

## **Divine King 671**

Chapter 671: Ruins of the Ancient Sect

Not long after the battle at the Artifact Refining Sect,

something rather bizarre took place in East Field County.

This incident soon spread throughout the entire Imperial Capital,

immediately causing a huge commotion.

In East Field County, ruins of an Ancient Cultivation Sect had emerged.

It was said that these ruins were accidentally discovered by three youths of Battle Sect Level.

These three young men accidentally found nearly a hundred Spirit Stones and several Low Grade Spiritual Artifacts at one of the sites.

Moreover, they only reached the outskirts of the ruins and did not delve deeper.

Originally, these three youths just intended to inform the Clan Leader of their families.

But unexpectedly, the news leaked out.

Eventually, an overwhelming number of formidable individuals arrived at their doorstep, demanding to know the whereabouts of the relics.

Under immense pressure, that family ultimately disclosed information about the ruins.

However, even after doing so, the family was still exterminated.

As the saying goes, "An innocent man bears the blame for the possession of treasure," and that was exactly the case.

The leak about the Ancient Spirit Sect naturally attracted attention from many powers.

This Sect was not merely a Sect like the Artifact Refining Sect; it had existed before the Immortal enacted the heavenly forbiddance.

Time had merely obscured this Sect from sight.

But for the cultivators of Tianhen Continent,

the existence of such an Ancient Spirit Sect was fatally alluring.

After all, it was a place that nurtured cultivators.

Should anyone secure a treasure,

they may very well soar to the heavens.

Thus, cultivators from across the entire empire surged towards East Field County,

all hoping to try their luck.

Inside the hall of the Artifact Refining Sect,

Xu Nian was currently standing with Xu Yu and others.

"Elder, you want to go to East Field County?" the Great Elder asked.

"Yes, now that my cultivation level has reached the realm of a Two-star Emperor, if I continue to cultivate at the normal pace, it would be far too slow. I'd also like to see this Ancient Spirit Sect and try my luck there," Xu Nian said with a smile.

That was right, his Spiritual Body had already reached the Two-star Emperor Realm.

Achieving a breakthrough would require a long period of accumulation.

But what Xu Nian lacked was time.

He knew it wouldn't be long before

he would have to face a true battle with the Imperial Family.

Hence, he must quickly enhance his cultivation level.

The emergence of the Ancient Spirit Sect

seemed like the perfect opportunity.

And so, he decided to make a trip to East Field County.

"I'll go with you, big brother," Xu Yu and Black Wind said in unison.

"And me, Lao Niu. I want to go too," the Bull Demon King added.

Xu Nian smiled and nodded.

"Alright, you guys will come with me," Xu Nian said.

Hearing this, Xu Yu, Black Wind, and the Bull Demon King immediately showed delight.

Apparently, during the recent battle of the Artifact Refining Sect,

they had not had the opportunity to fight, which had left them itching for action.

This journey was a perfect chance for them to relieve that itch.

If they could enjoy a good fight, that would be even better.

Xu Nian smiled helplessly, then turned to Ice Blue and others, "Ice Blue, you come with me too. White Flood Dragon King, you stay and continue to guard the Artifact Refining Sect."

"Yes!"

Ice Blue and the White Flood Dragon King replied at the same time.

With the White Flood Dragon King guarding the Artifact Refining Sect,

Xu Nian believed no one would dare to offend it.

"Master, may I join you as well?"

Just at that moment, Black Hou spoke up.

Xu Nian turned his head to look at Black Hou.

Now Black Hou, just like Xu Yu and the rest, had broken through to the One-star Demon Emperor Realm.

After several days of recuperation, his injuries had also healed a great deal.

In terms of combat strength, his power was almost on par with that of the Bull Demon King.

He was, however, a notch below Black Wind and Xu Yu.

"Alright, then you shall follow along," Xu Nian agreed.

Upon hearing Xu Nian's consent,

A delighted expression appeared on Black Hou's face.

After some brief instructions,

Xu Nian and his party of six Emperor-level strong men flew towards the direction of East Field County.

Of course, if one were to count the Netherworld King within Xu Nian's storage ring,

That would make seven Battle Emperor Level strong men.

But the existence of the Netherworld King was a bit too staggering.

Xu Nian did not want him to reveal himself easily.

However, what Xu Nian didn't know was that at the time of their departure,

On a pavilion of the Artifact Refining Sect, stood two breathtakingly beautiful women.

Both women looked towards the direction Xu Nian was departing, their eyes filled with a touch of loss.

"Sister, do you think we will ever see him again?" Yann Xi asked.

Her voice carried a tinge of melancholy.

"I'm afraid it's unlikely, little sister. He is destined to be from a different world than ours. Let's just forget about him," Yann Hong sighed.

Upon hearing this, Yann Xi's expression grew even more downcast.

She couldn't quite understand.

Why was there such a large gap between two people sometimes?

Seeing Yann Xi's dejected look, Yann Hong firmly embraced her.

Looking in the direction Xu Nian was leaving, her eyes also filled with a sense of loss.

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Meanwhile, on the East Sea coast,

There were two men walking on the waves right now.

The surging sea beneath their feet was as steady as flat ground.

The leader was a young man,

Adorned in luxurious clothing and wearing an exquisite crown.

Handsome in appearance, his lips were perpetually curled in a light smile.

That disregard-for-all gaze gave him an unruly air.

Following behind him was an old man.

This elder's bearing was simple, his body slightly hunched, with grey hair.

His eyes, however, were sharp.

"Young Master, this is the Tianhen Continent, a sealed and Lost Land," the elder spoke, standing beside the young man.

"It's quite barren. The thinness of this Spiritual Energy could practically be described as desolate. Elder Yuu, has your cultivation been suppressed?" The young man responded nonchalantly, not bothering to turn his head.

"Indeed. As soon as we entered the Forbidden Sea, my cultivation was suppressed to below the Zifu Realm. Although I'm only at the Supreme Battle Emperor Level, none under Zifu are my match," the elder said.

Hearing the elder's words, a light smile spread across the young man's face.

"Doesn't that mean you are invincible on this continent?" the young man said with a laugh.

"In theory, yes. However, Young Master, it would be wise to be cautious. After all, the lord has instructed that this continent isn't as simple as it seems on the surface," the hoarse voice of the elder sounded once again.

The young man still wore a dismissive expression.

"The young master indeed wishes to have a good look at this continent and its beauties. Back on the Spirit Continent, the old man was too strict, wouldn't let me do anything. Since I'm here, I shall enjoy myself to the fullest," the young man said scornfully.

A defiant arrogant smile flickered in his eyes.

With that, he took the lead and swept towards the land.

The elder, however, shook his head.

Their young master was already twenty-four, yet he still couldn't shake off this playful nature.

He had no idea when he would be able to stand on his own.

But considering there wasn't much of a threat on this continent,

The elder didn't want to worry too much and decided to let the young master have his fun.

Chapter 672: The Dilapidated Tavern

East Field County.

Green peak Village.

A tavern that usually only saw a handful of people drinking.

Today, however, it was buzzing with unusual activity.

An old man and a simple-minded boy were managing the bustling business.

His name was Wu Dong, and although he was only sixteen this year,

his physique was exceptionally brawny, standing at about one hundred eighty centimeters.

His muscles were prominent and extraordinarily firm.

If it weren't for the few strands of fluff on the corners of his mouth, others might really mistake him for a robust thirty-year-old man.

He was exceptionally strong.

Everyone in and around the village knew that he possessed innate divine strength.

At the age of six, to save a village companion, he killed an ironclad ox with his bare fists.

Although an ironclad ox was a low-level demon beast, even adults were no match for it,

let alone a six-year-old boy.

At that time, the villagers all believed that Wu Dong would become a powerful cultivator in the future.

So the whole village pooled together some silver taels

and invited a prestigious cultivator from the neighboring town

to conduct a talent assessment for him.

However, the final result disappointed everyone.

It turned out that this guy was born with blocked meridians and was completely unable to cultivate.

What's more, he was also unable to practice body cultivation.

No matter what kind of body cultivation technique was used, his body just couldn't retain spiritual energy.

With no other options, the people of Green peak Town eventually chose to give up.

Wu Dong was also simple-minded, failing to grasp his brush with becoming a superior person and happily helping his father manage the small tavern every day.

These past few days, the tavern's business had suddenly flourished, keeping Wu Dong extremely busy.

Many travelers, passing through this place,

chose to have a drink in his small tavern.

These travelers were all dressed to the nines, with the young men looking handsome and dashing.

Occasionally, one could spot one or two beautiful women.

This also left Wu Dong, the simpleton, staring in awe.

Those women's skin was even more tender than the tofu made by the beauty in the neighboring village, extremely delicate.

Even if simple-minded, Wu Dong knew that these outsiders were all those powerful cultivators.

As a result, his father had already warned them in secret.

Do not provoke these people at all costs, lest an accident invite a deadly disaster.

Wu Dong was obedient and acted cautiously.

When serving guests, he was always extremely careful.

Today, as on the previous days, the tavern was abnormally bustling.

Wu Dong was also busy to the point of sweating profusely, and quite happily at that.

However, his eyes would still occasionally glance towards the blue-haired woman sitting outside the tavern.

Wu Dong had to admit that in his sixteen years of life, he had never seen such a beautiful woman.

Ice blue hair, an exquisite and stunning face.

Especially those ice blue eyes, they were just like delicate crystal, captivating him.

But the woman had not glanced at him from beginning to end.

The aloof aura she emanated made him not dare to approach.

"Ice Blue, it seems your charm is not small, eh? This kid hasn't taken his eyes off you since we walked in," Xu Nian said with a chuckle, teasing her.

That's right, the ice blue-haired woman was none other than Ice Blue,

who was traveling with Xu Nian.

In addition, there were Xu Yu and the rest of their group.

As for why they came to this small tavern,

that was naturally Xu Nian's decision.

Because taverns are often the best places to gather information.

Of course, if someone knew that this small tavern was simultaneously hosting six Battle Emperor level experts, they would be utterly shocked.

However, it has to be said, Xu Nian's decision was quite the right one.

At this moment, two young cultivators of Battle Sect level were sitting at the next table discussing this matter.

"This is already the third day, who knows how many people have entered," said one of the youths with a mole at the corner of his mouth.

"But up until now, it seems like not a single person has come out," his companion responded.

"Indeed, everyone is heading to Cuiping Mountain now, and who knows how many will come out alive," the youth with the mole remarked.

"Even if they do come out alive, it's not certain they'll be able to bring back any treasures. Now there's a group of ruthless people squatting at the entrance to the Small World, unless you're very strong or backed by powerful forces, you will also be robbed if you come out," the other youth said.

"Sigh, these bandits really stop at nothing for the sake of treasures, but it's none of our business. With our cultivation level, we can at most watch the excitement. As for the treasures, we shouldn't even think about it," the youth with the mole sighed.

"It has to be said, this time really a lot of strong warriors have come. I heard many Saints and even Battle Emperor experts have taken action. Cuiping Mountain is truly bustling with excitement now," his companion said, taking a sip of his drink.

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The two then resumed their animated discussion.

Xu Nian showed a look of surprise.

He had not expected that the entrance to the Sect of the Ancient Relics was actually in Cuiping Mountain.

As for Cuiping Mountain, Xu Nian was more than familiar with it.

It was just an inconspicuous small mountain ten miles outside of Cloud Sea City.

Xu Nian had even climbed it before.

He had not thought that it was actually the entrance to a Small World.

But thinking about it, it made sense.

When Xu Nian had been to Cuiping Mountain, he was still a child.

Not even a Martial Artist, let alone discovering the entrance to a Small World.

Even if he had found it, he probably would have died for sure if he'd gone in.

But listening to the two youths, it seemed entering the Small World wasn't that easy.

And it didn't seem to be peaceful inside the Small World either.

No one had come out from inside.

There were even people wanting to stand outside and rob others, opportunists and thugs mingled together.

But they, a group of six Battle Emperor level experts.

How could they be afraid of these riffraff?

"Damn, are you blind? You actually spilled wine on me,"

However, at that moment, a scolding voice broke Xu Nian's contemplation.

It turned out that Wu Dong, the simpleton, had accidentally spilled his drink on a youth, wetting the other's clothes.

So, this youth flared up on the spot.

"I'm sorry, I'm really sorry, it wasn't on purpose, he tripped me, and that's why I..." Wu Dong hastily apologized, pointing at the youth's companion.

"So, an apology is useful? Do you know my clothes here are worth a hundred gold coins?" the youth immediately retorted fiercely.

"A hundred gold coins?" Wu Dong said with a look of astonishment.

A hundred gold coins was the tavern's yearly earnings.

How could any clothes be that expensive?

"Quickly, pay up!" the youth said menacingly.

There was a crafty look in his eyes.

That's right, they were there to extort money.

Wu Dong hadn't been paying attention when the wine was spilled because his companion had intentionally tripped him.

The purpose was to extort a sum of money.

In his eyes, this foolish boy and the old man were ordinary people.

And he and his companion were both Nine-star Warriors.

They'd have to hand over the money without question.

"You're just extorting me, it was your companion who deliberately tripped me, causing the wine to spill, and your clothes are just wet, why should I have to pay you?" Wu Dong said indignantly.

"Hmph, you foolish boy, if you don't pay up, I'll kill you today. Do you know that I am a Nine-star Warrior?" the youth sneered.

His companion also stood up, looking at Wu Dong with a face full of scorn.

Wu Dong clenched his fists, his face full of rage.

Chapter 673: Xu Nian Takes on a Disciple

"Sir, sir, please, let's talk this out, my son is simple-minded and doesn't understand, please don't take it to heart."

The old man, hearing the commotion outside, hurried out from the kitchen and began to mediate.

"Old man, we don't mean to trouble you, your son got my clothes wet, just compensate me with a hundred Gold Coins and I'll leave, otherwise, today I'll make sure your son becomes a cripple." The young man scoffed with disdain.

"A hundred Gold Coins?" The elder was immediately startled, his eyebrows furrowing deeply.

The Cultivators inside the tavern all watched the scene with amusement.

They all knew that the young man was seizing the opportunity to extort.

Yet, none of them had any intention of stepping forward to help.

Xu Yu and Bull Demon King, among others, seeing this, felt indignant and were ready to step in and teach these scoundrels a lesson.

However, Xu Nian signaled for them to be patient.

He always felt that this foolhardy youth was somewhat unusual.

This was a good opportunity to see what was so special about him.

"Respected sirs, our small establishment cannot come up with a hundred Gold Coins; we've only earned thirty Gold Coins these past few days, please, sir, be merciful and just accept these!" The old man took out an iron box from behind the counter, which contained thirty Gold Coins.

This was all he had worked hard to earn over the past few days.

He had thought they could enjoy some good days and save the money for Wu Dong to use for a dowry in the future.

Little did he expect to encounter such a disaster.

"Hmph, thirty Gold Coins, are you trying to dismiss a beggar? Get lost!" The young man snatched the iron box from the old man's hand and then kicked him away.

"Puh!"

The old man immediately spat out blood, his body sent flying back.

As an ordinary person, how could he withstand a kick from a Nine-star Warrior?

That kick almost cost him half of his life.

"Father!"

Wu Dong, seeing his father kicked away, immediately rushed over.

However, his father was extremely weak at the moment, barely able to speak.

Wu Dong held the old man, his face tense with tears streaming down.

Yet the surrounding patrons remained indifferent.

Xu Yu and Bull Demon King couldn't sit idly by now and were ready to kill these two bastards outright.

"Wait a bit longer!"

Xu Nian stopped them once again.

Xu Yu and the others were puzzled, not understanding what Xu Nian was waiting for.

Did he really expect this simple-minded ordinary youth to defeat these Martial Artists?

"Haha, foolish boy, you might as well hand over all the money you have at home, or else not only will your old man die, but you'll have to join him in burial. If you die, there'll be no one to even collect your father's corpse," the young man laughed heartily.

His companions also sneered and jeered; clearly, this wasn't their first time doing such things.

These ordinary people had neither the strength nor the connections.

To kill was to kill—what could anyone do about it?

Wu Dong, hearing the young thug's words, grew even more furious.

He put his father to one side and with clenched fists, glared at the young man.

"Oh, getting angry? You think you can fight me?" The young man taunted.

His words instantly incited a round of laughter.

The patrons of the tavern all joined in the mockery.

Clearly, they also thought the silly youth was courting death.

How could an ordinary person be a match for a Nine-star Warrior?

Yet Wu Dong, disregarding everything, roared and charged toward the young man.

He swung his fists in an attempt to smash into the young man.

His attacks lacked any technique, and his movements were extremely uncoordinated.

In the Cultivators' eyes, it was a complete joke.

"Humph, since you're seeking death, I'll grant your wish!" The young man snorted coldly and then directly threw his fist at Wu Dong's oncoming punch.

"Crack!"

A crisp sound of breaking bone echoed.

The surrounding people chuckled lightly, feeling it was all as expected.

How could an ordinary person contend with a Warrior? Weren't they just asking for trouble?

However, in the next moment, their expressions turned to utter shock.

Because they discovered that it wasn't that foolish kid whose bones were broken, but the arrogant delinquent youth.

"How... How is this possible?" The delinquent youth seemed to be surprised as well.

However, the pain in his arm was unmistakably real.

The faces of the delinquent's companions also showed astonishment.

Xu Nian saw this scene and a trace of surprise flashed across his face.

But he quickly started to laugh.

"Indeed so!"

Xu Nian said with a chuckle.

Beside him, Xu Yu and the others were completely astounded.

They couldn't understand how the young man had managed to do this.

After the youth threw a punch, his eyes still blazed with anger.

He walked straight up and grabbed the youth, who was clutching his arm and screaming, and slammed him onto the ground.

"Boom!"

The ground was smashed into a crater.

The delinquent youth was knocked unconscious by the throw.

Another companion, upon seeing this, immediately pulled out his Battle Saber and slashed at Wu Dong.

Wu Dong's gaze sharpened, and a fierce expression swept across his face.

He didn't dodge or evade, but reached out directly for the blade.

"Clang!"

The steel saber struck Wu Dong's palm, but couldn't sever his hand.

Instead, Wu Dong firmly caught it.

"Crack!"

With a forceful twist, Wu Dong broke the steel saber in two.

Seeing this, the companion youth took several steps back, then as if remembering something, he quickly turned and ran.

Wu Dong furrowed his brows and squeezed the half of the dagger in his hand before hurling it.

The broken blade flew dozens of meters, striking the retreating youth's back with a vicious slash.

The companion youth let out a scream of pain and then collapsed.

The crowd around them all showed expressions of amazement.

Two Nine-star Warriors had been defeated by an ordinary person.

This guy's strength seemed rather unusual.

Suddenly, Wu Dong felt someone approaching from behind.

He spun around and threw a punch.

But his fist seemed to hit a steel plate.

Wu Dong took a closer look.

He found that the person standing before him was a youth not much older than himself.

"Don't worry, I mean no harm," Xu Nian said with a smile.

Yes, the youth standing behind Wu Dong was none other than Xu Nian.

Wu Dong also felt Xu Nian's lack of hostility and retracted his punch.

"May I have a look at your arm?" Xu Nian asked with a smile.

Wu Dong was perplexed, but he still extended his arm to Xu Nian.

Xu Nian held Wu Dong's arm, examined it for a while, then released it.

But his face showed a look of astonishment.

"Indeed, it's this kind of constitution, a naturally endowed Vajra Realm body constitution, Vajra Dominant Body. No wonder you possess such immense strength without any cultivation," Xu Nian thought to himself in surprise.

The so-called naturally endowed Vajra Realm meant that from the moment Wu Dong was born,

as long as he embarked on the path of cultivation, he could achieve at least the Vajra Realm.

Wu Dong stared in amazement at the youth who was only a little older than himself.

However, the youth's next words left him stunned for a long while.

"Wu Dong, would you be willing to take me as your master?" Xu Nian asked earnestly.

Chapter 674: Arrogant Youth

Atop a hill, there was a dilapidated tavern.

Wu Dong stood there, performing a set of fist techniques with extremely fluent speed.

The Fist Wind howled like the roar of a dragon.

As he moved, the inside of his body thundered like muffled thunder.

Xu Nian stood aside, watching Wu Dong's cultivation, his eyes filled with admiration.

Divine Demon Refining Body, he had broken through from an ordinary person to the level of a Body Cultivator overnight.

This Wu Dong was truly a perfect piece of uncarved jade.

"Big brother, how did you find this treasure? He advanced a whole major realm overnight. Doesn't that mean he could surpass us in one month?" Xu Yu said in surprise.

Xu Nian just smiled and said, "It's not that easy. He has the Vajra Dominant Body, continually nourished by his vitality, which is why he soared so high at the beginning of cultivation. As his potential is unlocked, his cultivation will gradually slow down. Of course, compared to ordinary Body Cultivators, it will still be much faster."

"Hehe, big brother, you just handed him the Divine Demon Refining Body like that? You're really generous, aren't you?" Xu Yu chuckled again.

"What's there to be generous about? The path of cultivation relies not just on cultivation techniques, but more on talent, effort, and fortune. I'm only leading him on the path. As for cultivation, he must rely on himself in the future. Besides, the revival of the Divine Demon Sect can't depend on me alone," Xu Nian said with a smile.

At this point, he remembered his former master, Bai Tianhan.

Originally, Bai Tianhan had set him on the path and then left him to his own devices.

The purpose was to let him temper himself.

To grow amidst adversity.

Actually, back then, Xu Nian could have asked Bai Tianhan to return and take revenge on the Qin Family on his behalf.

But if he had, Bai Tianhan would have been extremely disappointed.

"I hope you can also carve out your own path and stand on your own soon," Xu Nian mused to himself.

Next, Xu Nian called Wu Dong over.

After speaking briefly with him, he left with Xu Yu and the others.

Wu Dong was naturally very reluctant to see Xu Nian leave.

After spending the night together, Wu Dong had sincerely come to regard Xu Nian as his master.

So, hearing that Xu Nian was leaving, he immediately started crying.

But he also knew that the path ahead was destined to be walked alone.

Xu Nian had not completely left him to fend for himself, however.

He had given Wu Dong a Battle Mansion token.

Once his cultivation reached the level of Battle Sect, he was to go directly to the East Field County Battle Mansion.

Xu Nian believed that the East Field County Governor, upon seeing this token, would definitely let Wu Dong join the Battle Mansion.

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After leaving Green Peak Village, Xu Nian and his group of six headed towards Cuiping Mountain.

Along the way, they saw many cultivators heading towards Cuiping Mountain.

Their cultivation varied.

Some were strong enough to be at the Saint Level, while others only had Warrior Cultivation.

Of course, these weaker cultivators were mostly there to spectate or stir up trouble.

Perhaps an opportunity might suddenly fall into their laps, and that would set them up.

Xu Nian and his group did not draw anyone's attention.

They deliberately concealed their aura, detectable only by Battle Emperor level powerhouses.

Otherwise, no one could discern their strength.

"Big brother, that's Cloud Sea City up ahead. Should we go around it?" Xu Yu spoke up, his tone somewhat melancholy.

He knew Xu Nian's story.

He also knew that Cloud Sea City was a place of sorrow for Xu Nian.

That's why he suggested bypassing it.

But Xu Nian just smiled faintly, "Since we're here, why make an unnecessary detour? Is there really some powerful force in Cloud Sea City that we should fear?"

Hearing this, Xu Yu said no more.

Since Xu Nian didn't mind, he naturally didn't either.

To be honest, after hearing Xu Nian's story, he had felt the urge many times to come to Cloud Sea City and annihilate the Qin Family.

To let Qin Yuanshan see clearly just how blind he had been back then.

"Let's go!"

Xu Nian's sleeve whisked, and his figure transformed into a fading shadow, rapidly heading toward Cloud Sea City.

Xu Yu and the others immediately followed closely behind.

Soon, the six of them arrived at Cloud Sea City.

Walking along the familiar streets, a faint sorrow appeared in Xu Nian's eyes.

Scenes from the past emerged before his eyes.

Everything seemed to flash by like a swift horse, as if it had just occurred yesterday.

"Get out of the way, move, everyone move aside for me!"

However, just at this moment, a roar broke Xu Nian's contemplation.

Then, a series of booming noises followed.

On the street ahead,

a young man was riding a Black Wind Leopard, crashing through the street wildly.

The pedestrians along the street were terrified, hastily dodging out of the way.

Those who couldn't dodge in time were directly knocked into the air by the Black Wind Leopard.

Xu Nian immediately furrowed his brow.

Looking toward the young man.

The youth wasn't very old, probably about sixteen.

His cultivation was not low, he had already reached the realm of One-star Battle Sect.

In the small Cloud Sea City, he truly could be considered a genius among geniuses.

But, even for a genius,

such arrogance and haughtiness were quite detestable.

Moreover, it was clear that his Demon Beast had collided with many ordinary people.

"Move, don't block my path!"

Just then, the young man charged toward Xu Nian and his group.

Seeing that these six people were actually blocking the path, the youth immediately started cursing.

Xu Nian's brow furrowed slightly, and he signaled to the Bull Demon King with a glance.

The corner of the Bull Demon King's mouth twitched.

Then he stomped on the ground.

"Boom!"

The earth shook and the mountain trembled.

The Black Wind Leopard ridden by the youth paused.

Its entire body crouched on the ground, shivering.

And the youth was naturally flung forward by the abrupt stop of the Black Wind Leopard, struggling to stabilize and face-planting on the ground.

The residents of the nearby street couldn't help but chuckle.

However, they quickly covered their mouths, not daring to make a sound.

"Damn it, which blind bastard dares block my path? Do you believe I'll kill you?" The youth climbed up from the ground and immediately started cursing at Xu Nian and the others.

Then he walked over to the Black Wind Leopard.

He fiercely kicked the Black Wind Leopard, which was crouching on the ground.

"Damn beast, making me fall. Who told you to suddenly stop?" the youth cursed loudly.

Xu Nian just chuckled.

He had seen many arrogant and haughty young geniuses.

But he had never seen one as arrogant and domineering as this.

However, he was curious.

Which power did this youth belong to?

He was so extremely arrogant and domineering.

"Hey, I'm talking to you, are you deaf?"

Just as Xu Nian was pondering,

the young man shouted at Xu Nian once again.

Clearly very dissatisfied with Xu Nian's unresponsive attitude.

Those who had offended him in the past,

which one wasn't terrified and came to apologize, utterly subservient?

Chapter 675: Young Master of the Qin Family

"You fell on your own, not because I hit you. What do you think I should do?"

Xu Nian replied with a light laugh.

His gaze towards the youth held a trace of amusement.

He originally didn't want to argue with an ignorant youth, just teach him a lesson.

But this youth's arrogant demeanor

indeed sparked a bit of curiosity in Xu Nian's heart.

He wanted to see when such an arrogant youth had appeared in Cloud Sea City.

Upon hearing Xu Nian's words, the youth furrowed his brow and a wave of turmoil surged in his eyes.

The residents around also started discussing fervently,

pointing at Xu Nian and murmuring amongst themselves.

Suddenly, the youth saw Ice Blue standing behind Xu Nian, and his eyes brightened instantly.

Clearly attracted by the beauty of Ice Blue behind Xu Nian, his eyes revealed a lascivious intent.

This subtle expression naturally did not escape Xu Nian's notice.

"Kid, do you know who I am?" the youth said arrogantly, a typical spoiled young master's demeanor.

Meanwhile, his gaze still lingered on Ice Blue.

Ice Blue, however, had cold eyes and an unfriendly look.

If it weren't for Xu Nian being there,

she would have hesitated not at all to kill this youth.

Xu Nian just smiled. Despite Ice Blue's usual reticence,

her actions were very decisive.

Otherwise, how could a woman hold such a high position in the Sea King Palace?

"I really don't know who you are," Xu Nian replied with a light laugh.

As soon as Xu Nian spoke,

the murmuring of the people around grew even louder.

Clearly they were saying Xu Nian didn't know what was good for him,

daring to provoke such a dangerous youth.

But Xu Nian didn't care.

He dared to kill even the Imperial Crown Prince, why would he fear a mere youth?

"Hmph, well you better listen up, I am the second young master of the Qin Family, Qin Tianluan. How about that, are you scared now?" the youth said, puffing out his chest.

"The Qin Family? Which Qin Family?" Xu Nian responded with a slight start, asking again.

Seeing Xu Nian's expression, the youth thought the young man in front of him was scared.

So he arrogantly said again, "Which Qin Family do you think there is in Cloud Sea City? There is no second Qin Family here. Kid, you must have heard about Xu Nian who slew the Imperial Crown Prince and Prince, right?"

"I have heard about him! But what does that have to do with your Qin Family?" Xu Nian asked with a look of surprise.

"Hmph, I'm not afraid to tell you the truth, he is my elder brother. My Qin Family has a Battle Emperor Level existence, how about that, are you scared now?" the youth said arrogantly.

Xu Nian just laughed upon hearing this.

He thought this arrogant youth had come from some powerful family.

It turned out to be the Qin Family and was even pulling his own coat-tail.

Xu Yu, Black Wind, and Bull Demon King nearby also began to laugh when they heard the youth's words.

They all looked at the youth with amusement.

"But I remember Xu Nian already drew lines with your Qin Family and has been kicked out of the family door years ago, and there doesn't seem to be a Qin Tianluan in the Qin Family, right?" Xu Nian replied with a light smile.

Indeed, Xu Nian had never heard the name Qin Tianluan while in the Qin Family.

When did he suddenly get another brother?

"Hmph, the relation between Big Brother Xu Nian and our Qin Family is not something a nobody like you would know. Two years ago, our Qin Family already mended relations with Big Brother Xu Nian, many cultivation resources in the family have been provided by Big Brother Xu Nian. As for me, I am the

genuine second young master of the Qin Family, if you don't believe me, you can ask these residents if they recognize me?" the youth said with a cold snort.

Xu Nian then looked around.

He saw that the residents' gazes towards the youth were full of fear.

It was clear that they had often been oppressed by the youth.

"Who is your father?" Xu Nian asked.

"Scared? My father is the Family Head Qin, Qin Yuanshan!" the youth said arrogantly.

Xu Nian's eyes narrowed slightly.

Qin Yuanshan?

Truly, enemies often cross each other's paths.

He had figured it out.

This Qin Tianluan must be some distant relative of the Qin Family adopted by Qin Yuanshan.

Moreover, with Qin Tianluan's exceptional talent, he was being groomed as the family's heir.

But Qin Tianluan's character was really not something to commend.

"Qin Yuanshan, oh, Qin Yuanshan, you've lived too comfortably these years, forgetting the mistakes you once made, the words I made you regret, all forgotten, even daring to drag me into using your family's influence."

Xu Nian felt a surge of anger in his heart.

Although Xu Nian had promised his mother

not to kill Qin Yuanshan,

seeing this arrogant Qin Tianluan today,

killing intent still surged in Xu Nian's heart.

Qin Tianluan, noticing Xu Nian's darkening expression,

actually thought Xu Nian was scared.

So, he arrogantly said again, "Kid, now you should know who I am, right? Be smart and apologize to me, or today I won't let you leave Cloud Sea City alive."

The surrounding crowd glanced at Xu Nian with sympathy.

Xu Yu and Bull Demon King, along with others, were infuriated and about to act,

but Xu Nian stopped them with a look.

Then, with a sycophantic smile, he said, "So it's Mr. Qin, I was blind not to recognize Taishan and offended you, sir. You are magnanimous, please forgive me this once?"

Xu Yu and the others were initially stunned but then understood Xu Nian's intention and did not intervene.

The youth, hearing Xu Nian's words, took them for truth,

believing Xu Nian was truly afraid of him.

With an arrogant face, he said, "I can forgive you, just hand over that girl behind you, let her accompany me for two days, and I will forgive you."

"Yes, yes! She is just one of my maids, if Mr. Qin likes her, please feel free to take her," Xu Nian said with an ingratiating smile.

Ice Blue, sharp as she was, clearly understood what Xu Nian was doing.

She cooperated very well, frowning slightly.

Qin Tianluan, hearing Xu Nian's words, was overjoyed.

He couldn't believe this kid would actually offer up the girl.

Such a beautiful servant, willingly given away,

Qin Tianluan knew he couldn't do it.

"Alright, since your apology seems sincere, I will spare you today," Qin Tianluan said with a smile.

"Yes, yes, yes!" Xu Nian said joyfully.

He immediately signaled Ice Blue to walk over.

Qin Tianluan, seeing Ice Blue approaching, was thrilled.

A stunning face, a perfect figure,

far more attractive than any Oiran.

"Mr. Qin, I have long admired your father's renown, may I have the honor to visit?" Xu Nian, seeing Qin Tianluan captivated by Ice Blue, immediately asked with a smile.

"My father is often busy with official duties, but since you are so sincere, I will take you to meet him," Qin Tianluan said.

He was about to embrace Ice Blue's slender waist,

but was deterred by her cold gaze.

Qin Tianluan wasn't angry, figuring that once he took Ice Blue back,

he could tame her gradually, and eventually, she would submit to him.

Xu Nian simply smiled and followed Qin Tianluan towards the Qin Family's residence.

Chapter 676: Seeing Qin Yuanshan Again

Xu Nian, with Xu Yu and others in tow, followed Qin Tianluan toward the direction of the Qin Family.

To Xu Nian, the Qin Family was more than familiar.

After all, he had lived there for sixteen years.

Now, seeing these familiar places once more, the things remained, yet the people had changed.

Soon enough, under Qin Tianluan's lead, Xu Nian had entered the Qin Family Mansion.

Having not seen him for several years, the guards of the Qin Family hardly recognized Xu Nian.

Therefore, they did not acknowledge Xu Nian's presence.

Qin Tianluan took Xu Nian directly to the Central Hall.

Family Head Qin often received guests there.

"Father, I've returned," Qin Tianluan called out before even entering the hall.

"Hmph, unfilial son, you still know to come back? Do you realize how chaotic things have been outside recently? With your temperament, it's very easy for you to cause trouble..." Qin Yuanshan emerged from the hall, chiding Qin Tianluan.

"Alright, Father, there are guests present. Couldn't you wait until there's no one around before scolding me? Oh, right, Father, I met them on the road. They said they admire you greatly and insisted on visiting you," Qin Tianluan spoke up.

"Oh? Admire me?" Qin Yuanshan gave a slight smile, then turned his gaze toward the doors of the Central Hall.

Noticing who was there caught him completely off guard.

"Qin Yuanshan, long time no see!"

Xu Nian walked in from outside the hall.

Xu Yu and Black Wind and others followed him.

Qin Yuanshan instinctively took a few steps back, startled.

"Is... is it really you..." Qin Yuanshan's eyes widened as he stared fixedly at Xu Nian, his gaze a mix of shock and bewilderment.

Xu Nian merely smiled.

Sure enough, his appearance had given Qin Yuanshan quite the shock.

"Father, so you knew each other? This guy spooked my Black Wind Leopard on the road. I demanded he apologize, and look, this beautiful maid is what he gave me in compensation. Father, I... I want her to be my..."

"Slap!"

Before Qin Tianluan could finish, Qin Yuanshan slapped him hard across the face.

"Father, why did you hit me?"

The sudden slap from Qin Yuanshan left Qin Tianluan dazed.

He looked at Qin Yuanshan in disbelief.

Although Qin Yuanshan wasn't his biological father,

He had been nothing but compliant with him throughout these three years.

No matter how serious his mistakes had been throughout these years, he had never been hit.

But now, an unexpected slap, which left him puzzled.

Qin Yuanshan, at this moment, was almost frenzied.

Since Xu Nian had last left the Qin Family, leaving behind those words: 'I'll spare your life for now. I'll come back for you after I rescue my mother,' he had been uneasy.

He had thought that after a few years, Xu Nian would never return.

But he never expected Xu Nian to reappear before him today.

Thinking about the rumors of Xu Nian's cultivation from the outside world sent chills to his heart.

And now, at this moment, his own Qin Tianluan was talking about how Xu Nian gave him a woman?

Qin Yuanshan could guess the implications of what had happened before, even without thinking too hard.

The more he thought, the colder he felt.

If Xu Nian were truly angered,

He feared the entire Qin Family might be buried with.

Xu Nian, however, lightly laughed as he observed the scene.

"Kneel!" Qin Yuanshan commanded Qin Tianluan in a stern voice.

"I won't kneel. What have I done wrong? She was willingly given to me, I didn't force her," Qin Tianluan argued defiantly.

"Kneel!" Qin Yuanshan's eyes grew colder.

"I will not kneel!" Qin Tianluan remained defiant.

Enraged, Qin Yuanshan suddenly kicked Qin Tianluan in the leg.

"Crack!"

Qin Tianluan's bones instantly broke, sending him dropping to his knees.

The intense pain made Qin Tianluan scream miserably.

Xu Nian sneered coldly.

"Family Head Qin really has quite the skill, so heartless toward his own son. I truly admire that," Xu Nian mocked bitterly.

Upon hearing this, Qin Yuanshan's pupils suddenly contracted.

He knew that his actions had stirred up resentment in Xu Nian.

At that moment, he wished he could slap himself.

"Xu..."

Just as Qin Yuanshan was about to speak and explain,

Qin Tianluan, on the other hand, looked at Xu Nian venomously.

"It was you, always you, you've never had good intentions from the start," Qin Tianluan said with malice.

"So what if it was?" Xu Nian immediately laughed in response.

"I'm going to kill you!" Qin Tianluan struggled to his feet and then drew a sharp sword, thrusting it toward Xu Nian.

"Clang!"

However, before his sword could reach Xu Nian, it was trapped between two of Xu Nian's fingers.

"Crack!"

With a slight effort, the Meteorite Iron Sword snapped into two pieces.

Qin Tianluan's face turned to shock.

He couldn't believe this was happening.

But Xu Nian just chuckled and, pointing at Ice Blue, said to Qin Tianluan, "Actually, I'm saving you. Didn't you want to possess her? Now look at her cultivation!"

Qin Tianluan was immediately stunned, then he looked towards Ice Blue.

With a disdainful snort, the might of the Nine-star Battle Emperor burst forth from Ice Blue.

"Boom!"

The entire hall instantly shattered, and the area within a hundred meters was leveled to the ground.

Qin Tianluan was completely dumbfounded.

Qin Yuanshan was also agape, collapsing to the ground in astonishment.

"Nine... Nine-star Demon Emperor, how... how is this possible?" Qin Tianluan was scared senseless.

At that moment, his mind ceased to function.

He couldn't understand what was happening?

Wasn't she just a maid?

How could she be a Nine-star Demon Emperor?

Even if he had ten thousand times the guts, he wouldn't dare to touch such a woman!

"That's right, now look at them," Xu Nian said, pointing at Xu Yu and the other three.

With a soft laugh, Xu Yu and the others released their aura.

Four One-star Demon Emperor auras burst forth.

Although not as shocking as the Nine-star Demon Emperor, the sheer number left Qin Tianluan and Qin Yuanshan too frightened to speak.

To them, Nine-star Demon Emperors and One-star Demon Emperors were all the same.

So to them, these four One-star Demon Emperors appeared even more terrifying.

"Who... who exactly are you?" Qin Tianluan finally regained his sensibility and asked a significant question.

Qin Yuanshan sighed and said dispiritedly, "He is your elder brother, Xu Nian!"

Upon hearing this, Qin Tianluan's pupils dilated instantly.

He couldn't believe that the Xu Nian he was proud of was actually the young man before him.

And he had offended Xu Nian?

When he thought of the enmity between Xu Nian and the Qin Family.

Qin Tianluan finally understood why his father had beaten him like that.

"Elder... elder brother, I was wrong, I was so wrong, please on account of our brotherhood, spare me," Qin Tianluan pleaded excitedly.

After speaking, he went to cling to Xu Nian's leg.

But he was repelled by an invisible force.

Xu Nian couldn't be bothered to look at Qin Tianluan, instead, he turned to Qin Yuanshan.

"Qin Yuanshan, I give you a choice, either you die, or the Qin Family is wiped out, make your choice!" Xu Nian said while dropping a dagger.

Qin Yuanshan looked at the dagger on the ground.

His lips quivered incessantly.

But his eyes were filled with deep regret.

Chapter 677: The Heart of a Child

Qin Yuanshan truly regretted at that moment.

He owed Xu Nian too much.

He owed his mother too much as well.

These debts could never be cleared in a lifetime.

At this moment, looking at Xu Nian's indifferent expression, he also felt a pang of remorse.

This man was supposed to be the pride of the Qin Family.

Now, he had become their greatest enemy.

And the chief culprit behind all this was none other than Qin Yuanshan himself.

"Okay, as long as you spare the Qin Family, I am willing to take on everything."

Qin Yuanshan's eyes suddenly firmed up, and after speaking, he grabbed a dagger.

He then sliced it across the neck of Qin Tianluan next to him.

He knew Xu Nian would not spare Qin Tianluan.

Rather than that, he might as well end it by his own hands.

Qin Tianluan never expected that he would fall by the hands of Qin Yuanshan.

His eyes widened, and he fell down with a face full of disbelief.

Xu Nian, however, was not much perturbed by this.

He knew Qin Yuanshan too well.

This man would stop at nothing for his family.

"Xu Nian, I owe you and your mother too much. Today, I will repay it all with my blood," said Qin Yuanshan to Xu Nian.

Then he swung the dagger towards his own heart.

Xu Nian saw this and his eyes narrowed slightly.

"Thud!"

The dagger pierced and blood splattered.

However, the dagger did not strike Qin Yuanshan's heart but his Dantian instead.

It wasn't that Qin Yuanshan was reluctant to deliver a deadly blow to himself.

It was Xu Nian who, at the last moment, caused the dagger to veer off course.

Although he wanted to kill Qin Yuanshan very much, at the last moment,

Xu Nian remembered his mother's words.

His mother had said she did not resent Qin Yuanshan,

and begged him not to seek revenge.

Thus, Xu Nian saved Qin Yuanshan at the last moment.

Of course, Qin Yuanshan's cultivation was also ruined with this dagger strike.

Moreover, Xu Nian implanted a Soul Mark within this strike.

Every full moon night, this Soul Mark would activate,

causing Qin Yuanshan to suffer immensely.

Qin Yuanshan also bore an incredulous face.

He had not expected to survive.

"Qin Yuanshan, remember this—I didn't let you die today, but that does not mean I have forgiven you. From now on, you will live in pain and guilt. Also, my vendetta with the Qin Family ends here. However, I must remind you that if the Qin Family does not find a qualified person to be the Family Head, I will personally send the Qin Family to hell," Xu Nian said coldly, looking at Qin Yuanshan leaning against the chair.

Having said that, he then turned and left.

Qin Yuanshan, watching Xu Nian's departing figure, burst into loud weeping.

Crying turned into laughter, a laugh carrying profound desolation.

"Whoosh!"

The Qin Family Ancestor swept in from outside the hall.

Seeing the scene inside the hall, he was first shocked.

Then he too deeply sighed.

...

"Big brother, why didn't you completely destroy the Qin Family? With just a flick of your finger, you could crush the entire Qin Family. Why did you spare them?" asked Xu Yu, in a corner of the Qin Family Mansion.

Xu Nian then looked towards the gate of the Qin Family Mansion and slightly smiled.

"Yes, I could easily wipe out the Qin Family, but what would that mean? Maybe eliminating the Qin Family would give me some satisfaction, but it would only be a fleeting pleasure. The Great Tao is indifferent, yet the world cares. To me, protecting everything before my eyes is what matters most."

Xu Nian clenched his fist, his mind clear and focused.

At this moment, he felt exceptionally at ease.

This sensation was like having an epiphany, or letting something go.

He used to think he had let go of this grudge.

Only now did he realize that he had truly let go.

And the name Qin Yuanshan would also be completely erased from his heart, without a trace.

"Kid, I didn't expect you to have such an awakening. It seems the experiences you've had aren't all bad! You are now much more mature than before," Wentian Demon Sovereign's voice echoed in Xu Nian's mind.

Xu Nian slightly smiled, neither agreeing nor disagreeing with Wentian Demon Sovereign.

Yes!

It would be easy to kill off this grudge.

But truly letting go of it is much harder.

The path of cultivation always seeks the innocence of a child.

In the past, Xu Nian was unable to reach this state of mind due to the deep-seated hatred buried in his heart.

But just now, the moment he truly let go of his hatred,

His Heart Realm had finally elevated to the state of a child's innocence.

This Heart Realm, more mysterious than mere enlightenment,

Some people could never enhance their Heart Realm in their lifetime.

Even if their cultivation is high, without the right Heart Realm,

They are just a slightly more powerful weakling.

And the so-called strong mindset is one type within this Heart Realm.

Xu Yu and others looked at Xu Nian.

For some reason, they felt that since just recently, their eldest brother had become different.

Although the brother of the past was also strong and awe-inspiring,

The current brother made them feel a reverence from the depths of their hearts.

At this moment, they understood.

Xu Nian's strength was so natural.

With the change in Heart Realm,

Xu Nian also felt more relaxed.

He continued to lead Xu Yu and the others towards Cuiping Mountain.

...

As Xu Nian and his group were heading to Cuiping Mountain,

Outside Cuiping Mountain, a young man had arrived.

This young man was slightly overweight, holding a big animal leg in his hand.

He was about the same age as Xu Nian.

However, his cultivation was extraordinarily high.

Any expert above the Emperor Level could see

That this young lad had reached the Three-star Battle Emperor Realm.

Beside the young man stood an old man with snow-white hair, wearing somewhat ragged clothes, holding a jug of wine.

From time to time, he took a sip, his cheeks slightly flushed.

"Hey, Old Drunkard, you said Xu Nian would come to Cuiping Mountain, but why haven't we seen even a shadow? Is your divination accurate or not?" The young man scanned the surroundings, speaking displeasingly.

"Stinky kid, stop calling me Old Drunkard, call me Master, understand? You have no respect for your master or the Tao. How did I end up with a disciple like you?" The old man said indignantly.

"Cut it out; it's your gambling fault that you lost yourself to me. Who else is there to blame? You promised to let me meet Xu Nian before we left. Why is there still no sign of him? This damned guy actually killed Xia Longyuan before me. I must question him thoroughly once we meet," Chen Wudi said angrily.

Indeed, this plump young man was Xu Nian's close brother, Chen Wudi.

"What's the rush? Let's go. Your good brother might already be inside," the old man waved his hand and said.

"Hmph, if you lie to me again, I'll hide all your wine, and then you can just wait to cry!" Chen Wudi huffed.

Then he flew towards the entrance to the Cuiping Mountain Small World.

The old man shook his head, his eyes twinkling mischievously, and followed with a sly chuckle.

Chapter 678: Ancient Spiritual Sect

Xu Nian quickly arrived at Cuiping Mountain.

When he got to Cuiping Mountain, he found that the place had changed drastically from the past.

The dense vegetation that once covered the mountain had all been chopped down.

The entire mountain appeared bare and desolate.

Clearly, the cultivators had cleared the whole mountain in their search for the entrance to the Small World.

However, because of this, the entrance to the Small World was now clearly exposed in front of everyone.

Thanks to their efforts, Xu Nian was also able to spot the entrance to the Small World at first glance.

It turned out that the entrance to the Small World had originally been blocked by a huge rock.

Without moving the boulder, it was impossible to detect.

Now the boulder had been shattered.

The entrance to the Small World was naturally completely exposed to everyone's view without any cover.

At the entrance to the Small World, someone had deliberately cut out a platform with a sword.

This platform could accommodate nearly a hundred people.

At this moment, there were quite a few people standing around Cuiping Mountain.

Most of these people were there just to watch the excitement.

However, there were also some hidden in the dark, waiting for those who emerged with loot to then rob them in the chaos.

"Big Brother, there are really quite a few people ready to plunder in the chaos. I've actually found that around us there are ten Saint-level, and even three Battle Emperors," said Xu Yu with a look of surprise.

Xu Nian just smiled.

After all, this was an Ancient Spiritual Sect, and it was filled with items left by cultivators.

So even Battle Emperor-level powerhouses would not be able to resist being tempted.

"Let's go, let's go in too!" Xu Nian instructed Xu Yu and the others.

Xu Yu nodded.

They were somewhat impatient too.

They wanted to see what this Ancient Sect actually looked like.

Thus, their group of six directly flew towards the entrance to the Small World.

Upon entering the entrance, Xu Nian and the others felt as if they were passing through a layer of water.

Then they were hit by a dizzying sensation.

As Xu Nian and the others' vision darkened and then brightened again, they found themselves in a whole new world.

"Is this the Ancient Sect? Why does it feel like an Immortal Palace?" Xu Nian and the others were immediately stunned by the scene before them.

At that moment, they were on an island.

Most crucially, these islands were actually floating in the air.

There were many of these islands, totaling over a thousand.

Thick chains connected each island to the others.

Some islands were lush with greenery and groups of buildings.

Others were already in ruins.

Buildings on them had collapsed.

Xu Nian noticed that the run-down islands had no Defensive Light Shield.

While those that were still intact were enveloped in a faint glow.

Xu Nian immediately understood that these buildings on the island were preserved from the ravages of time by the glow of the light shields.

Originally, these monuments all had light shields.

However, the light shields on these islands had clearly been breached, which was why the buildings on these islands were all in ruins.

"Big Brother, what are we waiting for? Quick, let's see what's on these islands," Xu Yu called out excitedly.

"Right, maybe old Bull can even dig out a Holy Daughter of an Ancient Sect," Bull Demon King said with excitement.

Xu Nian smiled.

Seeing the excitement on Bull Demon King and the others' faces, he said, "Since that's the case, let's split up and act independently. However, we must keep in contact with each other at all times. If there's any situation or danger, immediately send a message."

"Yes!" Xu Yu and the others responded at once.

Then, Xu Yu paired up with Black Wind, and the two of them flew off in one direction.

Black Hou teamed up with Bull Demon King.

Xu Nian, of course, was with Ice Blue.

But before they set off, Xu Nian also released the Netherworld King.

The Netherworld King was overjoyed and, with a blink of an eye, turned into a beam of golden light and disappeared.

Xu Nian had released the Netherworld King because it was the Netherworld King's own request.

This place was an Ancient Sect, and who knew, the Netherworld King might make some unexpected discoveries.

"Let's go as well!" Xu Nian, leading Ice Blue, flew deeper into the island.

On their journey, Xu Nian and his group also encountered many islands shielded by Defensive Light Shields.

Some Cultivators were attacking them.

However, these Defensive Light Shields did not seem easy to break.

Even several Battle King Level powerhouses joining hands failed to break through the outermost islands.

And the deeper they went, the stronger the Defensive Light Shields of these islands became.

Xu Nian did not compete with them for these peripheral islands.

Rather than wasting time here, it was better to head directly to the interior.

Soon, Xu Nian and his group arrived at the center of this Small World.

"This one!"

Xu Nian picked a not very large island.

On top of this island, there was only one palace.

Most people would choose palaces with many buildings.

In doing so, the chances of obtaining treasures would also be greater.

However, Xu Nian did not think so; in his opinion,

The person who could occupy an island alone in this group of islands

must hold a high position within the Ancient Sect.

And the residence of such a person would definitely yield a good harvest.

"Hall Master, let me!" Ice Blue was the first to speak up.

Then she gathered her demon power and struck the Defensive Light Shield with a palm.

"Buzz!"

The Defensive Light Shield swayed momentarily but did not shatter.

"What?"

Ice Blue was clearly surprised to see this scene.

She had not expected her attack to be unable to break through the Defensive Light Shield.

Xu Nian was also somewhat surprised.

It seemed the power of this Defensive Light Shield was stronger than he had imagined.

"Let's do it together!"

Xu Nian said.

This time, Ice Blue did not delay and immediately summoned her demon power.

Xu Nian also produced three sharp swords.

"Buzz!"

Both launched their attacks simultaneously.

Their powerful strikes collided with the Defensive Light Shield at the same time.

"Boom!"

After shaking for a while, the Defensive Light Shield finally shattered completely.

An ancient aura rushed towards their faces.

Both Xu Nian and Ice Blue showed smiles upon seeing this scene.

They immediately swept into the palace.

The furnishing within the great hall was very simple,

with only a stone platform and a meditation cushion.

However, on the stone platform were arranged three items:

a storage ring, a volume of Spiritual Formulas, and an exquisitely refined sword.

Xu Nian walked over.

He directly picked up the storage ring.

This investigation immediately brought joy to Xu Nian's heart.

The storage ring actually contained a thousand Low Grade Spirit Stones and three bottles of Low Grade Spirit Pills.

Although he did not know what effect these Spirit Pills had,

they were, at the very least, Spirit Pills.

Ice Blue, on the other hand, picked up the sword, a look of fondness on her face.

This was a Low Grade Spirit Sword.

Exceptionally sharp.

Moreover, the sword exuded a cold gleam.

It could be said to be tailor-made for Ice Blue.

"If you like it, take it, and this volume of Spiritual Formulas is yours too," Xu Nian said with a smile.

At a glance, the sword was made for women, not suitable for him at all.

And the Spiritual Formulas were of no use to him, so he might as well give them to her.

"Thank you, Hall Master!" Ice Blue immediately said with a smile.

Xu Nian simply smiled.

"Hand over the items!"

However, at that moment, a cold voice came from outside the palace.

Chapter 679: A Mouth Glows

The sound faded.

A young-looking man walked into the hall.

Xu Nian looked at the young man, his brows furrowing slightly.

The young man's cultivation was not high, only at the Nine-star War Saint Level.

Such cultivation made him easily killed by Xu Nian.

However, the young man held a spirit talisman in his hand.

This talisman was far from simple, radiating an energy that sent shivers down one's spine.

If he wasn't mistaken, this spirit talisman must have been found in this relic.

It was left by ancient cultivators.

This guy was truly cunning, intending to use this talisman to threaten others and loot treasures from them.

"You'd better hand over the treasures you have obediently. This talisman in my hand is the Devouring Immortal Talisman from the Ancient Sect. Once activated, even Zifu Cultivators will struggle to resist. Kid, hand over your storage ring, that sharp sword, and the Spiritual Formulas, or I'll use this talisman to kill you both," the young man said with a cold smirk and a threatening tone.

He had already used this tactic to intimidate several people.

It had worked every time, allowing him to snatch treasures.

Of course, he would not use the Devouring Immortal Talisman unless absolutely necessary.

It was merely for scaring people.

Upon hearing this, Ice Blue's face immediately turned icy cold.

She glared at the young man with disapproval.

As for Xu Nian, he just laughed.

He saw right through the young man's intentions.

This tactic might work on others, but it was completely useless against him.

"Oh, is that so? Then why don't you try crushing the talisman?" Xu Nian said with a smile.

Upon hearing this, the young man's brows immediately furrowed.

Was this guy not afraid of his spirit talisman?

"Sorry, but I also have a spirit talisman, and it's identical to yours," Xu Nian said with a smile.

After he spoke, a spirit talisman magically appeared in his hand like a sleight of hand trick.

The young man was startled to find that the spirit talisman in Xu Nian's hand looked exactly like his own.

"What the— Where's my talisman?"

Realizing something, the young man quickly looked at the talisman in his hand.

However, he found that the talisman had vanished without a trace.

Now the young man was utterly bewildered.

How did the talisman he was holding just disappear?

Could the talisman in the young man's hand be his own?

"Damn, I must be seeing things."

The young man immediately turned and ran.

Without the talisman, and unable to see through the cultivation levels of the two before him,

he had no choice but to run. Was he supposed to wait for death?

Yet an even more bizarre scene unfolded.

The young man tirelessly raced towards the hall's exit, only to find himself getting further away from the door.

He turned his head and found that the young man was standing right behind him.

"Please... don't kill me. I was just trying to scare you, I wasn't really going to do anything," the young man begged immediately.

Even though he was a Nine-star Battle Saint,

this young man who could use such mysterious methods was no ordinary person.

Furthermore, the aura exuding from the woman beside him made him feel a bone-chilling iciness.

Xu Nian, however, just smiled and said, "I can let you go, but you have to hand over everything you have, or I'll use this talisman to kill you."

"Okay, okay, I'll give them to you!" the young man immediately brightened up and handed over all the treasures he had acquired to Xu Nian.

"That's not enough; your own storage ring as well!" Xu Nian demanded.

The young man's face immediately turned bitter as he pleaded, "Brother, can you leave me with something?"

But Xu Nian's face showed no room for negotiation.

Helplessly, the young man released the ownership of his storage ring and handed it over to Xu Nian.

"Brother, can I go now?" the young man hastily asked.

Having said that, he began to turn to leave.

But Xu Nian wore a cunning smile and said, "I meant everything you have on, including the clothes you're wearing!"

"Ah!"

The young man almost popped his eyes out.

He glanced at Ice Blue subconsciously.

However, Ice Blue just looked cold and indifferent, as if she hadn't heard a thing.

"Big brother, do you really have to be so harsh?" the young man said with a bitter face.

"If you like to steal from others, you have to be prepared to be stolen from anytime. I'm just stealing a bit more thoroughly, that's all," Xu Nian said with a laugh.

The young man's mouth twitched several times.

A bit more thoroughly?

This is way too thorough, alright?

In the end, the young man almost cried as he stripped off all his clothes.

Xu Nian didn't even spare his underpants.

Ultimately, Xu Nian let him go.

After leaving the great hall, the young man ran towards the outside of the Small World.

Damn it?

Some treasure he was going to snatch.

His underpants had been stolen.

Faced with such a ruthless person, he couldn't even cry.

The bandits guarding outside Cuiping Mountain saw some disturbance at the entrance.

They were thrilled, thinking someone was coming out with treasures.

They swarmed over.

However, what came out was a stark naked young man, covering his lower body with his hands.

Everyone was stunned for a moment. What's going on?

Without pondering much, they shouted harshly, "Hand over all the treasures you've got!"

Hearing this, the young man's mouth twitched again.

Then he couldn't help but curse, "I'll hand your great-grandmother's leather bag over. Do I look like I've got treasures on me?"

The bandit who had spoken scratched his head, looking equally embarrassed.

They had waited for so long only to meet a young man stripped bare.

The bandits dispersed in a hubbub.

The young man, with a sullen face, turned into a streak of light and disappeared into the forest.

Crap?

He had been humiliated big time.

Meanwhile, inside a great hall within the Small World.

Bull Demon King and Black Hou were both staring wide-eyed at the treasures before them.

Before them laid a massive piece of Glazed Stone.

The stone was crystal clear and brightly lustrous.

However, that was not the reason for their shock.

What shocked them was that within the Glazed Stone, a girl with delicate features was curled up.

The girl was exceptionally beautiful, with her eyes closed, yet her expression remained serene.

"Damn, there really is a Holy Daughter from the Ancient Spiritual Sect? Did I somehow bless my own mouth, speaking so accurately?" Bull Demon King said with a look of surprise in his eyes as he stared at the girl in the Glazed Stone.

"Doesn't matter, let's take her back first," Bull Demon King tried several times to put it into his storage ring.

But he found that he couldn't get the storage ring to take it in.

"Damn, could she still be alive? That would be a fortune, an Ancient Saintess!" Bull Demon King thought in amazement.

He knocked on the Glazed Stone a few times but found he couldn't shake it at all.

With no other choice, he opted to hoist the Glazed Stone onto his shoulder.

It has to be said, the stone was damn heavy.

Even for Bull Demon King carrying it on his shoulder, it was a struggle.

Black Hou, watching this, was speechless.

This guy wasn't planning to carry on treasure hunting with the Holy Daughter Stone on his back, was he?

Chapter 680: Sudden Enlightenment

After stripping the young man, Xu Nian left the grand hall with Ice Blue.

During the time when the young man was disrobing, Ice Blue turned her head away.

Turn a blind eye for purity.

According to her thoughts, it would have been better to kill this young man with a single sword strike.

Why go to such trouble.

However, Xu Nian's decision was not interfered with by her.

She also felt it was her fortune to have a master who was not too cold-blooded.

After Xu Nian and his party left the grand hall, they ventured deeper into the relic.

From that young man's possession, Xu Nian had acquired many treasures.

There were no less than five thousand Spirit Stone Tree Eyes alone, among which ten were surprisingly Mid-grade Spirit Stones.

This was undoubtedly a tremendous fortune.

In addition, there were three Low-grade Spirit Artifacts and five bottles of Spirit Pills.

Xu Nian gave Ice Blue two bottles and kept three for himself.

Ice Blue had no objections, even if Xu Nian gave her nothing at all.

She found it entirely normal.

"Eh, Hall Master, what is that?" Ice Blue suddenly asked, pointing at a structure on a nearby island.

That island was not a palace but a plaza.

However, on this plaza, there were twelve platforms arranged.

Each platform had a stone pillar.

Each of these pillars contained a powerful fluctuating energy, and each had its own unique fluctuations.

At that moment, there were already people trying to ascend the platforms.

Yet, they were always knocked down by an invisible force.

"This must be the place where the Ancient Sect's disciples receive their inheritance," Xu Nian surmised to himself.

The energy fluctuations on these pillars must be Inheritance Energy.

"Buzz!"

As expected, just then, a young man ascended a platform.

A burst of light erupted from one of the stone pillars.

This burst of light immediately shot into the young man's body.

The young man was as if enlightened by a divine teaching.

Infinite strength surged continuously into his body.

One-star Battle Saint, Two-star Battle Saint...

The young man's cultivation soared rapidly.

Eventually, it ascended directly to the level of Seven-star Battle Saint.

"Haha, fantastic, Seven-star Battle Saint, I've jumped six stars," the young man laughed heartily, his laughter filled with intense excitement.

The people around were deeply moved.

This guy was so lucky.

To receive an inheritance that boosted his cultivation by six stars at once.

Now, the crowd around became even more desperate.

One by one, they crazily tried to ascend the platforms as if they wanted to obtain this inheritance.

After all, improving one's own cultivation directly was more tangible than acquiring any treasure.

"Shall we give it a try?" Xu Nian said to Ice Blue.

Ice Blue shook her head.

Her cultivation had just broken through recently, and she had already reached the realm of a Nine-star Demon Emperor.

Even being enlightened like that wouldn't be much help to her.

Xu Nian just smiled, then he flew toward one of the platforms.

Just as Xu Nian was about to reach the platform.

He suddenly felt a powerful repelling force coming towards him, directly forcing Xu Nian back.

Indeed, this repelling force was what prevented people from entering the platform.

"As expected, this inheritance isn't easy to obtain," Xu Nian said with a slight smile.

Immediately, his eyes became sharp.

Then, he directly summoned an Immortal Sword.

Without hesitation, he struck with a sword.

"Buzz!"

A terrifying Sword Radiance instantly scattered the repelling force.

A wave of impact immediately drew the attention of everyone around.

They all used their own power to resist this repelling force.

This young man, however, opened it directly with a single sword.

How terrifying was the power of this one sword?

Yet Xu Nian did not pay attention to the gazes of the people.

He sheathed the immortal sword in his hand and swept towards the platform.

This strike utilized the newly comprehended Second Level Wind Wave.

It was enormously powerful.

It could be said it was Xu Nian's most powerful strike besides the Evil Extermination Sword Array.

Indeed, the might of this strike did not disappoint him.

"Buzz!"

Just as Xu Nian reached the platform in an instant,

A strong fluctuation emanated from behind him on the platform.

Following that, a majestic power poured directly into Xu Nian's body.

Xu Nian felt the surge of power flooding into him, and a smile of joy appeared on his face.

He promptly mobilized his own Green Lotus of the Dan Sea and the Divine Demon Refining Body Technique to absorb this power.

As Xu Nian absorbed, the power was continually being consumed far and wide.

Xu Nian's cultivation also steadily increased.

"Buzz!"

A powerful vibration came from within Xu Nian.

Xu Nian's spiritual cultivation ascended from Two-star War Emperor Level to Five-star War Emperor Level.

His body refining cultivation advanced from Two-star Body Emperor Level to the peak of Four-star Body Emperor.

Those around were so shocked they could hardly speak.

They were not astounded by the degree of Xu Nian's cultivation enhancement.

But rather, they were surprised by Xu Nian's own cultivation.

Spirit Body Dual Cultivation, both reaching Emperor-level cultivation.

What was terrifying was that this fellow seemed younger than everyone present.

What kind of frightening talent was this?

What had created such a monstrous being?

Xu Nian, however, wasn't concerned with everyone's astonishment.

At this moment, he was immersed in the sensation of the rapid increase in power.

By now, the energy within the stone pillar had been absorbed by him.

The gains were not small, however.

"Buzz!"

Just then,

Xu Nian suddenly felt a tingling sensation in the back of his neck.

He swiftly turned around only to find that a sharp sword had penetrated the stone pillar behind him.

And this sword, continuing its relentless trajectory, was speeding towards Xu Nian.

The energy it contained was enough to kill a Nine-star War Emperor level powerhouse.

Xu Nian dared not delay and immediately summoned the Star Shield.

"Clang!"

The sword struck the Star Shield, emitting an extreme quivering sound.

Xu Nian felt his arm go numb from the intense shock.

His body rapidly shot backward.

Xu Nian created seven or eight large craters on the hard ground before dissipating the terrifying force.

The crowd around was profoundly shocked.

They hastily retreated.

Xu Nian then looked up in the direction the sword had come from, a strong iciness gleaming in his eyes.

Had it not been for his quick reflexes and the Star Shield,

That sword could very likely have taken his life.

In the air ahead of Xu Nian, there stood a young man.

It was this young man who had unleashed that sword strike.

"A Nine-star War Emperor Peak?" Xu Nian furrowed his brows.

The young man's cultivation was frighteningly high.

Though only twenty-four years old, he possessed the cultivation of a Nine-star War Emperor Peak.

But what truly made Xu Nian somber,

Was the presence of an old man standing behind this young man.

Though the old man seemed unremarkable in demeanor,

Xu Nian sensed a terrifying aura of death from him,

An aura even the Sea Demon King had not given him.

"Not bad at all, to withstand my sword strike. I didn't expect to find such a talent on this rubbish continent," the young man said with a light laugh.

His tone was unhurried, laced with disdain and arrogance.

Xu Nian was shocked.

He hadn't expected this young man to come from another continent.

Then the cultivation of this old man might be...

With this thought, Xu Nian's brows furrowed even deeper.