

Doctor 661

Chapter 661: Huo Niao

After Fang Bai and the others checked back into the hotel, they took half a day to rest and recuperate. When night fell, they went out together to have dinner in Chinatown.

All along the way, Fang Bai could sense countless pairs of eyes watching him and his companions.

Fang Bai spread out his Divine Sense and discovered that most of the people shadowing them were of relatively low strength. Based on the fluctuations of their auras, some were Martial Artists from Dongfang, while others were Meta-Humans from the West.

Fang Bai knew that the ruckus they had caused previously at the "Caesar Casino" and "King's Boxing Ring" must have drawn the attention of some local organizations or forces. Those shadowing them were likely their subordinates.

When they left a restaurant in Chinatown after their meal, Fang Bai's Divine Sense caught a middle-aged red-haired man who was shadowing them from an alley several hundred meters away.

To Fang Bai's surprise, the red-haired man was American, yet he had an aura similar to that of a Fire Spirit Root Martial Artist, and judging from that aura, his strength was at least equivalent to a High Rank Earth Level Martial Artist from the Ancient Martial World of Huaxia.

However, upon closer inspection, the fluctuations of Fire Primordial Qi in the red-haired man were slightly different from those usually emitted by Fire Spirit Root Martial Artists.

Fire Spirit Root Martial Artists need to practice Acquired Fire-based Techniques to absorb Fire Primordial Qi from the natural world. They then store this Fire Primordial Qi in their Qi Sea, ready to be called upon at any time.

But this red-haired man seemed to have a natural ability to absorb and gather Fire Primordial Qi. The Qi didn't store inside his body; instead, it circled around him, ready to be used at any moment.

Both Fire Spirit Root Martial Artists and the red-haired man could manipulate Fire Primordial Qi for attack or defense, each with their own strengths and weaknesses.

A Fire Spirit Root Martial Artist, when engaged in combat, can quickly exhaust the True Yuan in their Qi Sea, and it's difficult to replenish it rapidly, unless they reach a realm where the True Yuan flows ceaselessly.

While the red-haired man could continually draw in Fire Primordial Qi from the environment, if he encountered wet weather or fought in a sealed space, his strength would be greatly reduced, and he would be easily defeated.

"That red-haired man must be what they call a Meta-Human, right? I really underestimated the people of this world before!"

The more Fang Bai interacted with this world, the more excited he became, realizing there were many things he needed to re-understand and explore.

"That red-haired man can gather Fire Primordial Qi from nature, he's virtually a walking Fire Elemental Stone! If I capture him and cultivate near him, wouldn't the effect be very beneficial?"

Thinking this, Fang Bai was greatly moved and said to the Dragon Maiden and the others, "If you wish to go out and have fun, that's fine, or you may go back to the hotel. Arrange things as you see fit! I have some personal matters to attend to and will take my leave. Remember to contact me if anything comes up!"

With that, Fang Bai left swiftly, disappearing into the crowd under the astonished gazes of the Dragon Maiden and her companions.

"Personal matters? Isn't this his first time in America? What personal matters could he have to attend to? Besides, we're all from the same side, what could he possibly have to hide? Acting all mysterious... Humph!"

Seeing Fang Bai leave without even bringing her along as a translator, the Dragon Maiden couldn't help but feel a bit aggrieved and huffed unhappily.

"Big sister, are you mad at big brother?"

Xiao Yu, who was holding the Dragon Maiden's hand, asked as she looked up at her.

"Yes!"

The Dragon Maiden squatted down and said to Xiao Yu, "Your big brother has something he won't share with me; it clearly shows he doesn't trust me, so I'm very angry! Xiao Yu, tell me, isn't your big brother really bad?"

Xiao Yu, remembering the kindness that Fang Bai had shown her and how he had also healed her father's injury, shook her head and said, "Big brother is not bad! Big brother is a good person!"

The Dragon Maiden lightly scraped Xiao Yu's nose bridge and coaxed, "Say big brother is a baddie, and I'll take you to the amusement park to play!"

The words "amusement park" were clearly very attractive to Xiao Yu. She had been firmly convinced that big brother was a good person, but now she hesitated, struggling internally.

"Big brother is... is... is..."

Xiao Yu was visibly conflicted, trying for a long time to say "baddie," but she couldn't get the words out. Finally, after glancing at her dad and seeing him give her a stern look, she hurriedly said, "Big brother is a good person... Big sister, I'm sorry, Xiao Yu can't lie just to go to the amusement park, or else no one will like Xiao Yu anymore!"

"You little girl... I don't know what sort of love potion Fang Bai has given you... alright, big sister was just joking, big brother is actually a good person! Let's go, big sister will take you to the amusement park!"

The Dragon Maiden patted Xiao Yu's little head and said with a smile.

Xiao Yu cheered, puckered her lips, and planted a kiss on the Dragon Maiden's fair and smooth cheek, sweetly saying, "Thank you, big sister! Big sister is also a good person!"

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Ever since Fang Bai and the others left the hotel they were staying at, Huo Niao had been following them.

Huo Niao's goal was to ascertain Fang Bai's true strength and then report back to the leader, Isabella, to help the members of the "Statue of Liberty" participating in this year's "World Meta-Human Organization Elite Competition" devise strategies.

Seeing Fang Bai suddenly part ways with the Dragon Maiden and others and walk towards the crowd ahead, Huo Niao left the alley and followed at a distance.

Fang Bai walked faster and faster, and Huo Niao followed suit. Unbeknownst to him, they had already reached the sparsely populated outskirts of the city.

It was then that Huo Niao felt something was amiss. He thought that he had likely been discovered by the other party a long time ago, and that the other party had intentionally led him here.

Huo Niao immediately turned around, intending to leave, but suddenly a clear voice of a young man came from behind.

"Friend, you've followed me all this way, just to leave like this?"

The young man was actually speaking American English, and although it was a bit broken, Huo Niao still understood him.

Huo Niao sighed, turned back, and looked at the young man approaching step by step, with flames seemingly rising in his eyes as the air around him began to heat up.

He was gathering Fire Primordial Qi, preparing for a fight that might break out at any moment.

The young man, of course, was Fang Bai.

Huo Niao could infer that since Fang Bai had realized he was being followed a long time ago, his strength must be no less than his own.

When Fang Bai was in Zhongzhou studying at the Medical College, his curriculum included American English. However, his major was medicine, and he spent most of his time on medical studies, so his English was a bit broken. Nonetheless, he could manage ordinary conversational communication, so even without the Dragon Maiden as an interpreter, he wasn't worried.

Fang Bai stopped five meters away from Huo Niao. At this distance, he could already feel the violent fluctuations of Fire Primordial Qi around Huo Niao and the rising temperature, even catching a whiff of the scent of fire.

Chapter 662: The Clash of Fire

"Speak, what is your purpose in following me?"

Fang Bai sized up Huo Niao and then asked indifferently.

Huo Niao's strength was comparable to that of a High-Rank Martial Artist from the Ancient Martial World of Huaxia. Fang Bai didn't take him seriously; he was just curious about Huo Niao's identity. Fang Bai wouldn't believe that such a strong individual was tracking him without any ulterior motive.

Huo Niao didn't respond to Fang Bai but clenched his fists, leaned his upper body slightly forward, and posed ready to fight.

Unable to gauge the depth of Fang Bai's strength, Huo Niao decided to make a move to test him personally.

If he could defeat Fang Bai, it would mean that there was nothing to worry about from the Huaxia "Dragon Guard" squad coming to participate in the "World Meta-Human Organization Elite Grand Prix."

If he were to lose to Fang Bai, he would then claim the name "Statue of Liberty," believing that the leader of the Huaxia "Dragon Guard" would not harm him.

"A fight, huh? Hehe, alright, I'll play along with you!"

Fang Bai looked at Huo Niao, who was silent and already in a state of combat, and chuckled.

Although he was confident that Huo Niao was no match for him, he wanted to see what differentiated this Western meta-human from a Fire Spirit Root Martial Artist of Huaxia.

Whoosh—

The sound of the wind was sharp, as Huo Niao initiated the attack.

Around Huo Niao, a massive amount of Fire Primordial Qi gathered. With a movement of his body, the heat of the Fire Primordial Qi erupted instantaneously, turning into flames that burned on his surface.

With flames accompanying him, Huo Niao shot forward like lightning, turning into a fiery shadow as he pounced toward Fang Bai, and a wave of heat swept out.

Within several meters of Huo Niao as the center, the temperature abruptly rose, and Fang Bai was enveloped in it.

If an ordinary person were enveloped by this wave of heat, they would faint within seconds due to the unbearable high temperatures.

Huo Niao's speed was incomparably fast, and he rushed to Fang Bai's side in the blink of an eye.

His eyes leapt with twin flames as he stared directly at Fang Bai's chest and threw a fierce punch.

His fist was red-hot like a ball of burning steel, and the air around his fist was somewhat distorted and deformed due to the high temperature.

A Fire Spirit Root Martial Artist's Fire Primordial Qi is stored in the Qi Sea. It's contained and subtle, usually only erupting outward when contacting an opponent with hands and feet or upon hitting the opponent's body.

The fire power possessed by Huo Niao, however, was external and visible to the naked eye, able to give a strong visual impact and shock.

Knowing that Fang Bai's strength was not weaker than his own, Huo Niao threw his punch with full force. Its power was equivalent to the full force strike of a High-Rank Earth Level Martial Artist from the Ancient Martial World of Huaxia. Even a thousand-pound boulder could be shattered by this one punch.

Not only was Huo Niao's punch fierce, but it also contained high-temperature burning energy, inflicting double damage when it hit someone.

Therefore, even an Earth Level Perfection expert stronger than Huo Niao wouldn't dare to directly contend with it lightly.

Fang Bai watched Huo Niao's fist break through the air with its high-temperature heat, neither dodging nor parrying. He stood motionless, his mouth showing a mocking smile. It was as if an adult watched a child throwing punches at him, akin to scratching through a boot, not warranting any need for defense.

Seeing the mocking smile on Fang Bai's lips, Huo Niao grew angry. He felt it was a lack of respect, even an insult, toward him as an opponent.

Huo Niao was already holding back a measure of strength with his punch, but out of anger, he wanted to smash Fang Bai's chest to let him realize the consequences of underestimating him. Thus, the last bit of held-back strength was also released mercilessly.

The Huo Niao's fist was even hotter, its flames more intense, and within those flames, there seemed to be an energy capable of devouring everything.

Even though he had unleashed all his power, Huo Niao did not see a trace of seriousness on Fang Bai's face; instead, he noticed the mocking smile at the corners of Fang Bai's mouth had deepened.

In Fang Bai's eyes, Huo Niao seemed to see flames burning as well.

"How is it that this Huaxia kid, clearly a martial artist, makes me sense a familiar fire power within him?"

After Huo Niao threw his punch, he sensed a fire power similar to his own emanating from Fang Bai, which caused his pupils to contract in disbelief, instinctively feeling that something was amiss.

There's no turning back once the arrow is off the bow.

Huo Niao's fist had already been launched, and trying to forcefully retract it at this point would cause the power to backlash against him, inflicting serious damage; thus, the fist could only continue moving forward.

No matter what, win or lose, I'll leave it to fate!

Huo Niao's eyes bulged as he roared, psyching himself up for his punch.

Bang—

The fist, carrying both violent destructive force and scorching heat, struck squarely against Fang Bai's chest.

In Huo Niao's anticipation, if this punch hit Fang Bai, there would only be two outcomes: Fang Bai would be sent flying, or he would be blasted away.

However, neither of the anticipated scenarios occurred,

It was as if Fang Bai's chest contained an extremely powerful centripetal force, adhering his fist there, making it impossible to withdraw.

Then, to Huo Niao's horror, he realized that the temperature at Fang Bai's chest was even higher than that of his own fist, making contact with his body feel as if it was about to melt away.

At the same time, Huo Niao discovered that the fire primordial qi gathered around him was frantically pouring into Fang Bai's body through his fist.

The twin flames in Fang Bai's eyes, as if infused with some sort of power, danced even more vigorously.

"What kind of bizarre ability does he have, to be able to absorb the fire primordial qi I gathered?"

Huo Niao stared blankly at Fang Bai, and for a moment, he forgot to struggle.

In fact, any attempt to struggle was in vain.

At this moment, Fang Bai was circulating the "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art" within his body, a fire-based technique he had created back when he was the Immortal Emperor. This cultivation technique was of an exceedingly high level, and currently, only he could perform and circulate it.

Usually, when Fang Bai absorbed fire elemental stones or the natural fire primordial qi of the world, he used the "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art," allowing him to absorb the fire primordial qi into his body at a faster and more ferocious pace, converting it for his own use.

The "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art" had nine layers, each one more powerful than the last. At present, Fang Bai had only just started to master the technique, cultivating up to the first layer only.

Although it was just the first layer, its power was already immense, and Fang Bai had never used it against an opponent before.

This time, meeting Huo Niao, a meta-human with fire system abilities, Fang Bai felt an itch to test the power of the "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art" and also harbored the intention of using Huo Niao's body to absorb fire primordial qi to aid his cultivation.

Poor Huo Niao had no idea that in the face of Fang Bai's "Nine Revolutions True Fire Art," his own innate fire abilities were like a novice encountering a master.

If someone were passing by the two at the time, they would notice the specks of light around Huo Niao swirling, then those light sparks converging into threads, rapidly entering Fang Bai's body.

Chapter 663: Face like an angel, figure like a devil

Huo Niao had an innate ability to gather Fire Primordial Qi, and at this moment, in order to free his right fist from Fang Bai's body, he desperately gathered Fire Primordial Qi in his left fist and struck Fang Bai, only to be absorbed onto Fang Bai's body as well.

With both his fists pressed against Fang Bai's chest as if they were trapped in the Endless Abyss, unable to retract, the massive amount of surrounding Fire Primordial Qi crazily and swiftly flowed into Fang Bai's body, dressing him lavishly.

In Fang Bai's eyes, Huo Niao's body seemed like an immense Fire Elemental Stone, continuously supplying Fang Bai with Fire Primordial Qi.

Only when the Fire Primordial Qi within his Qi Sea was so full that it could not accommodate any more did Fang Bai cease his cultivation technique.

Although he had absorbed a large amount of Fire Primordial Qi, it was very mixed, and Fang Bai's consciousness guided this Qi, quickly circulating it through the meridians until the Fire Primordial Qi became extremely pure and refined; only then did he integrate it into the Chaos Origin Energy within his Qi Sea, merging it as one.

Upon introspection with his Divine Sense, Fang Bai discovered that the red portion that constituted the Chaos Origin Energy had visibly expanded quite a lot, enough to stand equal to the originally dominant black Water Element Qi.

The strength of the Water Element Qi and Fire Primordial Qi filled Fang Bai with joy.

One must know, Water Element Qi and Fire Primordial Qi are the foundations for refining Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts. Now that the Chaos Origin Energy in Fang Bai's Qi Sea was most potent in water and fire energies, as long as he could condense Water Element Qi and Fire Primordial Qi externally, turning the abstract into the solid, he could start refining Elixirs or Spiritual Artifacts.

And with the aid of Elixirs and Spiritual Artifacts, Fang Bai's strength would undoubtedly see a significant enhancement.

After Huo Niao's fists were released from Fang Bai, his heart had no trace of joy, but rather increased fear, feeling as if he had been toyed with by Fang Bai.

He knew he was far from being Fang Bai's match and understood that continuing the fight would only bring him shame, so he withdrew his hands and stepped back, raising his voice to say to Fang Bai, "Mr. Fang, my apologies for the offense! My name is Huo Niao, a member of the Statue of Liberty!"

Upon hearing the name "Statue of Liberty," Fang Bai slightly froze before smiling and saying, "So you are a friend from the Statue of Liberty, it's true that we wouldn't have met if not for the fight! But Mr. Huo Niao, why were you secretly following me? Can you explain that?"

Huo Niao's face reddened, and he stammered, "Well... that... I wasn't really following Mr. Fang, I just wanted... wanted to make friends with Mr. Fang... yes, make friends!"

"I see..."

Fang Bai smiled, seeing Huo Niao's face turn crimson and thinking to himself that this guy really wasn't cut out to lie.

Although he knew Huo Niao had no good intentions in following him, Fang Bai didn't wish to start a conflict with the Statue of Liberty at this time,

"Alright then, I'll accept your friendship! We will have an opportunity to meet at tomorrow's 'Meta-Human Organization Elite Tournament!' Goodbye!"

With that, Fang Bai left Huo Niao a mysterious and inscrutable smile and turned to stride away.

Huo Niao's gaze flickered as he watched Fang Bai's figure fade into the distance until it disappeared, then he sighed dejectedly and turned to sweep towards the depths of the desert outside the city.

Although he had only exchanged one move with Fang Bai, Huo Niao had already roughly estimated Fang Bai's depth of strength.

Huo Niao knew that Fang Bai was much stronger than himself and that it would be easy for him to defeat him effortlessly, with enough power to contend against their leader, Isabella.

Tomorrow is the day when the "World Meta-Human Organizations Elite Competition" begins, and Huo Niao has almost completely grasped the strengths of the competing teams sent by the other meta-human organizations. However, Huaxia's "Dragon Guard" team leader, Fang Bai, turned out to be an unexpected force, catching Huo Niao off guard.

Fang Bai is so powerful that he has posed a significant threat to the Statue of Liberty's chances of winning. This information must be reported to the leader, Isabella, as soon as possible, so she can adjust her strategy in time.

After entering the desert, Huo Niao took almost an hour, making turns in the sandy expanse to avoid being followed. Once certain that no one was around, he accelerated, transforming into a fiery red shadow, streaking towards the mysterious white castle at the core of the desert.

In the dead of night, Huo Niao's figure appeared in the great hall at the center of the castle, where he met the leader of the Statue of Liberty, Isabella.

"That Fang Bai, is he really that powerful?"

After quietly listening to Huo Niao's report, a look of surprise appeared on Isabella's angelic, delicate face.

"Yes, Miss Isabella, I believe that Fang Bai already has the strength to challenge you, so you need to prepare in advance! However, I always have faith that Miss Isabella is the most powerful person in the world, and will surely defeat all experts, including Fang Bai, to win the championship!"

Huo Niao knelt on one knee, speaking in a tone full of compliments.

After saying this, he slowly raised his head to look at Isabella, who sat on the stone seat at the top of the stone steps, his eyes filled with admiration and fervor.

Huo Niao's compliments did not cause any fluctuation in Isabella's emotions. She gestured with a casual wave of her hand, saying, "Huo Niao, you've worked hard. Go and rest for now!"

"Yes."

Huo Niao responded and bowed, slowly retreating from the hall.

Once outside the great hall, Huo Niao looked back at its wide-open doors and sighed with a hint of regret.

For the leader Isabella, Huo Niao felt not just admiration but also fondness, yet he dared not reveal it. In his eyes, Isabella was like an angel sent from God to Earth, so pure that he dare not harbor any profane thoughts.

Although Isabella was young, her formidable strength made it hard for him to even look up to her. He had always been working silently to become stronger, feeling that only then would he have the right to speak more with Isabella and gain her greater attention.

After Huo Niao left, Isabella remained alone in the vast great hall.

"That twenty-year-old Huaxia youth, if he is as strong as Huo Niao says, may indeed be worth paying attention to. Hmm, tomorrow's 'World Meta-Human Organizations Elite Competition' should be quite lively, shouldn't it? I'm really looking forward to it!"

Murmuring to herself, Isabella reached for the white jade staff inlaid with purple gems beside the stone seat and slowly stood up, walking down the stone steps.

Although only fourteen or fifteen years old, her figure was well-developed, with a tight waist and a curvy form, perfectly embodying the phrase "face of an angel, body of a devil."

Her long legs moved gracefully, her beautiful figure swaying as she walked, her silver hair rippling like waves behind her shapely back, with her purple gown trailing behind her.

She stepped outside the great hall and looked up at the starry night sky. The light of stars and moon bathed her, as if she was wrapped in a layer of sacred light.

Chapter 664: Night Exploration of the Mysterious Castle

Isabella held a white jade magic staff in her hand, atop which was embedded a purple gemstone the size of a fist, shaped like an egg, and sparkling clear. Within it, energy seemed to be pulsating.

Standing under the starry sky for a moment, a hint of purple light suddenly flashed in Isabella's sea-blue eyes. Then, her silver hair fluttered without wind, chaotically dancing in the air while the hem of her purple dress moved like waves.

A heart-thumping "zzt zzt" sound of electric current rang out, and all around Isabella, countless Lightning Snakes appeared out of nowhere.

The Lightning Snakes crisscrossed around her, forming an electric net that enveloped her within. The sight was impressive, casting her delicate face in alternating shades of light and dark.

Just as the electric net formed by the Lightning Snakes around her was about to completely obscure her figure, she suddenly moved.

Not only did Isabella naturally possess the meta-human ability to condense lightning, but her speed was also as fast as lightning. She gripped the staff firmly, transforming into a streak of purple light, like lightning shooting across the night sky towards a sand dune straight ahead.

A few hundred meters were crossed in the blink of an eye.

The sand dune stood seven to eight meters tall, resembling a small low hill.

As Isabella approached, she swung her staff, with its top slamming into the sand dune.

Boom!

The instant before the staff struck the sand dune, the countless Lightning Snakes surrounding Isabella converged into the purple gemstone at its tip.

The purple gemstone flared with electric light, illuminating its surroundings, and then a powerful blast of electricity erupted outward, striking the sand dune.

Bang—

In the midst of a deafening explosion, sand and dust flew into the air, and fierce winds swept through as if a massive explosion had occurred.

When the dust settled and calm was restored, the sand dune that once stood before Isabella had vanished.

Looking at the leveled ground where the sand dune had been, a smile spread across Isabella's face as she nodded in satisfaction.

Clap—

Clap—

Clap—

Behind her, the sound of clapping arose. Startled, Isabella swiftly turned around to see a figure walking towards her from a hundred meters away.

The figure moved with astonishing speed. One moment they were a hundred meters away; the next, they were only ten meters from Isabella.

"Such speed is no less than mine!"

Isabella was inwardly shocked, but outwardly she maintained a calm demeanor. Her sapphire-like eyes glowed with a cold light, scrutinizing this unexpected visitor.

This was a Huaxia young man close to thirty years old, with eyebrows like painted strokes, starry eyes, and a strikingly handsome appearance.

Especially noteworthy were his eyes—deep and black like the starry sky. When Isabella locked gazes with him, she felt slightly dazzled, as if she was being drawn into their depths.

There was an indescribable aura about the Huaxia young man, which was particularly lethal to women, especially girls like Isabella who were at the age where their hearts were just beginning to stir.

If Isabella was pure and noble like an angel, then this Huaxia young man seemed akin to a divine son descended upon the world, gentle and modest, yet extraordinary in every aspect.

Looking at the young Huaxia man before her, Isabella's mind fluttered with bewilderment for a moment, but she soon regained her composure, with a murderous purple gleam shining in her pupils.

This castle was not only the headquarters of the "Statue of Liberty" organization but also Isabella's personal residence. Aside from a few members of the "Statue of Liberty," anyone else breaking in without Isabella's permission could only meet with death.

However, Isabella did not immediately attack the young Huaxia man before her.

Firstly, she wanted to ascertain his identity, and secondly, she had some reservations in her mind.

The fact that this Huaxia youth could approach the castle silently and unnoticed was proof enough of his formidable strength, at least not weaker than her own.

Moreover, Isabella suspected that had the young man not clapped his hands and revealed himself just now, she might not have been able to detect his presence at all.

Isabella knew that if this Huaxia youth were her enemy and he approached within fifty meters and then launched a full-force attack using his movement technique, she would be put on the defensive and end up at a disadvantage.

No matter how hard Isabella racked her brain, she couldn't think of any time when such a person appeared in the world.

"Could it be him? Unlikely... He doesn't match the photo in the file at all..."

The name "Fang Bai" flashed through Isabella's mind, but she immediately dismissed the thought.

Although Huo Niao had proven that Fang Bai was a formidable opponent capable of threatening her, this Huaxia youth's age and appearance greatly differed from the Fang Bai in the photograph.

And according to Huo Niao, Fang Bai could also gather and control Fire Primordial Qi, but Isabella did not sense any Fire Primordial Qi fluctuations from this Huaxia youth. Instead, she caught a trace of Water Element Qi fluctuations.

Among the meta-humans capable of gathering and controlling Water Element Qi, Isabella knew of several, but this Huaxia youth was not among them.

Not knowing the identity of her opponent was very frustrating for Isabella.

Isabella undoubtedly was a clever young lady, but what she couldn't imagine was that some people could use True Essence Force to manipulate their blood and bones, altering the state of their skin and appearance, thereby achieving the effect of changing their countenance.

The Huaxia young man was naturally Fang Bai.

After the battle with Huo Niao, Fang Bai had not strayed far, but had followed him to this place unnoticed.

At first glance at this castle, Fang Bai had no idea it was the headquarters of the "Statue of Liberty," but after his Divine Sense enveloped the castle and he overheard the conversation between Huo Niao and Isabella, he realized this place was the residence of Isabella, the head of the "Statue of Liberty."

After joining the "Statue of Liberty," Isabella had been kept secluded and unknown to the outside world. She had not yet taken over as the head of the "Statue of Liberty" during the "World Meta-Human Organization Elite Competition" held five years ago, so even Long Jingtian, the leader of the "Dragon Guard," didn't know much about this new head of the "Statue of Liberty."

Later on, Long Jingtian heard from some secret channels that the new leader of the "Statue of Liberty," Isabella, was a very, very young girl, yet her strength was even greater than the previous leader's.

Long Jingtian did not lead the team to America this time but asked Fang Bai to lead the team instead. Ostensibly he claimed that there was little hope of winning the championship, but in reality, he was afraid of losing to the new leader of the "Statue of Liberty," Isabella.

An old man in his fifties losing to a young girl was a loss of face Long Jingtian couldn't afford, so he simply didn't come.

At twenty years old, Fang Bai was not old either. Even if he lost and failed to win the championship, it would not be a disgrace.

Before coming to America, Fang Bai's understanding of Isabella, the new leader of the "Statue of Liberty," was limited to knowing she was a younger girl than himself, and that was all.

Before meeting Isabella, Fang Bai never expected her to be so young.

After seeing Isabella's appearance, Fang Bai immediately thought of Dongfang Ruhua.

Chapter 665: When you grow up, who would dare to marry you?

Dongfang Ruhua and Isabella were about the same age, one with an Innate Thunder Spirit Root and the other born with the special ability to manipulate thunder and lightning. Moreover, they both had large eyes, straight noses, small mouths, and delicate features like the beauties in comic books.

The difference was that Dongfang Ruhua was pure and cute, gentle and obedient, while Isabella exuded a certain queenly aura of superiority.

And the most significant difference was, at the same age, Dongfang Ruhua's realm was only at the High Rank of Yellow Level, whereas this Isabella was already equivalent to a Martial Artist at the Heaven Level beginner stage in the Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, and furthermore, she was at the peak of that beginner stage, with faint signs of reaching an even higher realm.

Long Jingtian was right not to lead the team to America, if he had encountered this Isabella, he really wouldn't have been a match for her.

After Isabella stepped out of the great hall and used the power of lightning to flatten that sand dune, Fang Bai admired the young girl's strength in secret, and his hands itched to reveal his disguised presence and meet her.

"Who are you?"

Isabella's eyes shimmered coldly as she stared intently at Fang Bai and asked in a chilly voice.

Although Fang Bai did not show any hostility, Isabella was not inclined to let the matter drop, because the castle was the private domain of generations of "Statue of Liberty" leaders. Any stranger who trespassed on this territory was to be killed, a rule established over a hundred years ago.

Isabella did not want to break this rule.

Although she was not absolutely confident in her ability to kill her opponent, she was determined to give it her all.

"Miss Isabella's strength is indeed as formidable as the legends say! Admirable! Admirable!"

Fang Bai did not answer Isabella's question but said with a smile, "I have a friend in Huaxia about your age, a beautiful girl like you. By coincidence, she too can naturally be close to thunder and lightning, and now she has also learned to use the power of thunder. If you two ever have the chance to meet in the future, you could exchange thoughts."

After all, Isabella was a fourteen- or fifteen-year-old girl who, upon hearing this, became curious and almost blurted out, "Who is that girl?" But she swallowed the words back as they reached her lips.

Isabella had already decided to kill Fang Bai, and it seemed rather inappropriate to ask such a question at this time.

"Answer me, who are you?"

Isabella looked at Fang Bai coldly, her delicate face covered with a layer of frost, and her hand, gripping the staff, tightened a bit more.

Fang Bai laughed and said, "You don't need to know who I am. All you need to know is that I bear you no ill will. I'm just passing through and will be on my way."

Isabella said coldly, "Do you think you can come and go as you please here?"

"Not letting me go, are you planning to keep me for a midnight snack?"

Fang Bai pointed towards Isabella's white castle and said with a grin, "Such a big castle must surely have no shortage of fine wines and dishes. As the host, won't you invite this guest in for a sit-down?"

Isabella rarely got angry, but now, she was somewhat infuriated and said through clenched teeth, "Who exactly are you?"

Fang Bai sighed, "This is already the third time you've asked me that. Is it really that important who I am?"

He paused for a moment, glanced at Isabella, and added, "I see a murderous intent in your eyes. It's not a good thing for someone so young to enjoy killing. Who would dare marry you when you grow up? Besides, with your strength, you can't kill me. And I have no interest in killing you. Instead of fighting each other, why don't we sit down and have some late-night snacks..."

"Enough!"

Isabella shouted angrily, interrupting Fang Bai. She pointed her staff towards him and exclaimed furiously, "Without fighting, how do you know I can't kill you? This is private property; by trespassing here, you can leave your life behind!"

Her pupils flashed with a purple glint, and lightning snakes coiled around her; as she spoke, her staff, along with her lunging figure, struck towards Fang Bai.

She moved with lightning speed, and the two-meter-long staff, enveloped in electricity and emitting a terrifying crackling sound, was inches from Fang Bai's chest in an instant.

The fist-sized purple gemstone embedded on Isabella's staff, in Fang Bai's eyes, was actually a Thunder Essence Stone.

This particular Thunder Essence Stone was different from others; it could store and release the power of lightning, akin to a lightning storage and retrieval device.

Compared to the Essence Stones of the five elements—gold, wood, water, fire, earth—Thunder Essence Stones were extremely rare. Back when Fang Bai practiced the Thunder Technique, he had to go beyond the nine domains of the Immortal Realm, to the Foreign Thunder Sea World, to find a Thunder Essence Stone.

How Isabella got her hands on this Thunder Essence Stone, Fang Bai didn't know. He figured everyone had their own fortunes; he had discovered the "Blue Ice Fish" under the pool of water by chance, and similarly, Isabella obtaining this peculiar Thunder Essence Stone was her own fortune.

As Isabella launched her attack, the lightning swirling around her rapidly poured into the Thunder Essence Stone at the top of her staff, and then the accumulated power was directed outward from the stone to strike Fang Bai.

The small sand dune that Isabella had flattened with her staff had accumulated over decades and was as hard as a small hill; Isabella's attack's power was evident in her ability to flatten it with a single strike.

However, facing Isabella's lightning attack, Fang Bai was fearless. He madly activated the "Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra," his pupils also flickering with purple light, and then extended his right hand, grasping toward Isabella's staff.

In the instant Fang Bai made his move, Isabella failed to notice that his fingertips were also wrapped with lightning snakes.

"Hmph, seeking death!"

Seeing Fang Bai reaching out barehanded for her staff, clearly not taking her seriously, Isabella was both shocked and furious. Her wrist flicked, speeding up the attack of the staff.

When Isabella's staff touched Fang Bai's palm, it didn't result in the scene Isabella imagined, where Fang Bai would be blown away by the lightning released. Instead, the head of the staff dipped slightly, and the purple gemstone embedded in it was firmly grasped by Fang Bai's ten fingers.

What surprised Isabella even more was that after Fang Bai caught her staff, the powerful lightning force that blasted from the purple gemstone went crazily into Fang Bai's palm, disappearing as if water poured into sand, without causing any damage.

Only then did Isabella realize that Fang Bai's body, like her own, had a unique function to gather and absorb the force of lightning, and it seemed even more effective than hers.

Although this attack was mainly to test the opponent's strength, she hadn't used her full force; still, her attack, powered by seventy percent of her strength and amplified by the purple gemstone on her staff, was blocked by a single palm of the opponent, which was somewhat difficult for Isabella to accept.

Chapter 666: Until We Meet Again

The power of thunder and lightning is a force of nature that's extremely destructive and devastating; once unleashed, it is impressively formidable.

Embedded atop Isabella's staff was a purple gem filled with strong electrical power. Anyone else would not dare to confront a lightning attack from the purple gem the way Fang Bai did, not just indifferent to dodging, but actually reaching out with bare hands to grab it.

One should know, just moments earlier, the lightning force burst out from the purple gem easily destroyed a small hill-like sand dune!

However, under her powerful offensive, not only did Fang Bai remain unharmed, but he even absorbed the lightning energy she emitted, a concept utterly inconceivable to Isabella.

Little did Isabella know, Fang Bai possessed the Chaos True Body, a physique that could be considered the most powerful even among the nine great Heavenly Domains of the Immortal Realm.

The Chaos True Body encompassed the five elemental attributes, along with wind and thunder and lightning, allowing Fang Bai to circulate different Cultivation Techniques and switch at will among these seven elemental physiques.

In the recent exchange with Isabella, Fang Bai circulated the "Nine Heavens Divine Thunder Mantra", transforming his body to share the same thunder and lightning attribute as Isabella. Therefore, Isabella's attacks were ineffective against Fang Bai; instead, they were devoured and assimilated by him into a pure and concentrated thunder and lightning force, which then fused into the Chaos Origin Energy within his Qi Sea.

Using his Divine Sense to inspect his inner state, Fang Bai could see the portion of Chaos Origin Energy attributed to thunder and lightning had grown several times larger, vastly surpassing the proportions of water and fire Primordial Qi.

This also indicated that Isabella's power was much stronger than that of Huo Niao, providing Fang Bai with greater benefits.

"Little girl, thank you for assisting me!"

After absorbing the powerful surge of thunder and lightning into his body, Fang Bai released Isabella's staff and spoke with a smile, uttering words that bewildered her.

"Thankful for being attacked? How did I help him? This annoying young man from Huaxia must have water in his head!"

Isabella thought to herself.

Isabella, stately and supremely powerful, revered and idolized by hundreds of members of the Statue of Liberty, considered herself an invincible queen. But to Fang Bai, she was just a "little girl," which infuriated her intensely.

Even though Isabella knew Fang Bai was the most formidable opponent she had encountered, and her chances of winning were slim, her anger clouded her judgement and, biting her silver teeth, she swung her staff, flanked by thousands of Lightning Snakes, Sweeping Past towards Fang Bai.

"Haha... bring it on!"

Fang Bai reached out with his left hand at an angle, intending to grab Isabella's staff again. This time Isabella had learned her lesson, and mid-attack, she abruptly changed her tactic, shifting the attack trajectory towards Fang Bai's legs.

With a light tap of his toes, Fang Bai's figure shot up several meters, effortlessly avoiding the strike.

"Hmph!"

Isabella let out a cold grunt as purple light flowed in her eyes. She held her staff upright, jabbing its tip towards the soles of Fang Bai's feet.

"Little girl, now you try taking one of my punches!"

Fang Bai flipped over in mid-air, upside down, punching downwards to meet the jab from Isabella's staff, with purple light twinkling at his fist, intertwining with Lightning Snakes.

Boom boom boom—

Crack—

When Fang Bai's fist collided with Isabella's staff, it was like two bolts of lightning striking together, creating a terrifyingly loud noise, causing numerous sandy dunes around to collapse.

Isabella, after all, was not Huo Niao; her strength was very close to that of Fang Bai. She launched her attack with all her might, and with the assistance of the purple Thunder Essence Stone atop her staff, she managed to send Fang Bai flying once more, tumbling through the air.

Of course, Isabella didn't have it easy either. Although her strike sent Fang Bai flying, she bore an even stronger recoil that forced her feet half a foot deep into the marble floor, her arm holding the staff tingled with pain and numbness, barely able to grip the staff; her body wobbled, and she felt dizzy.

Although Fang Bai was sent flying, he didn't suffer. After executing two somersaults in the air, he landed on a solid sand dune several meters away and stood firm.

"This little girl is quite something! But you're still no match for me! Do you wish to continue fighting?"

Fang Bai said to Isabella, who looked somewhat pale, with a smiling expression.

Isabella didn't respond verbally, but bit her rose petal-like lips and once again turned into a bolt of lightning rushing towards the sand dune where Fang Bai stood.

Boom—

In a flash of lightning and a peal of thunder, the sand dune where Fang Bai stood was leveled by the staff in Isabella's hand, while Fang Bai had already leapt away before it happened.

"Little girl, let's move away and fight. I'd hate for you to cry if we accidentally destroy your castle here!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily and turned into a streak of electric light, racing toward the depths of the desert.

Isabella's little face turned red with anger at being called "little girl" over and over by Fang Bai. She clenched her teeth tightly, feeling helpless but determined to follow Fang Bai as she gripped her staff and chased after him.

Fang Bai's strength made the always proud Isabella realize what "there are skies beyond skies, people beyond people" truly meant, and she put away her queenly, self-centered attitude.

As for Fang Bai's identity and the purpose of his visit here, Isabella wanted to get to the bottom of it, or else she felt she would never be able to sleep or eat in peace.

The two of them left the castle behind and came to an area where sand dunes undulated, freeing their hands and feet to engage in an all-out brawl.

Both using the power of lightning and thunder for their attacks, each collision would result in flickering sparks and resounding thunderclaps.

Fang Bai was considerably stronger than Isabella, so while she gave her all in this fight, Fang Bai only used eighty percent of his strength.

In spite of this, Isabella still couldn't gain the upper hand.

Boom—

After another strike, Isabella retreated with the momentum, putting a distance of over ten meters between her and Fang Bai. Her sapphire-like eyes fixed on Fang Bai, she maintained a highly alert posture.

Under the light of the stars and moon, she could be seen with sweat on her forehead, her small mouth slightly open, her chest heaving as she gasped for breath continuously.

Her silver hair was a bit disheveled, and there were a few tears in her purple gown. Her long legs, partially visible, were exceptionally tempting.

Clearly, the recent fight had drained a significant amount of Isabella's stamina. If the fight continued, she might collapse from exhaustion, and Fang Bai could easily defeat her with the slight flick of his hand.

Therefore, Isabella had no choice but to take the initiative to back off and cease the fight.

Looking at Fang Bai, one could see he was calm and at ease, standing there leisurely with a slight smile on his lips, as if the intense battle had just been a warm-up for him.

Isabella, always supremely arrogant and leading the "Statue of Liberty" with the poise of a queen, suddenly felt a deep sense of defeat and helplessness, and it was overwhelming for her.

"Who... exactly are you?"

Even though she knew he wouldn't give an answer, Isabella still couldn't help but ask again.

"It seems that having a supper in your castle tonight is quite unlikely! Never mind, I'd better leave! Farewell, the beautiful Miss Isabella, until we meet again!"

Fang Bai winked at Isabella, laughed heartily as he looked up to the sky and then drifted away, turning to leave.

Chapter 667: Good Morning!

Fang Bai moved like a dragon-snake, his speed astonishing. One moment he was near Isabella, and in the blink of an eye, he was already a hundred meters away, vanishing into the vastness of the boundless desert.

Isabella stood in place, silently watching Fang Bai leave. After a long, dazed moment, she let out a deep sigh, stepped back to the great hall, and sat down on the lofty stone chair.

She set her staff aside, propped her chin with one hand, her mind in a messy whirl, filled with the infuriating face of the young Huaxia man.

"That man is simply too powerful! During our fight just now, he was thoroughly in his element, clearly holding back some of his strength... Who on earth is he? Why has he been unknown and inconspicuous? If that man joins the 'Dragon Guard' of Huaxia in the future, it would be a disaster for the 'Statue of Liberty'!"

Isabella murmured to herself, her face filled with worry.

She sat there in a daze for a while, then summoned the Huo Niao back, not long after it had left.

The "World Meta-Human Organization Elite Competition" was about to be held, and the appearance of that young Huaxia man in Las Vegas warranted Isabella's utmost vigilance.

"Respected Miss Isabella, what's wrong with you? Did something happen?"

When Huo Niao returned and reappeared in the white castle's great hall, seeing Isabella's listless, dispirited appearance, so vastly different from her usual spirited, confident demeanor, it was taken aback, knowing something must have happened during its absence.

"Huo Niao, shortly after you left, an uninvited guest came..."

In the colossal organization of the "Statue of Liberty," only a handful of people are considered confidants and trusted implicitly by Isabella, and Huo Niao is one of them. Therefore, there were many things that Isabella was willing to discuss with Huo Niao.

She contained her emotions, speaking in a calm tone as she recounted the recent events to Huo Niao, finishing with her lips tightly sealed and brows deeply furrowed, she sighed, "That Huaxia man came without a trace and left just as mysteriously after fighting with me. If he had wanted to kill me, you might be looking at my corpse right now. I can feel that the Huaxia man bore me no ill will... How strange..."

Huo Niao wouldn't doubt Isabella's words, but it hadn't expected someone capable of overpowering even the greatly admired Miss Isabella to exist in this world.

"I'll call some powerhouses right away to reinforce the perimeter surveillance of the castle... Moreover, I'll also use our 'Statue of Liberty's' network resources to investigate that Huaxia man. He might be in Las Vegas..."

"Alright, go ahead and do that! Remember to report back to me as soon as there's any news!" said Isabella, waving her hand weakly.

Isabella held little hope for the investigation mentioned by Huo Niao; the Huaxia man was too strong, like a Divine Dragon whose head was seen but not the tail. She had failed to deal with him herself, so expecting her subordinates to find his whereabouts was practically impossible.

Nevertheless, Isabella decided to let Huo Niao conduct the search; after all, there might be some clues discovered.

Without figuring out the identity and background of that mysterious Huaxia man, Isabella knew she would have endless sleepless nights.

After Huo Niao left, Isabella retreated back into her bedroom in the great hall. After washing up and making up, she left the castle with her staff, heading towards the downtown area of Las Vegas.

Shortly after daybreak, teams sent by Meta-Human organizations from around the world would converge at a secret venue in Las Vegas called 'Light of Freedom'. As the leader of the "Statue of Liberty," she needed to perform her duties as the host.

...

At seven in the morning, the Dragon Maiden got up, washed, and the first thing she did was knock on the door of Fang Bai's room.

Last night, the Dragon Maiden, Long Da, Long Er, and others had fun until very late before returning, yet there was no sign of Fang Bai; it wasn't until nearly dawn that they heard noises coming from Fang Bai's room.

The Dragon Maiden was very curious about what Fang Bai had been doing out almost all night, especially since Las Vegas is not only known as the "Entertainment Capital of the World" but also as a place that countless men long for—the "Town of Gentle Pleasures." Every night when darkness falls, you can see a variety of dazzling women out on the streets, soliciting clients.

The Dragon Maiden worried that Fang Bai, a young man full of vigor, might not be able to resist the temptations of those dazzling beauties and indulge in the "drunken pleasures of the gentle town."

At the thought, the Dragon Maiden blushed slightly, secretly thinking to herself that Fang Bai was their instructor, as well as the leader of their small team. Even if he really went off to seek pleasure, how could she have the right to interfere?

Although she felt it might be inappropriate to ask Fang Bai where he had been last night, the Dragon Maiden, as if possessed, knocked on Fang Bai's door anyway.

The door opened quickly, and Fang Bai's handsome face appeared in front of the Dragon Maiden, a faint smile on his lips.

"Dragon Maiden, good morning!"

Fang Bai greeted the Dragon Maiden with a smile.

Fang Bai seemed to be in a good mood; there was no trace of alcohol on him, nor the scent of a woman's perfume, nothing that suggested he'd been in the "gentle town" in the arms of beauties.

The Dragon Maiden had intended to ask Instructor Fang where he had been the night before, but when the words reached her lips, they turned into, "Good morning, Instructor Fang!"

Seeing the Dragon Maiden standing outside the door with an odd expression on her face, Fang Bai curiously asked, "Dragon Maiden, is something the matter?"

"Ah? Oh... I was just checking to see if Instructor Fang was up yet... Right, after washing up, let's go have breakfast together. Then, at eight o'clock, a car from the Statue of Liberty faction will come to pick us up... Um, I'll go to the dining room first..."

The Dragon Maiden said and quickly turned to leave.

"This girl... what an odd one..."

Fang Bai watched the Dragon Maiden's retreating figure, shaking his head with a laugh.

Fang Bai quickly got ready and met up with the Dragon Maiden, Long Da, and others in the dining room.

Fang Bai had originally wanted Yang Xudong and his daughter Xiao Yu to rest at the hotel, but Xiao Yu was very attached to the Dragon Maiden. Hearing that the Dragon Maiden was going out, she pleaded earnestly to be taken along.

The "World Meta-Human Elite Championship" was a competition where meta-humans from around the world came to test their strengths, and it did not pose any dangers. After consulting Fang Bai, the Dragon Maiden agreed to take Xiao Yu with them.

Once Xiao Yu was coming, Yang Xudong, as her father, naturally had to accompany her.

Although the "World Meta-Human Elite Championship" didn't allow spectators, the Dragon Guard was one of the seven major meta-human organizations in the world, holding significant influence. Thus, bringing along two extra people should not be a problem.

After breakfast, Fang Bai and the others went to the hotel's ground floor lounge to sit on the sofas and wait for someone from the Statue of Liberty faction to arrive.

Around eight o'clock, a bus stopped at the hotel entrance, and two burly men—one black and one white—walked into the hotel. After glancing at Fang Bai and the group, the white man approached Fang Bai and said in fluent Huaxia, "You are Mr. Fang from Huaxia, correct?"

Chapter 668: Meta-Human Gathering

Most of the "World Meta-Humans Organization Elite Grand Tournaments" had been attended by the chiefs leading the teams themselves, and the organizers always required their subordinates to treat every participating team with the utmost respect, without any negligence.

The Caucasian man, though a powerful meta-human with abilities comparable to a Martial Artist at the early stages of the Profound Level from the Ancient Martial World of Huaxia, maintained sufficient awe at that moment when facing the members of the world-famous "Dragon Guard."

Before coming to pick up Fang Bai and the others, Lord Firebird had specifically instructed the man not to underestimate Fang Bai for his youth, as even a slight disrespect could lead to severe consequences.

In the "Statue of Liberty," Lord Firebird stood second only to one, above tens of thousands, holding high authority and being the chief Isabella's most trusted confidant and loyal executor of commands. Almost no member of the "Statue of Liberty" wasn't afraid of him, hence the Caucasian man dared not ignore his words.

Even though the Caucasian man had learned a lot about Fang Bai before coming, he couldn't help being somewhat surprised when he saw that the young Huaxia man, around twenty years old, was actually the team leader of the mysterious "Dragon Guard" from Huaxia.

However, the man did not dare to show his surprise on his face, for if it offended Fang Bai and Lord Firebird found out, Lord Firebird could genuinely kill him with a single slap.

Just thinking about Lord Firebird's anger, like a volcanic eruption, radiating intense heat from his body, with his fists as if flames were burning, if he truly got slapped by his palm, the consequences were unimaginable. By then, wishing for life or death would be futile, and the agony unbearable, the Caucasian man would shudder with terror.

"Indeed, I am Fang Bai."

Fang Bai replied with a smile.

"Mr. Fang, greetings!"

The Caucasian man bowed deeply to Fang Bai and then said, "We are ordered by Miss Isabella to pick up Mr. Fang and the gentlemen to attend the tournament at the 'Light of Freedom.'"

Fang Bai had heard from the Dragon Maiden that the "Light of Freedom" was a secret venue of the "Statue of Liberty," located in the center of Las Vegas, with security measures so tight that not even a bird could fly in, more stringent than the residence of the President of America.

"Then let's go!"

Fang Bai stood up, followed the Caucasian man out of the hotel, with the Dragon Maiden, Long Da, and the others promptly getting to their feet to follow.

Once the party of over a dozen people boarded the bus, the bulletproof vehicle started and made its way to the "Light of Freedom" venue in the city center.

From the outside, the "Light of Freedom" appeared to be a very ordinary sports venue-like building, covering an area larger than a football field, shrouded in mystery since its inception.

The entrance was guarded by several fierce-looking and intimidating security staff, with a tight surveillance system all around. Outsiders simply could not enter, and only core members of the "Statue of Liberty" with access cards had the privilege to get inside.

When the minibus carrying Fang Bai and the others arrived at the entrance of the "Light of Freedom," the Caucasian man showed their credentials and identities to the guards and they were promptly allowed through.

Inside the "Light of Freedom," they saw a huge open-air venue, its ground paved with a material as hard as diamond, and surrounded by rows of tiered seating all around.

On the northern side of the venue stood a giant torch that was perpetually burning. It was said to never go out, symbolizing that the light would always prevail.

At this moment, the venue had already gathered hundreds of people of various skin colors and different attires.

Ordinary people might not notice anything special about these individuals, but Fang Bai and his fellow Martial Artists sensed unusual energy fluctuations emanating from those hundreds of people, among whom were Martial Artists as well as Meta-Humans like Firebird.

It's rare to see so many powerful figures from around the world gathered together like this.

It was said that this "World Meta-Human Organizations Elite Competition" had the highest number of participants in its history, and all were led personally by the leaders of the major Meta-Human organizations, which indicated the level of importance they placed on this competition.

Of course, Long Jingtian, the leader of the "Dragon Guard," was an "exception".

No leader from the other major Meta-Human organizations expected Long Jingtian to send a young man in his twenties to lead the "Dragon Guard" members to the competition, which was almost like showing disrespect to the organizers.

So when Fang Bai, Dragon Maiden, and others appeared in the venue, the other people there looked at them strangely, some indifferent, some snickering, some mocking, some contemptuous and disdainful...

As for those less friendly glances, Dragon Maiden, Long Da, and others felt somewhat displeased, but Fang Bai faced them with a smile, unbothered, occasionally turning his head to quietly ask Dragon Maiden and Long Da about the various Meta-Human organizations.

Long Da, who had followed Long Jingtian for the longest time and participated in several "World Meta-Human Organizations Elite Competitions," knew the members of the major Meta-Human organizations very well. He walked beside Fang Bai, answering some of Fang Bai's questions, and introduced the contestants from the various Meta-Human organizations to him.

As per tradition, when leaders of the major Meta-Human organizations arrived at the competition site, the hosts were expected to send a significant figure to greet them and engage in brief pleasantries as a sign of respect.

Emissaries like Firebird, a favored subordinate of Isabella, leader of the "Statue of Liberty," had welcomed leaders from "Holy Temple" of Europa, "Blizzard" of the Russian Federation, "Pharaoh" of North Africa, "Temple" of South America, and "India's Conflagrate" when the leaders of these Meta-Human organizations arrived.

But this time, Huaxia's "Dragon Guard" leader Long Jingtian was not present, having only sent a young man in his twenties to lead the team, and it was uncertain how the "Statue of Liberty" would respond.

Almost everyone believed that since the "Dragon Guard" showed disrespect first by not honoring the host "Statue of Liberty," there was no need for the host to show them respect, perhaps just sending a minor figure for a quick meet and greet would suffice.

As Fang Bai and others arrived, there was a commotion on the northern side of the venue, where people spontaneously cleared a path; shortly after, a beautiful girl with a staff in hand, wearing a purple gauze dress, large sapphire-like eyes, and silver hair cascading down to her waist approached them at a leisurely pace.

Following the silver-haired beauty were Firebird and other significant figures from the "Statue of Liberty" organization.

Upon seeing this procession, leaders of the Meta-Human organizations present recognized that the silver-haired beauty was Isabella, the new leader of America's "Statue of Liberty."

Although the leaders of the various Meta-Human organizations had already learned about the new leader of the "Statue of Liberty," knowing she was just a teenage girl, many were still astonished when they saw Isabella for the first time.

The leaders of the Meta-Human organizations at the venue were all at least in their forties, with some even well past their seventies; thinking about having to interact with such a young girl on an equal footing made them feel indescribably awkward and unusual.

Chapter 669: This is probably what they call fate!

Isabella's appearance immediately drew the attention of everyone in the venue.

For many, it was their first time seeing the new leader of the "Statue of Liberty" and, seeing that she was a beautiful young girl in her teens, they couldn't help but feel very surprised.

Although Isabella was young enough to incite jealousy, not a single person there dared to underestimate her.

Could the person capable of serving as the leader of the "Statue of Liberty" be a weakling?

Isabella's young face bore a solemn and dignified expression, her gaze straight ahead. When she spotted Fang Bai and the others approaching, a smile began to form at the corners of her mouth.

"Mr. Fang, welcome! I am Isabella. It's nice to meet you for the first time, please take good care of me!"

When both parties were about three meters apart, Isabella stopped in her tracks and her sapphire-like eyes began to size up Fang Bai from top to bottom.

"Miss Isabella, hello to you too!"

Fang Bai's face was always smiling, and when he saw Isabella, the smile on his face seemed to grow even brighter as he said, "Our leader had some extremely important matters to attend to and could not personally lead the team here. Please forgive us, Miss Isabella!"

"It is indeed regrettable that your organization's leader couldn't come,"

Isabella sighed, then her gaze settled on Fang Bai's face, as if trying to capture something from his expression and demeanor. She continued, "But I believe that the matter your leader had to attend to must be very urgent, or else he wouldn't miss such an important event! Nevertheless, it's an honor for us just to have representatives from the 'Dragon Guard' here!"

Fang Bai said, "Thank you for your understanding, Miss Isabella!"

"It's strange, even though this is the first time I've met Mr. Fang, I have this feeling of familiarity. Do you have the same feeling?"

Isabella stared at Fang Bai's face, her question hinting at something deeper.

Fang Bai nodded emphatically and laughed, "What a coincidence, I have the same feeling! I guess... this is what they call fate!"

While they conversed, the Dragon Maiden was standing slightly behind Fang Bai to the side.

Seeing Isabella's beautiful eyes fixed on Fang Bai as if his face was adorned with flowers, the Dragon Maiden felt somewhat annoyed inside. Moreover, hearing Fang Bai actually mention "fate", she pouted her lips slightly and let out a soft huff.

After exchanging pleasantries with Fang Bai for a while, Isabella excused herself to chat with the leaders of other major meta-human organizations.

"Still watching even as she walks that far away?"

The Dragon Maiden, seeing Fang Bai continuously gaze at Isabella's figure, spoke with a hint of jealousy and a reproachful tone.

Upon hearing the Dragon Maiden's words, Long Da and the others behind Fang Bai exchanged looks and smiled wryly, thinking that in the entire "Dragon Guard", aside from the leader Long Jingtian, only the Dragon Maiden would dare to speak to Instructor Fang with that tone.

Fang Bai had been serving as a "Dragon Guard" instructor for some time, and his treatment of Dragon Maiden clearly stood out from the rest. Therefore, Long Da and the others speculated that there was an intimate relationship between the two of them, and even if Dragon Maiden showed some disrespect towards Instructor Fang, he would likely not get angry.

Sure enough, after hearing Dragon Maiden's playful complaint, Fang Bai laughed and said, "The love of beauty is common to all. Beautiful things are pleasing to the eye, so why not take a few more glances? For example, a beauty like you would attract a lot of attention wherever you go."

Upon hearing this, Dragon Maiden was pleased and glanced over at Isabella's figure, saying, "Instructor Fang, your words are so sweet, no wonder you're so popular with the girls... Even Xiao Yu, that little miss, likes you so much she says she wants to marry you when she grows up!"

With a giggle, she turned her head to look at the little hands clasped with hers and asked, "Xiao Yu, do you like big brother a lot?"

Xiao Yu replied earnestly, "Yes! Big Brother is not only a good person, but also the most handsome man in the whole world!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily and pinched Xiao Yu's rosy cheeks, saying, "Xiao Yu is right! Later, Big Brother will buy you lots of tasty and fun things!"

Dragon Maiden chuckled and said, "The most handsome in the whole world... You taught Xiao Yu to say that, didn't you? You really have a thick skin..."

After a pause, she pointed towards the distant Isabella and whispered to Xiao Yu, "Tell big sister, who is prettier, that little miss or your big sister?"

Xiao Yu looked at Isabella in the distance, then looked up at Dragon Maiden beside her, and after thinking for a bit, said in a childish voice, "That miss looks like a doll, big sister is as beautiful as a fairy. Xiao Yu likes big sister who looks like a fairy more!"

Dragon Maiden's eyes crinkled with joy as she picked up Xiao Yu and kissed her little cheek, saying, "Xiao Yu is so good! Later, big sister will also buy you tasty and fun things, and lots and lots of pretty clothes!"

Isabella, along with Huo Niao and others, exchanged a few words of courtesy with the leaders of various meta-human organizations before taking their seats on the north side of the venue,

while Fang Bai and others, as well as members of the various meta-human organizations, also took their places in areas prearranged by the organizers, waiting for the official start of the tournament.

Fang Bai and his group sat at the south end of the venue, directly opposite Isabella. Although they were separated by a distance of hundreds of meters, none of them were ordinary people, with excellent vision, so they could clearly see each other's expressions and movements.

Isabella sat in her seat, her brows slightly furrowed, looking somewhat absent-minded as if she were thinking about something.

"The two people have a bit of a similar aura, but their builds and appearances are completely different, and their voices aren't the same either... Hmm, the person last night shouldn't be Long Jingtian, the leader of 'Dragon Guard', my guess was wrong... But then, who on earth was that person?"

When Isabella had faced Fang Bai earlier, she carefully observed him and even tried to probe a bit to confirm whether her suspicion was right, but the outcome had left her somewhat disappointed.

However, along with her disappointment, Isabella also secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

If that mysterious and powerful young Huaxia person from yesterday was Fang Bai, then the "Statue of Liberty's" chances of winning the championship in this "World Meta-Human Organizations Elite Tournament" would have been virtually nonexistent.

If it wasn't Fang Bai, then Isabella was confident she could defeat all other competitors and take the laurels, thereby continuing to secure the top spot among the world's seven major meta-human organizations.

Winning the championship and receiving a billion US dollars was secondary; the key was gaining the authority to allocate the human resources of the world's seven major meta-human organizations for the next five years, enabling "Statue of Liberty" to secure more benefits.

Of course, the leaders of the other various meta-human organizations had come with the same idea, and it remained to be seen who would emerge victorious in the upcoming series of competitions and who would make it to the final.

Chapter 670: The Mysterious Person's Challenge

Dragon Maiden noticed that Isabella across from them kept glancing over at Fang Bai, mistaking that this doll-like beauty might have some special feelings for Fang Bai. Thus, she kept talking to Fang Bai to attract his attention and prevent the two from exchanging meaningful looks. At the same time, she was declaring her presence to Isabella.

Her little tricks, of course, could not escape Fang Bai, who had been through two lifetimes and countless years.

Fang Bai found it amusing but didn't reveal anything. While chatting with Dragon Maiden, his gaze was not idle either. He scanned the members of the various meta-human organizations seated around the venue and simultaneously released his Divine Sense to gauge their strengths and weaknesses.

After sweeping his Divine Sense across the several hundred people present, Fang Bai had a general understanding of their strengths. Apart from the leaders of the seven major meta-human organizations, the others were not a concern.

The leaders of the seven major meta-human organizations possessed inherent abilities, cultivated ancient secret techniques, or were physically strong or skilled in combat techniques. Each of their strengths could contend with the Heaven Level Experts of Huaxia's Ancient Martial World and should not be underestimated.

Being strong meant having keen senses. When Fang Bai probed the leaders of the seven meta-human organizations with his Divine Sense, they all felt as if they were being surreptitiously observed. Each became highly alert, their eyes sharp as they scanned their surroundings.

Fang Bai withdrew his Divine Sense, his expression serene as he sat upright. Nobody would suspect that this seemingly harmless Huaxia youngster was the one who had just explored the strengths of the several hundred people present with his Divine Sense, achieving a thorough understanding of his potential adversaries.

This year's tournament had the highest participation of meta-human organizations ever, with five to six dozen minor ones taking part, aside from the seven major ones like Dragon Guard. However, these smaller organizations only sent two or three members to compete.

According to the tournament rules, these dozens of meta-human organizations would draw lots for matchups in advance. The top three teams that emerged victorious would then join Dragon Guard and the other six major organizations in another drawing to face off in pairs.

For instance, if Dragon Guard were paired with Statue of Liberty, each side would send out five members for a showdown. If three members from Dragon Guard won, they would advance to the next round, while Statue of Liberty would be eliminated.

The leaders of the various meta-human organizations could personally fight, but they were only allowed one match per round. Therefore, unless it was a critical moment, the leaders would not participate.

The tournament lasted three days. The first day's events consisted of drawing lots for the matchups between the teams, excluding those from the seven major meta-human organizations.

After the drawing of lots and selection of opponents, the teams officially commenced battle within the venue.

Due to the venue's ample space and the high number of participating teams, the matches were carried out simultaneously in five areas within the venue.

The team members locked in these showdowns had strengths equivalent to or below that of Earth Level Martial Artists from Huaxia's Ancient Martial World. Their thrilling and vigorous fights won the spirited applause from many in the venue.

Fang Bai, though not particularly interested in battles of this level, watched attentively from beginning to end, getting a sense of the various Martial Arts Cultivation Techniques, inherited secret techniques, ancient magic, and inherent meta-human abilities from around the world.

As it was a contest, injuries and even serious wounds were inevitable. However, the tournament strictly prohibited intentionally killing opponents, or else the perpetrator's qualification would be revoked. Hence, although there were many injuries in previous tournaments, there had never been a death incident.

At the end of the first day, three teams successfully advanced to the next round, ready to vie for the championship with the seven major meta-human organizations like Dragon Guard.

These three teams had emerged distinctly strong, not to be underestimated. Still, compared to Dragon Guard and the other six major organizations, they lacked a bit of depth. Therefore, the ultimate champion was expected to come from among the seven majors.

After the first day's matches ended, night fell, and each participating team was taken back to their hotels by shuttles arranged by Statue of Liberty officials.

Once back at the hotel, Fang Bai and the others washed up. Then they went out for dinner at a nearby restaurant, and afterward, Fang Bai announced a free evening for everyone, but warned them not to return too late. They had a big fight the next day, and it was important to rest and recuperate.

"You go along with Long Da and play together; in case anything happens, at least you can look out for each other!"

Fang Bai said to Dragon Maiden and Yang Xudong.

"And what about you? Aren't you coming with us?"

Dragon Maiden had intended to bring Xiao Yu and Fang Bai along, but hearing Fang Bai say this, and recalling how he had almost not returned the previous night, she couldn't help but grow curious.

Fang Bai said solemnly, "I have some important business to attend to... very important."

"Is there any danger? How about... I go with you?"

Seeing the serious expression on Fang Bai's face, Dragon Maiden couldn't help but worry for him.

Fang Bai smiled and said, "If there really were danger, having you there wouldn't help much either!"

Dragon Maiden thought about it and realized her concern was somewhat needless. With Instructor Fang's strength, what was there to worry about?

If Instructor Fang couldn't handle a situation, then even if she joined forces with Long Da, Long Er, and the others, they likely wouldn't be of much help either.

After watching Dragon Maiden, Long Da, and the others leave, Fang Bai then turned and disappeared into the twinkling lights.

That night, leaders of the five major meta-human organizations from different regions: Europa 'Holy Temple' leader Sardin, Russian Federation 'Blizzard' leader Ivanov, North Africa 'Pharaoh' leader Dear, South America 'Temple' leader Ekquwa, and India 'Brahma' leader Gaya Luo, who were staying in different hotels, all received a challenge from a mysterious individual.

The mysterious individual appeared before each of the five leaders with a different appearance and engaged in a great battle with each of them, choosing the deserts outside Las Vegas as the battleground.

As for the process and the outcome of the battles, only the mysterious individual and the five leaders of the meta-human organizations knew.

The next morning, when the five leaders of the meta-human organizations appeared in the "Light of Freedom" venue, those perceptive could notice a different kind of solemnity on their faces, as if burdened with deep concerns. It was not until the drawing of lots commenced to determine today's opponents that they returned to their normal demeanors.

The ten leaders of the meta-human organizations walked from different directions to the center of the empty field to draw lots.

For the leaders of the meta-human organizations, the outcome of the draw was crucial because no one wanted to face a strong opponent too early, as that could lead to an early elimination, which would be quite embarrassing.

Each of the ten drew a lot and then revealed it publicly. The name of the meta-human organization that was written on the lot would be the opponent of the drawer's team.

The results of the draw naturally brought joy to some and dismay to others.

Fang Bai couldn't help but laugh when he saw who his opponent was. It turned out to be one of the three meta-human organizations that advanced yesterday. When the time came, simply sending a few people to compete should sweep the opponent aside.