

East Palace 21

Chapter 21

Number One Beauty of Great Xia

“Aren’t you afraid of being exposed?”

“You don’t understand! All my strength outside has been crippled and I’m still grounded in the residence. I’m just a useless prince. No matter how unwilling such a person is, how can he touch her without strength if he wants revenge?”

The Demoness was quite surprised. After working together for so many years, she thought she had figured him out. She did not expect him to have such an understanding. None of the members of the imperial family was simple.

“How’s the preparation for that thing going?”

“Are you sure you want to use it?”

Crack!

The Sixth Prince crushed the teacup roughly. The tea flowed down his palm and onto the ground. His expression was ferocious, like a man-eating beast. “I’ve already fallen to such a state. My reputation is ruined. If I don’t muddy the waters, will I have any hope of getting the Crown Prince position?”

...

Two Realm River.

A stone bridge connected the two shores. The river below was violent, striking huge waves.

As long as he crossed this river, he would be in Tongzhou.

Ning An County was under the jurisdiction of Tongzhou County. At this point, they could reach the Grand Tutor's hometown in another hundred miles.

The four of them stopped at the stone bridge and looked at the group on it. They were all martial artists with swords and sabers. Their cultivation was not weak and they blocked their way.

Their lecherous gazes were undisguised as they sized up Ji Xueyan. Even with the veil covering her face, it could not hide her beauty, especially her exposed skin. It was as fair as sheep fat and like beautiful jade, making them swallow hard. Their lower abdomens were hot, and they were even more determined to obtain her at all costs.

Zhang Ronghua said, "Leave their tongue behind. The rest can be dealt with later."

"Yes."

Zheng Fugui jumped down from the Divine Heavenly Dragon Horse.

There was no need to use a sword to deal with this group of trash.

He took a step and rushed forward with an afterimage.

"Kill!"

This group of martial artists charged toward him fiercely.

As long as the two were killed, the girls would be theirs.

The autumn wind swept away the fallen leaves. A terrifying power erupted from Zheng Fugui's fists, blowing up their bodies one by one. In less than a minute, the battle was over.

He came back with a tongue and threw him on the ground.

“It’s none of my business. I heard them say that the number one beauty in the world was passing by. I was curious, so I stayed.”

“Tell me what you know.”

This person did not dare to hide it and told the truth.

From him, he learned that Miss Ning Xue from the capital’s [Heaven on Earth] was returning to her hometown to pay respects to her ancestors. This matter had already spread. It was great news to those who admired her.

Ning Xue was in the capital and was protected by Heaven on Earth. They did not dare to attack or have ill intentions, but after she left the capital, she no longer had the protection of Heaven on Earth. Even if she had guards by her side, with their strength, if one of them failed, a group of them would attack together. This scene happened.

Zhang Ronghua waved his hand and asked Zheng Fugui to kill him.

This matter looked simple, but there was a lot of information hidden.

If the daughter of the Grand Tutor went home to worship her ancestor, with his reputation in the Great Xia Empire, not to mention this group of ants, even those Holy Lands and transcendent factions would not dare to act rashly.

Whoever touched her would die!

But with a different person and a different identity, she had fewer scruples.

No matter how strong the Heaven on Earth was, it was just a brothel and could not compare to the Grand Tutor.

The person behind the scenes used a move to get rid of her with the help of an itinerant cultivator. It could not only anger the Grand Tutor but also drive the Crown Prince crazy and chaos the situation.

"You're already involved."

Ji Xueyan's expression did not change. Her tone was indifferent. "They shouldn't have done this."

"There's no turning back. Since we're attacking, this is only the beginning. There might be greater danger ahead."

"Are you afraid?"

"Our duty is to protect you."

"Let's go!"

Ji Xueyan clamped her horse's stomach and left first, the Yue Ya following behind.

Zheng Fugui could not figure out what was going on. He had listened to the conversation just now for a long time and could understand every word. When they were combined, he was stunned. He asked curiously, "Is the number one beauty in the world very beautiful?"

"Aren't you afraid that I'll break your legs? When you return to the capital, you can go to Heaven on Earth to take a look."

Seeing his cousin ride away, he hurried after him.

The heavens did not care. After a quarter of an hour of traveling, dark clouds covered the sky, and a hurricane whistled, sweeping up fallen leaves. Silver-white lightning roared and exploded in the nine heavens.

Zhang Ronghua said, "It's going to rain. Let's find a place to hide from the rain."

"Alright!"

There was a dilapidated temple ahead, just enough to shelter from the rain.

The storm came in a hurry. Before they could reach the dilapidated temple, it tilted and rained down.

Fortunately, the four of them were all people with high cultivation levels. Even Yue Ya's strength was hidden well. She was actually at the second level of the Grandmaster Realm. This made Zhang Ronghua sigh at the power of the Grand Tutor Manor and be curious. As the leader of the younger generation of the Jixia Academy, what cultivation level did Ji Xueyan have?

He used his internal force (true essence) to protect his body and erected a barrier to block the rain.

They entered the dilapidated temple.

Zheng Fugui went in to check. It had been abandoned for a long time. The ground was covered in dust, and there were spiderwebs in the corners. There was no danger.

He tied the Divine Heavenly Dragon Horse to a pillar at the door and entered the hall.

He took out two tents and placed them on the ground.

Zhang Ronghua said, "The conditions are simple. Make do."

"Yes." Ji Xueyan nodded.

He took out some braised food that he had bought in the capital before leaving. He placed them in the Five Dragon Spirit Control Belt. They would not spoil for a while.

Sitting on the ground, the four of them ate.

When they entered the tent, Zhang Ronghua instructed, "You'll be in charge of the first half of the night. I'll be in charge of the second half."

In the tent.

Sitting on the blanket and cultivating the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique, the Black Yellow True Essence had already reached the critical point. He was just one step away from breaking through. He had a feeling that he could take another step forward during this period of time.

Outside.

Zheng Fugui executed his cousin's words very thoroughly. He crossed his arms and stood at the door, his vigilant eyes patrolling the storm as if he wanted to find the danger hidden in the dark.

However, he did not idle. He multitasked and cultivated while on guard. He circulated the Profound Heaven Treasure Mirror and did not waste any time.

The rain was getting heavier.

In the latter half of the night, a thick fog rose and blocked their vision. They could not see each other standing opposite each other. Moreover, the rain was like a heavenly river flowing backward, as if it wanted to destroy everything.

Suddenly.

His ears twitched, and a sense of crisis rose in his heart. All the pores on his body opened as if a great horror was coming. He hurriedly shouted, "Something is wrong!"

Zhang Ronghua ended his cultivation and rushed out of the tent.

The girls came out at the same time.

“Listen!”

If even he could hear it, how could Zhang Ronghua and the other two not hear it?

There was a rustling around him. It was very soft and covered by the storm. It was impossible to hear without listening carefully.

Chapter 22

Yellow Spring Ancient Bug

Zhang Ronghua’s expression changed and he pointed to the ground. “There’s something down there!”

Ji Xueyan was also very decisive. “Let’s go!”

He rushed out of the hall.

He rode the Divine Heavenly Dragon Horse and rushed out.

It was too late.

The ferocious purple-yellow bug was the size of an adult’s fist. They had two wings on their backs and huge teeth. They occupied a third of their bodies and were sharp and flickered with a ghostly light. They carried terrifying poison and a layer of demonic light circulated on their bodies as they rushed out from the ground.

They were so dense that there was no end to them.

With the dilapidated temple as the center, it was everywhere.

“Yellow Spring Ancient Bug!”

“You know him?”

“Yes.” Ji Xueyan’s expression was solemn, a rare change in expression.

“This insect’s defense is shocking and it has extraordinary strength. It can fly and enter the ground without fear of fire and water. Moreover, its poison is shocking. Once bitten, the Yellow Spring Poison will enter your bones and be difficult to treat! A single Yellow Spring Ancient Bug is not terrifying. Once it forms a group, even gods and demons will have to retreat.”

Not only were these Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs living in groups, but from the commotion, there were probably more than ten thousand of them.

“How does the person behind it control it?”

“The world is so big. There are all kinds of strange things.”

Although she was a woman, she was very decisive. She looked at Yue Ya. “His target is me. We’ll attract his attention later. Find an opportunity to break out and ask the capital for help!”

“No way!”

Yue Ya and Zheng Fugui spoke at the same time. One was worried about her Miss’s safety, and the other was worried about his cousin.

This time, it was Zhang Ronghua and Ji Xueyan’s turn.

“That’s an order!”

Before the two of them could refuse, the Yellow Spring Ancient Bug attacked from all directions.

Zhang Ronghua said, “Let’s go out first! This place is too small to dodge them.”

He took out the Golden Dragon Sword and led the way.

Sword aura swept across and cut down the Yellow Spring Ancient Bug that shot over.

A strange scene happened. Ji Xueyan said that they were indestructible and had a shocking defense. As his sword aura passed, these Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs were cut in half one after another. As soon as their corpses fell to the ground, the surrounding Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs swarmed up and devoured their dead companions.

“Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique?”

Before he could think too much, more and more Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs rushed up. The sword light danced impenetrable, forcefully carving a bloody path.

Ji Xueyan was shocked. Looking at his back, she was shocked. How did he do it? He killed the Yellow Spring Ancient Bug as easily as killing a dog. Looking at the Golden Dragon Sword in his hand, this was the Crown Prince’s sword. It could be seen how much he valued him.

He reined in his thoughts.

She took out a sword that was golden in color. The sword aura was rich and emitted a golden light. It was her spiritual treasure, the Golden Light Sword.

Following behind him, she was in charge of the safety of both sides.

They left the dilapidated temple.

“Go!”

Yue Ya still wanted to persuade her, but seeing the determination in her Miss’s eyes, she gritted her teeth and rushed out. Although Zheng Fugui did not want to leave, his cousin had given the order to follow.

The person in the dark did not stop him. His target was Ji Xueyan. He just had to keep her here.

He controlled the Yellow Spring Ancient Bug to attack them.

After a while.

The ground was filled with the corpses of the Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs. After killing so many, their numbers did not decrease. There were still many of them. This could not go on.

Zhang Ronghua said, “Can you do it alone?”

“Yes,” Ji Xueyan understood what he meant. He wanted to deal with the person controlling the Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs.

“Be careful!”

With that, Zhang Ronghua rushed out of the Divine Heavenly Dragon Horse.

He activated his cultivation at the third level of the Celestial Realm. Coupled with the Golden Dragon Sword, he entered the sea of insects without slowing down. Wherever he passed, the Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs blocking his way were killed one after another.

A powerful soul power enveloped the dilapidated temple, searching for the person hiding in the dark.

A thousand feet away, on a big tree, a black-robed man was carrying a basketball-sized Yellow Spring Ancient Bug. It was the queen and could control the entire army of Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs through it.

Looking at the dilapidated temple, he narrowed his eyes smugly and laughed lecherously.

Number one beauty in the world? She's mine after tonight.

He thought of the portrait of Ning Xue he had seen two days ago. She was as beautiful as a fairy and otherworldly. She was too beautiful. At that time, he had been attracted. There was only one thought in his mind. He had to get her at all costs!

He stroked the insect queen. "It's all thanks to you this time. After I succeed, I'll definitely find more food for you."

A ferocious glint flashed in the depths of the insect queen's eyes, but after being hit by the slave seal, even someone as strong as it could not resist.

However, it was the Yellow Spring Ancient Bug after all. It was fierce and powerful. As long as he died, it could use its bloodline to break through the slave seal and regain its freedom.

Sensing that someone from the race had rushed out with terrifying cultivation, its clansmen could not even stop him. He seemed to be looking for it. It had a plan and controlled the race without leaving a trace, attracting Zhang Ronghua over.

Under the cover of the rain and thick fog, the black-robed man did not notice the insect queen's small actions. He continued to smile proudly.

Zhang Ronghua's eyes lit up. In his powerful soul power perception, he found the enemy hidden in the tree. "So it's here."

Righteousness Qi!

Ten thousand golden lights rushed out of his body. Divine justice, extreme yang, and unyielding spirit sent all the Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs that rushed up flying. They rushed towards him with a loud tearing sound.

The black-robed man's expression changed drastically in disbelief. "That's impossible!"

He was only at the tenth level of the Grandmaster Realm. A year ago, he happened to discover the severely injured insect queen and subdued it with a slave seal while it was weak. Otherwise, with his ability, even a hundred of them would not be enough to feed the Yellow Spring Ancient Bug Race.

Sensing the supreme pressure coming from Zhang Ronghua, it was actually a Celestial Realm expert! His legs went weak from fear and he hurriedly shouted, "Stop him!"

"Die!"

The sword aura tore through the air and slashed domineeringly, cutting him in half. The insect queen landed and quickly turned underground. It let out a series of strange cries and ordered the Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs to leave. The most important thing now was to deal with the slave seal in its mind.

Seeing the Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs retreat, Zhang Ronghua quickly returned. When he rushed to Ji Xueyan, he happened to see her exhausting the last bit of her internal energy. Her Righteousness Qi could not withstand it and dissipated. Her body went limp and she fell to the ground.

Swoosh!

With a golden flash, Zhang Ronghua hugged her when she was about to fall to the ground. "Are you okay?"

What a pointless question!

Ji Xueyan's dress was already dyed red with blood. There was an insect mark on her lower abdomen. It seemed that she had been bitten by the Yellow Spring Ancient Bug and the Yellow Spring Poison had invaded her body.

"I—I'm f—"

Before she could finish, she fainted.

Looking around, the rain poured. The fog was very thick and was not suitable for traveling. Even if he wanted to find a place to heal her, it was too late. If he delayed any longer, when the Yellow Spring Poison fused into her bone marrow, he would really be helpless.

Zhang Ronghua rushed into the dilapidated temple.

He carried her into the tent and took out a Night Pearl. With the light emitted by the bead, he expelled the darkness.

Looking at her wound, Zhang Ronghua hesitated.

Chapter 23

Healing

Pffft!

The Yellow Spring Poison was domineering and ferocious. Even with her powerful physique, she could not withstand it. In her unconscious state, she spat out a mouthful of black poisonous blood that emitted a pungent stench.

Zhang Ronghua was in a dilemma. Ji Xueyan was the Crown Prince's fiancée and the future Empress of the Xia Empire. She was destined to be from a different world from him.

If word of today's scene got out, he and his family would be in danger.

Not only would the Crown Prince kill him, but the Xia Emperor would also send people to kill them for the sake of the imperial family.

However, there was no one else around at this moment. Yue Ya and Zheng Fugui had already rushed out to get reinforcements, so it was impossible for them to return.

She was deeply poisoned. Her exquisite and beautiful face was bloodless, like a piece of white paper. A black aura surrounded her brow, a sign that the poison had reached her heart. She did not have much time left.

Should he save her or not?

There were only two choices in front of him.

After saving him, what if she wanted to silence him for her innocence?

If he did not save her and Ji Xueyan died, as guards, if the Grand Tutor was furious, they would not have a good time either. It would also be a dead end.

Poison blood seeped out of her tempting cherry mouth. It seemed that it could not be suppressed anymore.

Zhang Ronghua took a deep breath, his eyes unprecedentedly determined. "No matter what the outcome is, I admit it!"

He helped her sit on the ground and crossed her legs in a cultivation posture.

He sat down on her back.

He pressed his hands on her back and circulated the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique, sending the Black Yellow True Essence into her body and beginning to expel the poison.

The Yellow Spring Poison was one of the most terrifying poisons in the world. Even if the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique was extraordinary and was suspected to be a Godfiend cultivation technique, it was not something that could be resolved in a short period of time.

The night passed in an instant.

Zhang Ronghua had consumed a lot of true essence and dense beads of sweat appeared on his forehead. Even his face was a little pale. Fortunately, a large portion of the poison in Ji Xueyan's body had been expelled, leaving only a small spot on her lower abdomen.

He laid her on the bedding and looked at her wound. There was still some there.

If he did not completely remove it, it would not be long before the Yellow Spring Poison spread again and corroded her entire body. All his previous efforts would be in vain.

However, this was an important place in a woman's body. If he wanted to expel it, he could only suck it with his mouth.

Even if his cultivation was high and he was at the third level of the Celestial Realm, he could not force the poison out of her wound with his Black Yellow True Essence alone.

He rubbed his temples!

Zhang Ronghua had an unprecedented headache. What should he do?

'Do I really have to use my mouth?'

Looking at her face, which was still covered by a veil, he could only see a rough outline. Even so, it could not hide her devastating beauty.

He gritted his teeth and went all out!

Her dress was one-piece with a white belt at her waist.

He took off her belt and looked at the dress below. If he lifted it, wouldn't it all be exposed?

He could only tear it apart!

Slash!

He tore a hole in her lower abdomen, revealing a large area of snow-white skin. It was really too fair, like a perfect work of art. There were no flaws. The luster circulated and made one linger.

Zhang Ronghua did not dare to look at it for too long, afraid that he would not be able to look away. He was also a normal man, hot-blooded.

Looking at the wound, the poison was deep and had turned black.

He lowered his head and sucked!

With the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique protecting his body, he was not afraid of the Yellow Spring Poison.

One mouthful, two mouthfuls...

His mouth was about to go numb when he finally sucked the poison dry. Suppressing his exhaustion, he pressed his right hand to her lower abdomen and healed the wound with the Black Yellow True Essence.

By the time the palm was removed, the wound had disappeared and there was no scar left. If not for the poisonous blood on the ground, it would have been as if she had not been poisoned.

He let out a shaky breath and wiped his sweat. He was too tired!

He could not stay here any longer. It would be troublesome if the mastermind was hiding other trump cards.

He took out a coat and tied it around her waist, covering her lower abdomen. Then he carried her out of the tent.

The rain was still pouring, but the thick fog had dissipated.

The Divine Heavenly Dragon Horse had been eaten by the Yellow Spring Ancient Bugs in the battle last night so they could only walk on foot.

He did not take the official road.

Their itinerary had already been leaked. The rogue cultivators from both sides and some bold people wished they could snatch the number one beauty of Great Xia. If they went over now, they would only walk into a trap.

It was still raining heavily, but it was safe.

It was noon.

Zhang Ronghua found a cave and took out two clean blankets from the Five Dragon Spirit Control Belt. He spread them on the ground and put her down.

He sat on the ground and circulated the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique to recover his consumed true essence.

Ji Xueyan had a long dream. In the dream, she stood above the Grand Tutor's residence and looked at him reluctantly. She waved goodbye to him and was woken up by a nightmare.

Looking at the unfamiliar cave in front of her, the light of the Night Pearl emitted from the ground. Zhang Ronghua sat at the side and circulated his energy to recover his true essence.

Without disturbing him, she looked down at her lower abdomen.

A man's tunic was tied around her waist. Her right hand touched it.

She remembered the scene before she fainted. She had been bitten by a Yellow Spring Ancient Bug and was poisoned by the Yellow Spring Poison, but at this moment, the poison had been cured and there was not even a scar.

She seemed to remember that someone had used their mouth to suck the poison in a daze.

"It's him?"

At this moment, her heart was even more complicated than Zhang Ronghua's.

Kill him? She could not do it, nor did she care to do it, let alone attack her savior. This was her, Ji Xueyan. As the beloved daughter of the Grand Tutor and the future successor of Jixia Academy, she had her pride.

However, she was the Crown Prince's fiancée. If this matter spread and the Crown Prince knew, even if the Crown Prince did not care, the imperial family would not let him off.

There was a long silence!

Her gaze was unprecedentedly determined. This secret would rot in her heart forever. No matter what, she could not put him in danger.

Otherwise, her conscience would be uneasy for the rest of her life. It would also affect her cultivation. If it was serious, it would become her inner demon.

She closed her eyes again to calm herself down and not think about this. The more this was the case, the more she could not forget the scene of Zhang Ronghua sucking the poison for her. Even if she chanted the Heart Condensing Mental Technique of Jixia Academy, it was useless.

Fortunately, her poison had just been neutralized and her mental state was not good. She quickly fell asleep.

Two hours later.

Zhang Ronghua ended his cultivation and recovered completely. Even his cultivation took another step forward and broke through to the fourth level of the Celestial Realm.

He got up from the ground and saw that she was still unconscious. The cold wind blew in and he took out a coat to cover her.

He sat down at the side and took out some food from the Five Dragon Spirit Control Belt to eat.

After a while, Ji Xueyan opened her eyes and woke up from a deep sleep.

Zhang Ronghua stepped forward and supported her against the wall. He looked concerned. "How is it?"

"A little better."

The atmosphere was silent. Now, they had to resolve the problem.

As if guessing his thoughts, Ji Xueyan took off an ancient jade from her waist and handed it over.

Zhang Ronghua did not take it and looked at her in confusion.

"It's called the Origin Divine Jade. My mother gave it to me and it's also my identity certificate. With it, you can enjoy the protection of the Grand Tutor Manor."

Chapter 24

Punching Bag

“Do you know everything?”

“You’re not to blame. You did it to save me. Otherwise, I’d be dead.”

At this point, Zhang Ronghua stopped being pretentious. He took the Origin Divine Jade and put it into his Five Dragon Spirit Control Belt.

He did not tie it around his waist. This was the identity certificate of the Grand Tutor’s residence. If he tied it around his waist, others would see it. It was inevitable that he would think too much about it. It was better to avoid trouble.

He took out some food and handed it over.

“The conditions are simple. I’ll eat something to fill my stomach first.”

Ji Xueyan took off her veil, revealing a beautiful face that could be torn with a single blow. She was really too beautiful. Words were indescribable. Even the sun and moon paled in comparison.

Zhang Ronghua did not look at it anymore and looked away.

Although it was only a hurried glance, her beauty was branded in his heart.

It would be a lie to say that he was not tempted, but he knew his limits. This was the Crown Prince’s fiancée, the future empress of the Xia Kingdom. There was no possibility between them.

If it were a girl from an ordinary family, he would definitely make a move.

But there were not so many ifs in the world...

She ate steamed buns, sauced beef, and occasionally took a sip of water, but her attention was on Zhang Ronghua.

Seeing that he wasn't infatuated with her beauty and staring at her and that he hadn't been rude, her impression of him rose to another level. This was a man of propriety and principle.

After a day and night of rain, it finally stopped.

Like a child whose face had changed, a seven-colored rainbow appeared in the sky after the rain. Sunlight shone down, but it was already afternoon. In a while, it would be dark.

A cold aura came from outside without warning. Several poison bombs were thrown in.

Zhang Ronghua reacted quickly and stood up from the ground. "Take care of yourself."

He waved his palm.

The powerful palm force swept these poisonous bullets away.

He tapped his foot and rushed out of the cave.

The poison bomb exploded on the ground, shooting out hundreds of poisonous needles and mist.

An old man in a gray robe stood on a stone a hundred feet away. He had his hands behind his back and looked at him coldly. His name was Daoist Nine Tribulations. He did not hide his powerful aura and emitted the pressure of the tenth level of the Great Grandmaster Realm.

"You've been following us?"

“A little smart. You guessed it so quickly!”

The tone changed, and the Nine Tribulations Daoist narrowed his eyes. “How does it feel to be the apple of the Grand Tutor’s eye? If word gets out that you’re fooling around together, the Crown Prince will definitely have a wonderful expression when he finds out.”

“Shut up!”

The afterimage flew past and erupted too quickly. As if teleporting, Zhang Ronghua appeared in front of him.

He was filled with anger and was worried that he had nowhere to vent it when he came knocking on his door.

Daoist Nine Tribulations was shocked and wanted to resist. He could not even see his movements clearly. His mind collapsed, and a thought that even he could not believe appeared. Could this be a Celestial Realm expert?

With his cultivation, he could remain undefeated even against a half-step Celestial.

Only a Celestial Realm expert could make him unable to fight back.

Bang!

A violent kick landed on his face and sent him flying. Before he could fall to the ground, Zhang Ronghua’s figure flickered, as fast as a ghost. His fists and legs greeted him crazily, venting to his heart’s content.

When he stopped, Daoist Nine Tribulations had already lost half his life, and his body was dyed red.

Zhang Ronghua stepped on his chest and pressed, “Tell me! Which prince sent you?”

“The Crown Prince has good methods. He deceived everyone with one move.”

Zhang Ronghua exerted strength with his foot and broke two of his ribs.

Daoist Nine Tribulations mocked. He was not afraid at all, nor did he scream. “Even if the Crown Prince tries his best, he’s destined not to receive any news.”

Zhang Ronghua reacted quickly and kicked the teeth in his mouth.

Bang, bang...

His meridians exploded, and he died.

“He reversed his meridian flow?”

He squatted down and searched his body, but found nothing.

They entered the cave.

Ji Xueyan had already recovered a little and was on guard with the Golden Light Sword in her hand. Seeing him return, she put away the Golden Light Sword and looked concerned. “Are you alright?”

“Yes.”

Zhang Ronghua briefly explained the matter. He did not mention Daoist Nine Tribulations’ cultivation and only told her his guess.

“I’ll settle scores with them when I get back to the capital.”

He rested for the night.

The next day.

Ji Xueyan's consumed vitality had all recovered. The two of them hurried towards Ning An County. At this point, the people sent by the Grand Tutor's Mansion had already arrived and Uncle Zhong was alone.

Yue Ya and Zheng Fugui were also there. They did not have to deal with the rest. Uncle Zhong was fully in charge.

In the room.

Zheng Fugui asked curiously, "Cousin, how did you escape?"

"By fighting."

He then asked his cousin to explain the situation.

Zhang Ronghua learned that after leaving the dilapidated temple, Yue Ya had used a special method to summon a strange bird to return to the capital to send a message. In less than two hours, Uncle Zhong rushed over.

He checked the dilapidated temple. The battle was intense and there was blood everywhere, but they were not found. Coupled with the storm that had erased the traces, Uncle Zhong could not track them. He ordered them to return to the old residence first. If Miss did not return within a day, he would send someone to investigate.

"There's going to be a good show."

Zheng Fugui did not understand and rubbed his head honestly.

“Go cultivate!”

After he left, he sat on the bed and cultivated the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique.

Over the next few days.

Just as Zhang Ronghua had guessed, Uncle Zhong disappeared after Ji Xueyan sacrificed her ancestor, but news from the outside world kept coming. From Yue Ya, he learned that the higher-ups of Tongzhou and Shangping Prefecture had all changed. They had all been taken down and detained in the capital. The evidence of their corruption and bribery as officials over the years had been handed over to the Dali Temple. What awaited them was beheading.

All the loose cultivator factions near the capital and in Tongzhou, including some evil sects, had bad reputations. Their heads rolled and blood flowed like a river.

Even some demons with profound cultivation were eliminated.

Some smart demons saw that the situation was not good and fled ahead of time, escaping.

While sighing at the power of the Grand Tutor Manor, there was also pressure. He was still not strong enough.

Today.

Uncle Zhong had returned last night and asked Yue Ya to call him to the backyard in the morning. Other than him, Zheng Fugui was also there and benefited from him.

“Although you were ordered by His Highness to protect Miss, it’s an undeniable fact that you saved her. My Grand Tutor Mansion can’t pretend not to see it.”

Zhang Ronghua listened quietly.

Uncle Zhong continued, "I see that you've comprehended Righteousness Qi, but you don't have a specific cultivation technique. I have a cultivation technique here that I obtained from the East Sea ten years ago. Its power is quite extraordinary. It can both cultivate Righteousness Qi and temper soul power. Listen carefully, I'll impart it to you now."

"I can't refuse an elder's gift!"

"You're promising!"

Uncle Zhong nodded in satisfaction and explained the Great Dao Righteous Song in detail.

Chapter 25

The Crown Prince's Heart-to-heart Talk

"Do you remember?"

"Yes."

"Are you sure?"

"There's no room for error on the path of cultivation. I won't dare to be careless. If I really don't understand, I won't pretend."

Uncle Zhong nodded. The cousins were good. They were talented and honest.

He looked at Zheng Fugui.

He had also listened just now, but the Great Dao Righteous Song was too profound. He had only remembered more than half of it and had yet to comprehend it.

It was not that his talent was not good, but that Zhang Ronghua's talent was too strong. He had accumulated it until now and was far from what he could compare to.

Seeing that his cousin had obtained a powerful cultivation technique, he was also tempted and looked at Uncle Zhong eagerly.

“The cultivation technique you’re cultivating now is not bad. I won’t teach you the cultivation technique.”

Zheng Fugui was shocked. “Ah!”

Uncle Zhong smiled and shook his head, indicating that the young man should be more patient.

“You’re born with divine strength and shocking strength. As your cultivation increases, your strength increases. I have a fist technique here called the Mountain River World Suppressing Fist. It’s powerful and suits you.”

“Thank you, Uncle Zhong!”

“Watch carefully.”

He took a stance and punched out. As he practiced, he chanted the incantation. Although he did not use his cultivation, it formed a huge aura of its own, carrying the vastness of mountains and rivers and the grand momentum.

After one round, he retracted his fist and stood up.

Uncle Zhong looked at Zhang Ronghua meaningfully before looking at Zheng Fugui. “Have you memorized it?”

“I remember half of it.”

After three consecutive demonstrations, he remembered everything.

“We’ll leave for the capital at noon. Prepare yourselves.”

When he left, Zheng Fugui asked, “Cousin, did you learn it too?”

“Yes.”

“I knew it was impossible for you not to learn with your talent.”

“This fist technique is very strong. Cultivate it diligently.”

“I will.”

They entered the room.

Zhang Ronghua sat down on the bed. He had gained a lot from this trip. Not only had he obtained the Great Dao Righteous Song, but he had also obtained the Mountain River World Suppressing Fist. Both martial arts were divine powers. Once he mastered them, his strength would increase greatly.

He mobilized the Righteousness Qi in his dantian and cultivated the Great Dao Righteous Song. It took him two hours to cultivate it to the initial level. His Righteousness Qi increased by five times and his power became stronger.

With the system’s cultivation technique, all the Righteousness Qi was condensed in the Righteousness Qi Bead. If he did not reveal it, no one would be able to tell.

Even his soul power had increased greatly. Before this, his soul power was at the Perfected Earth-grade. Now that it had broken through to the Heaven-grade, it was comparable to the first level of the Celestial Realm.

The realms of soul power were divided into Heaven, Earth, Black, and Yellow.

Those who cultivated soul power were commonly known as Soul Masters. Their methods were mysterious and powerful.

However, there were very few of them. To become a Soul Master, one had to be born with a powerful soul to withstand the pain of tempering their soul.

Moreover, even a simple Yellow-grade cultivation technique was priceless. It was often in the hands of large factions and rarely circulated outside.

As a member of the Imperial Guards, the cultivation technique he had cultivated previously and obtained from killing evil cultivators was far less profound than what Uncle Zhong had taught him.

He got out of bed.

He began to cultivate the Mountain River World Suppressing Fist. A terrifying fist might enveloped the room, majestic and mighty. Every punch contained extreme power.

In less than an hour, he had grasped the basics.

It was almost noon when Zhang Ronghua stopped. After lunch, he rode the Divine Heavenly Dragon Horse and the group rushed toward the capital.

He took the official road.

This time, there were no more accidents. With Uncle Zhong around, the person behind the scenes knew that if he sent someone to kill them again, it would be like a mantis trying to stop a chariot. He would court death and might even be exposed. He did not attack.

Back in the capital.

They parted at the east gate. Zhang Ronghua rushed towards the East Palace with Zheng Fugui to report to the Crown Prince.

Only two people were present.

Zheng Fugui's curiosity, which he had suppressed for the past few days, came. He could not help but ask, "Cousin, is Ning Xue really as beautiful as the rumors say?"

Glaring at him, the latter lowered his head guiltily, as if his thoughts had been seen through.

"You're itching for a beating, aren't you? I'll talk to Uncle later and ask him to loosen your muscles."

"No!"

He ignored him and left.

When he arrived at the East Palace, he handed the Divine Heavenly Dragon Horse to the flood dragon guard at the door and entered the Hall of Providence.

The Crown Prince had just returned from the palace. He had received the news and was waiting for him here.

"Sit!"

The two of them sat in chairs.

"I've heard about Xueyan's matter. You've worked hard this time."

"It's my duty."

He looked at Zheng Fugui and gestured for him to leave.

The latter was puzzled and puzzled. "Why is His Highness winking at me?"

Zhang Ronghua said, "Go out first."

"Oh."

Zheng Fugui left and closed the hall door.

Qing'er took out a Go board and placed it on the table. Then she retreated, leaving them alone.

"I heard from Qing'er that your Go skills are very high. How about playing a round with me?"

"Alright!"

The two of them sat around the table. Zhang Ronghua held the black piece while the Crown Prince held the white piece. He placed a piece in the middle and said, "Was it relaxing after going on a trip?"

"I'm happy to serve Your Highness."

"You're a smart person. I won't persuade you."

There was a pause before he spoke again.

"If possible, I don't want this to happen. However, in this position, there are some things that you can't decide. Humans are harmless, but tigers have the intention to eat humans. For example, the Tenth Prince and the others. Even Princess Anping, a mere woman, wants to harm me. If we don't eliminate them completely, once they seize the opportunity, the one who will die will be me. Once I've lost my power, none of these people around me can escape. Your Zhang family's third-generation Flood Dragon Guards are upright and have long been classified as my faction. We share victory and defeat."

Zhang Ronghua knew it was time to express his stance. "Don't worry, Your Highness. I'm yours."

The Crown Prince patted his shoulder in satisfaction and took out two purple jade boxes. He placed them on the table. "In the jade box on the left is the Essence Augmenting Pill. It's a low-grade Earth-grade pill that has the effect of delaying aging, nourishing energy, and concentration. This is a gift from me to your parents. The food box on the right is a hundred-year-old ginseng. You're now at the second level of the Grandmaster realm. After consuming it, you can increase by a small realm or even two small realms."

"Thank you for the treasure, Your Highness!"

The Crown Prince rose from his chair and waved him away.

Putting away the jade box, Zhang Ronghua left.

The hall door closed.

Qing'er came over with a puzzled expression. "Your Highness, why are you so good to him?"

"Can you deal with the Yellow Spring Ancient Bug?"

"I can't!"

"Can you and Shuang'er do it together?"

"No."

"But he could." The Crown Prince's eyes flickered as he didn't hide anything from her.

"I suspect that he's hiding his strength. His true cultivation is more than that!"

Qing'er was shocked and frowned. "Could it be that even my Profound Heaven Eye Technique can't see through him?"

"If I let you enter the Imperial Palace Armory, can you obtain the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Diagram?"

As if guessing that she wanted to say that the two were unrelated, the Crown Prince answered, "There's no such thing as luck. All luck is based on one's strength."

Chapter 26

Zheng Fugui Visiting the Theater

It was already dark when they left the East Palace.

The two of them walked down the street. A group of people in golden robes with a dragon's head embroidered on their chests walked past them in a golden cloak. They held golden swords that looked a little like the Flood Dragon Sword, but more exquisite and beautiful.

Zhang Ronghua frowned. "True Dragon Hall?"

"What are they doing so late?"

"The True Dragon Hall is in the hands of Emperor Xia. Other than him, no one can mobilize it. This group of people has very strong cultivation and looks rushed. If I'm not wrong, the Grand Tutor should have made a move."

Zheng Fugui scratched the back of his head. He still did not understand after listening for a long time.

"There's going to be a good show tomorrow. Let's go!"

But he stopped and met Zhang Ronghua's puzzled gaze. "Cousin, I won't go back with you. I want to go home and take a look."

"Be careful."

Instead of returning to Vermilion Bird Workshop, he walked towards Riches Workshop.

Seeing that he had returned, Zheng Rou asked the servants to prepare some food and gave the space to the two of them.

In the lobby, Zhang Ronghua ate beef noodles.

When he finished eating, Zhang Qin asked, "How was this trip?"

He explained the matter, omitting what needed to be omitted.

After hearing this, his expression was grave. "Is the prince crazy? Doesn't he know the consequences of provoking the Grand Tutor? Once he's found out, even the Xia Emperor won't be able to save them. No, regardless of whether we can find out, a large group of people will suffer."

"On the way back, I saw people from the True Dragon Hall."

"The Grand Tutor is really angry. Otherwise, he wouldn't have asked the True Dragon Hall to appear. No matter who is involved this time, they have to die."

"Where's the group we brought back a few days ago?"

"The evidence is conclusive. They were executed on the same day. The new officials are probably in Tongzhou and Shangping County."

He took out the jade box containing the Essence Augmenting Pill and opened the box. There was a jade bottle inside.

“The Crown Prince asked me to leave it to you.”

“You have to remember to take whatever he gives you.”

Zhang Ronghua nodded.

Looking outside, Zhang Qin frowned. “Why are you alone? Where’s Fugui?”

“He went home.”

“You should rest early too.”

When they reached the bedroom, Zhang Ronghua took a step in. Thinking of Zheng Fugui, he retracted his foot. “Did he really go back?”

When he came back today, he was still talking about Ning Xue, wanting to see how beautiful the number one beauty in the world was.

The more he thought about it, the more worried he became. He kept feeling that he would go to Heaven on Earth.

“Why don’t we go over?”

In a while.

They soon arrived at his uncle’s house, whose name was Zheng Shan. He lived with his grandfather and yawned. He enthusiastically pulled him into the hall and instructed the maidservant to serve tea.

“Where’s your cousin?”

“He didn’t come back?”

“No!”

Zheng Shan’s expression changed and he hurriedly asked, “Do you know where it is?”

“Cousin said he’s admired Ning Xue for a long time. I think he’s there.”

“Go!”

He changed his clothes and rushed to Heaven on Earth with a stick held.

At this point, Zhang Ronghua showed his waist token and asked the servant to call the stewardess over. She was called Sister Lu, a young woman with retained charm. She was good-looking and had good eyesight.

She glanced at Zheng Shan and knew that he was most likely here to capture someone again. She bowed. “Greetings, sir!”

Zheng Shan could not wait to ask, “Where is Zheng Fugui?”

Sister Lu was a little stunned. There were many people here to play. Other than regular customers or people who were generous enough to remember their names, she didn’t know anyone else. Wasn’t it making things difficult for her to find someone in the crowd?

She couldn’t call all the guests who were playing, right?

Not to mention that she could not do it, even if she could, the reputation of the Flood Dragon Guard Colonel was not enough.

Zhang Ronghua added, "He's a little silly. He came because he admires Ning Xue."

In that case, Sister Lu had an impression. Just now, a well-dressed and honest young man had come over. As soon as he arrived, he called Ning Xue out by name, wanting to see what she looked like and how beautiful she was. Otherwise, how dare she call herself the number one beauty in the Great Xia?

It was impossible to see her.

She casually arranged for two girls to bring him into a room and send him away.

"Please follow me!"

They went up to the second floor.

"No..."

Zheng Fugui's resisting voice came from the room.

Zheng Shan's expression immediately darkened as he cursed, "Unfilial son!"

He kicked open the door and rushed in with his stick.

There was a commotion and Zheng Fugui's begging.

Zhang Ronghua looked inside. Fortunately, he had not taken off his clothes. Otherwise, his uncle would have broken his legs.

"Cousin, save me..."

He rushed out and fled outside when he saw that there was no help.

“Stop right there!”

Zheng Shan chased after him with his rod.

Zhang Ronghua was in no hurry to leave. “How much is it, including the broken tables and chairs?”

“You’re giving us face by coming over. Forget this money.”

He took out a banknote worth 50 taels and threw it over before turning to leave.

Then, they arrived at their uncle’s house.

Zheng Fugui knelt on the ground obediently. There was still a broken stick beside him. He looked at him resentfully, like a bullied wife.

He threw a gloating look at him. ‘You can’t control your feet. You even dared to lie to me and secretly run to the heavens. Serves you right!’

Crossing his legs, Zhang Ronghua sat on a chair and drank tea.

Zheng Shan berated, “What did I teach you usually?”

“Do things seriously and be honest.”

“What else?”

“No gambling dens, no brothels. Practice martial arts diligently.”

“What did you do?”

“I, I...”

Zheng Fugui opened his mouth for a long time but could not say a word. Actually, he wanted to say that he was just going to see what Ning Xue looked like, but the girls at Heaven on Earth were too enthusiastic. They were beautiful, soft-spoken, and gentle, so he drank two more glasses of wine.

“Are you going next time?”

“I won’t go no matter what!”

Zhang Ronghua added, “What he means is that as long as he’s breathing, he’ll go.”

Zheng Fugui was dumbfounded as if he had just met his cousin.

“You’re playing mind games, aren’t you?”

Another beating started. He didn’t stop until he was tired.

After a while, it was already early in the morning. He asked the maidservant to bring some food and wine over and ate with Zhang Ronghua. Zheng Fugui also wanted to eat. He drooled as he looked at the food and wine. Seeing his father’s fierce expression, he swallowed and did not dare to speak.

“He didn’t cause any trouble for you at the East Palace, did he?”

“No!”

“I feel at ease with you taking care of him! Otherwise, with his IQ, he’d help count the money after being sold.”

They finished their supper.

Zheng Shan left drunk. Zhang Ronghua kicked him angrily. "Why aren't you getting up?"

"Cousin, you stabbed me in the back!"

Bang!

He was rewarded with a knock on the head.

He chided, "Let's see if you dare to go again."

After entering the guest room, he sat on the bed and took out the hundred-year-old ginseng.

A rich spiritual herb fragrance spread out, taking form and containing powerful spiritual energy.

After eating it, it was a little bitter. It turned into a huge force that circulated in his body and circulated the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique to refine it. His cultivation had already reached a critical point and used it to break through to the fifth level of the Celestial Realm.

Chapter 27

Rumor

Qilin Workshop.

No. 68, the Sixth Prince's residence.

In the study.

It was brightly lit, illuminating the room.

The Sixth Prince sat in a chair with a cup of tea. The lid covered the tea and he fiddled with it gently. He was in no hurry to drink it as if he was waiting for someone.

A wisp of demonic smoke appeared in the hall. Demonic light bloomed, revealing the Demoness.

After taking a sip of tea, the Sixth Prince said, "Have you found out anything?"

"Yes."

He told her what he had learned.

After hearing this, the Sixth Prince put down his teacup and tapped his index finger on the table. There was a thumping sound. The Demoness did not disturb him. She looked at him with interest, wanting to see how he would react.

He thought for a moment.

He smiled, his eyes deep and cold. Instead of rushing to make arrangements, he asked, "What's going on outside?"

"The True Dragon Hall has captured many people. They're all the princes' men. There are also high-ranking second-rank officials, including Great Grandmasters."

"This is a good move. Ji Xueyan is his reverse scale. As long as I touch her, I can force him to attack and anger him! At this moment, those good brothers of mine will be furious."

"Are you really not afraid of finding out about us?"

"I won't!"

The Sixth Prince was very certain. Other than Daoist Nine Tribulations, the rest of the forces were all loose cultivators. Even if they worked together, they would not be able to find him. Daoist Nine Tribulations was very loyal to him. Even if he died, he would not betray him.

Unfortunately, he was already dead!

Thinking of this,

his expression was ugly. “The old dog, the Grand Tutor, actually sent experts to secretly follow us. Otherwise, with Ji Xueyan and the other’s strength, they wouldn’t be a match for Daoist Nine Tribulations.”

“What now?”

“The moon is dark and windy. Not only is it a night to kill, but it’s also a time to play with power. Find a scapegoat and spread rumors. Say that Ji Xueyan and Zhang Ronghua are fooling around in the dilapidated temple. One is a favored daughter of the heavens, and the other is a member of the Imperial Guard. The difference in their identities is huge. Only then can it be interesting and spread throughout the capital in the shortest time possible, attracting everyone’s attention.”

Growl!

The Demoness swallowed hard and looked at him in disbelief. This plan was crazy. It was far more terrifying than them getting rid of Ji Xueyan.

Once word got out, the series of reactions it would cause would be catastrophic. No one could withstand the anger of the Grand Tutor, the Crown Prince, and the imperial family. Even she was frightened.

“Are you afraid?”

“To be honest, I’m indeed afraid.”

“I’m afraid too!”

The Sixth Prince did not hide it. Through the window, he looked at the night sky outside. “If I had any choice, I wouldn’t want to do this!”

The Demoness understood that the mastermind had borrowed the Crown Prince’s hand the last time to eradicate all his forces on the surface. It could be said that he had already lost the position of Crown Prince, at least on the surface.

If he didn’t act ruthlessly, even if the Crown Prince was crippled, he wouldn’t stand a chance.

“After this matter, let everyone disappear and hide for a while. I’m now grounded. I can watch the show and watch them fight. In addition, it’s better to recruit more people than to have fewer. We must screen their loyalty carefully before controlling them with the poisonous pill and contacting them with code names.”

“I understand.”

...

The next day.

Zhang Ronghua had breakfast at his uncle’s house and walked toward the East Palace with his cousin.

In the market.

The snack shops and stalls discussed in low voices. Even the passers-by could not help but stop and listen intently when they heard their conversation.

Although these people were communicating, their eyes were guarded. From time to time, they patrolled the streets. As soon as someone from the government came, they stopped.

The two of them were dressed in plain clothes and did not attract attention.

Zhang Ronghua stopped and stood at the back of the crowd, listening carefully.

“Have you heard? The beloved daughter of the Grand Tutor, the Great Tutor of Jixia Academy, the leader of the younger generation, and the future successor, Ji Xueyan, have already been engaged to the Crown Prince. In about half a year, she will be married and become the Crown Princess Consort. However, on the way home to pay respects to her ancestor, she had an affair with the guard in the dilapidated temple!”

“That’s impossible, right? The difference in their identities is so great. Even if Ji Xueyan is blind, she wouldn’t fancy a guard, right?”

“Who knows? We don’t understand the lives of upper-class dignitaries. Perhaps they like it?”

Zheng Fugui was furious. Even if he was stubborn, he would understand. Once this matter was confirmed, his cousin would definitely die. Just as he was about to attack, Zhang Ronghua reached out and pressed his shoulder, shaking his head at him.

He pulled him to the side.

The latter hurriedly asked, “Why are you stopping me?”

“They’re all ordinary people. Can you stop them from discussing this? Even if we kill them, there are so many people in the capital. They’ll still discuss it when they should. Even if the Imperial Court orders it, they won’t dare to do it on the surface, but they’ll discuss it in secret.”

“Are we just going to let it go?”

“Of course not! Let’s go to the East Palace first.”

Zhang Ronghua's face was cold. He was not as relaxed as he looked. He was furious and wished he could cut the mastermind into pieces. He saw it better than Zheng Fugui.

Once this matter was confirmed, not only would he be unlucky, but everyone related to him would suffer.

He was prepared for the worst. If such a situation really happened, the Crown Prince and the Imperial Court would send people to arrest him. If he could not use the Origin Divine Jade, he would escape from the capital with his parents and uncle.

Until the end, he did not want to take this step. If that happened, he would be endlessly hunted down by Great Xia.

They arrived at the East Palace.

Ma Ping'an was guarding here as if waiting for him. When he saw him coming, he hurriedly greeted him and whispered, "I believe you!"

Zhang Ronghua did not say anything and only nodded.

With a cold expression, he walked towards Xuanhe Hall.

The Crown Prince was also waiting for him. His face was expressionless, his eyes cold and filled with killing intent. When he entered, Qing'er closed the hall door and guarded outside with Shuang'er, not letting outsiders disturb them.

"Greetings, Your Highness!"

"Have you heard what happened outside?"

"Yes."

"I didn't expect them to be so crazy as to think of such a vicious plan!"

The Crown Prince examined him seriously as if he wanted to see through Zhang Ronghua.

The latter met his gaze calmly and did not dodge.

"I believe in Xueyan. With her upbringing, she won't do this! I also believe in you. With your loyalty, you won't risk the lives of three families by doing something stupid."

There was something else he did not say. The news he had received was that Ji Xueyan's chastity

sand

was still there. This was the key. If it really disappeared, it would not be like this.

"This is not something you can participate in. I have my own decisions. Rest at home for the time being and lie low. You can be on duty after this matter is over."

Zhang Ronghua did not completely believe him. When he came, he was prepared for the worst. "Let Zheng Fugui accompany me!"

"Sure."

Chastity sand is a medicine used to verify the virginity of women in ancient China. It is said that as long as it is painted on a woman's body, it will not disappear all year round, but once she does the deed with a man, it will immediately become invisible.

Chapter 28

True Dragon Hall Attack

They left the East Palace.

Zheng Fugui could not take it anymore. He punched the air angrily and cursed, "You'd better not let me know who did it, or I'll definitely kill him!"

"Go home as quickly as possible and call Uncle and the others to my house."

"What's wrong?"

Zhang Ronghua glared at him sternly and did not dare to ask again. He remembered his cousin's instructions and circulated his movement technique to rush home.

Back at home in the Riches Workshop.

Her parents already knew the news outside.

It spread throughout the capital. They were not deaf. How could they not know?

The first to change was the neighbors. In the past, they would welcome him from as far away as possible. At this moment, they were hiding far away, afraid that people would misunderstand and think that their close relationship had been implicated.

In the lobby.

The servants were chased away. There were only the three of them.

Although Zheng Rou was a woman, she could handle things at critical moments. She was not like ordinary women who cried when they encountered trouble and did not have any opinions. She listened quietly and did her job without causing trouble for the two of them.

Zhang Qin's expression was serious. "With your current cultivation, how confident are you of leaving?"

“100%!”

“Including us and your uncle’s family?”

“About fifty percent!”

Zhang Ronghua spoke very conservatively. He had always been on duty in the Flood Dragon Guard and had never come into contact with the upper echelons. He did not know how much foundation Great Xia was hiding, but from the last time he entered the palace’s armory, he could not see through the ancestor guarding the door.

There was also Uncle Zhong.

He had always had the impression of a kind neighbor without any cultivation. He had a feeling that even if he used his Clear Spirit Eyes, he would not be able to obtain an outcome.

However, such a person had killed all the sects, demons, and ghosts in Tongzhou alone. He had even wiped out the power of the government, which was enough to prove his strength.

The four of them arrived at this moment.

Zheng Shan said in a low voice, “I know everything. What are you going to do?”

“No one can stop Ronghua from leaving! If he brings us along, he’s only 50% confident.”

“After living for so long, I’ve enjoyed everything I need to enjoy. I’m already satisfied to be able to leave a descendant for the Zheng family. When the time comes, leave with your cousin and go to the Shang Dynasty. They’re mortal enemies. If Great Xia dares to send someone over, they won’t even know how they died. You’ll hide your identities and live there.”

Zhang Ronghua was about to speak when Zhang Qin seemed to have guessed what he wanted to say. He did not even give him a chance to refuse. “This is an order!”

Whoosh!

Letting out a shaky breath, Zhang Ronghua said, "It's not that grim yet."

He rose from his chair.

"It's no longer safe here. Let's go to the Vermilion Bird Workshop."

Seeing that they were puzzled, he explained the pros and cons. He had saved Ji Xueyan. If the Imperial Court really attacked, the houses there were very close to the Grand Tutor's residence. If necessary, he could ask the Grand Tutor for help.

Although Zhang Qin and the others were puzzled, there were rumors outside that he was having an affair with Ji Xueyan. Wouldn't he be walking into a trap if he went over now? Why would the Grand Tutor help?

But he had said that. With his personality, he would not speak for no reason. He would never say it without absolute confidence. He suppressed it in his heart and did not ask.

Everything was ready. A package containing a change of clothes.

"Go!"

Zhang Ronghua walked in front while Zheng Fugui followed behind and protected them out of the residence. They had just taken a few steps when they stopped again.

Two people from the True Dragon Hall walked over from the front, their faces cold, blocking five steps away.

Unlike the team he had met last night, the two people in front of him were dressed in white and had swords. They were called the White Dragon Robe and the White Dragon Sword, which corresponded to the White Dragon Envoy.

(Official positions in the True Dragon Hall: Hall Master, Divine Envoy, Purple Dragon Envoy, Azure Dragon Envoy, White Dragon Envoy, Golden Dragon Envoy.)

“Go back!”

Zheng Fugui drew his Flood Dragon Sword and rushed forward to stand with Zhang Ronghua.

“You’re no match for them.”

From the aura emitted by the two of them, they were both at the Grandmaster realm. It was already difficult for him to fight one, let alone the two of them.

He took a step forward.

Zhang Ronghua’s eyes were cold. He was furious that he had fallen into the center of the storm for no reason. He was worried that he had nowhere to vent when they jumped out. “Move!”

He attacked directly.

Two afterimages rushed towards him, one on the left and one on the right. They worked well together, one punching and the other using a palm technique. Before their moves could take shape, a golden light flashed and Zhang Ronghua stood where they had been, while they were sent flying and fainted on the ground.

It was so fast that Zheng Fugui and the others could not see it clearly.

“We don’t have much time. We have to reach Vermilion Bird Workshop before the others from the True Dragon Hall arrive.”

He took the path and rushed that way.

There were no more accidents this time. Perhaps the higher-ups did not expect Zhang Ronghua to be so strong that he could deal with two White Dragon Envoys in a single move.

By the time they reacted, they were already at Vermilion Bird Workshop.

What happened here spread like a gust of wind in the upper echelons of the capital.

The courtyard door opened.

Shi Wen moved aside and waited for them to enter before closing the door. "What happened?"

Zhang Ronghua let his parents and the others in first. He took out a banknote worth a hundred taels and handed it over. He did not take it and said solemnly, "We're in a lot of trouble now. If you stay here any longer, you'll be involved. Take this money and leave the capital."

"I heard all about it!"

Looking into his eyes, he knew that there was no point in persuading him. He put away the banknote and patted his shoulder twice before turning into the backyard.

In the room.

Zhang Ronghua was unprecedentedly anxious. He seized every minute to increase his cultivation. When they fought, it was an additional guarantee.

Just as he was about to cultivate the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique, he remembered that when he was in the dilapidated temple, the Golden Dragon Sword was enhanced with the Black Yellow True Essence to easily deal with the Yellow Spring Ancient Bug.

“Is it really a Godfiend cultivation technique?”

The more he thought about it, the more he felt that it was.

He composed himself and focused on cultivation.

Thanks to the pressure from the outside world and his powerful talent, after cultivating for two hours, he finally broke through to the Beginner Realm.

“Cousin, come out quickly!”

“Are they here?”

He jumped out of bed, opened the door, and rushed out. Zhang Qin and the others were all there.

“Wait for me here. I’ll go out and take a look.”

“I’m with you.”

Zhang Ronghua nodded and led him to the front courtyard. He opened the door and saw a team of White Dragon Envoys standing outside. The leader was an Azure Dragon Envoy. His name was Xu Changming and he exuded the aura of a Great Grandmaster. The two people who had been knocked unconscious were among them.

With a sweep of his majestic soul power, the surroundings of the courtyard had already been surrounded. Other than them, there was also a group of fully armed soldiers. With a single order, they could charge in.

The atmosphere was unprecedentedly serious.

Xu Changming glanced at them coldly and his gaze landed on Zhang Ronghua. “Did you do it?”

“It’s me!”

Their hearts were solemn. From the scene in front of them, the higher-ups were probably going to make an example of them. It seemed that they were really going to escape from the capital.

Chapter 29

Get Lost

He made up his mind.

After dealing with them, he would leave with his parents. He would not wait!

Swoosh!

Taking a step forward, Xu Changming attacked directly. He raised his right hand, and green internal force circulated in his palm. A huge forceful bag slapped Zhang Ronghua’s face.

Clap! Clap!

Two explosive slaps sounded, but it was not Zhang Ronghua who was slapped. It was Xu Changming. He did not attack. A woman in purple appeared in front of him with the temperament of a superior and endless temptation.

From the back, her figure was perfect and flawless.

Two big hoods knocked Xu Changming to the ground and stepped on his face. He did not know how to be polite at all and crushed him to death. His nose was broken, his face was disfigured, and his teeth were broken. It seemed that he would eat all the soil on the ground.

The surrounding people from the True Dragon Hall reacted quickly. They drew their White Dragon Sword and were about to rush up.

The woman in purple took out a golden token. This group of people knelt on the ground in fear and threw down their swords. They bowed respectfully. "Greetings, my lord!"

"Get lost!"

She kicked Xu Changming away and he hit the wall before stopping.

As his men helped him up, he did not even dare to be angry. He was terrified, but he did not leave. He summoned his courage and said, "The higher-ups ordered us to guard here."

"Do I have to repeat myself?"

Seeing that she wanted to kill him, Xu Changming did not dare to insist and hurriedly left with his men.

The woman in purple turned around, revealing an unforgettable face that was branded in the depths of her soul. It was actually the Empress!

She smiled.

As if used to people being surprised, she explained, "My name is Su Qitang. The Empress is my twin sister."

No wonder they looked so alike.

"Thank you!"

"The Crown Prince asked me to come. He asked me to tell you to relax. Some rumors are not worth mentioning."

Her beautiful eyes darted around as if she wanted to see through him. “Are you preparing to run?” she teased.

Zhang Ronghua: “...”

“He thinks highly of you. I want to try.”

The corners of her mouth curled up as she said, “You’re at the fourth level of the Grandmaster Realm. I won’t bully you. How about suppressing your cultivation to the same realm as yours and taking a move from me?”

“Can I refuse?”

“What do you think?”

Zhang Ronghua asked Zheng Fugui to step back, leaving a huge space.

Su Qitang asked, “Are you ready?”

“You can attack now.”

She raised her jade-like hand and Purple True Essence condensed in her palm. She only used her strength at the fourth level of the Grandmaster Realm. With a wave of her hand, everything seemed to have stopped at this moment. It seemed to be slow and appeared in front of him in a single move. Her palm contained destructive power as she slapped his chest.

She did not use martial arts. She only relied on her control of strength and comprehension of her realm.

Zhang Ronghua did the same. He clenched his fists and did not mobilize the Black Yellow True Essence. With the strength she had displayed, if he used it, he would be seen through. Instead, he faced the enemy with his Righteousness Qi.

The power of Extreme Yang and Divine Justice bombarded her jade-like hand.

A violent wave of air came from the place where the two of them fought. Although Zheng Fugui hid far away, he was still sent flying by this wave of air and rolled a few times on the ground before stopping.

He retracted his hand.

Su Qitang smiled like a flower and nodded in satisfaction. "Not bad!"

"Thanks for letting me win."

On the surface, it seemed to be indiscriminate, but in fact, Zhang Ronghua had the upper hand and defeated her true essence with his Righteousness Qi.

"Stay at home in peace. They won't find trouble with you again. But remember, don't leave the residence until this matter is resolved."

He waited for her to leave.

Zheng Fugui patted the dust off his body and ran over. "How did she cultivate? She's so strong at such a young age?"

"How did you know she was young?"

"By looking at her face!"

Bang!

Zheng Ronghua rewarded him with a knock on the head and glared angrily. “There are some cultivation techniques and treasures that can permanently preserve her appearance and maintain her appearance at her peak. It’s not difficult for her to obtain them with her status.”

“She’s the Crown Prince’s aunt? Does the Empress look like this?”

Seeing his cousin’s face darken, Zheng Fugui was filled with the desire to live and changed the topic.

“We’re still in danger?”

“Not for the time being! The Crown Prince has already attacked. The higher-ups have begun to fight. We’ll wait and see. If anyone really attacks us, she’ll step in and resolve it.”

They entered the courtyard.

Zhang Qin and the others were all waiting. They quickly walked up to him. “How is it?”

“The Crown Prince has appeared. The people from the True Dragon Hall have been chased away. They won’t be in danger for the time being. However, don’t leave the residence until the matter is settled.”

Everyone nodded.

They entered the room.

Zhang Ronghua cultivated the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique, the Great Dao Righteous Song, and the Mountain River World Suppressing Fist.

Three days later.

Other than the Black Yellow Heaven Splitting Technique which had not made any progress, the Black Yellow True Essence had become stronger. The other two martial arts broke through another small

realm, and his soul power became stronger and reached the middle-stage of the Heaven-grade. His Righteousness Qi also doubled.

Especially the Mountain River World Suppressing Fist. It had already touched the true intent. Once it was used, it was like mountains and rivers descending and suppressing the world. It was majestic. Just its aura was not something ordinary people could resist.

The storm outside did not stop. As time passed, it became more and more intense. Two days ago, the men and horses of the True Dragon Hall appeared again. The leader was still Xu Changming. He led a team of White Dragon Envoys and a troop of troops to surround the residence again. After the previous lesson, they did not dare to attack again.

They just surrounded them to prevent them from escaping.

The oppressive atmosphere had reached a critical point.

Although he was at home, news from outside came from Qing'er one after another.

This concerned the reputation of the imperial family. The civil and military officials forced the Crown Prince to execute them. Then, they would use an iron fist to suppress the people in the capital who gossiped. If they found them, they would kill them.

Until yesterday.

Even the imperial family expressed their opinion in court and asked the Crown Prince to make a decision.

For a moment, Zhang Ronghua's family was pushed into the storm.

No matter what happened outside, it could not affect the residence.

Zheng Fugui practiced the Mountain River World Suppressing Fist crazily. When he had time, Zheng Ronghua would give him some pointers. His parents and uncle did not cause trouble and did their own things.

They left the room.

Standing at the artificial lake, Zhang Ronghua took out the jade flute that Ji Xueyan had given him last time and blew on it.

The light and empty flute sound came out, representing his current mental state. The emotionless concept spread further and further.

At the Grand Tutor Manor.

Ji Xueyan had been at home for the past few days and did not go to Jixia Academy. She knew everything that had happened outside.

Hearing the flute outside, she put down the book in her hand and walked to the window. She looked in his direction and praised, "He can still calm down in the storm and not be disturbed by external objects. His Highness has found a good subordinate."

Then, she shook her head.

For some reason, she remembered the scene in the dilapidated temple again. Her jade-like hand subconsciously touched her lower abdomen, shocked by this crazy thought of hers. She hurriedly retracted her hand and extinguished thoughts she shouldn't have.

Her beautiful eyes flickered coldly. "It's about to end!"

Chapter 30

Words From The Grand Tutor

The song ended.

Zhang Ronghua stopped and put away the jade flute. He walked to Zheng Fugui and stopped. Seeing him practice his fist, hurried footsteps sounded outside. He frowned and used his soul power to check. A huge soul power enveloped the residence. Two teams of Golden Dragon Envoys rushed over and met up with Xu Changming and the others.

Someone stepped forward and muttered softly in his ear.

Xu Changming's eyes flickered with a fierce light. He looked coldly in the direction of the residence and shot out terrifying killing intent. Thinking of the grievances he had suffered a few days ago, he could finally take revenge today. He swore that he would torture and kill his family in front of Zhang Ronghua.

"Do it!"

He kicked open the courtyard door and quickly rushed in. The other people from the True Dragon Hall also drew their weapons immediately and followed him into the courtyard.

In the backyard.

Zhang Ronghua's face was cold, and his eyes were murderous. "Let's go!"

Zheng Fugui hurriedly stopped and rushed out with his cousin.

Seeing this, Zhang Qin and Zheng Shan also took out their weapons and were on guard, but they did not go over. They protected Zheng Rou and the others here and did not cause trouble for them.

In the front yard.

Both sides stopped and looked at each other coldly.

Xu Changming revealed a ruthless and mocking expression. "Let's see who can protect you this time!"

Swoosh!

He leaned forward and the aura of a Great Grandmaster erupted. He pulled out a huge bag in anger and whipped it at Zhang Ronghua's face with 100% strength.

Clap! Clap!

Two crisp slaps sounded. Like last time, it was still not from Zhang Ronghua. An old man appeared in front of him. He was dressed in a green robe. Who else could it be but Uncle Zhong?

Compared to Su Qitang, Uncle Zhong was more civilized.

After whipping him, she did not humiliate him, but the force of these two slaps was even greater than hers. It directly knocked him unconscious. It seemed that it had crippled his cultivation.

Seeing this, the others from the True Dragon Hall, including the soldiers who rushed in, were all stunned.

A White Dragon Envoy summoned his courage and stepped forward. He knew Uncle Zhong and knew that he was the butler of the Grand Tutor's residence. He cupped his fists and bowed, saying respectfully, "Why did you stop us?"

He was not even qualified to make Uncle Zhong look at him squarely.

He turned around and looked at Zhang Ronghua with a kind smile. "He's not like a young man. He doesn't have any drive at all."

Zhang Ronghua smiled bitterly. 'He was crippled by you before I could attack.'

However, he respected Uncle Zhong from the bottom of his heart.

"I've embarrassed myself."

"You were ordered to protect Miss back to her hometown to pay respects to her ancestors, but you got into trouble. We didn't do well enough. Master asked me to come over and give you something."

He took out a calligraphy piece with golden edges. The paper was moon-white and made of a special material that contained a rich scholarly aura.

He pointed with his finger.

The copy spread out and floated in the air. There was only the word 'loyal' written on it. It was signed—Grand Tutor, stamped with his seal. Other than that, there was nothing else.

However, this word was different. Golden light flickered and contained extremely powerful power. It was actually written with righteousness. Even if it was casually done, the righteousness contained in it could not be compared to this word.

Zhang Ronghua understood what the Grand Tutor meant and put away the calligraphy. "I don't dare to refuse the elder's gift. Junior thanks the Grand Tutor!"

"Yes." Uncle Zhong nodded in satisfaction.

He looked at the people from the True Dragon Hall.

"Get lost!"

They did not even dare to fart. They hurriedly fled with the crippled Xu Changming.

"This matter is settled here. No one dares to make an issue of you anymore. You can go wherever you want."

Zheng Fugui was anxious and hurriedly asked, "Really?"

"You can see for yourself!"

They chatted for a while and sent him out of the residence.

He returned to the backyard and told his parents the good news.

Seeing that the storm had passed and he had survived safely, he smiled.

Zheng Rou and her uncle's wife helped her grandfather leave and gave up the space.

Zhang Qin said seriously, "Being with you is like being with a tiger. Any storm will be consigned to eternal damnation."

Zheng Fugui interrupted. "Resign?"

"Shut up!" His uncle expected better from him. If he hadn't been sitting far away, he would have slapped his head.

"Look at your cousin, calm and collected. He doesn't panic when something happens. Look at you. You jumped in to speak before your uncle could finish. Can't you grow some brains?"

Zheng Fugui lowered his head and pouted. He thought to himself, 'I'm not smart. It's all because you didn't have a good life.'

Zhang Qin continued, "I've discussed it with your uncle. Although this trouble has been resolved, we've still unknowingly offended some people. If we don't have power, even if you resign, they'll think of ways to take revenge after leaving the capital."

Zhang Ronghua understood what his father meant and tried his best to climb up. The more power he had, the less likely others dared to touch him. For example, Su Qutang and Uncle Zhong were both huge figures. Each of them was more powerful than the other. After publicly crippling Xu Changming, the True Dragon Hall did not even dare to fart.

He was still young. When he grew to this level, others would look at him.

They chatted a little more.

Before his parents and the others left, his uncle warned Zheng Fugui fiercely that if he dared to go to Heaven on Earth again, he would break his legs.

In the lobby.

“Cousin, what should we do now?”

“To the East Palace!”

He closed the courtyard door and rushed towards the East Palace.

As they walked on the streets, the citizens in the city no longer dared to discuss it. It seemed that this matter had been suppressed. Many people had probably died behind it.

They arrived at the East Palace.

Ma Ping'an was still guarding the door. As if guessing that they were coming, he welcomed them warmly. “You're here!”

“I'll buy you a drink later.”

This incident made Zhang Ronghua recognize some people. In the storm, it was rare for him to trust him as usual.

“Heavenly Fragrance Tower?”

“Alright!”

“His Highness is waiting for you. Go over!”

They entered the Hall of Proclamation.

Zhang Ronghua cupped his fists and bowed. “Greetings, Your Highness.”

The Crown Prince was in a good mood. With a smile on his lips, he pointed at the chair beside him. “Sit.”

Qing'er served tea and placed a cup of steaming tea in front of him.

“Thank you!”

He picked up his teacup, stamped the lid a few times, took a sip, and put it down.

“A Celestial Realm expert died. The Governor and the others were taken down and imprisoned in the prison of the Ministry of Justice.”

There were four counties in the capital. The east, west, south, and north cities all had counties. They were high-quality. The status of the county magistrate was comparable to the county governor. Above the four county offices was the Shangjing Prefecture, and its status was comparable to the state capital.

Coupled with the death of a Celestial Realm expert, it could be seen how fierce this confrontation was.

“Has he been convicted?”

“Secret execution!”

“I want to send them on their way.”

The Crown Prince smiled. He knew that he had suffered and wanted to vent. Naturally, he would not make things difficult for him for such a small matter. “When you get to the Ministry of Justice, say that I ordered it.”

“Thank you, Your Highness!”

Putting away his smile, the Crown Prince’s expression was serious as he said in a low voice, “The envoy of the Nanman Kingdom is coming tomorrow. I want to use this opportunity to lure out the mastermind.”