

Doctor 2051

Chapter 2051: Boarding a Pirate Ship

The fierce battle between Ziyi, a disciple of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, and Li Muyu, a steward of the Immortal Elephant Sect, was brought to a halt when immortals from the City Lord Mansion intervened.

“Within the Immortal City, immortals with personal grievances can resolve them at the War Immortal Platform. Fighting within the city is prohibited. Are both of you unaware of this longstanding rule of the Immortal Realm?”

The immortal from the City Lord Mansion, with eyes as sharp as knives, glanced over Ziyi and Li Muyu, and spoke sternly.

Ziyi and Li Muyu both recognized this immortal as Hengdao, one of the four generals appointed by City Lord Li Xianfeng to assist in governing Myriad Images City.

Hengdao was known for his cruelty and bloodthirst, unemotional demeanor, and having a sixth-rank Human Immortal Realm strength. He was famous for wielding the sixth-rank Immortal Artifact “Soul-Cleaving Saber,” making him a top contender among the million strong in Myriad Images City.

Seeing Hengdao appear, Ziyi from the Heaven-Reaching Sect showed a slightly upset expression.

The City Lord Mansion where Hengdao was from, and the Heaven-Reaching Sect where Ziyi was from, were the most likely contenders for the next City Lord, with a relationship of mutual hostility but no outright conflict.

Before him, Li Muyu was the brother of City Lord Li Xianfeng. Given Hengdao’s intervention, it was evident that they would side together.

Even though they wouldn’t dare to join forces against him openly in front of other immortals, Ziyi’s mission to drive away Li Muyu for Senior Fang was now in ruins.

“Senior, forgive my incompetence for failing to complete the task you entrusted to me.”

Ziyi descended and stood before Fang Bai, apologetically.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "No matter, I have seen your sincerity. Very well, I will follow you to the Heaven-Reaching Sect and have a word with your Sect Leader."

Ziyi was overjoyed and gratefully said, "Thank you, senior."

Fang Bai looked to the sky, seeing Li Muyu and Hengdao seemingly communicating through the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique, occasionally glancing in his direction with murderous intent, obviously identifying his identity, making his eyelids twitch.

He was unsure how his cover had been blown, leading Li Muyu to track him here. Worried about getting entangled, he signaled Qingyang and Qingyue to guard the stall as he departed with Ziyi.

Fang Bai had only been in Myriad Images City for a short time, but he knew a little about the City Lord contenders.

Originally, he didn't want to get involved, but now with Li Muyu targeting him, knowing City Lord Li Xianfeng was Li Muyu's sister, and having killed Bloody Hand True Person's nominal disciple Yang Xiong... it meant he had offended three major powers within and outside Myriad Images City.

Thinking of this, Fang Bai couldn't help but smile wryly, realizing that Myriad Images City was full of dangers for him.

The Heaven-Reaching Sect that had actively approached him was known to be at odds with the City Lord Mansion but strong enough to contend with it.

With this understanding, Fang Bai realized that the Heaven-Reaching Sect's Sect Master inviting him was an attempt to recruit him. Thus, he decided to take advantage of the situation to get involved, providing an opportunity to extricate himself.

Li Muyu and Hengdao stood in the air, watching Fang Bai depart with Ziyi, making no attempts to stop them.

“To the City Lord Mansion!”

The two exchanged glances and headed towards the City Lord Mansion.

At the same time, disciples from Bloody Hand True Person’s residence were closely monitoring Fang Bai’s movements. Seeing Fang Bai enter the Heaven-Reaching Sect with Ziyi, the disciple responsible for surveillance immediately went back to report in the Immortal Mansion.

Bloody Hand True Person, the City Lord Mansion, and the Immortal Elephant Sect, three great sect forces both inside and outside Myriad Images City, began to secretly collude, preparing to use the Fang Bai incident as a pretext to jointly demand accountability from the Heaven-Reaching Sect.

The Heaven-Reaching Sect Master, Hong Tongtian, was unaware of some of these happenings. Otherwise, he might have reconsidered his efforts to recruit Fang Bai.

Finding himself in the dark, Hong Tongtian was delighted with Fang Bai’s arrival and met him in the Sect Leader’s Hall, treating him as an equal, despite being a thousand years old, giving Fang Bai enough face.

Hong Tongtian extended an olive branch, and Fang Bai reciprocated in kind, recommending himself as the Honorary Elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, thus binding both parties’ interests together.

“Sect Leader...”

Just as they were having a pleasant conversation, Ziyi hurriedly entered the Sect Leader’s Hall, glanced at Fang Bai, and then spoke to Hong Tongtian: “Li Muyu, the steward of the Immortal Elephant Sect, just shouted outside the entrance, saying we must hand over Elder Fang within three days or else the Immortal Elephant Sect will view the Heaven-Reaching Sect as an enemy!”

“This... does Elder Fang have an enmity with the Immortal Elephant Sect?”

Hong Tongtian only knew about Fang Bai's defeat of Bloody Hand True Person's nominal disciple Yang Xiong on the War Immortal Platform in the city, but was unaware of any issues with the Immortal Elephant Sect, so he asked upon hearing this.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "I once killed a few Immortal Elephant Sect disciples. That's why Li Muyu chased me, but I luckily escaped. He probably discovered my whereabouts, and that's why he's here now!"

Hong Tongtian inhaled sharply, feeling a bit of a headache.

Fang Bai's killing of several Immortal Elephant Sect disciples led to a blood feud, and it was natural for Steward Li Muyu to pursue him. However, the current issue is Fang Bai is now an Honorary Elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect. If they don't support him, their reputation will be tarnished.

Looking at the smiling, unfazed Fang Bai, Hong Tongtian suddenly felt like he had boarded a pirate ship.

Moreover, this ship wasn't one Fang Bai forced him to get on; he had boarded it voluntarily.

Ziyi also had a bitter smile, thinking no wonder Elder Fang wanted her to drive away Li Muyu at the Cultivation Resource Exchange Market. It turns out Li Muyu was chasing him, and she was used by Elder Fang as a pawn.

"This Elder Fang is indeed cunning!"

Ziyi thought to herself.

Hong Tongtian, spreading out his Divine Sense, found that Li Muyu had left, pondered for a moment, then solemnly said to Fang Bai: "Elder Fang, do not worry. Now that you are an elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, you will be protected by all disciples of the sect! If Immortal Elephant Sect disciples seek trouble, we will handle it!"

The reason Hong Tongtian spoke this way is because the City Lord Mansion and the Immortal Elephant Sect were already allies. Even without the Fang Bai incident, their relationship with the Heaven-Reaching Sect wouldn't have been good.

Given the situation, it was better to protect Fang Bai so he would feel gratitude and thus bind himself more closely to the Heaven-Reaching Sect.

"Thank you, Sect Master Hong."

Fang Bai smiled, cupping his hands towards Hong Tongtian, suddenly asking: "I've heard that Sect Master Hong intends to contest City Lord Li Xianfeng for the position of City Lord?"

This matter was widely known in Myriad Images City, and Hong Tongtian did not conceal it, nodding, "Indeed."

Fang Bai said, "So... does Sect Master Hong feel confident about defeating Li Xianfeng?"

Chapter 2052: A Perfect Match

"Confidence? That's hard to say!"

Hearing Fang Bai's inquiry, Hong Tongtian smiled bitterly and said, "I fought Li Xianfeng sixty years ago. Back then, although our cultivation levels were similar, her combat strength slightly surpassed mine, and she successfully became the City Lord. Now, sixty years later, our cultivation levels are still the same. If I were to confront her again, the outcome is hard to predict! I can only give it my all!"

Hong Tongtian said as he couldn't help but sigh.

If he fails again in this competition for City Lord, he might never have another chance.

Because once Li Xianfeng becomes City Lord again, she will undoubtedly suppress the Heaven-Reaching Sect with all her might in the next sixty years.

It's truly a case where falling behind step by step means falling behind continually. The suppressed Heaven-Reaching Sect might be worse off than now in sixty years, struggling to compete with other Celestials.

Ziyi, standing by his side, noticed her master's somewhat dejected spirit and couldn't help but say, "Master, don't be discouraged! Your mana is powerful, and your cultivation is profound. You will surely defeat Li Xianfeng!"

Hong Tongtian, encouraged, laughed heartily and said loudly, "Ziyi is right. Before the battle, how can I boost others' morale while diminishing my own? In this battle with Li Xianfeng, I will give it my all!"

Fang Bai pondered and said, "Earlier, that Li Muyu from the Immortal Elephant Sect said, in three days, if we don't hand me over..."

Hong Tongtian interrupted before he finished, seriously saying, "Elder Fang, no need to worry about that! In today's Myriad Images City, everyone knows that the Immortal Elephant Sect and the City Lord Mansion are allies. Even without Elder Fang, the Immortal Elephant Sect would still treat our Heaven-Reaching Sect as an enemy; it just hasn't been made clear before now."

Saying this, he stood up and said, "In a month, the competition for the City Lord position will start. By then, I will face not only Li Xianfeng but also some other participating immortals. In this month, I plan to go into seclusion and cultivate, gather my strength, and prepare for the battle. Ziyi, take Elder Fang to rest."

Just after Fang Bai agreed to become an Honorary Elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, Hong Tongtian had his disciple arrange accommodations for him, with treatment on par with other Elders.

"Sect Master, I have a set of Earth Immortal Rank Immortal Technique Secrets here that I want to discuss with you. Would you have some time?"

Fang Bai suddenly said when he saw Hong Tongtian preparing to leave.

Hearing “Earth Immortal Rank Immortal Technique Secrets,” Hong Tongtian was taken aback, then reacted, breathing a little heavily, and excitedly said, “Earth Immortal Rank Immortal Technique Secrets? Is it true?”

In the Immortal Realm, above the Human Immortal Realm is the Earth Immortal, and the strength of an Earth Immortal Realm expert has an overwhelming advantage over a Human Immortal Realm expert.

Hong Tongtian does not lack cultivation resources; what he lacks is high-rank immortal technique secrets for cultivation, which is why his strength progresses slowly, and he has been unable to break through in cultivation level.

If he could comprehend an Earth Immortal Rank immortal technique, Hong Tongtian believed that even if he couldn’t achieve a breakthrough in the next month, his combat strength would certainly improve significantly, giving him a better chance to defeat the City Lord Li Xianfeng.

However, Earth Immortal Rank immortal technique secrets are valued more than life in the eyes of Human Immortal Realm experts. Would Fang Bai really be willing to share it with him?

Fang Bai seemed to see the doubt in Hong Tongtian’s heart and smiled, “I have slain several disciples of the Immortal Elephant Sect and even killed a disciple under Bloody Hand True Person. The experts of these two sects now undoubtedly have their eyes on me, wanting to kill me as soon as possible...”

As Hong Tongtian listened, he nodded, knowing that Fang Bai was right.

Currently, not only the Immortal Elephant Sect and Bloody Hand True Person want to kill Fang Bai, but the City Lord Mansion, allied with the Immortal Elephant Sect, probably won’t spare him either.

One could say that Fang Bai is surrounded by enemies on all sides, making it not easy for him to leave Myriad Images City safely.

Thinking of this, Hong Tongtian seemed to suddenly realize something.

Fang Bai, despite having a high-rank cultivation method, lacks the strength to protect himself.

By sharing it with him, once his strength increased, there's hope to defeat the current City Lord Li Xianfeng and become the new City Lord.

Once he becomes City Lord, all the Celestials in Myriad Images City will comply, and by then, the Heaven-Reaching Sect will be able to rally massive support, significantly increasing its overall strength.

And as an Honorary Elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, Fang Bai will also be much safer at that time.

It's a win-win situation, and were it himself, he would do the same.

"Very well, if Elder Fang can assist me in seizing the City Lord position, I will ensure Elder Fang's personal safety!"

Hong Tongtian patted his chest, making a promise to Fang Bai.

Fang Bai and Hong Tongtian quickly reached an agreement and immediately both entered a secret room in the Heaven-Reaching Sect, isolated from the outside.

In the blink of an eye, three days passed.

Three days earlier, the Steward of Immortal Elephant Sect, Li Muyu, had declared that the Heaven-Reaching Sect should hand over Fang Bai within three days, but three days later, there was no movement from the Immortal Elephant Sect, which allowed the thousand disciples of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, fully prepared, to breathe a sigh of relief.

However, some observant immortals in Myriad Images City noticed that several disciples of the Immortal Elephant Sect, far from thousands of miles away, were gathering in Myriad Images City, meeting with the immortals of the City Lord Mansion.

At the same time, the immortals in Bloody Hand True Person's Immortal Mansion frequently acted against the Heaven-Reaching Sect with surveillance.

In the vast Myriad Images City, an undercurrent surged, as if a storm were brewing.

And the Heaven-Reaching Sect was at the center of this storm.

“How quickly time flies, another cycle of sixty years!”

“Indeed, it’s another term for the rotation of the City Lord of Myriad Images City!”

“I wonder how many immortals will participate in this term’s City Lord rotation?”

“Other immortals participating is just to join in the fun! The City Lord for this term will definitely be between the current City Lord Li Xianfeng and the Heaven-Reaching Sect Master Hong Tongtian!”

“I think City Lord Li has a greater chance of re-election!”

“Sect Master Hong, enduring patiently, may very well pull City Lord Li down from her horse!”

“Let’s wait and see!”

...

As the month approached and the competition for the City Lord position was about to begin, immortals in Myriad Images City began to anticipate, eagerly speculating on who would claim the City Lord title this time.

Just as millions of immortals in Myriad Images City were eagerly anticipating, in a secret room of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, suddenly, layers of immortal might and a terrifying aura emanated from Hong Tongtian, spreading fiercely all around.

Fortunately, this layered immortal might and terrifying aura were blocked by a Great Cauldron summoned by Fang Bai in the secret room, preventing any leakage.

Thus, the ten Heaven-Reaching Sect disciples guarding the area outside the secret room did not know that just now, their Sect Master had broken through and advanced to the cultivation level of an eighth-rank Human Immortal Realm.

After another three days, Hong Tongtian in the secret room thoroughly solidified his realm, then came out of the cultivation state, abruptly opening his eyes.

"Thank you, Elder Fang!"

After advancing in rank, Hong Tongtian's eyes showed joy, knowing that his advancement was thanks to the Earth Immortal Rank Immortal Technique Secrets passed down by Fang Bai, and he clasped his fists and gave a deep bow to Fang Bai as a sign of gratitude.

Chapter 2053: All Is Well

"Sect Master Hong, are you confident in defeating Li Xianfeng now?"

Fang Bai asked with a smile.

"Yes!"

Having advanced to the eighth-grade Human Immortal Realm, exceeding Li Xianfeng by a small realm, Hong Tongtian was brimming with confidence and said with great spirit, "If I can't defeat Li Xianfeng this time, I won't have the face to meet anyone!"

Fang Bai pondered for a moment, and said to Hong Tongtian, "On the eve of the competition for the City Lord, it's not advisable for the Sect Leader to reveal your cultivation level, otherwise, if Li Xianfeng realizes that her position as City Lord is at risk, she may resort to some despicable tactics!"

Hong Tongtian understood Li Xianfeng's character well. He knew that if she thought her position as City Lord was in jeopardy, she would certainly become desperate and resort to any means to deal with him.

Though his cultivation level could now crush Li Xianfeng, who knows what unexpected events could occur?

Hong Tongtian knew that Li Xianfeng's brother, Li Muyu, was part of the Immortal Elephant Sect, which had strong ties with powerful Immortal Sects and Immortal Schools in the Central Heavenly Domain. If Li Xianfeng were to urge her brother to use their connections and bring in more powerful immortals, things could get troublesome.

"I don't know the technique to conceal my aura, so it's not easy to hide from Li Xianfeng!"

Hong Tongtian said with a frown.

Li Xianfeng had a strong divine sense, and it was certain that she had disciples monitoring around the Heaven-Reaching Sect. With his aura becoming even stronger after advancing to the eighth-grade Human Immortal Realm, he couldn't hide it.

Therefore, the moment he left the secret chamber, Li Xianfeng might sense his greatly increased aura and become wary.

"You might not understand, but I do!"

Fang Bai smiled and said, "I'll teach you a secret technique to conceal your cultivation now. Once you learn this secret technique, you can hide your own aura, and unless you encounter immortals significantly stronger than you, other immortals won't be able to sense your deep cultivation level and strength."

Hong Tongtian's eyes lit up, and he said excitedly, "If that's the case, it would be great! When I face Li Xianfeng in the decisive battle, I can catch her by surprise and seize the position of City Lord in one fell swoop!"

Having already learned a set of Earth Immortal Rank cultivation techniques from Fang Bai, learning Fang Bai's secret technique was not too difficult. Within half a day, he was able to skillfully use the concealment secret technique, hiding his aura well.

"Haha... Elder Fang, inviting you over and befriending you was indeed an extraordinarily wise decision on my part! Without you, Elder Fang, how could I, Hong Tongtian, be where I am today? It's a kind of destiny!"

As he walked side by side with Fang Bai out of the secret chamber, Hong Tongtian said with a deep sense of emotion.

At the same time, he felt secretly fortunate that he did not abandon Fang Bai when he found out Fang Bai had provoked the Immortal Elephant Sect and Bloody Hand True Person. Otherwise, it would have been an immeasurable loss.

"Sect Leader! Elder Fang!"

Ziyi, who had been waiting outside the secret chamber, saw Hong Tongtian and Fang Bai emerging together, expressed her joy, and respectfully greeted them.

As she looked over Hong Tongtian, she noticed that her master seemed different from before, but couldn't quite tell how.

"Ziyi, why are you looking at me like that?"

Having advanced to the eighth-grade Human Immortal Realm and learned the concealment secret technique from Fang Bai, Hong Tongtian was in a great mood. Seeing his beloved disciple staring at him, he thought she had noticed some flaw and quickly asked.

Ziyi let out an "ah" and hurriedly bowed with a face full of panic, "Master, I was rude! Disciple... I haven't seen you for many days, and seeing you suddenly, I thought you seemed different from before..."

"Nonsense, your master is still your master, how could there be any difference?"

Although Hong Tongtian said this, he felt relieved in his heart.

The rank advancement of an immortal involves a comprehensive improvement from divine sense to body to mental state. No matter how well you hide it, there would still be some difference in appearance from before.

Fortunately, Ziyi only felt that her master had undergone some changes but couldn't tell what was different. Otherwise, Hong Tongtian would doubt whether the concealment secret technique taught by Fang Bai was effective.

Seeing Ziyi looking genuinely afraid as if worried he might get angry, Hong Tongtian chuckled softly and asked gently, "During the time when Elder Fang and I were in secluded cultivation, has everything been alright inside and outside the Immortal Sect?"

Ziyi said, "Reporting to Master, everything is well! It's just..."

Hong Tongtian asked, "Just what?"

Ziyi replied, "Recently, there have been many spies from the City Lord Mansion, Immortal Elephant Sect, and the Immortal Mansion of Bloody Hand True Person around our Immortal Sect. Our disciples are monitored whenever they enter or exit!"

Hong Tongtian was not surprised and sneered, "It would be strange if they didn't do this! Never mind, let them monitor. We'll do what we need to do!"

Ziyi said worriedly, "Master, now the forces of Immortal Elephant Sect, City Lord Mansion, and Bloody Hand True Person's Immortal Mansion seem to be joining forces. I'm worried..."

Hong Tongtian knew what she wanted to say and waved it off, "No need to worry. Your master... and Elder Fang are here for everything!"

Ziyi looked at her master and then at Fang Bai, always feeling that there seemed to be something unsaid between them that they were keeping from her, but she dared not ask.

That day, Fang Bai suddenly remembered the siblings Qingyang and Qingyue, and asked Ziyi to bring them over.

After being invited by Ziyi to visit the Heaven-Reaching Sect, Fang Bai hadn't left. Qingyang and Qingyue, following his instructions, had packed up the cultivation resources at the leased stall and had been waiting outside the Heaven-Reaching Sect's gate.

In the eyes of Qingyang and Qingyue, the Heaven-Reaching Sect, with its seventh-grade Human Immortal Realm expert, was an entity they admired from afar. Without Fang Bai's summons, they wouldn't dare to intrude.

They had waited for over a month, initially thinking Fang Bai had forgotten about them, feeling extremely disappointed, when they suddenly saw Ziyi floating out from the Immortal Sect, saying Fang Bai wanted to see them.

The siblings were overjoyed, and while following Ziyi to meet Fang Bai, they learned that Fang Bai had become an Honorary Elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, making them even more reverent towards him.

"Senior Fang, here are the cultivation resources we collected from your leased stall, please have a look."

Upon meeting Fang Bai, Qingyang immediately presented a space ring with both hands, showing utmost respect.

Inside the space ring were the rewards Fang Bai received from alchemy and artifact refining for others, quite a substantial amount.

At that time, Fang Bai and Ziyi had left in a hurry and had no time to take them, so he casually instructed the siblings, Qingyang and Qingyue, to pack them up. He didn't expect them to bring everything back without missing a single piece.

"In the future, I will still help others with alchemy, artifact refining, beast taming, and array setting. I need some assistance around, would you two siblings be willing to follow me?"

Fang Bai took the space ring and asked with a smile.

Although Qingyang and Qingyue had mediocre talents, they were honest and kept their promises, which Fang Bai valued, so he intended to help them out.

Moreover, previously, when they ran errands for Fang Bai at the Cultivation Resource Exchange Market, they spoke up for him, offending many immortals in Myriad Images City. Letting them follow him would provide them with security.

Chapter 2054: Earth Immortal Realm Experts

“Willing! We are willing!”

Qingyang and Qingyue, the siblings, suppressed their excitement. After exchanging a glance, they unhesitatingly performed a deep bow of respect to Fang Bai.

The siblings understood that Fang Bai was an immortal with limitless potential. Countless immortals would wish to become his disciples and follow him. Now, his willingness to take them under his wing was nothing short of a gift, making them feel as if they were dreaming.

On the day of the contest for the City Lord, immortals throughout Myriad Images City left their immortal mansions and schools, gathering towards the City Lord Mansion.

The vast majority of immortals, due to their low cultivation level, were not qualified to enter the City Lord Mansion to watch the battle. They could only wait outside for news.

Only the high-ranking members of the immortal sects and those loose cultivators with a cultivation level above the fifth grade Human Immortal Realm would be invited into the City Lord Mansion to witness the contest and the final emergence of the new City Lord.

According to statistics, there were originally more than a hundred immortals from within the city participating in the contest for the new City Lord, all of whom were experts above the sixth grade Human Immortal Realm.

However, as the final moment approached, other immortals perhaps came to realize the futility of competing for the City Lord position and gradually withdrew.

Now, only the current City Lord Li Xianfeng and the Heaven-Reaching Sect Master Hong Tongtian decided to participate in the final contest.

At the hour of the dragon today, these two strongest individuals in Myriad Images City will engage in a duel on a small War Immortal Platform within the City Lord Mansion. The victor will assume the role of the new City Lord, while the loser will have to await the next opportunity.

The competition for the City Lord does not permit the killing of opponents. Even severely injuring them to the point of destroying their Qi Sea will be met with severe punishment from the Upper Immortal.

The term “Upper Immortal” refers to an Earth Immortal Realm expert who comes to watch the contest for City Lord among various immortals in Myriad Images City.

This Earth Immortal Realm expert hails from the Beast Taming Sect on Immortal Beast Mountain, and is an elder of the sect with a cultivation level of first-grade Earth Immortal Realm.

The Central Heavenly Domain of the Immortal Realm is vast and boundless, housing countless immortal cities, each governed by a City Lord.

Every ten immortal cities have an Earth Immortal Realm expert responsible for their governance.

Including Myriad Images City, the nearby ten immortal cities are under the governance of the Beast Taming Sect.

The overall power of the Beast Taming Sect is stronger than all the immortal sects within Myriad Images City combined, and all the immortal sects within the ten cities including Myriad Images City must obey the Beast Taming Sect.

Furthermore, every ten years, the immortal sects within the ten cities including Myriad Images City must voluntarily present a batch of cultivation resources to the Beast Taming Sect, in exchange for their protection.

Much like the City Lord rotation in Myriad Images City, immortal sects like the Beast Taming Sect, which have Earth Immortal Realm experts, face competition from other sects of equal status every sixty years. Failure will result in losing governance over the ten cities.

However, such high-level competitions among these immortals are not something that the immortal sects within Myriad Images City can observe.

As the contest for Myriad Images City's City Lord was about to begin, the "Upper Immortal" from the Beast Taming Sect arrived in Myriad Images City, perched atop a huge Red-Headed Eagle. After circling the city, he landed outside the City Lord Mansion gates.

Li Xianfeng, who had been waiting in the City Lord Mansion along with the immortals qualified to enter, all went out to greet him, each showing great respect.

"On behalf of the million immortals of Myriad Images City, welcome to Xuanling True Person's arrival!"

Li Xianfeng smiled carefully, guiding the "Upper Immortal" Xuanling True Person into the City Lord Mansion and seating him at the most honored position.

Xuanling True Person, one of the elders of the Beast Taming Sect, is over a thousand years old and possesses a first-grade Earth Immortal Realm cultivation level. He has witnessed the competition for the City Lord of Myriad Images City every time.

If anyone breaks the rules of the competition during the City Lord contest, Xuanling True Person will personally enforce punishment.

This time, Fang Bai, as the Honorary Elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, had the qualification to enter the City Lord Mansion alongside Sect Master Hong Tongtian, marking his first time seeing the current City Lord Li Xianfeng and Bloody Hand True Person.

Having experienced tens of thousands of generations over his past two lives, Fang Bai's keen insight immediately recognized Li Xianfeng as a narrow-minded and petty woman upon first sight.

As for Bloody Hand True Person, he exuded dense Evil Qi, and his hands, like white jade, had claimed countless immortal lives.

When Fang Bai arrived at the City Lord Mansion with Hong Tongtian, Li Muyu, Bloody Hand True Person, and Li Xianfeng all revealed killing intent when they saw him, followed by a secret exchange of words.

Fang Bai guessed that some of their discussion might involve him, prompting him to raise his guard against any possible schemes they might employ.

When the "Upper Immortal" from the Beast Taming Sect, Xuanling True Person, was seated in the most honored position, Fang Bai looked at his lofty and arrogant demeanor, and the corner of his mouth slightly twitched.

In his past life as an Immortal Emperor, someone like Xuanling True Person, a first-grade Earth Immortal Realm immortal, was of no consequence to Fang Bai, not worthy of a glance.

However, now Fang Bai is a dragon stranded in shallow waters, with a cultivation level of only second-grade Human Immortal Realm, able to contend with only fourth-grade Human Immortal Realm experts, so he had to remain cautious in front of Xuanling True Person.

Just from Xuanling True Person's expressions and demeanor, Fang Bai sensed something amiss, feeling that he seemed to have some connection with Li Xianfeng and Bloody Hand True Person.

"The City Lord rotation battle that occurs every sixty years commences today. Ready for the ultimate showdown on the War Immortal Platform are the current City Lord Li Xianfeng and the Heaven-Reaching Sect Master Hong Tongtian from Myriad Images City. Fellow immortals, please ascend the War Immortal Platform!"

Xuanling True Person said with indifference.

Xuanling True Person showed no interest in duels between immortals of the Human Immortal Realm, even his voice carried impatience.

He planned to depart Myriad Images City immediately after Li Xianfeng and Hong Tongtian settled the outcome, then travel the Central Heavenly Domain searching for Earth Immortal Realm companions with whom to exchange Immortal Technique Secrets and explore the Dao of Cultivation, unwilling to waste time here.

In recent years, Li Xianfeng had, by chance, acquired some resources suitable for Earth Immortal Realm experts and specially presented them to Xuanling True Person as a gift.

Thus, in Xuanling True Person's heart, he preferred Li Xianfeng to continue her tenure as City Lord.

Furthermore, Bloody Hand True Person had some connections with a high-ranking official of the Beast Taming Sect, so Xuanling True Person also showed him some favor out of respect for this official.

As for Hong Tongtian, he lacked interaction and contact with Xuanling True Person and had never offered him any benefits, so Xuanling True Person had no fondness for him and did not wish for him to become City Lord.

Earlier, when welcoming Xuanling True Person, Hong Tongtian behaved less respectfully than Li Xianfeng, leaving a poor impression on Xuanling True Person.

Xuanling True Person, not an open-hearted immortal, thought that even if Hong Tongtian defeated Li Xianfeng and became the City Lord of Myriad Images City, he would create trouble to ensure his tenure as City Lord was anything but stable.

Chapter 2055: Just Watch Carefully

As soon as Xuanling True Person finished speaking, Li Xianfeng and Hong Tongtian slowly walked towards the small War Immortal Platform in the center of the City Lord Mansion's plaza.

"Sister, give it your all, defeat Hong Tongtian, let him know that the position of Myriad Images City's City Lord is not something he can covet!"

Li Muyu, Li Xianfeng's younger brother, shouted loudly, then provocatively looked at Hong Tongtian.

Hong Tongtian's close disciple Ziyi glared at Li Muyu and said loudly without backing down, "Master, Li Xianfeng has been sitting on the position of Myriad Images City's City Lord for over a hundred years, you must pull her down this time and take the seat yourself!"

Before the battle began on the War Immortal Platform between Li Xianfeng and Hong Tongtian, disciples from the City Lord Mansion and the Immortal Elephant Sect started arguing with disciples from the Heaven-Reaching Sect.

The two sides went back and forth, much like a street quarrel, creating a lively scene.

The disciples of the Heaven-Reaching Sect were fewer in numbers compared to the City Lord Mansion and Immortal Elephant Sect, and soon fell to a disadvantage in the verbal battle.

Other immortals watching the scene couldn't help but secretly laugh, thinking that it's best if these three forces fight to the death, giving them a chance to vie for the position of City Lord in the future.

"Silence!"

Seeing the disorder, Xuanling True Person felt greatly annoyed, raised his white brows, and lightly reprimanded, "The battle is about to begin, do not make a racket!"

Though his voice wasn't loud, it sounded like thunder in the ears of the gathered immortals, causing their blood and qi to surge, and leaving them dizzy.

"An Earth Immortal Realm expert is truly formidable!"

After barely steadying their minds, the gathered immortals looked at the high and mighty Xuanling True Person with fear, all thinking this way.

Xuanling True Person's light reprimand worked excellently to quell the scene, and both sides immediately fell silent, not daring to make a sound.

"You may begin!"

Feeling quite pleased with himself for intimidating the gathered immortals, Xuanling True Person cleared his throat and said to Li Xianfeng and Hong Tongtian who had reached the center of the War Immortal Platform.

Li Xianfeng and Hong Tongtian nodded and each circulated their immortal power.

Moments later, myriad beams of colorful light shot up around the War Immortal Platform, forming a tight Immortal Qi Defense Barrier that enveloped the platform, isolating the two immortals from the outside world.

"The duel has started..."

Fang Bai focused on the War Immortal Platform shrouded by the Immortal Qi Barrier, thinking to himself, "Although Sect Master Hong's cultivation level has reached a crushing dominance over Li Xianfeng, he should suppress his cultivation to make it appear as if he barely defeats her after a hard fight, right? Hmm, it seems this duel won't end for several hours."

With this thought, Fang Bai lightly closed his eyes and began to enter a cultivation state.

He felt no concern for the seemingly predictable duel, but cared more about whether Hong Tongtian, upon ascending to the City Lord position, would face difficulties from the Immortal Elephant Sect and the Bloody Hand True Person from other Immortal Sects.

Though Xuanling True Person might favor Li Xianfeng, Fang Bai was certain he wouldn't dare to break the Immortal Realm's established rules or obstruct Hong Tongtian from becoming the City Lord.

Still, while he might not visibly resort to underhanded tactics, there's no guarantee he won't use some despicable means in secret, presenting a not insignificant trouble for Hong Tongtian.

"Take it one step at a time!"

Fang Bai thought that once Hong Tongtian became the City Lord of Myriad Images City, he'd help wherever he could. Only if Hong Tongtian stabilizes his position would Fang Bai gain some additional security, otherwise the Bloody Hand True Person and the Immortal Elephant Sect wouldn't let him off.

Among the numerous immortals present at the scene, aside from the Heaven-Reaching Sect disciples like Ziyi who had faith in their own sect master, most didn't think highly of Hong Tongtian. The subordinates of Bloody Hand True Person and the Immortal Elephant Sect's disciples especially bore looks of contempt and disdain.

"Hong Tongtian isn't qualified to be the City Lord of Myriad Images City!"

"He's not even a match for City Lord Li, competing for that position is pure fantasy!"

"Indeed, he doesn't even weigh his capabilities!"

"A mantis trying to stop a carriage, overestimating himself!"

"Haha, stop talking, look at the expressions on the Heaven-Reaching Sect disciples, it's as bad as it gets!"

...

The subordinate disciples of Bloody Hand True Person and the Immortal Elephant Sect, fearing they might anger Xuanling True Person, dared not speak too loudly, but their whispering sneers were heard clearly by the Heaven-Reaching Sect disciples.

The Heaven-Reaching Sect disciples, also not daring to raise their voices, replied in muted tones to retaliate against the opposing side.

Xuanling True Person closed his eyes and rested, appearing indifferent to what was happening.

"Elder Fang, our master... will definitely defeat the opponent, right?"

Ziyi looked at the isolated War Immortal Platform, worry evident in her heart, and asked softly.

She knew that Fang Bai had been in seclusion cultivating with her master for over a month, so he should be most familiar with her master's recent state.

Fang Bai smiled slightly and said, "Sect Master Hong is your master, you can't have any doubts about him! Hmm, just watch closely, the one walking off the War Immortal Platform at the end will surely be your master!"

Hearing this, Ziyi's confidence increased by several notches.

This duel between seventh-ranked Human Immortal Realm experts lasted exactly three hours, as anticipated by the gathered immortals.

When the Immortal Qi Barrier ceased its tremors and dissipated slowly, all the immortals' hearts were in suspense, their eyes fixed on the War Immortal Platform.

The numerous immortals from the City Lord Mansion, Immortal Elephant Sect, and Bloody Hand True Person's subordinates, some were already raising their hands and slightly opening their mouths, ready to applaud and cheer for Li Xianfeng's victory.

The immortals from the Heaven-Reaching Sect, however, tightly clenched their fists, staring at the War Immortal Platform, hoping to see their sect master's tall and majestic figure.

Finally, the Immortal Qi Barrier around the War Immortal Platform disappeared, and to everyone's surprise, there stood two figures in the center of the platform.

"This is..."

"What's going on?"

"Did they end in a tie?"

"Impossible! The Immortal Qi Barrier only disappears when there's a winner in the duel!"

"Look at Hong Tongtian, covered in blood and heavily wounded, could it be him who lost?"

"No! Look more carefully! Hong Tongtian might be covered in blood but they're only flesh wounds... Now look at Li Xianfeng, her aura is weak, her immortal qi dispersed, and her internal organs seem shattered, she's heavily injured..."

"Doesn't this mean Li Xianfeng, City Lord Li, has lost?"

...

The scene was silent for several moments, then the gathered immortals burst into discussion.

The vast majority of them realized that Li Xianfeng could stand only by relying on a breath of immortal qi.

"Phew..."

On the War Immortal Platform, Hong Tongtian suddenly exhaled deeply, then leaned on his Immortal Artifact and limped off the platform.

Just as he stepped off, Li Xianfeng's form wavered and she collapsed onto the War Immortal Platform.

The numerous immortals from the City Lord Mansion, Immortal Elephant Sect, and Bloody Hand True Person's subordinates, one and all, looked utterly dejected as if mourning a loss.

They could neither predict nor accept the fact that Li Xianfeng would lose to Hong Tongtian.

Having favored Li Xianfeng for victory, Xuanling True Person's countenance also darkened; he lightly snorted, slowly stood up, and muttered under his breath, inaudible to others, "Useless!"

Chapter 2056: To Hell with the Rules of the Immortal Realm!

Soon, Li Xianfeng, who was severely injured and fell on the War Immortal Platform, was taken away by his disciples to swallow an Immortal Pill and heal.

Although Li Xianfeng was seriously injured, it was not fatal. However, it would take at least a year and a half of recuperation for him to fully recover.

At this moment, the gazes of all the immortals present were focused on Hong Tongtian, who had just stepped down from the War Immortal Platform, covered in blood.

Before the duel with Li Xianfeng, not many immortals favored Hong Tongtian, and some even harbored a sense of disdain, thinking that his challenge to Li Xianfeng was overestimating his abilities.

However, now, those immortals no longer looked down on Hong Tongtian; instead, their gazes were filled with respect and fear.

Li Xianfeng's defeat marked the end of an old era in Myriad Images City and the beginning of a new one.

Originally, the City Lord Mansion, Immortal Elephant Sect, and Bloody Hand True Person had planned that if Li Xianfeng defeated Hong Tongtian, the three forces would jointly demand justice from Heaven-Reaching Sect over Fang Bai's matter, thus completely banishing Heaven-Reaching Sect to hell, ensuring Hong Tongtian could no longer threaten the position of City Lord.

But Li Xianfeng's defeat disrupted all their previous plans and caught them off guard.

As long as Hong Tongtian secured the position of City Lord, the million immortals in Myriad Images City would follow his lead. By then, opposing Hong Tongtian would leave them at a disadvantage.

Immortal Elephant Sect Master Lu Xiangtian, Bloody Hand True Person, and several senior members of the City Lord Mansion exchanged glances, seeing deep worry in each other's eyes.

Amidst the cheers of the Heaven-Reaching Sect disciples present, Xuanling True Person from the Beast Taming Sect forced a smile, walked up to Hong Tongtian, and warmly encouraged him, urging him to recuperate well and prepare to officially assume the position of City Lord in three days.

Though Xuanling True Person was displeased with Hong Tongtian's victory over Li Xianfeng and his securing the next City Lord position, he did not dare openly violate the rules of the Immortal Realm to strip Hong Tongtian of the City Lord position. Otherwise, once exposed, it would not only bode ill for him but could also implicate the Beast Taming Sect.

No rules, no table can be set.

Above the Beast Taming Sect, there exist powerful immortal sects and gates governing and ruling over vast regions and many Immortal Cities.

The immortals of these immortal sects and gates, to maintain the stability of the Immortal Realm and protect their own interests, would never allow acts trampling on the rules of the Immortal Realm to exist.

In the face of an immortal sect like Heaven-Reaching Sect, the overall strength of the Beast Taming Sect is considered significant, but in the eyes of those stronger immortal sects and gates, it is insignificant.

Xuanling True Person had no doubt that if he deprived Hong Tongtian of the City Lord position today and the news spread, it would surely incur the displeasure of those powerful immortal sects and gates, which could easily wipe him and the Beast Taming Sect out.

Thus, although he was not pleased with Hong Tongtian obtaining the City Lord position, he had to force a smile and offer his congratulations.

Hong Tongtian was well aware of this, but he dared not show any arrogance or conceit. After briefly exchanging courtesies with Xuanling True Person, he returned temporarily to the Heaven-Reaching Sect,

accompanied by Fang Bai and other disciples, to wait for three days before reentering the City Lord Mansion to officially assume the position of City Lord.

Seeing the situation settled, the other immortals also took their leave and returned to their abodes.

"Useless! A group of useless people!"

After all the immortals left the City Lord Mansion, Xuanling True Person took a deep breath, his face gloomy, scolding Li Xianfeng and the other immortals, including Li Muyu and Bloody Hand True Person.

Li Xianfeng and the others dared not express any dissatisfaction, each with a long-faced expression, sighing continuously.

"This humble immortal is incompetent, failing to safeguard the City Lord position. I have disappointed the Upper Immortal's expectation, ashamed! Ashamed!"

After swallowing the Immortal Pill, Li Xianfeng's injuries were somewhat recovered, and he spoke weakly.

"Upper Immortal, that Hong Tongtian is arrogant and self-important. If he takes the City Lord position, the tributes we offer you annually might be lost..."

Bloody Hand True Person cautiously spoke, watching Xuanling True Person's expression.

Xuanling True Person's mouth twitched slightly, and he said irritably, "What can be done? Who asked Li Xianfeng to be so disappointing?"

Li Xianfeng's old face turned red, and he lowered his head in silence.

Bloody Hand True Person gritted his teeth and said in a low voice, "There is a way, as long as we do this..."

He whispered something in a low voice, and after hearing it, Li Xianfeng's eyes lit up, full of hope as he looked at Xuanling True Person.

Xuanling True Person's face was very unsightly, and he said in a deep voice, "If we do this, it is violating the rules of the Immortal Realm. If the Upper Immortal finds out, we will face the punishment of being struck by five thunders!"

Bloody Hand True Person said, "Only a few of us immortals know about this. As long as it's done neatly, who would know?"

Li Xianfeng nodded repeatedly and said, "If the Upper Immortal helps me retain the City Lord position, I am willing to double the tribute presented to the Upper Immortal in the future!"

Xuanling True Person was somewhat tempted, pondering while stroking his beard, and then slowly said, "This matter is too significant. We must all swear oaths, agreeing not to divulge even a single word; otherwise, all of us immortals will face the punishment of being struck by five thunders!"

"This concerns our vital interests, and we will never leak it!"

Li Xianfeng deliberately spoke with gravitas.

Despite her words, Xuanling True Person was not assured of them, so all the immortals present raised one hand to the sky and swore oaths.

An immortal's cultivation is done by conforming to the Heavenly Dao. Once they violate their sworn oath, it is akin to committing an act against Heaven, and the Heavenly Dao will mete out corresponding punishments.

Therefore, the immortals who swore oaths dared not defy them, or else they would face Divine Punishment, resulting in their complete annihilation.

"Three days later, I will witness Hong Tongtian move into the City Lord Mansion and assume the position of City Lord. I will then leave Myriad Images City and make my move at the opportune time. The rest is up to you!"

Having said this, Xuanling True Person floated away and entered the residence provided by the City Lord Mansion to recuperate.

Bloody Hand True Person, Li Xianfeng, and Li Muyu exchanged a glance and hurriedly left, proceeding to make arrangements in secret.

After returning to the Heaven-Reaching Sect with Fang Bai, Hong Tongtian once again entered a secret chamber to deliberate, accompanied by his trusted disciple Ziyi.

"That Xuanling True Person doesn't seem very friendly to me. I hope nothing goes wrong during these three days."

Hong Tongtian spoke with a worried expression.

Ziyi said, "Master is overthinking. Your City Lord position was obtained openly through a duel on the War Immortal Platform. With the rules of the Immortal Realm in place, how dare they start trouble?"

Fang Bai, having witnessed countless insidious and ugly deeds in the Immortal Realm over tens of thousands of years in his previous life, laughed and said, "Ziyi, you're too naive! The rules of the Immortal Realm do indeed impose some deterrence on immortals, but when the benefits become vast enough, what do the rules of the Immortal Realm count for? They can still be broken!"

In his past life, with unparalleled talent, he ultimately ascended to the apex of the Immortal Realm, achieving the title of War Emperor, surpassing all immortals across the nine Heavenly Domains of the Immortal Realm.

If following the rules of the Immortal Realm, all immortals should bow before him, follow his lead, and obey his orders.

But in the end, wasn't he still harmed by the alliance of the eight Immortal Emperors who served under him?

To hell with the rules of the Immortal Realm!

Chapter 2057: When Something Is Unusual, There Must Be a Trick!

"What Elder Fang said is true! In the face of enough profit, no rules matter!"

Hong Tongtian deeply agreed with Fang Bai's words.

Ziyi said anxiously, "Then... what should we do? Could that Xuanling True Person dare to strip the City Lord position from Master?"

Hong Tongtian said solemnly, "What I am worried about now is that the current City Lord Li Xianfeng, Immortal Elephant Sect Master Lu Xiangtian, and Bloody Hand True Person, might conspire with Xuanling True Person. They might not dare to openly defy the rules of the Immortal Realm, but they could use underhanded methods in secret, leaving me defenseless."

Fang Bai nodded and said, "In any case, Sect Master Hong taking over the City Lord position will not be smooth sailing! We must be proactive and prepare thoroughly!"

Ziyi said, "That Xuanling True Person is a Human Immortal Realm expert, with profound cultivation and mighty mana. If he causes trouble, we would be hard-pressed to guard against it!"

If a Human Immortal Realm expert wanted to deal with a Human Immortal Realm expert, they would have a crushing advantage. Not to mention one Hong Tongtian, even the entire Heaven-Reaching Sect could not handle it.

Hong Tongtian rubbed his brow in distress and sighed, "Originally, I was wholeheartedly thinking of becoming the City Lord of Myriad Images City, but actually taking it up has made it feel like a heavy burden. Alas..."

Ziyi said tremulously, "Master, perhaps... we shouldn't be the City Lord? Let some other immortal take on the role!"

Hong Tongtian said in annoyance, "If that were the case, my reputation would be completely ruined! In any case, I must sit in the City Lord's position now!"

Fang Bai said, "Sect Master Hong, don't worry yourself too much. Things may not be as bad as we imagine?"

Pause for a moment, then said, "However, we can make the first move, so they wouldn't dare to easily act against us!"

He faced Hong Tongtian and Ziyi and spoke thusly.

After listening, Hong Tongtian laughed heartily and said, "Elder Fang's idea is excellent! Ziyi, I'll entrust this matter to you!"

Ziyi acknowledged and left excitedly.

The next day, within Myriad Images City, a rumor spread among the million immortals: The current City Lord Li Xianfeng, Immortal Elephant Sect Master Lu Xiangtian, and Bloody Hand True Person are conspiring with Xuanling True Person to harm the new City Lord Hong Tongtian.

This brief message created a huge stir in Myriad Images City, turning the eyes of a million immortals upon the factions mentioned in the rumor.

Regarding the rules of the Immortal Realm, the more powerful the immortals, the less they care, sometimes even treating them as if they don't exist.

But simultaneously, they have to rely on these rules to manage and govern other immortals to protect their own interests.

Therefore, for immortals who blatantly break the rules, those powerful Upper Immortals will spare no effort to criticize and strike them down.

“Who is it! Who leaked the information?”

In a secret chamber of the City Lord Mansion, Xuanling True Person’s anger was unrestrained, shouting loudly in front of Li Xianfeng, Bloody Hand True Person, and Lu Xiangtian.

He is a Human Immortal Realm expert, and in his anger, his Immortal Might enveloped the entire secret chamber, causing Li Xianfeng and the others inside to tremble uncontrollably under its pressure.

They also couldn’t understand how the information got out, as the entire city of immortals was discussing this matter, giving them the sensation of having fists full of power but unable to strike, feeling extremely stifled.

“Let this matter be set aside, none of you make any reckless moves!”

After venting his anger, Xuanling True Person calmed down.

For the sake of his own future and to silence the gossip of a million immortals in Myriad Images City, Xuanling True Person decided to suspend the plan agreed with Li Xianfeng and others, to quickly assist Hong Tongtian onto the City Lord throne, then leave Myriad Images City and completely extricate himself from the situation to avoid trouble.

Although Li Xianfeng and others offer considerable cultivation resources yearly, they are ultimately not as important as his life.

Xuanling True Person knew his place; his Human Immortal Realm cultivation might be high in the eyes of Li Xianfeng and others, but in the eyes of those strong Upper Immortals of great sects, he is just a small ant that they can crush easily.

Xuanling True Person was truly afraid; after saying the last words, he left the secret chamber on his own, ignoring Li Xianfeng and the others.

“What do we do now?”

Li Xianfeng and the others looked at each other, all dumbfounded.

Without Xuanling True Person’s support, they lacked confidence in opposing Hong Tongtian.

“All or nothing. Let us do this...”

Immortal Elephant Sect Steward Li Muyu had a sinister look, communicated his idea using the Thread Condensation Sound Transmission Technique to Li Xianfeng, Lu Xiangtian, and Bloody Hand True Person.

Bloody Hand True Person clapped his hands and excitedly responded, “Let’s do it! If other immortals suspect, they’ll suspect Xuanling True Person.”

Lu Xiangtian also stroked his beard and nodded in agreement.

Li Xianfeng looked at her scheming brother with some hesitation and transmitted, “Will this work? If Xuanling True Person finds out, we won’t live.”

Li Muyu responded with a sly laugh, “First, he has no hard evidence against us; second, once the matter unfolds, he will have his hands full, having no time for us. Sister, if this succeeds, no immortal in Myriad Images City will be able to threaten your position as City Lord. What is there to hesitate about?”

After a brief internal conflict, seeing Li Muyu and Bloody Hand True Person waiting for her response, Li Xianfeng finally made up her mind and said, “Alright, let’s do as you say!”

...

Three days later, the ceremony for handing over the City Lord position was held in the square of the City Lord Mansion, with many immortals coming to witness.

Due to the rumors of recent days, the atmosphere of the entire transition process was heavy, but fortunately, it proceeded smoothly without any incidents.

Xuanling True Person breathed a sigh of relief and declined Hong Tongtian's invitation, staying at Bloody Hand True Person's Immortal Mansion, preparing to rest for a day before leaving Myriad Images City the next day, to report back to his sect.

On the same day, Li Xianfeng led her retinue away from the City Lord Mansion in gloom, later claiming to go out for training, leaving Myriad Images City without a trace.

Li Muyu returned to the Immortal Elephant Sect with Sect Master Lu Xiangtian.

After accompanying Xuanling True Person back to his Immortal Mansion, Bloody Hand True Person discreetly left, disguised and hidden.

After settling into the City Lord Mansion, Hong Tongtian, along with Fang Bai, Ziyi, and other high-level members from the Heaven-Reaching Sect, also moved in.

"Things went unexpectedly smooth!"

Although Hong Tongtian sat on the City Lord's seat, he felt uneasy and summoned Fang Bai and disciple Ziyi to talk that night.

"Indeed, too smooth..."

Fang Bai, recalling the scene during the City Lord transition, frowned and said, "However, did you feel like Li Xianfeng and the others appeared too calm? Something unusual must be amiss!"

Chapter 2058: Assault

At midnight, all was silent.

Most of the immortals within Myriad Images City had already entered their cultivation state.

But at this moment, over a dozen immortals with cultivation levels above the sixth rank Human Immortal Realm swiftly flew over the City Lord Mansion, and then launched an attack on it with the momentum of thunder.

They each summoned their immortal artifacts, simultaneously smashing down from the air, targeting directly at the City Lord's Hall where the newly appointed City Lord, Hong Tongtian, resided.

The combined attack of several sixth and seventh rank Human Immortal Realm experts was unimaginably powerful.

The immortal artifacts they summoned contained immense immortal power, forceful and unmatched; each artifact could easily crush a Dashan.

"Boom!"

In the deafening explosion, the dozen immortal artifacts smashed down from the surrounding air, causing intense spatial fluctuations as if the space was about to collapse.

The tremendously sturdy City Lord's Hall could not withstand the simultaneous attack of over a dozen immortal artifacts, dust and debris filled the air, and it collapsed with a thundering crash.

"Go!"

Seeing the City Lord's Hall instantly turn into a pile of debris, with no signs of life within, the dozen immortals revealed pleased expressions, immediately flew away, and vanished in an instant.

The overwhelming disturbance and deafening noise alarmed many immortals in Myriad Images City.

They emerged from their cultivation state, stepping on auspicious clouds, and flew near the City Lord's Hall to investigate.

“Immortal Zhu, do you know what happened?”

“The City Lord’s Hall was attacked and has become a ruin!”

“Which immortals did it?”

“I don’t know. Those immortals came quickly and left even faster, without leaving any trace.”

“What about the newly appointed City Lord Hong Tongtian?”

“Under the ruins of the City Lord’s Hall, there’s no sign of life.”

“Doesn’t this mean that City Lord Hong is in a dire situation?”

“Indeed! This attack on City Lord Hong involved at least a dozen sixth and seventh rank Human Immortal Realm experts; even as powerful as he is, it’s hard to withstand!”

“Could this be the doing of Xuanling True Person, or past City Lord Li Xianfeng and other immortals?”

“Xuanling True Person went to the Immortal Elephant Sect, and Li Xianfeng has also left Myriad Images City for training. This matter should have nothing to do with them, right?”

“If it’s not them, then who could it be?”

“In Myriad Images City, there is more than just them coveting the City Lord position. Other immortals are also suspect.”

...

The multitude of immortals flew to the vicinity of the City Lord Mansion and hovered in the air, looking toward the City Lord Mansion, at the City Lord's Hall which had already become a ruin, discussing continuously.

What puzzled them was that despite such a major event, not a single disciple of the Heaven-Reaching Sect was present, which was truly baffling.

Not until the next day, when the sky was bright, did the high-ranking members of the Heaven-Reaching Sect appear at the edge of the Mansion's ruins.

An elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect scanned the immortals around with his eyes, and angrily said, "Fellow immortals, our sect master had just assumed the position of City Lord, and yet he suffered such an attack, which is truly shocking. Who did this, I'm sure all immortals are well aware. Fortunately..."

He paused and raised his hand towards the sky, saying, "Fortunately, our sect master foresaw the crisis in advance and had left through an underground secret passage before the attack occurred, or else he would have fallen prey."

As he was speaking, three figures rapidly flew in on auspicious clouds from the distant horizon. Upon closer inspection, it was Hong Tongtian, his disciple Ziyi, and the newly appointed honorary elder Fang Bai of the Heaven-Reaching Sect.

The high-ranking members of the Heaven-Reaching Sect stood upright and solemnly, welcoming the arrival of their sect master.

In full view, Hong Tongtian, Ziyi, and Fang Bai slowly descended onto the square of the City Lord Mansion.

"Elder Fang really anticipated this..."

"Damn it! Those shameless bastards truly dared to violate the rules of the Immortal Realm and try to harm the master!"

Looking at the ruins of the City Lord's Hall before them, Ziyi and Hong Tongtian both clenched their fists, their eyes ablaze with fury.

Fang Bai's expression was calm, as tranquil as an ancient well; such events were commonplace for him in the past and did not faze him.

Almost simultaneously, Xuanling True Person, who received the news of the attack on the City Lord Mansion, also hurriedly flew over.

Upon landing and seeing the City Lord's Hall turned into a ruin, he angrily shouted, "Who did it? Who the hell did it?"

Originally, he planned to leave the Immortal Elephant Sect today and return to his sect to report, and at that time, Hong Tongtian being alive or dead would have nothing to do with him.

But just before he left in the middle of the night, the City Lord Mansion in Myriad Images City was attacked, which infuriated him greatly.

After the incident, millions of immortals in Myriad Images City would immediately connect the incident with recent rumors, firmly believing Xuanling True Person was also one of the attackers.

Although Xuanling True Person was innocent, he understood that there was no way to explain himself in this matter; it was like mud falling into his pants, whether it was feces or not, it was treated as such.

"My Heaven-Reaching Sect will not let this matter rest; we will certainly report to the Upper Immortals of 'Zizai Palace,' and ask them to uphold justice!"

Hong Tongtian glanced at Xuanling True Person with hatred and said.

Zizai Palace is a higher-level Immortal Sect, governing over a hundred Immortal Cities, and sects like the Beast Taming Sect must regard it highly and follow its orders.

To say that Immortal Elephant Sect is just an ant in the eyes of Beast Taming Sect, then Beast Taming Sect is not even worth a sneer in the eyes of Zizai Palace.

The rules of the Immortal Realm stipulate that the City Lords of all Immortal Cities in the Nine Heavenly Domains rotate every 60 years, and any immortal who experiences unfair treatment while competing for the position can report upwards.

This means that the unprovoked attacked Hong Tongtian can bypass the Beast Taming Sect and report directly to the Upper Immortals of Zizai Palace.

If the Upper Immortals of Zizai Palace verify the matter to be true, then they will hold the Beast Taming Sect accountable and help Hong Tongtian pursue justice and track down the perpetrators.

“Sect Master Hong, this matter was definitely not my doing...”

Xuanling True Person anxiously explained to Hong Tongtian.

Xuanling True Person could not help but be anxious; if Hong Tongtian insisted on reporting this matter to Zizai Palace, he would be the first to suffer.

If the Upper Immortals of Zizai Palace confirm that it was his doing or that he was involved, then extremely severe punishment would follow.

At the very least, he would be relegated to the Nine Nether Thunder Sea, subjected to immortal thunder strikes, enduring torment, unable to live or die.

At worst, he would be directly obliterated by the Upper Immortals using supreme immortal power, his form and soul destroyed.

Thinking about the possible punishment, Xuanling True Person shivered all over, looking imploringly at Hong Tongtian, devoid of the arrogance and dignified demeanor typical of an Upper Immortal.

Seeing a formidable Earth Immortal Realm expert lower his voice in front of him, Hong Tongtian felt greatly satisfied.

"I won't report to Zizai Palace either. But Xuanling True Person, you must uphold justice for me and bring the immortals who violated the rules of the Immortal Realm and attacked the City Lord's Hall to justice!"

Hong Tongtian spoke pointedly.

He believed that Xuanling True Person would definitely understand who he meant by "the immortals."

"No problem! Please, Sect Master Hong, accompany me, and I will take you to demand justice from those immortals!"

Xuanling True Person replied without hesitation.

Chapter 2059: Extermination of the Sect

The first destination of Xuanling True Person along with Hong Tongtian, Fang Bai, and Ziyi, three immortals of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, was the Immortal Mansion of Bloody Hand True Person.

Others may not know if Bloody Hand True Person was involved in the attack, but Xuanling True Person was certain that he undoubtedly played a part.

Xuanling True Person decided to personally slay Bloody Hand True Person, destroy his Immortal Mansion, and give Hong Tongtian an explanation.

Otherwise, his own life might be forfeit.

"Our master ventured out for training a few days ago."

Upon reaching the Immortal Mansion of Bloody Hand True Person, they found it empty, with only his disciples and followers present.

"Using training as an excuse to avoid the limelight for a while, then return when things have calmed... heh, Bloody Hand True Person indeed has a good plan! If it were me, I wouldn't stay in the city after last night's events either."

Fang Bai said with a cold laugh.

He extracted the truth using the Soul Capturing Heart Refining Technique from a trusted disciple of Bloody Hand True Person, learning that Bloody Hand True Person went out last night to meet with the Immortal Elephant Sect, Li Xianfeng, and other immortals.

Needless to say, their meeting was naturally to jointly attack the City Lord Mansion.

"Damn it!"

Seeing that Bloody Hand True Person's trusted disciple dared to deceive him, Xuanling True Person, enraged, slapped him to death, then flew into the air, wielding his Immortal Artifact, and relentlessly smashed it against the Immortal Mansion of Bloody Hand True Person.

As an Earth Immortal Rank expert, he already had the advantage of crushing Human Immortal Realm experts. Enraged, his attack with the Immortal Artifact carried immense Immortal Might, and with ferocious immortal power, he destroyed the vast Immortal Mansion of Bloody Hand True Person in moments, reducing it to piles of ruins.

None of the disciples or followers of Bloody Hand True Person escaped; all perished.

"Sect Master Hong, are you satisfied with my actions?"

After annihilating Bloody Hand True Person's Immortal Mansion, Xuanling True Person finally withdrew his Immortal Artifact and asked nervously.

Hong Tongtian was about to speak when Fang Bai reached out into the void, collecting all the Space Immortal Rings worn by the deceased disciples of Bloody Hand True Person into the air and gathering them all at once.

"The disciples and followers of Bloody Hand True Person only have such a meager amount of cultivation resources! What a pity!"

Fang Bai temporarily stored the collected Space Immortal Rings into his Five Elements Space Ring, planning to discuss the "loot" with Hong Tongtian after the matter was settled.

"Elder Fang just collected hundreds of Space Immortal Rings, which are quite a ample cultivation resource, yet he complains it's not enough..."

Ziyi, standing by, was speechless upon hearing Fang Bai's remark.

Hong Tongtian, watching Fang Bai, couldn't help but find it amusing, knowing his intention was likely fixated on the cultivation resources of Li Xianfeng and his subordinates, as well as those from the Immortal Elephant Sect.

Once Xuanling True Person helped eradicate Li Xianfeng and the immortals, as well as the Immortal Elephant Sect, and they took advantage to seize their cultivation resources, Xuanling True Person probably wouldn't object.

After all, Xuanling True Person was still trying to ingratiate himself to avoid anyone reporting him to Zizai Palace in anger.

"Rest assured, once I destroy the Immortal Elephant Sect and Li Xianfeng and the others, their cultivation resources will all be yours..."

Though he said this, Xuanling True Person's heart bled.

Though most of the cultivation resources from the Immortal Elephant Sect and Li Xianfeng and the others were of low grade and unappealing to him, there were still treasures suitable for Earth Immortal Rank cultivation.

Originally, he planned to seize some cultivation resources for himself under this pretext, but from the looks of Fang Bai and the others, it seemed they intended to take it all.

Xuanling True Person was displeased, but what could he do? His life was now effectively in the hands of Hong Tongtian before him. If he couldn't appease him, he would be the one to suffer.

"It's a pity that all the hundred thousand immortals in Myriad Images City are already aware of this matter. Otherwise, I would eradicate the entire Heaven-Reaching Sect and have no worries! Hmph, I'll let you gloat for now. Someday when I cultivate an immortal and seize the City Lord position, then I'll settle the score with you!"

A flash of murderous intent crossed Xuanling True Person's chest.

After obliterating Bloody Hand True Person's disciples and followers, Fang Bai and the others didn't linger long and flew toward the Immortal Elephant Sect thousands of miles away.

Unlike the eerie atmosphere in Myriad Images City, the Immortal Elephant Sect was bustling with excitement at the moment.

Li Xianfeng, Bloody Hand True Person, Lu Xiangtian, Li Muyu, and other immortals gathered within the Sect Master Hall of the Immortal Elephant Sect, jointly celebrating the fall of Hong Tongtian.

Little did they know, the scythe of death was swinging towards them.

"With Hong Tongtian dead, the City Lord position is now vacant. According to the rules, the immortals in Myriad Images City will compete again. At that time, when the master 'returns from training,' participating will be a breeze. Won't the City Lord position then be within reach?"

Hengdao, one of Li Xianfeng's four great generals, said with a smile.

Li Xianfeng sighed softly, "I don't know why, but since the surprise attack on Hong Tongtian last night, I've been feeling uneasy. Could something be amiss?"

Hengdao replied, "What could be wrong? I've dispatched several subordinates to monitor the City Lord Mansion. Any news from that side will reach us first!"

Li Xianfeng said, "I'm worried that the immortals in Myriad Images City might suspect us. And that Xuanling True Person knows we've been plotting against Hong Tongtian. After this incident, he'll surely suspect it's us. If he lashes out at us, what shall we do?"

Blood Hand True Person stroked his beard, saying, "We came and went last night without leaving a trace. Without concrete evidence, even Xuanling True Person can do nothing. Besides, that Xuanling True Person is inherently greedy. Once we secure the City Lord position, we'll offer him more cultivation resources, and have him speak favorably of us before the Upper Immortals in the Beast Taming Sect, turning major issues into minor ones and minor ones into nothing..."

Li Xianfeng nodded, "That's the only way. Let's hope nothing untoward happens."

Li Muyu laughed heartily, "Rest assured, sister, with Hong Tongtian dead, the matter is resolved. Xuanling True Person is closely associated with us, which everybody knows in Myriad Images City. So even if he knows that we killed Hong Tongtian, he'll help us cover it up. Otherwise, if Zizai Palace holds him accountable, he'll be the first to face the consequences!"

Before he could finish his sentence, an angry snort exploded in their ears, leaving them momentarily dazed.

Immediately, a vast Immortal Might descended from above, warping the void.

"Not good!"

Li Xianfeng and the other immortals felt a powerful and deadly threat, and instinctively lunged outward from the hall.

However, they were a step too slow, as a "boom" resounded, and the entire Sect Master Hall collapsed with a thunderous crash. A huge seal, like a mountain, smashed toward their heads.

"It's Xuanling True Person!"

The immortals in the hall, upon seeing that enormous seal, recognized it as Xuanling True Person's Immortal Artifact and were filled with horror.

"Haha, I, Hong Tongtian, am not dead, but you all are about to die!"

This was the last sentence Li Xianfeng and the other immortals heard before their demise.

Chapter 2060: Third-Grade Human Immortal

In just half a day, the Immortal Elephant Sect, former City Lord Li Xianfeng, and Bloody Hand True Person were all annihilated.

The news spread back to Myriad Images City, causing an uproar among the millions of immortals.

The immortals of Myriad Images City, though they guessed the attack on the City Lord Mansion last night might have been orchestrated by Li Xianfeng, Bloody Hand True Person, and the Immortal Elephant Sect, did not expect Xuanling True Person to use such thunderous means to quell them all.

However, upon reflection, Li Xianfeng and the other immortals attacked the City Lord Mansion, nearly leaving Xuanling True Person without excuse—a death trap. If one were in Xuanling True Person's shoes, they might have acted similarly, possibly even more ruthlessly.

In the Immortal Realm, the rise and fall of immortal sects and clans is nothing out of the ordinary.

Before long, the incident stemming from the competition for City Lord settled down, and the new City Lord, Hong Tongtian, began to exercise his governance over Myriad Images City with the assistance of trusted disciples such as Ziyi.

Fang Bai and his newly recruited subordinates, Qingyang and Qingyue, supported Hong Tongtian as he oversaw the Heaven-Reaching Sect.

After Xuanling True Person quashed the Immortal Elephant Sect, Li Xianfeng, and Bloody Hand True Person, all their cultivation resources were taken over by the Heaven-Reaching Sect.

As an Honorary Elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, Fang Bai naturally received a substantial portion of these cultivation resources.

However, Fang Bai's cultivation was tremendously consuming, and despite the considerable amount of resources he received, they would not last him long.

Therefore, Fang Bai did not stop refining pills, crafting artifacts, or beast taming and array setting for other immortals; he merely moved these activities from the Cultivation Resource Exchange Market to the Heaven-Reaching Sect.

After Li Xianfeng and Bloody Hand True Person were eliminated, the Heaven-Reaching Sect's reputation soared, its overall strength rapidly expanding, becoming the dominant immortal sect in Myriad Images City.

As the Honorary Elder of the Heaven-Reaching Sect and a master of pill refining, artifact refining, and beast taming and array setting, Fang Bai was fervently sought after by numerous immortals in Myriad Images City, with requests for his services stretching out across half the city.

However, most immortals were destined to leave disappointed.

To avoid overworking, Fang Bai raised his standards again: he would not refine pills, craft artifacts, or tame beasts and set arrays unless they were of the fourth rank or higher.

Even so, immortals came to the Heaven-Reaching Sect every day, ceaselessly seeking Fang Bai's pill refining, artifact crafting, and beast taming and array setting services.

Fang Bai was busy from dawn till dusk, to the extent that his cultivation time was significantly encroached upon.

Meanwhile, the cultivation resources in Fang Bai's Five Elements Space Ring were growing at an astonishing rate.

"Starting tomorrow, do not accept any more business. I plan to rest for a while."

After finishing his tasks for the day, Fang Bai told Qingyang and Qingyue.

Since moving to the Heaven-Reaching Sect, Fang Bai had been busy for more than a month without taking a single day off.

If any other artifact refiner or pill refiner were this busy, they would have been exhausted long ago. However, Fang Bai had the World Tree in his Five Elements Space Ring, continuously supplying him with immortal qi, keeping him vibrant and tireless.

Fang Bai wanted to rest to calm his mind and prepare to break through to a higher realm of the Human Immortal Realm.

Fang Bai's process of refining pills and artifacts was, in fact, also a process of cultivation.

Throughout this month, he was in a wondrous state of cultivation. With each furnace of immortal pills and each artifact he crafted, the immortal qi within him accumulated slightly.

Furthermore, during his nightly cultivation, he absorbed immortal qi from the abundant resources he recently acquired, bringing the immortal qi in his body to a boiling point.

As long as Fang Bai calmed his mind to cultivate, using a superior immortal rank cultivation technique to continuously circulate and refine the immortal qi, infusing it into the seven primordial spirits within his qi sea, he would achieve another breakthrough.

Therefore, Fang Bai did not lack cultivation resources but rather time.

Qingyang and Qingyue, having long wished for Fang Bai to rest, immediately went out and spread the news upon hearing his decision.

The immortals of Myriad Images City, upon learning that Fang Bai was taking a break, felt a sense of disappointment but realized there would always be future opportunities as long as Fang Bai remained in the city.

That night, Fang Bai made thorough arrangements and then set up multiple defensive arrays around his Elder's Hall to prevent disturbances before settling inside to enter a cultivation state.

The defensive arrays set up by Fang Bai were layer upon layer of firmness, such that even an Earth Immortal rank expert like Xuanling True Person would take three to five days to break through.

So unless faced with an immensely powerful immortal with boundless immortal power, Fang Bai would remain unharmed.

Knowing the critical importance of Fang Bai's secluded cultivation this time, Qingyang and Qingyue, along with hundreds of disciples from the Heaven-Reaching Sect, stood vigil around the Elder's Hall, armed with immortal artifacts, as if facing a formidable enemy.

Upon hearing the news of Fang Bai's secluded cultivation, Hong Tongtian, at the City Lord Mansion, ordered two elders and four stewards from the sect to go and guard Fang Bai.

In Hong Tongtian's eyes, Fang Bai's importance was no less than any immortal of the Heaven-Reaching Sect, and his future potential was limitless. Protecting him would mean a strong ally for the Heaven-Reaching Sect in the future.

Fang Bai merely went into seclusion for a day and a night before successfully breaking through and advancing to become a third-rank Human Immortal Realm expert.

The breakthrough of Fang Bai was a joyful event for Qingyang, Qingyue, Hong Tongtian, and other immortals.

As for Fang Bai himself, he remained calm, showing no sign of joy on his face.

To Fang Bai, this breakthrough was only a minor progression. Only if he could leap a major realm at once would it be worth celebrating.

However, Fang Bai was also aware that without immense fortuitous opportunities, leaping a major realm was virtually impossible.

After the breakthrough, Fang Bai did not rush to resume refining pills and artifacts for the immortals of Myriad Images City. Instead, he spent some idle time consolidating his newly attained realm.

Subsequently, using fourth-rank immortal pills, Fang Bai performed Marrow Cleansing on Qingyang and Qingyue, enhancing their physiques, then imparted suitable immortal technique secrets for them to cultivate, explaining a bit before letting them comprehend and practice on their own.

"Would you both like to join the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace?"

One day, Fang Bai spoke to Qingyang and Qingyue about the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace he was creating and sought their opinion.

"Master, we are willing!"

With Fang Bai's assistance, Qingyang and Qingyue's strength made significant progress in a short time, reaching the brink of a breakthrough—something they dared not even dream of before. Realizing how extraordinary their master was, it was natural for them to be more than willing when Fang Bai asked.

Fang Bai smiled, "In that case, from today onwards, you are formal disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace. It won't be long before you meet other disciples of the Emperor's Palace."

Hearing this, Qingyang and Qingyue were thrilled and simultaneously felt a sense of urgency.

According to Fang Bai's description, most disciples of the Nine Heavens Immortal Emperor Palace are currently cultivating in the Three Thousand Great Worlds of the lower realms, but will ascend and become immortals sooner or later.

Moreover, each of these disciples has extraordinary talent, and once they enter the Immortal Realm, they are like dragons returning to the sea, eagles soaring across the skies, swiftly surpassing others in cultivation.

"To not drag the Emperor's Palace down, we must cultivate even more diligently!"

Exchanging a glance, Qingyang and Qingyue quietly made a firm resolve.