guards retorted coldly.

"Dead?" Xu Nian's head buzzed.

His complexion turned extremely dark.

"How did Yann Xi die?" Xu Nian quickly demanded.

Although Yann Xi was cursed, Xu Nian had used the Jade Seal to suppress her curse.

He had even taught her Cultivation; there should have been no issues for at least ten years.

How could she have just died?

Xu Nian instinctively felt something was amiss.

"Hmph, you don't need to know how she died. Get lost, this isn't a place for you," another guard said coldly, ready to drive him away.

"Damn it, have you grown tired of living, not knowing who you're speaking to?" Bull Demon King, seeing Xu Nian's face darken,

immediately grew angry and lifted the two guards off their feet, one in each hand.

The guards struggled desperately, but they couldn't escape Bull Demon King's grip.

Their eyes filled with terror as they looked at Bull Demon King.

"How exactly did Yann Xi die? Speak, or you won't leave here alive today," Xu Nian said, repressing the anger in his heart.

"We don't know how she died either; it was General Zhen Yuan who announced it personally. We're just gatekeepers; how would we know these things?" the guard hurriedly explained.

Hearing this, Xu Nian's brow furrowed slightly.

Bull Demon King, even more furious,

"Damn it, are you going to speak or not? Otherwise, I'll crush your heads," Bull Demon King shouted.

The guards' expressions filled with fear, but they were helpless.

"Brother Niu, let them go; they truly don't know," Xu Nian said, observing the guards' expressions.

Relieved by these words, the guards felt as if they had been granted amnesty.

Bull Demon King humphed dismissively and flung the guards away carelessly.

With that fling, the guards were sent flying, vanishing into the horizon.

As for whether the guards lived or died, they would have to leave it up to fate.

Xu Nian then continued to lead Xu Yu and the other four towards the General Mansion.

This time, they were no longer polite.

Any guard who tried to stop them along the way was blasted away before they could even approach Xu Nian.

Xu Nian also used his Spiritual Sense Power to locate Yann Xi's uncle.

Inside the Central Hall of General Zhen Yuan's residence,

a middle-aged man was seated.

Right now, he looked somewhat defeated and aged.

Hearing a commotion from outside, Yann Zhenyuan rubbed his swollen head and asked irritably, "What is causing such a racket outside?"

"Boom!"

Before his words finished, a thunderous noise was heard.

One of his personal guards was sent flying into the room from outside.

Following that, an unnamed man walked in from the hall entrance.

"Who are you? Why have you come to cause trouble at the General Mansion?" Yann Zhen Yuan roared sharply, his eyes sizing up the five men before him.

"Where is Yann Xi?" Xu Nian didn't beat around the bush, directly asking with a cold tone.

He had entrusted Yann Xi to Yann Zhen Yuan, which was a display of trust.

Yet to his surprise, today, two years later, he heard the news that Yann Xi had died.

Therefore, Xu Nian couldn't help but hold some resentment in his heart towards Yann Zhen Yuan.

Of course, he also knew that Yann Zhen Yuan couldn't be blamed for this matter.

After all, back then, he himself was only at the Battle Sect Level.

"Are you... from the Governor Mansion?" Yann Zhen Yuan murmured to himself.

Xu Nian's brows furrowed, not understanding why Yann Zhen Yuan would mistake him for someone from the Governor Mansion.

Could Yann Xi's sister's death be related to the Governor Mansion?

"No, Uncle Yann, I don't know if you remember, but back at Ice Dust Lake, did you not take Yann Xi from my hands?" Xu Nian spoke up.

"It's you?" Upon hearing this, Yann Zhen Yuan finally remembered the youth he had met at Ice Dust Lake.

More than two years had passed, and his memory had become vague.

However, now that Xu Nian had mentioned it, he remembered that it was thanks to this young man that he was able to see Yann Xi.

"Yes, Uncle Yann, can you tell me how exactly Yann Xi died?" Xu Nian asked.

He had no time for reminiscing with Yann Zhen Yuan; his most pressing concern was finding out how Yann Xi had died.

"Alas!" Hearing Xu Nian's question, Yann Zhen Yuan sighed deeply.

Xu Nian's brows creased again, noticing that Yann Zhen Yuan had aged far more than he should have in just two years.

A cultivator, with only two years passing, and yet his temples had gone white.

This was definitely an abnormal situation.

Moreover, Yann Zhen Yuan's cultivation had already broken through to the Three-star Battle King Level.

Logically, he should appear even younger.

"Actually, it's possible that Yann Xi isn't dead," Yann Zhen Yuan finally said.

"Eh?" Xu Nian was momentarily stunned, his spirit invigorated.

"What exactly is going on? Why did the guard at the gate say it's been a month since Yann Xi died and that it was you who announced it personally?" Xu Nian asked, puzzled.

Behind him, Xu Yu and others like Black Wind were equally baffled.

"This matter is rather complicated, but Xi herself might not be dead. Her Soul Jade Pendant is still intact, but she herself has disappeared," Yann Zhen Yuan explained.

"Disappeared? Who did it? How could she just vanish without cause?" Xu Nian asked, still confused.

It seemed there was more to this matter than met the eye.

"It started when Xi came back. For some reason, after her return, she, who previously couldn't cultivate, suddenly showed an unbelievable talent. Moreover, she cultivated with extreme rigor. In just two years'

time, she had gone from being a warrior to breaking through to the Battle King Level," Yann Zhen Yuan spoke.

Xu Yu and the others showed surprised expressions upon hearing this.

However, Xu Nian was not surprised; seeing how Yann Xi had broken through four realms in a single night of cultivation, taught by him, it was clear her talent was exceptionally extraordinary.

"And then what happened?" Xu Nian pressed.

"Later on, somehow Xi's talent became widely known. Moreover, as Xi grew up, she became more and more beautiful. Somehow, the Lord Governor's son heard of this and traveled to Tianhuang City to ask for her hand in marriage. He tried to coerce and bribe me, wanting to marry Xi off to him," Yann Zhen Yuan said.

As he spoke, a clear sense of anger surged in his eyes.

"Did you agree?" Xu Nian asked, frowning.

"No, because Xi disagreed, so I refused the Governor's son. But to my surprise, he was insistent and one day came to my mansion with a Holy Realm Level powerhouse, and they took Xi away by force," Yann Zhen Yuan spoke out.

Upon hearing these words, a strong fury surged in Xu Nian's eyes.

"Then do you mean to say Yann Xi is currently at the Governor Mansion?" Xu Nian asked severely.

However, Yann Zhen Yuan shook his head.

Chapter 583 The Shocked Yann Zhenyuan

Xu Nian was confused by Yann Zhenyuan's actions.

"Hey, old man, what exactly do you mean? Can't you make yourself clear all at once? How come you say that Yann Xi was taken by the people from the Governor Mansion, and then you say she's not there?" the Bull Demon King said impatiently.

"Who is this?"

Yann Zhenyuan looked at the Bull Demon King with a dumbfounded expression.

The sheer size of the Bull Demon King made him, a General, feel oppressed.

And atop this man's head were a pair of horns.

At first, he thought they were just decorations, but now it seemed they were real.

This made Yann Zhenyuan take his guard up.

Could this guy in front of him be a real bully?

"They're my friends, Uncle Yann. Let's talk about Sister Yann Xi," Xu Nian briefly explained.

Yann Zhenyuan nodded and continued, "Actually, after Yann Xi was taken, I followed them. Just as the son of the Prefectural Governor and that Saint were taking Yann Xi back to the Governor Mansion, a middle-aged man burst out from the Demon Beast Forest. That middle-aged man was extremely formidable, with just one move he defeated the Saint and eventually took Xi away."

"Demon Beast Forest? You mean the one who took away Yann Xi was a Demon Beast?" Xu Nian asked in surprise.

"Exactly, I saw with my own eyes how he carried Yann Xi into the Demon Beast Forest. Although he had a human form, he was exuding strong Demon Energy. If I'm not mistaken, he must be a master of the Demon Saint Level," Yann Zhenyuan said seriously.

Xu Nian's brows furrowed tightly, and his expression was grave as he fell into deep thought.

This matter seemed indeed complicated.

Desolate Hall had been continuously searching for Yann Xi's whereabouts.

Xu Nian had thought that Desolate Hall would harm Yann Xi.

But unexpectedly, the one who kidnapped Yann Xi was not from Desolate Hall, but from the Demon Beast Forest.

Now, with Yann Xi's Life Soul Jade Pendant intact, this meant that Yann Xi was still alive.

If that Demon Saint didn't intend to kill Yann Xi to take the Curse Power within her,

then why was Yann Xi kidnapped?

"After Xi was taken, I sent people into the wilderness forest many times, and I even went in personally to search numerous times, all to no avail," Yann Zhenyuan sighed again.

Having heard this, Xu Nian finally understood why Yann Zhenyuan had so many white hairs.

It seemed that he too had been worrying over this matter for the past month.

"It appears necessary to make a trip into the Demon Beast Forest. Uncle Yann, do you know what that Demon Saint looks like? Or what the true form of that Demon Beast is?" Xu Nian quickly asked.

The Demon Beast Forest was the stronghold of the Demon Beasts, with many Demon Saints within it.

There were even some at the Demon Emperor level.

Moreover, the Demon Beast Forest was vast and boundless.

Without some concrete information, how easy would it be to find one person?

However, Yann Zhenyuan shook his head, but soon he spoke up, "I couldn't see through the original form of that Demon Beast, but the Saint who fought with that Demon Saint did recognize it. Speaking of appearance, the son of the Prefectural Governor has a Light Ball; he recorded the whole scene at that time. But, it would be exceedingly difficult to get this information from the son of the Prefectural Governor."

"The son of the Prefectural Governor? All right, then I'll make a trip to the Governor Mansion, to make him pay for his previous actions," Xu Nian said with a cold snort.

Having said that, he was about to turn and leave.

"Absolutely not, you mustn't go! The strength of the Southern Wilderness County's Governor Mansion is extremely formidable. They have many guests of honor, among whom are three of Saint Level. If you go looking for them, it's tantamount to courting death," Yann Zhenyuan hastily dissuaded him.

"Hmph, merely three Saints and they dare to be so arrogant. I want to see if I try to kill his son, would the Prefectural Governor of Southern Wilderness County dare to fart," Xu Nian huffed coldly.

Then he walked out of the main hall.

Yann Zhenyuan was taken aback, his eyebrows instantly furrowing tightly.

The young man's claims seemed outrageously bold.

Merely three Saints?

"That's a Saint Level expert!"

However, at this moment, the Bull Demon King patted Yann Zhenyuan's shoulder.

"Old man, do you think our boss is too arrogant? It's not that he's arrogant, it's that he's killed more Saints than you have fingers and toes put together. Don't believe me? Just take a look at my Cultivation." The Bull Demon King said with a slight smile.

He then directly revealed the aura of his Cultivation.

"Seven... Seven-star Demon Saint?" Yann Zhenyuan's face went blank, showing a look of shock.

"Surprised? Now take a look at them." The Bull Demon King said, pointing at Xu Yu and the others.

The three of them exchanged glances, smiled slightly, and then revealed their own Cultivation.

"Eight-star Demon Saint, Eight-star Demon Saint, Nine-star Demon Saint?"

Yann Zhenyuan could hardly believe his own eyes.

As the City Lord of Tianhuang City, responsible for guarding the border of the Demon Beast Forest, he dealt with Demon Beasts all year round.

However, he had never seen as many Demon Saint strong men in one day as he had today.

Four Demon Saints, and all of them high-ranked.

"All these four Demon Saints have such Cultivation? Then this young man named Xu Nian?" Yann Zhenyuan couldn't help but look towards Xu Nian who had walked out.

Xu Yu, seeing Yann Zhenyuan shocked, smiled slightly and said, "My elder brother has already reached the Emperor Level, and no less than three Emperor-level strong men have died by his hand. Do you think he would be afraid of a mere Southern Wilderness County Prefectural Governor?"

"Emperor Level?"

Yann Zhenyuan was completely dumbfounded.

When he had first met Xu Nian, Xu Nian was only at the Battle Sect Level.

How had it been just a short two years without seeing him, and he had become an Emperor Level?

He had originally thought that Yann Xi's Cultivation speed was too defying.

But compared to this young man, it fell far short.

An Emperor-level strong man!

He had never met one in his lifetime.

Yet, he had just spoken for so long with an Emperor-level strong man and even been called uncle by an Emperor-level strong man?

Xu Yu and the others saw Yann Zhenyuan standing there, stupefied.

With a slight smile, they walked straight out of the hall.

They simply disliked others looking down on Xu Nian, which is why they intentionally provoked Yann Zhenyuan a bit.

It seemed the effect was rather good.

"Let's go, to the Governor Mansion." Xu Nian said to Xu Yu and the others as they walked out.

After speaking, he turned into a streak of light, rushing towards the Governor Mansion.

"This Governor Mansion is probably in for it, let's follow quickly," Xu Yu and the others said with grins.

Then they turned into four streaks of light, following Xu Nian and disappearing into the horizon.

Yann Zhenyuan chased outside, watching the five vanishing figures.

His eyes filled with wonder.

Being a Three-star Battle King, he was able to fly.

But he never thought that the speed of flight could be so fast.

"An Emperor-level strong man, huh? Maybe Xi really could be saved."

Yann Zhenyuan looked towards the direction where the five of them disappeared, murmuring to himself.

At this moment, he was so excited that he shed tears.

Chapter 584: The Arrogant Qi Chenfeng

Southern Wilderness County Governor Mansion.

Within an extremely luxurious room.

At this moment, two figures were entangled in incessant intimacy.

"Ah, young master, you're so naughty!" A woman bashfully beat against the chest of the young man before her, her eyes seductive and soul-enticing.

"Cut it out, calling me naughty. You were screaming louder than anyone just now, you little minx." The young man said with a lecherous laugh.

The beautiful woman twisted coquettishly but continued to exude allure.

"I can't take it, I won't stop today until I've exhausted you to the point of kneeling and calling me 'grandpa'." The young man huffed softly.

He was then ready to go back to their passionate endeavors.

"Qi Chenfeng, get the hell out here."

However, at that moment, a voice exploded in the sky.

This sudden intrusion made the young man's legs go weak with fright.

"Dammit, who the hell is it? Who's calling me out?"

The young man cursed loudly.

He was in high spirits just a moment ago, but he hadn't expected to be cursed at by someone outside.

How could Qi Chenfeng not feel infuriated?

He immediately dressed and walked toward the hall's exterior.

At this point, the entire staff of the Governor Mansion had been disturbed, each walking out of their rooms.

Not only that, but everyone in the Commandery City had heard this powerful voice and had all stepped out to watch.

"Qi Chenfeng, isn't that the Lord Governor's son? Who has the gall to call him by his name?"

"Qi Chenfeng's cultivation might be subpar, but he relies on the power of his father, causing troubles everywhere. Who knows how many girls from good families he has deceived? This time it seems he has angered someone again. However, with the Governor's influence, no one can harm him—it'll probably be the same case this time around."

The crowd discussed among themselves.

They had grown accustomed to Qi Chenfeng's troublemaking.

It wasn't the first time someone had come to Commandery City seeking vengeance.

But the outcome had always been grim.

Therefore, they didn't believe that the person coming for revenge this time would succeed.

"Quick, look over there, someone's coming."

At that moment, someone suddenly pointed to the sky above the Governor Mansion and shouted.

"There really is someone, not just one, but five, and they're flying. They must be at least Battle King level warriors."

"What of Battle Kings? The Governor Mansion has Saint Level experts!"

"Alas, it looks like these five Battle Kings are done for."

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The crowd once again burst into a buzz of discussion.

"Who are you guys? Why come to my Governor Mansion to make a ruckus?"

Just then, a middle-aged man walked out from within the Governor Mansion and, looking up at the five figures in the sky, he shouted sternly.

"Are you Qi Chenfeng?" Xu Nian asked condescendingly from above.

Having heard this, the middle-aged man understood the reason for their arrival.

"I'm Qi Chenfeng's father. What business do you have with my son?" The middle-aged man quickly spoke.

He had cleaned up after his son countless times.

So he wasn't unfamiliar or panicked by such a display.

Xu Nian, upon hearing this, surveyed the middle-aged man with one glance.

Nine-star Battle King Peak.

It seemed that the Southern Wilderness County Governor was indeed capable.

Despite being only a Battle King, he had three Battle Saint Level warriors willing to work for him.

"Hand your son over. I have some questions for him. And while you're at it, call out the three Saints from your mansion as well," Xu Nian said in a chilly tone.

The Southern Wilderness County Governor frowned, a sense of foreboding in his heart.

It was normal for this young leader to ask for his son, but his demand for the three Saints from the mansion was somewhat peculiar.

Could it be that among these five people, there was a Saint Level expert?

"If you have something to say, say it to me directly. My son is not at home," Qi Lu replied.

"Dad, why waste words on them? Just kill them outright. They dared to spoil my mood; I want them to suffer a thousand cuts," however, Qi Lu had barely finished speaking when a voice rang out behind him.

Qi Lu's brow immediately furrowed.

He hadn't expected his foolish son to come out at such a moment.

Xu Nian, too, instantly turned his gaze to the young man who had stepped forward.

"Are you Qi Chenfeng?" Xu Nian asked coldly.

"That's right. Who are you, kid? I don't seem to recall seeing you before. If I've stolen your woman, then I'm sorry, I've taken so many that I really wouldn't know which one. So, you might as well not waste your effort," Qi Chenfeng said arrogantly.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian's brow furrowed even tighter.

The youth before him was only a Warrior.

It seemed he was indeed a spoilt and worthless scion.

"Hand over your Light Ball," Xu Nian said.

"The Light Ball? What do you want with my Light Ball? That's where I record my works of art, are you interested in admiring them?" Qi Chenfeng asked in surprise.

He hoped to use the Light Ball to record his activities.

Then, when he had time, he would slowly appreciate his own masterpieces.

This Light Ball wasn't any precious treasure, so normally no one would covet his Light Ball.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian's brows drew even closer together.

He hadn't expected this Qi Chenfeng to be not only ignorant but also so despicable.

Not only did he prey on innocent young girls, but he also engaged in such vile acts.

"Hmph, kid, I don't care who you are or what you're here for, but since you've ruined my good mood, you can forget about leaving here today," Qi Chenfeng snorted.

After finishing, he turned to his father at his side and said, "Dad, do something! What are you waiting for...?"

However, before he could finish, he was struck dumb.

He saw a young man holding his father by the neck, looking at him with a smile.

As he turned his head to look in another direction, he found that one of five people was missing.

And yes, it was Xu Yu who held Qi Lu by the neck.

"Swoosh!"

Xu Nian's figure also appeared in front of Qi Chenfeng.

Qi Chenfeng, frightened, took a step back instinctively.

"Let go of our family head at once!"

Just then, a loud shout was heard.

Then, three figures were seen darting out from the depths of the mansion, charging at Xu Yu.

"Uncle Wang, Uncle Zhang, Uncle Li, save me!"

Qi Chenfeng, seeing this scene, showed a look of joy on his face and hurriedly shouted.

But Xu Nian turned to Qi Chenfeng and asked coldly, "Tell me, which one of those three took Yann Xi away to Tianhuang City with you a month ago?"

Upon hearing this, Qi Chenfeng was momentarily stunned,

he instantly understood the purpose of this young man's visit.

He still clearly remembered what had happened a month ago.

It was because the young girl was extraordinarily beautiful, but unfortunately, he never got his hands on her.

"Hmph, why should I tell you? Coming here to cause trouble at the Governor Mansion, you're surely on the path to your own death," Qi Chenfeng said arrogantly, his gaze toward Xu Nian turned playful.

Upon hearing his words, Xu Nian's mouth curled into a slight smile.

"Kid, prepare to die!"

Just then, a loud shout came from behind Xu Nian.

A three-star Saint moved to strike Xu Nian with a palm that contained powerful fluctuations.

A trace of ferocity flickered through Xu Nian's eyes.

Chapter 585: Scared Peeless

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"Hmph, you're dead for sure."

Qi Chenfeng watched as the three-star Saint charged at Xu Nian, a proud sneer in his eyes.

He looked forward to the scene where the young man's head would be smashed by a single palm.

"Buzz!"

However, just at that moment, something unexpected happened.

The three-star Saint's palm stopped just a foot away from the back of Xu Nian's head, unable to move any closer.

No matter how much force he exerted, he simply couldn't push forward.

"How... how is this possible?"

The three-star Saint's face immediately showed surprise.

A thought of retreat sprouted in his heart.

But before he could act, he felt his neck being grasped by an invisible hand.

The spiritual energy within his body was completely bound; he was unable to use any of it.

The three-star Saint looked towards Xu Nian with a face full of terror.

Qi Chenfeng was also stunned, scared into taking two steps back.

"Was it him who went to Tianhuang City with you that day?" Xu Nian asked Qi Chenfeng sharply.

Qi Chenfeng shook his head subconsciously.

"Bang!"

Before Qi Chenfeng could react, he saw that three-star Battle Saint-level strong man's head was directly crushed by an invisible force.

"Hiss!"

Qi Chenfeng was immediately scared and sat on the ground, inhaling a breath of cold air.

Everyone around was also stunned.

Even the master of the Governor Mansion, Qi Lu, was dumbfounded.

A three-star Battle Saint was killed just like that, crushed like an ant.

What level of strength was this?

The other two Battle Saint-level strong men looked at each other, their eyes filled with horror.

Although their cultivations were higher than that of the three-star Battle Saint, they could not do what had just been done.

Moreover, from beginning to end, the young man had not even glanced back at the three-star Battle Saint.

"Speak, which one of the two is it?" Xu Nian asked Qi Chenfeng.

Qi Chenfeng looked terrified.

Looking into Xu Nian's eyes,

he felt chills down his spine.

The young man in front of him gave him the feeling of falling into the Endless Abyss.

"Speak quickly!"

Xu Nian suddenly shouted fiercely.

Qi Chenfeng was startled.

"It's... it's him!"

Scared out of his wits by Xu Nian, Qi Chenfeng quickly pointed to an old man in the sky.

"That's right, it's me! What about it, lad? Do you want to kill me as well?" the old man retorted with a cold snort.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian suddenly looked towards the old man.

He reached out his hand and pulled.

The old man's body uncontrollably flew straight towards Xu Nian.

Xu Nian grasped the old man's neck, looking at him coldly.

People all around were completely dumbfounded.

This was a Six-star War Saint-level expert.

Yet he was powerless before this young man.

Just what was the extent of this young man's strength?

The Six-star War Saint elder grasped by Xu Nian was even more terrified at this moment.

In that instant just now, he felt a powerful force that completely restrained him.

Next, he couldn't move at all; even the spiritual energy within his body was locked down.

And the aura emanating from the young man before him made him feel like he was in the presence of a towering giant.

...

"Please... great one, spare my life!" The elder started to panic.

The surrounding crowd, upon hearing this, were dumbfounded.

On the other hand, Xu Nian and his companions could not contain their sneers.

The strength of their big brother was something these ants could never comprehend.

"Tell me, was there a Demon Saint who snatched that girl from you?" Xu Nian asked urgently.

The elder was momentarily stunned upon hearing this, hesitancy showing on his face.

"If you dare to tell a single lie, I will let you know what 'worse than death' means," threatened Xu Nian, his voice cold and bone-chilling.

The Six-star Battle Saint elder trembled, hastily responding, "Yes, there was a Demon Saint who snatched the little girl away. I was no match for him and he even left me injured."

"So, when you clashed with that Demon Saint, you must know what his true form is, right?" Xu Nian asked coldly.

"I might have a rough idea, but I'm not... not certain," the Six-star Battle Saint replied nervously.

Xu Nian frowned and glared at the elder.

"It's... it's the Red Fire Zhu Yan, at the peak of Battle Saint level. He exuded a powerful and scorching aura," the Six-star Battle Saint said quickly.

"Red Fire Zhu Yan?"

Xu Nian was taken aback.

Zhu Yan was one of the Ancient Fierce Beasts and also of a very high grade.

Such Demon Beasts were incredibly proud beings, likely holding high status within the Beast City.

"Then do you know where that Demon Beast took the little girl?" Xu Nian asked urgently.

The Six-star Battle Saint shook his head quickly, "After the Demon Saint snatched the little girl, he went straight into the Beast City, and after that, we knew nothing."

"Yes, yes, yes, I even revealed the Light Ball at the time, I'll show it to you if you don't believe me, we really didn't harm that girl," Qi Chenfeng also chimed in quickly.

After he spoke, he took out a Light Ball.

It displayed the scene of the Demon Saint carrying away Yann Xi.

The Demon Saint had red hair, white eyebrows, and his stature was unmatched in bulk.

He carried the unconscious Yann Xi over his shoulder, then disappeared into the Beast City.

Xu Nian narrowed his eyes when he saw this scene.

He firmly etched the image of that Demon Saint in his memory.

"My lord, we really didn't deceive you, that girl was taken by that Demon Saint, we had nothing to do with it!" Qi Chenfeng once again argued.

Xu Nian, upon hearing this, looked up at Qi Chenfeng with a hint of murderous intent in his eyes.

"Yann Xi is my sister, and you dared to send Saint-level followers to forcefully take her. Do you think I'd let you off?" Xu Nian asked, sneering.

With that, he turned his head to look at the Six-star Battle Saint, asking coldly, "As a Battle Saint, you helped this wastrel forcibly abduct a common girl. Do you feel honored?"

At the same time, Xu Nian's presence filled with Emperor's might.

"Emperor... Emperor-level strong man?"

Feeling the fluctuation of power from Xu Nian.

Everyone around was stupefied.

Qi Lu, who still harbored a faint hope, upon sensing Xu Nian's aura, felt utter despair setting in.

He had never imagined that his son would provoke such an Emperor-level strong man.

"My lord, have mercy, have mercy, I know my mistake now," said the Six-star Battle Saint, terrified out of his wits, hurriedly pleading.

Xu Nian, however, snorted coldly and threw a punch directly at the Six-star Battle Saint.

"Boom!"

The body of the Six-star Battle Saint exploded outright, turning into a mist of blood.

Having taken the heavenly treasure from Xingchenzi, even if Xu Nian used his Body Cultivation to attack someone inside the Holy Realm, it would not trigger the Heavenly Tribulation.

Everyone around who witnessed the Six-star Battle Saint being burst with a single punch was startled.

They also looked at Xu Nian with extreme horror.

Even the last Battle Saint-level strong man did not dare to make a move against Xu Nian.

Nonsense!

This was an Emperor-level strong man.

Wouldn't attacking such a powerful being be a death wish?

Qi Chenfeng, watching the scene, trembled with fear, his legs shaking.

A yellow liquid started to flow down from Qi Chenfeng's trousers.

"Ha, scared the piss out of him," the Bull Demon King pointed at Qi Chenfeng and laughed heartily.

Even Xu Nian showed a trace of disdain in his eyes.

He had not expected the son of the Prefectural Governor of the Southern Wilderness County to be such a coward.

Chapter 586: Master of the Wild Forest

Xu Nian looked at Qi Chenfeng, who had scared himself to the point of wetting his pants.

He struck with a karate chop, cleaving him in two.

He had initially wanted to torture him a bit, to let him experience the fear of death.

But now, seeing Qi Chenfeng's pathetic state, he no longer had the desire to torture him.

After killing Qi Chenfeng, Xu Nian then gestured for Xu Yu to release Qi Lu.

Even after being released, Qi Lu remained trembling on his knees.

He felt sorrow for the death of his son, but was powerless to do anything.

Each time Qi Chenfeng caused trouble, Qi Lu would smooth things over, but he always harbored worries.

He never anticipated that his fears would come true one day.

This time, they had offended a Battle Emperor.

Regardless of his capabilities, he couldn't save Qi Chenfeng.

"Qi County Magistrate, I'm letting you go this time. If you wish to seek revenge for your son, feel free to come after me," Xu Nian said. "But if you touch my family, you should know the consequences. Remember, my name is Xu Nian."

With a cold snort from Xu Nian,

and a wave of his sleeve,

he turned all the buildings within a hundred meters to the west into ashes.

Qi Lu and everyone from the Governor Mansion were left completely dumbfounded by this display.

Revenge?

Dare they even contemplate revenge?

And with what means?

Qi Lu sighed endlessly in his heart.

"My lord, we will not seek revenge. My son brought this upon himself, and I bear no grudge," said Qi Lu to Xu Nian.

However, Xu Nian paid him no heed and simply said to Xu Yu and the rest, "Let's go!"

After saying that, he led Xu Yu and the other four, turning into five streaks of light and disappearing above Commandery City.

Watching Xu Nian and the others leave, Qi Lu collapsed to the ground, his buttocks hitting the floor with a thud.

Looking at the bisected corpse of his son next to him, his mouth quivered with a choked sob.

The Seven-star Battle Saint, witnessing this scene, merely stood there dumbfounded.

Though he was a Saint, he was like an ant before the lofty Battle Emperor.

It was his first time seeing such a young Emperor-level strong man.

The Governor Mansion was thrown into disarray.

Commandery City, however, was boiling with excitement.

The incident at the Governor Mansion quickly spread.

When the people discovered that the one who had caused a commotion at the Governor Mansion was an Emperor-level strong man, they were all stunned.

An Emperor-level strong man!

To them, this was a being of legend.

For such a person to have appeared at the Governor Mansion?

Yet, many others shouted with glee.

Qi Chenfeng's misdeeds were many; he had long been the object of many people's hatred.

Now that he had been killed by a Battle Emperor Expert, everyone said it was his karma.

And the name Xu Nian spread throughout the entire Commandery City overnight and was rapidly disseminated throughout Southern Wilderness County.

Gradually, the deeds of Xu Nian were also unearthed by those with a vested interest.

When everyone learned that this Emperor-level strong man was not yet twenty years old, they were all astounded.

An Emperor-level strong man under twenty—what a tremendous talent.

Thus, various legends about Xu Nian began to emerge.

Some said Xu Nian was the reincarnation of an Immortal, a genius in his previous life, which was why he was so formidable in this one.

Others claimed Xu Nian hailed from the Ancient Divine Clan, naturally endowed with the divine talents of a god.

For a time, myriad legends concerning Xu Nian circulated throughout the empire.

Xu Nian, however, paid little attention to these matters.

Instead, he returned to Tianhuang City.

The last time Yann Zhenyuan had been thoroughly frightened by Xu Yu and the others.

This time, seeing Xu Nian return, he immediately greeted him with humble reverence.

As for Xu Nian's accomplishments on this trip, he didn't need to ask to know.

"My lord," Yann Zhenyuan said, looking at Xu Nian with awe.

Having learnt that Xu Nian was an Emperor-level strong man, Yann Zhenyuan felt a bit intimidated when facing him.

"Uncle Yann needn't be so formal. Since you are Yann Xi's great-uncle, and I am Yann Xi's brother, you are naturally also my great-uncle. So, Uncle Yann, there's no need for such courtesy, right?" Xu Nian spoke up.

"This..." Yann Zhenyuan was immediately flabbergasted and at a loss.

An Emperor-level strong man's uncle, that was a role he felt quite incapable of fulfilling.

"It seems Uncle Yann has no objections, so I will take it as your agreement. Alright, Uncle Yann, I've come back this time to make inquiries about the situation in the Beast Forest. I plan to venture into the Beast Forest and rescue Yann Xi," Xu Nian declared.

"You wish to enter the Beast Forest?" Upon hearing Xu Nian's words, Yann Zhenyuan's expression also turned grave.

"Yes, the one who took away sister Yann Xi is a Red Fire Zhu Yan. Do you happen to know, Uncle Yann, where in the Beast Forest such a Demon Saint is most likely to be found?" Xu Nian asked seriously.

"Red Fire Zhu Yan?" Yann Zhenyuan's expression turned to one of shock.

He hadn't expected that the one who took Yann Xi was a Red Fire Zhu Yan.

"If it's the Red Fire Zhu Yan, then I know where Xi is," Yann Zhenyuan said after a moment of contemplation.

"Where?" Xu Nian asked eagerly.

He hadn't held much hope when he came to ask Yann Zhenyuan, thinking only that since Yann Zhenyuan was the commander defending Tianhuang City and had dealt with Demon Beasts for decades,

he should have at least some understanding of the Beast Forest.

Of course, with Yann Zhenyuan's low cultivation, he might not necessarily know about matters at the Demon Saint level.

But unexpectedly, Yann Zhenyuan actually did have some information.

"This Beast Forest, to put it plainly, is also a Demon Beast empire. At the very heart of the Beast Forest, there lives an incomparably powerful king who rules all the Demon Beasts of the Beast Forest. This Red Fire Zhu Yan is one of the generals under this Beast Emperor," Yann Zhenyuan explained.

"Beast Emperor?" Upon hearing this, Xu Nian revealed a look of surprise.

That brought to mind the time outside the Beast Forest,

when several Demon Saints suddenly sought Xu Nian, saying they were following the orders of their king.

Now it seemed those three Demon Saints must have been sent by the Beast Emperor.

And then there was Black Hou, who once served as a general in the Beast Forest.

In a sense, this Beast Emperor had ties to Xu Nian.

"Does Uncle Yann mean to say that it was that Beast Emperor strong man who ordered Zhu Yan to take Yann Xi?" Xu Nian asked, frowning.

"Yes, if it were some other Demon Beast, I wouldn't be so sure, but Zhu Yan has the bloodline of the Ancient Fierce Beast and holds a high position within the Beast Forest. Such a strong man would only obey the Beast Emperor, definitely not acting on his own. Therefore, the one who took Yann Xi can only be the Beast Emperor, and if that's so, Yann Xi can only be at the deepest part of the Beast Forest," Yann Zhenyuan asserted.

Xu Nian nodded.

If all this was indeed as Yann Zhenyuan claimed,

then the one who kidnapped Yann Xi might really be acting under the Beast Emperor's orders.

But why would that Beast Emperor strong man want to take Yann Xi?

Could it also be for the Curse Power in her?

But that seemed improbable.

At that level of strength, he should not covet the Curse Power within Yann Xi.

Why then would he dispatch a Demon Saint to capture Yann Xi?

Chapter 587: Reencountering Zhao Qingqing

"Xu Nian, although I know you're an Emperor-level strong man, I still advise you to be careful—the deepest part of the Demon Beast Forest is extremely dangerous," Yann Zhenyuan said.

"Don't worry, Uncle Yann, I'll be cautious," Xu Nian nodded and replied.

Having said that, he flew directly towards the direction of the Demon Beast Forest.

This time, he did not bring Xu Yu and the others with him.

Instead, he left them in Tianhuang City.

Because he wasn't sure how dangerous the Demon Beast Forest really was, Xu Nian didn't dare to take them on this risky adventure.

Moreover, it seemed Xu Yu and the others were on the verge of a breakthrough, so Xu Nian asked them to stay focused on that in Tianhuang City.

Xu Nian had entered the Demon Beast Forest before.

However, he only entered through the entrance that bordered East Field County.

In East Field County, it was known as the Demon Beast Forest.

In fact, it meant the same thing as the Demon Beast Forest.

And he mostly just roamed around the outskirts of the Demon Beast Forest, never truly entering its interior.

But now, his mindset was different from before.

Previously, due to inadequate strength, he could only roam the perimeter and had to constantly avoid those powerful demon beasts.

Now, he didn't dodge or evade—they headed straight for the deepest part of the Demon Beast Forest.

A sense of Emperor's might radiated from him.

Feeling this Emperor's might, all the demon beasts were so frightened that they scattered and fled.

Therefore, along the way, Xu Nian faced not a single obstacle.

He quickly arrived at the interior of the Demon Beast Forest.

"Help me..."

However, just as Xu Nian reached the edge of the interior, a cry for help attracted his attention.

Xu Nian hastily extended his Spiritual Sense towards the direction from which the voice came.

This search revealed some familiar faces.

Indeed, it was the young man and woman from Wuji Sect who he had encountered in the Dragon Vein Land—Zhao Qingqing and Chu Lin.

Present at the scene, apart from them, were another young man and woman.

Their cultivation was not low—they had all reached the Battle King Level.

Among them, one young man had even attained the Peak of Battle King.

Unfortunately, they had bad luck.

They had just entered the interior of the Demon Beast Forest and encountered a Half-Saint Level Dark Giant Ape.

The cry for help just then was indeed from Zhao Qingqing in a moment of desperation.

The Dark Giant Ape swung its terrifying Iron Fist, aiming a smash at Zhao Qingqing.

Zhao Qingqing, who was merely at the Four Star Battle King Level, was no match for the Dark Giant Ape and had already suffered severe injuries from an earlier fight.

Now facing this attack, there was no possibility she could withstand it.

Seeing this scene, Xu Nian shook his head helplessly.

Zhao Qingqing had given him a rather good impression, and since they had encountered each other, naturally, he saw no reason not to save her.

"Whoom!"

With that, Xu Nian's figure flashed and he appeared directly in front of the Dark Giant Ape.

The Dark Giant Ape's gigantic hand was blocked by just one of Xu Nian's hands.

Zhao Qingqing, who had thought she was sure to die, looked at this suddenly appearing figure with an incredibly surprised expression on her face.

"Xu... Xu Nian?"

Zhao Qingqing recognized the person, exclaiming with a face full of astonishment.

Xu Nian didn't pay attention to Zhao Qingqing, but instead faced the rampaging Dark Giant Ape and spat out one word, "Scram!"

At once, the Dark Giant Ape trembled and then, as if it had seen a ghost, it fled in terror.

Zhao Qingqing watched this scene with a look of astonishment.

The four of them had been frantically fleeing from the black Dark Giant Ape.

Yet Xu Nian had only uttered one word, and the Dark Giant Ape was scared into this sorry state.

What exactly was Xu Nian's strength?

Chu Lin, who was standing at the side, also saw Xu Nian. His gaze toward Xu Nian immediately turned hostile.

He couldn't help but recall the scene where he had been humiliated by Xu Nian before.

Toward Xu Nian, he had always harbored intense resentment.

"Who is this person? Do you know him?"

A Nine-star War King Level youth beside Chu Lin asked him.

"I know him. He's Xu Nian, whose fame has greatly increased recently, the new Sect Master of the Artifact Refining Sect, extremely arrogant and doesn't take anyone seriously," replied Chu Lin with a look of disdain.

"Oh? That arrogant?" The corners of the youth's mouth lifted, and his gaze toward Xu Nian also became unfriendly.

"It's not just arrogance, it's sheer egotism. Who let him rely on his Formation to kill many Battle Saints and repeatedly humiliate me?" said Chu Lin angrily.

"Hmph, a small Artifact Refining Sect dares to be so conceited. Has he really become lawless? Come on, I'll help you get revenge," Chu Hen disdainfully said.

"Brother, be careful. This kid is not weak, and he has many tricks," Chu Lin said with some worry.

He had been at a disadvantage against Xu Nian, so when it really came to confronting Xu Nian, he was somewhat apprehensive.

"What's there to be afraid of? Even if he truly is at the Holy Realm, dealing with an enemy sometimes doesn't depend on strength, but on brains. Don't forget, I'm the Young Master of the number one commerce guild in the world," Chu Hen said with scorn.

After pondering for a moment, Chu Lin nodded his head.

Now their guild had developed into the number one commerce guild.

In the empire, their status was not inferior to the Three Great Sects.

Thinking of this, Chu Lin felt a surge of confidence.

He hurriedly followed after him.

Chu Hen, on the other hand, walked towards Xu Nian with his arms around a young woman at his side.

The young woman also looked at Xu Nian with contempt.

She was a Core Disciple of the Wuji Sect, and it was only through Chu Lin's connection that she had hooked up with Chu Hen.

She had now become Chu Hen's woman.

To ingratiate herself with Chu Hen, she went to great lengths.

Hearing that Chu Hen was about to deal with this young man, she naturally put on a very disdainful expression.

To win Chu Hen's favor.

Xu Nian, watching the three people approaching, revealed a flash of contempt in his eyes.

He had already heard the conversation between Chu Lin and Chu Hen.

For such ants, he really had no intention of bothering with them.

"Are you all right?" Xu Nian asked Zhao Qingqing.

"No... nothing's the matter, thank you!" Zhao Qingqing quickly said with gratitude.

"That's good, I have other matters. I'll be leaving now," Xu Nian said to Zhao Qingqing.

Zhao Qingqing hesitated, a hint of disappointment visible in her eyes.

She had not expected that Xu Nian would leave just after they had met.

Ever since they had parted ways in Dragon Vein Land, his image had often appeared in her mind.

Just now, she had thought that she was hallucinating as she faced death, only to find out it was actually true.

But just as she felt joyful to meet Xu Nian again,

she hadn't expected Xu Nian to leave after just exchanging a few words with her.

Xu Nian, however, was unaware that Zhao Qingqing had developed hidden feelings for him.

Of course, even if he knew, he wouldn't have any thoughts about Zhao Qingqing.

"Haha, this must be Brother Xu Nian, yes? I've often heard Chu Lin mention you. I'm Chu Hen, Chu Lin's elder brother,"

However, just as Xu Nian was about to leave, Chu Hen blocked his path, speaking with a smiling face.

Chapter 588 Chu Hen's Scheme

Xu Nian looked at Chu Hen, who wore a smile on his face, and felt nothing but disdain in his heart.

Chu Hen really knew how to act, clearly wanting to deal with him.

Yet he put on a very arrogant front, which could be said to be extremely hypocritical.

Towards such a hypocrite, Xu Nian simply couldn't be bothered.

Chu Hen immediately furrowed his brows. He had come forward to greet, but Xu Nian had ignored him.

After all, Chu Hen was the Young Master of the continent's number one merchant association, and Xu Nian dared to disregard him like that.

Now, Chu Hen was even more convinced of Chu Lin's words—that Xu Nian was unbearably arrogant.

His dissatisfaction with Xu Nian grew even stronger.

"What are you so arrogant about? Do you even know who stands before you? He is the Young Master of the number one merchant association in the world, controlling the entire empire's economic lifeline. You, a mere Artifact Refining Sect Master, what is there for you to be proud of?" said the woman disdainfully.

Her eyes were full of mockery.

Xu Nian glanced at the woman.

She was fairly attractive, above average—probably on the same level as Zhao Qingqing.

She appeared young, around twenty-five or twenty-six years old, yet her cultivation had already reached the One-star Battle King Realm.

However, her cultivation seemed a bit inflated, as if it had been forcefully elevated by some external means.

Xu Nian immediately noticed that this woman was trying to curry favor with Chu Hen.

Thus, to gain more cultivation resources from Chu Hen.

Such female cultivators, who climbed up step by step by trading their bodies for cultivation resources, were numerous in Xu Nian's experience, and he didn't bother to judge their actions.

However, this female cultivator, in trying to ingratiate herself with Chu Hen, was using cold derision and hot sarcasm against him, which annoyed Xu Nian.

Chu Hen, hearing the woman's flattery by his side, felt very pleased.

Yet he glared at her and angrily said, "When men are talking, since when is it your turn to interject?"

After speaking, he turned back to Xu Nian with a smile and said, "I've heard, Brother Xu Nian, that you've killed quite a few Holy Realm experts and your talent is exceedingly extraordinary, so you must have stepped into the Holy Realm by now?"

"Just speak plainly," Xu Nian coldly scoffed in response.

Holy Realm?

Chu Hen was really underestimating him.

"It's like this—we recently spotted a Red Zhu Yan Divine Beast, and we want to subdue it. However, the cultivation of this Zhu Yan isn't low. But with Brother Xu Nian's help, I believe we can definitely capture it," Chu Hen said with a smile.

"Red Fire Zhu Yan?" Xu Nian was startled.

He hadn't planned on listening to Chu Hen's nonsense.

But when he heard the words Red Fire Zhu Yan, he became interested.

Wasn't the Demon Saint that had abducted Yann Xi a Red Fire Zhu Yan?

"As long as Brother Xu is willing to help, once the task is accomplished, our number one merchant association is willing to pay you ten Saint Essence Pills. What do you think about that, Brother Xu?" Chu Hen spoke up.

Ten Saint Essence Pills?

The woman and Chu Lin by his side were both taken aback.

Such a pill was incredibly precious, and even to Holy Level powerhouses, it was an extremely valuable pill.

Was his brother trying to deal with Xu Nian, or was he actually helping him?

Besides, capturing this Zhu Yan didn't require Xu Nian at all!

Hearing this, Xu Nian slightly furrowed his brows.

He felt something was odd about the situation.

Red Fire Zhu Yan was at the peak of the Demon Saint level, it was simply impossible for Chu Hen and his group of four to capture it.

It seemed that the Zhu Yan they mentioned and the one who captured Yann Xi were not the same Zhu Yan.

"What is the cultivation level of that Red Fire Zhu Yan you mentioned?" Xu Nian asked.

"Not high, just at Three-star Demon King Level. It must have just been born not long ago. It's still a little demon beast. We encountered it on the outskirts of the Demon Beast Forest and thought of subduing it. However, unexpectedly, it was very cunning and actually ran away. In fact, with our strength, capturing it wouldn't have been an issue. But since this is the inner part of the Demon Beast Forest, if we encountered a Holy Realm Demon Beast, I simply couldn't handle it. That's why I thought of asking Brother Xu to make a move and capture that little Zhu Yan with us," Chu Hen explained with a smile.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian immediately understood the situation.

It was just a little Zhu Yan.

No wonder these guys wanted to pursue it.

After all, if they could subdue such a little Zhu Yan, once it grew up, it would undoubtedly be a peerless combat force.

However, realizing this, Xu Nian inwardly scoffed.

These few really didn't know whether to live or die.

Since this little Zhu Yan was a Divine Beast Zhu Yan, how could it not be valued highly?

If he guessed right, this little Zhu Yan must have some connection with that Zhu Yan Demon Saint.

After all, Divine Beast Zhu Yan was very rare; the appearance of one was already extremely uncommon.

To say that these two demon beasts had no relation, Xu Nian would never believe it.

With Chu Hen and their mere cultivation, to capture this little Zhu Yan, how could the Zhu Yan Demon Saint not intervene?

However, Chu Hen's words did give Xu Nian a new idea.

If he just rushed into the deepest part of the Demon Beast Forest, he might not be able to find Yann Xi.

But if he captured this little Zhu Yan, perhaps he could learn something from the mouth of that Zhu Yan Demon Saint.

"I wonder what Brother Xu thinks?" Chu Hen continued to ask.

He felt that Xu Nian would definitely agree.

After all, ten Saint Essence Pills were not a small fortune.

"Fine, I agree," Xu Nian nodded in agreement.

In fact, he didn't care about the Saint Essence Pills at all.

Not to mention anything else, although Artifact Refining Sect might not be able to produce ten Saint Essence Pills,

Divine River Palace certainly could.

As the Divine River Palace Master, why would Xu Nian care about these ten Saint Essence Pills?

Seeing Xu Nian agree, Chu Hen immediately showed a smile on his face.

However, mixed in that smile was a hint of craftiness.

"Hen, why would you give ten Saint Essence Pills to this guy? Ten Saint Essence Pills, that's a huge fortune," Shi Lan complained to Xu Nian after he walked away.

"Yeah, big brother, those ten Saint Essence Pills are not a small sum, that's more than half of our company's wealth," Chu Lin also asked with a puzzled face.

"What do you know, how would I really give it to him, Xu Nian has likely reached Holy Realm, and dealing with him is not easy. Besides, as the Artifact Refining Sect Master, why wouldn't the storage ring have treasures? Didn't you say the Dragon Vein was also on him? Killing him, we would definitely reap huge benefits," Chu Hen said with a cold smirk.

"What do you mean by this, big brother?" Upon hearing Chu Hen's words, Chu Lin and Shi Lan's eyes also lit up.

"I'm now going to bring Xu Nian with us to capture Zhu Yan. When he helps us capture Zhu Yan, he will definitely be severely depleted. Did you forget, I have a Heavenly Thunder Talisman in my hands? Wouldn't it be easy to kill him then?" Chu Hen spoke.

Chu Lin and Shi Lan, hearing this, also showed a cold smile on their faces.

The Heavenly Thunder Talisman was immensely powerful, and a regular Battle Saint Level could not withstand it.

Chu Hen's strategy was truly killing two birds with one stone, earning their great admiration.

Xu Nian, standing at a distance, heard their words clearly.

A slight smile appeared on his lips.

Thinking of outwitting him, Chu Hen probably didn't know that Xu Nian was known as the Little Fox.

Chapter 589: Emperor Level Demon Beast

Xu Nian then followed Chu Hen and the others into the depths of the Ancient Beast Forest.

Chu Hen had left a mark on the body of Little Zhu Yan.

Therefore, even if Little Zhu Yan fled far away, he could always track it down.

Throughout the journey, Xu Nian had been taking the lead, walking at the very front.

Chu Lin and Zhao Qingqing followed behind him.

Chu Lin admired Zhao Qingqing, so wherever she went, he would be right there with her.

In his eyes, Zhao Qingqing would eventually be his.

However, since Xu Nian appeared, Zhao Qingqing's gaze would occasionally drift towards Xu Nian.

She even deliberately maintained a distance in her words and actions, seemingly afraid of giving Xu Nian the wrong impression.

Zhao Qingqing's behavior did not go unnoticed by Chu Lin, and his resentment towards Xu Nian grew increasingly intense.

"Hmph, cheap woman, it turns out you've had someone in your heart all along. I was hoping you'd willingly marry me, but since you're so lowly, don't blame me for being rude. Once Xu Nian is dead, I want to see just how much you can still hold yourself aloof," Chu Lin sneered in his heart.

As the status of the Chamber of Commerce had risen over the past two years, Chu Lin's pride had grown excessively.

His pursuit of Zhao Qingqing had become increasingly impatient.

Now, seeing Zhao Qingqing's interest in Xu Nian, his dissatisfaction finally burst forth.

Zhao Qingqing, however, was unaware that her unconscious behavior had enraged Chu Lin.

At this moment, she was wondering why Xu Nian was so cold towards her.

Was it because she wasn't pretty enough?

Or was it because of her previous arrogance?

She soon became lost in a deep sense of dejection.

As for Chu Hen, he walked at the back of the group, arm in arm with Shi Lan, acting affectionate.

They seemed to be discussing some joyful matters.

"Stop for a moment, just up ahead, I can sense that Little Zhu Yan is right there."

Suddenly, Chu Hen called everyone to a halt and spoke.

Upon hearing this, Xu Nian too released his Spiritual Sense Power toward the direction ahead.

This probing actually allowed him to spot the figure of Little Zhu Yan.

Before them was a canyon.

The canyon wasn't large, probably about one thousand square meters.

Inside the canyon, apart from a huge ancient tree, there was only a large boulder.

At the moment, there was a monkey-looking Demon Beast about the height of a person, seated atop the boulder.

The fur on the Demon Monkey was a fiery red, resembling blazing flames.

Most eerie was that in the middle of the monkey's forehead, there was a vertical eye.

But the vertical eye was closed, like a crack.

Its aura wasn't strong, merely at the Three-star Battle King Level.

Right now, it was healing.

On its back, there was a deep sword wound.

Presumably, it was inflicted by Chu Hen and his group earlier.

The whole canyon seemed hazard-free, but Xu Nian's brow furrowed slightly.

His Spiritual Sense Power rested upon that huge and towering ancient tree.

The tree's branches were thick, at least enough to require ten people to encircle it with their arms.

Its foliage was extremely lush, covering nearly the entire valley.

At first glance, it looked no different from a normal ancient tree, only much older.

But upon closer examination, Xu Nian realized that it was no ordinary tree.

It was actually a Demon Tree of the Demon Emperor Level.

Although only at the One-star level, plant-type Demon Beasts were not so easily dealt with.

So, when Xu Nian realized that this ancient tree was a One-star Demon Emperor,

he knew that capturing the Zhu Yan would not be such an easy task.

The leaves of the ancient tree constantly emitted a faint green glow, merging into the body of Little Zhu Yan.

The sword marks on Little Zhu Yan's back were also healing at a speed visible to the naked eye.

"Ha ha, it seems that my sword really did a number on this Little Zhu Yan, hiding here in the valley to heal its wounds, probably not even aware that we've already caught up," Chu Hen said, laughing heartily as he parted the tree leaves and looked into the valley.

"Congratulations, big brother. As long as we subdue this Little Zhu Yan, in less than a decade, our trade association will have a super expert, and who knows, it might even grow into an Emperor-level strong man. By then, no one will dare to mess with our trade association," Chu Lin said excitedly.

Hearing this, Chu Hen was even more proud.

"Then what are we waiting for? Let's all go at once and capture it before it can run away again," Shi Lan also said excitedly.

This was a Demon Beast with the potential to grow into an Emperor-level strong man.

If Chu Hen were to become the chairman of the trade association, then she would be the chairman's wife.

How could she not be excited?

Xu Nian, listening to the conversation of these three, couldn't help but inwardly sneer.

These three really had no idea what was coming.

They probably wouldn't even know how they died when the time came.

Of course, Xu Nian had no intention of warning them. He sent a message to Zhao Qingqing, "Stay outside this valley when the time comes, and remain here no matter what happens."

Zhao Qingqing was taken aback.

She didn't understand why Xu Nian would say that.

However, she still chose to listen to Xu Nian and nodded her head.

After all, she had come out to experience the world, and whether or not they captured Zhu Yan didn't matter much to her.

Even if she didn't take part, no one would blame her.

"Brother Xu, as a Holy Level strong man, can you see if there are any Demon Saint Level Demon Beasts around us?" Chu Hen asked Xu Nian.

"There aren't any Demon Saint Level Demon Beasts in this valley," Xu Nian replied straightforwardly.

Upon hearing this, Chu Hen's expression grew even more smug.

Actually, even if there were a Demon Saint hiding in the shadows, he wouldn't be afraid.

After all, he was holding a Heavenly Thunder Talisman in his hand.

Of course, it was even better if there were none.

Chu Lin and the others were also thrilled.

They hadn't expected things to go so smoothly.

"Let's go, let's all move together. Make sure not to let Little Zhu Yan escape. Brother Xu, would you please lead the way?" Chu Hen said to Xu Nian.

He didn't fully trust what Xu Nian said.

So he preferred to have Xu Nian lead the way.

Xu Nian nodded his head and then darted into the valley.

"Go, follow up. First, we capture Zhu Yan, and then we deal with Xu Nian," Chu Hen and the others instructed quietly as they saw Xu Nian move out.

Chu Lin and Shi Lan exchanged a glance, both smirking coldly.

Zhao Qingqing, however, was shocked, and her look towards Xu Nian became worried.

She hadn't expected Chu Lin and the others to turn against Xu Nian.

But there was no time for her to ponder, as Chu Hen and his two companions had already dashed into the valley.

Zhao Qingqing was just about to follow when she remembered what Xu Nian had said.

She was torn inside.

"Buzz!"

Just then, all four of them, including Xu Nian, had flown into the valley.

However, before they could settle in,

Tree roots as massive as Qiu dragons burst forth from the soil.

They wrapped around Chu Lin, Chu Hen, and Shi Lan tightly, like zongzi, the sticky rice dumplings.

Yet Xu Nian serenely landed on the ground, untouched.

"Plant-type Demon Beast?"

Chu Hen and the others were taken by surprise and struggled desperately to break free.

However, they couldn't escape at all.

"Is it you, have you deceived us?"

Chu Hen looked at Xu Nian, unharmed to his side, his gaze immediately turning extremely hostile.

Chapter 590: News of Yann Xi

Xu Nian saw the three people staring at him and a slight smile appeared on the corner of his mouth.

"When have I ever deceived you?" Xu Nian asked with a light smile.

"You still claim you haven't deceived us? Just now, I asked you if there were any Demon Saint Level Demon Beasts in this valley, and you said no. Then what's the deal with this Demon Tree, could it possibly be at the Battle King Level?" Chu Hen asked coldly.

His heart was filled with anger.

This Xu Nian actually dared to deceive him.

Beside him, Shi Lan and Chu Lin were also staring at Xu Nian.

They couldn't believe that they had been tricked by Xu Nian.

Hearing this, Xu Nian began to laugh.

"I didn't deceive you. You asked me if there were any Demon Saint Level Demon Beasts here, and I told you no, which was the simple truth. Because what took action against you was not a Demon Saint, but a Demon Emperor," Xu Nian said with a smile.

"Demon Emperor?"

Chu Hen and the others were suddenly shocked as if struck by thunder.

They all turned their gaze to the ancient tree, which at this moment was emanating an Emperor Level aura.

Little Zhu Yan, who was seated at the ancient tree, was also coldly smiling at the three of them.

Outside the valley, Zhao Qingqing's face was also full of surprise.

So this was the reason Xu Nian did not let her enter the valley?

An Emperor Level strong man?

How could this be?

"No... it's impossible? How could there be an Emperor Level strong man? If it were an Emperor Level Demon Beast, why are you unharmed?" Chu Hen said in disbelief.

Chu Lin and Shi Lan also nodded in agreement with Chu Hen's words.

They had been wondering all along.

Why did the Demon Tree only attack them and not Xu Nian?

Xu Nian smiled lightly and said to Chu Hen, "Because I have the qualifications to negotiate with it, and you do not."

"What do you mean?" Chu Hen was taken aback, not understanding what Xu Nian meant.

"Hmph, what do I mean? I'm aware of your calculations all along the way; you wanted me to help you capture Zhu Yan, and then use your Heavenly Thunder Talisman to kill me. But where you went wrong was underestimating my cultivation," Xu Nian said with a cold huff.

He looked at Chu Hen and the others with contempt.

Then, Xu Nian waved his sleeve, and an imperial might radiated from his body.

"Emperor... Emperor Level strong man, how... how is this possible?" Chu Hen was stunned instantly.

Not only him, but Chu Lin and Shi Lan beside him were also stunned.

Even Zhao Qingqing, who was outside the valley at that moment, was shocked with her mouth wide open.

Xu Nian was an Emperor Level strong man?

How... how could this be?

Chu Hen felt a surge of despair in his heart.

He could not believe that all this was real.

He considered himself clever, capable of scheming everything.

But he never thought that he would encounter an Emperor Level strong man.

In the face of absolute power, all schemes are null and void.

Chu Lin and the others also felt utter despair.

He had thought it would be impressive for Xu Nian to break through to the Holy Level, but Xu Nian had already reached the legendary Emperor Level.

And Shi Lan was even more pale.

She never imagined that she had ridiculed an Emperor Level strong man.

Thinking back now, she felt a chill run through her scalp.

Such a strong man could annihilate her with a mere breath.

"Now do you see how ridiculous your schemes are? And your trading company, do you still think I would take it seriously?" Xu Nian asked with a sneer.

Chu Hen's face became extremely somber.

Little did he know that from the very beginning, he had been played by Xu Nian.

"I'm going to kill you!"

Chu Hen shouted and quickly activated the Heavenly Thunder Talisman he had prepared earlier.

Terrifying bolts of lightning erupted from his body.

This terrifying lightning struck towards Xu Nian and the ancient tree.

However, his lightning did not inflict the slightest damage on the ancient tree.

As for Xu Nian, the terrifying lightning struck him and was like tickling him; it didn't cause him any harm at all.

Seeing this scene, Chu Hen was completely stunned.

His Heavenly Thunder Talisman had had no effect at all.

"Buzz!"

Just then, a terrifying fluctuation came forth.

Chu Hen, who was wrapped by the tree roots, began to age visibly.

His skin started to wrinkle, and his hair began to turn from black to white.

Xu Nian could feel the life within him draining away incessantly.

"Could it be the Profound Argumentation of life devouring?" Xu Nian muttered to himself in surprise upon seeing this.

In the end, Chu Hen was nothing but skin and bones, utterly devoid of any traces of life.

Chu Lin and Shi Lan at his side were as scared as if they had seen a ghost, their faces filled with horror.

"Lord Xu Nian, save me!" Chu Lin cried out urgently.

At this moment, his life too began to wane; he could feel himself aging continuously.

Shi Lan was experiencing the same.

"Lord, save me, I'll do anything if you save me," Shi Lan screamed in terror.

For a woman, nothing was more fearsome than witnessing her own beauty wither away.

Such a manner of death was simply the most cruel for a woman.

Yet Xu Nian, upon hearing their pleas, remained indifferent.

In the end, both their lives were devoured completely.

Three Battle Kings had perished at the hands of this ancient tree.

Xu Nian, watching these three die, knew it was now time for him to face off against the ancient tree.

"Buzz!"

A fluctuation came through.

Then, the ancient tree transformed into an old man before Xu Nian.

Little Zhu Yan stood beside the old man, looking at Xu Nian curiously.

"Human, do you not know that Emperor-level strong men are not allowed to enter the Demon Beast Forest?" the old man questioned Xu Nian harshly.

Had it not been for the threatening aura emanating from the youth before him, he would not have wasted words and would have directly slain him.

This was because there had once been an agreement between the empire and the Demon Beast Forest.

No Emperor-level strong man shall encroach upon each other's territories.

Violators would be executed without discussion.

"Elder, I had no intention of offending; it's just that my sister was kidnapped by a Demon Saint into the Demon Beast Forest, which forced me to intrude," Xu Nian responded.

Considering age, this Demon Emperor before him was certainly of an ancestral level.

So, addressing him as an elder was, in Xu Nian's view, not inappropriate.

"A Demon Saint kidnapped your sister? Do you know which Demon Saint did it?" the old man asked, a trace of surprise showing on his face.

"I don't know who exactly, but I know that the Demon Saint who took my sister is a Red Fire Zhu Yan," Xu Nian replied.

"Zhu Yan?" the old man echoed and then looked towards the small monkey beside him.

The small monkey also showed a trace of surprise and began to look at Xu Nian curiously again.

"How could that be possible, have you made a mistake?" the old man said.

"I am certain of it," Xu Nian replied, his gaze firm.

Upon hearing this, the old man furrowed his brows, a thoughtful look on his face.

"I know, I know, are you looking for Sister Yann Xi?" the small monkey suddenly spoke up.

Xu Nian was startled and quickly looked at the small monkey, "You know her?"

The small monkey hurriedly nodded.