

Genius 1091

Chapter 1091: Ending it All at Once

The security system of Bihai Pavilion is actually quite formidable. There are eyes everywhere, especially around Li Hui's office, where several people are guarding the entrance.

Though the safe is hidden, it's situated inside Li Hui's office and can easily be discovered by those with the intention to infiltrate.

As for whether it can be opened or not, that's another matter...

But Li Hui can't always be in his office watching over things. As the head of the casino, he has an abundance of tasks to manage and has to leave the office from time to time, leaving it completely unattended.

Therefore, it's only natural to have a few security guards watching the entrance to prevent any unauthorized entry into the office, and these guards need to be among those Li Hui trusts the most, otherwise there's no guarantee against the possibility of an inside job.

Observing the security guards, Qin Fang didn't rush to act. After all, the gambling going on at Yu Zheng's place wouldn't end in a moment. He had plenty of time to achieve his goal.

Thus, Qin Fang began to wander around, seemingly observing the various gambling tables, but in reality, he was constantly scrutinizing the surveillance cameras.

Many cameras are installed inside Bihai Pavilion, particularly in the casino—with good reason. A single hustler slipping in could result in significant financial losses and could even tarnish the casino's reputation. The redundancy of cameras is unquestionably justified.

If Qin Fang intended to act, he naturally had to conceal his identity and avoid implicating Yu Zheng as much as possible, and of course, it would be best if innocent people weren't involved either.

Once this matter is accomplished, Li Rui will surely be enraged.

As the overlord of Ninghai Underground, the repercussions of Li Rui's outrage would be severe. If anyone is suspected, Li Rui wouldn't care who they are; he would unmistakably hound them to the death.

A loss of several billions would seriously hurt even someone as wealthy as Li Rui, and it might even endanger the other assets of the Li Family.

Such a cost is something the Li family cannot afford; the revenge would be formidable... Hence, Qin Fang did not wish to implicate the innocent.

After spending a substantial amount of time in the casino, betting casually here and there, winning and losing—a rather commonplace pattern—no one would think there was anything unusual about him.

But during this time, Qin Fang had fully acquainted himself with the locations of all the cameras surrounding the casino, to the point where he could pinpoint each one even with his eyes closed.

Feeling sufficiently prepared, Qin Fang then pretended to have a stomachache and headed to the restroom, appearing as if he really needed to use the toilet for a big one.

Naturally, restrooms aren't equipped with cameras—who would be willing to have their urination and defecation watched by others?

Nonetheless, Qin Fang inspected carefully and only began his operation after confirming there were no cameras inside the restroom...

First, he occupied one stall and then surreptitiously claimed another, locking the door. That's when Qin Fang began to alter his face and build, entering the ventilation shaft through the vent on the roof.

In a large entertainment venue like Bihai Pavilion, the ventilation system is excellent, and the exhaust system is unified, something Qin Fang had already taken note of.

Although the restroom section of the ductwork is very narrow, it doesn't pose a great challenge for Qin Fang, who has the Metamorphosis Skill. He transformed from his original height of 180 centimeters to at least 300 centimeters, appearing akin to a Serpent, slowly moving through the ventilation duct...

The Metamorphosis, a Special Skill, isn't just about changing faces; it has many unique applications, especially as the Proficiency continues to increase, revealing more of its effects.

For instance, the ability to elongate the body is one such unique feature...

The speed at which Qin Fang was navigating the ducts wasn't slow. Thanks to the Special Skill Metamorphosis, although his body seemed almost motionless, he was indeed moving steadily forward.

If one were to describe Qin Fang at this moment with an animal, it would most likely be an earthworm...

Part of his body remained still while his head, neck, and torso continued to stretch forward, traversing section after section until reaching the maximum extent of his elongation. Then he ceased to stretch and began to extend slowly...by pulling the back half of his body forward, achieving forward movement.

Continuing in this cycle, he quickly increased his pace.

Furthermore, Qin Fang's body became incredibly flexible due to the Metamorphosis, allowing him to navigate even the turns without any delay!

Qin Fang wasn't sure if he was the only person in the world capable of moving in this manner, though he'd heard that Yoga masters from A-San could achieve this as well; he just hadn't seen it for himself.

But it must be said, this Metamorphosis was indeed extraordinary, a skill deserving of being a reward for leveling up... far more impressive than the average skills that can be learned spontaneously.

"Here we are..."

The distance from the restroom to Li Hui's office wasn't very far, and Qin Fang reached the vent in no time.

Chapter 1092: Ending it All at Once_2

Qin Fang did not rush in, because Li Hui had just returned, busy handling things in his office. Although Qin Fang had changed his face, he could not yet make his move directly.

After waiting for about twenty minutes, Li Hui finally finished his tasks and left the office to patrol the casino.

Only then did Qin Fang remove the vent louvers and, like a nimble cat, quickly slipped into the corner of Li Hui's office.

This spot was a dead angle not covered by surveillance cameras, which Qin Fang had studied carefully beforehand, ensuring his movements were seamless and unimpeded.

The safe was located beyond the reach of the cameras, and Qin Fang had noticed this long ago, speculating it was likely to prevent the possibility of cracking the safe code through image analysis.

After all, the surveillance system was centrally monitored, and during times when the safe needed to be opened, the personnel in charge of surveillance could witness the process.

Seeing what was inside the safe could tempt some with ill intentions. Thus, placing the safe outside the camera's range was specifically meant to prevent any leaks.

Dodging the cameras with extreme caution, Qin Fang quickly made his way to the side of the safe... Hidden behind a thin layer of wall which was merely a disguise, Qin Fang had found the switch beforehand, erased his fingerprint, and then pressed it.

The wall then opened like one of those ancient secret chambers, revealing a massive alloy safe standing over two meters tall behind it.

"Li Rui really did spend a fortune..."

Gazing at the enormous safe before him, Qin Fang couldn't help but curl his lip, sarcastically commenting on his nemesis Li Rui.

This safe was custom-ordered from abroad, rumored to be the hardest to crack in the world, with security features comparable to a bank's vault.

Opening this safe required not only the correct code and key but also the right fingerprint and iris scan... In short, missing any one of these elements would mean the safe could not be opened.

Furthermore, there were only three attempts allowed. If all three attempts failed, the safe would automatically lock down, and reopening it would necessitate a backup special code from the manufacturing company, a top-secret only known to the buyer, unknown to anyone else.

Such a specially made safe cost millions of US Dollars, which when converted to RMB would require at least over twenty million.

This reflected just how much Li Rui valued this safe, hence Qin Fang's remark.

Qin Fang himself had once considered acquiring such a safe to store certain illicit items he owned, but back then he lacked the funds, and upon seeing the price, he immediately abandoned the idea.

A safe of this precision is impossible to crack without the necessary code, key, fingerprint, and iris scan.

Furthermore, Qin Fang had inquired about the safe before and knew its built-in computer system could store the fingerprint and iris scans of a maximum of three people.

If Qin Fang wasn't wrong, Li Rui would definitely be one of them, Li Hui another likely candidate, given his role as the manager on the casino floor with the need to deposit money into the safe promptly.

As for the third person, Qin Fang wasn't quite sure, but he was positive—it certainly wasn't the foolish Li Feng.

But this person must be from the Li Family or someone Li Rui trusts implicitly, since this safe represented Li Rui's lifeline, and he wouldn't be at ease otherwise.

Qin Fang was here precisely for the contents of this safe. Now with the safe right in front of him, there was no need for politeness; he gently kicked the safe while mentally invoking his Lockpicking Skill.

"Lockpicking in progress..."

"Sorry, the Skill Level of Lockpicking is too low, operation failed!"

Qin Fang maintained a good mindset and was highly confident internally, yet the result was a bit disappointing—failure.

"Again..."

Nevertheless, Qin Fang remained undeterred, trying his Lockpicking Skill on the safe once more.

"Lockpicking in progress..."

"Sorry, Lockpicking Skill Level is too low, operation failed!"

The result was the same, still a failure, unable to open the safe.

"Damn, it's really the most secure safe in the world. I can't believe I can't open it..."

Qin Fang also looked helpless; his Lockpicking Skill was what he was relying on for this operation, but unexpectedly, he still couldn't open the safe.

Of course, this was mainly because the Lockpicking Skill Level was too low. If the skill level were higher, then this safe wouldn't be much of a challenge.

But it's not like you can just increase your skill level whenever you want, and there's no use trying to cram now—it's impossible to increase proficiency that much...

Although he hadn't been able to open the safe, Qin Fang wasn't too worried. Instead, he carefully observed the safe from all around.

Soon, a brilliant smile spread across Qin Fang's face, and as he looked at the safe, his expression turned rather peculiar.

"Tsk tsk, did you really think that with this safe, I wouldn't be able to get you?"

Even though the safe was extremely sophisticated and Qin Fang couldn't open it with his Lockpicking Skill for now, it didn't mean he had no other way to deal with it.

The safe was embedded in the wall, and although the edges were all sealed, it was not completely fused with the wall. Otherwise, if the safe were to break, it would be impossible to repair.

And it was precisely because of this that it made things easier for Qin Fang...

"Retrieve!"

Qin Fang placed his palm on the safe, muttered the word silently in his heart, and then—crash! You could hear the noise of crumbling bricks and stones falling.

Amazingly, a giant hole appeared in the wall, and the huge two-meter-tall safe simply—vanished into thin air.

Without a doubt, since Qin Fang couldn't directly open the safe and take its contents, he decided to be ruthless and took away the entire safe itself.

For others, stealing such a large, heavy safe made of tons of alloy would be impossible without the strength of at least eight or ten people.

And with so many people outside watching, and such a massive safe, it would be impossible to move it without alerting anyone. However, with the help of his Props Box, Qin Fang didn't have any trouble even if the safe were several times larger.

"Hehe, got it... Time to retreat!"

In an instant, Qin Fang's face showed a triumphant look, vaguely hearing that the security outside seemed to have noticed something. Qin Fang didn't dare to linger for a moment. He immediately avoided the surveillance cameras, quickly entered the narrow air vent, and closed the blinds, rushing back to the washroom the same way he had come.

When he came, he was cautious, groping his way and wasting a bit of time, but going back, he was noticeably faster; it only took a minute or two to return.

After tidying up briefly, Qin Fang transformed back into the appearance of the black-suited bodyguard and came out of the restroom, striding confidently towards the casino hall.

Almost at the moment Qin Fang appeared, he just happened to see Li Hui unlocking the office door and entering... followed by Qin Fang clearly hearing Li Hui's cry of surprise.

"Keep looking, kiddo..."

A smile hung on Qin Fang's face, clearly satisfied with the outcome, and he seemed to also imagine Li Rui's fury.

Unfortunately, even if Li Rui racked his brains, he would never be able to comprehend how Qin Fang managed to steal such a huge safe...

Chapter 1093: Bihai Pavilion Paranormal Incident

"Uncle Yu, how did it go? What's the outcome?"

With such an incident occurring, Li Hui had no mind to continue with other matters. He hurriedly dispersed the crowd at Bihai Pavilion and also notified the still unaware Li Rui to come over.

A safe this large disappearing in such a short time, Li Hui couldn't believe someone actually managed to steal it without anyone noticing.

Despite being unable to figure out how the safe vanished, it was clear to him that one person couldn't possibly have removed it by themselves; it was very likely still inside Bihai Pavilion.

As for the scene of the high-stakes gambling, no one knew who leaked the news, but many immediately sensed something abnormal, which led to the gambling being unable to continue, resulting in a helpless dispersal of the crowd.

But the problem was, although the gathering was dispersed, the deposits, including many checks and cash the wealthy people brought and had converted into chips, were not yet collected when Li Hui ushered them out of Bihai Pavilion.

Of course, Li Hui spoke in a very normal manner, stating that a serious incident had occurred at Bihai Pavilion and an internal handling was temporarily needed. The wealthy guests could obtain an IOU from Bihai Pavilion, and after the matter was resolved, every penny would be returned to them.

All these wealthy guests knew the background of Bihai Pavilion very well and naturally didn't believe Li Rui would run off with their money. If this caused a stir, the Li Family would also be unable to bear it.

Of course, also because of Li Rui's overwhelmingly powerful influence, these people didn't dare to offend him easily, and thus they each took an IOU and left.

Yu Zheng and Ye Ping naturally also left together, meeting up with a calm-faced Qin Fang before they all drove off together.

On their way, Qin Fang couldn't help but ask with a laugh.

Yu Zheng was a long-standing Asian Gambling King. His gambling skills had reached Master Level, and he could play tricks on the cheats easily, let alone those less skilled wealthy players.

"Didn't win much, just over thirty million..."

Yu Zheng said with an indifferent smile. Due to time constraints and not wanting to stand out too much, he won bit by bit. Yet over those nearly forty to fifty minutes, he had still managed to win over thirty million.

Of course, such an amount didn't mean much to Yu Zheng. Back in the day when he was the Asian Gambling King, his gambling stakes were counted by the billions, and that was over a decade ago, before inflation and the rise in value of the RMB.

"Heh, that's not bad at all, a tidy little profit..."

Qin Fang chuckled nonchalantly as if the thirty million plus was just a small sum of money.

"Oh? Xiao Qin, did you manage to get more than me?"

Yu Zheng, though he was a helper found by Qin Fang, only knew Qin Fang planned to target Li Rui's Bihai Pavilion but was clueless about the specifics of the plan.

However, based on the reactions from various aspects of Bihai Pavilion, this matter was likely very complicated.

Now, hearing what Qin Fang said, the sly Yu Zheng immediately knew there was an issue. Moreover, Qing Fang's move was definitely ruthless, otherwise Bihai Pavilion wouldn't have caused such a big commotion.

If thirty million plus was just small money, then what Qin Fang got this time must be an unimaginable large sum...

"A conservative estimate would be over a hundred million, but as for the exact amount, I'm not too clear myself. I'll have to tidy things up and see after we get back..."

Qin Fang smiled while driving, simply making a comment.

Although he temporarily couldn't open the safe, Qin Fang had Scouting Skill, he couldn't, however, examine the inside of such a large safe through it.

But Li Hui's big reaction already made it clear that the contents of the safe were definitely substantial... moreover, Qin Fang had already inquired before that all the deposits from the high-stakes gamblers were locked inside this safe.

Qin Fang hadn't seen how many wealthy individuals participated in this round of high-stakes gambling, but dozens was the minimum count. With each person's deposit being ten million, this added up to several billion.

Plus, if Bihai Pavilion's private funds were included, the amount was even larger... especially since there might be some of Li Rui's unseemly items in there.

Had it not been for these items, Li Rui wouldn't have needed to specifically custom-make such a safe.

...

Qin Fang and his group easily got away, mainly because Li Hui couldn't possibly hold everyone back. Many of those people were highly influential, and should a commotion arise, even Li Rui backing him would feel quite the headache.

Moreover, these people couldn't have possibly stolen such a large safe, and keeping them would risk leaking the incident. If all of them were to take their money back, Li Hui would not be able to produce it, even if he were to strip himself bare.

But the situation at Bihai Pavilion was completely different.

Upon learning of this situation, Li Rui, who was originally occupied with other equally important matters, almost didn't hesitate to abandon those and immediately came over.

"What on earth is going on?"

Li Rui's face had turned completely ashen. A serious incident had occurred right in his stronghold, Bihai Pavilion—a specially customized safe had mysteriously disappeared.

If not for the giant hole that now sat in the place where the safe was supposed to be, Li Rui would have never believed that such an incident had actually occurred.

But the fact was that the situation had changed, however much he didn't want to believe it or accept the reality before him, what he wanted to know most was—how exactly did the safe vanish?

"I really don't know what exactly happened. I was patrolling the casino at the time, when suddenly someone came to tell me that there was a strange noise in the office. I immediately rushed over, and as soon as I opened the door, I found that the safe had disappeared, leaving behind this huge hole..."

Li Hui was also in a wretched state. When he left the office, the safe was still intact, but within just a few minutes, the large safe had mysteriously gone missing.

It's not just Li Rui who was clueless and couldn't comprehend the situation; even Li Hui, who was directly involved, found it truly unbelievable...

"Did the surveillance reveal anything?"

Li Rui's expression was extremely ugly, and the look in his eyes as he turned to Li Hui was also unusual, but in the end, he said no more and continued to inquire.

To say he didn't suspect Li Hui would be impossible; after all, the safe couldn't just disappear without a trace. Li Hui had always been there, so he was the prime suspect.

But at the same time, Li Hui was also the least likely person to commit such an act.

Although Li Hui was a distant relative of the Li Family, he had gained Li Rui's deep trust. Only three people, including Li Hui, had access to open the safe.

If Li Hui had wanted to take action, he could have simply taken the items in the safe and fled long ago; there was no need to wait until now to do it.

Moreover, it was even less likely for him to take action and then stay behind—

Faced with such an incident, given Li Rui's ruthless methods, Li Hui was nearly certain to meet a grim fate. Li Hui wouldn't be so foolish as to jest with his own life.

"I've also reviewed the surveillance video several times; there's nothing abnormal..."

As he spoke, Li Hui played the video segment for Li Rui to scrutinize. Within that span of time, indeed, the surveillance cameras had not captured anyone appearing in Li Hui's office.

As for the safe, it was in a blind spot of the camera, naturally capturing nothing.

But here's the issue—the safe was so large that removing it would have required at least seven to eight people and a lot of tools.

Such a big commotion would have been impossible for the guards outside not to notice, and it would have been even less likely for the cameras not to catch any trace of it...

And yet, the result was just so. There were no leads, no discoveries, as if by some ghostly act, the safe had vanished into thin air.

Haunted?

Of course, Li Rui scoffed at such a notion, as any sane person would dismiss such an absurd suspicion.

Excluding that possibility, there was only one explanation left—there was an insider!

The first person Li Rui thought of was Li Hui, who stood trembling before him, though Li Rui had almost ruled out the possibility of his involvement earlier.

As the manager of the casino and a figure of considerable stature within Bihai Pavilion, Li Hui was also one of the three people with access to the safe.

Moving such a large safe from here wouldn't be an easy task; it would require a lot of people to dig it out. Others might not have access to the safe, but Li Hui did, and he could potentially recruit people to unearth it—an eventuality Li Rui, who seldom visited, would likely never discover.

As for the surveillance footage, being the person in charge here, Li Rui was well aware of all the blind spots. If one intended to tamper, it would not be difficult to fabricate false evidence.

Yet, Li Rui still felt it improbable for Li Hui to be involved. If there were more direct and convenient ways to act, why create such an upheaval?

Moreover, when the safe went missing, Li Hui was indeed patrolling outside in the casino—a fact that many could confirm.

Li Hui's office had always been locked, with no one entering or exiting...

"Could it really be haunted?"

Although Li Rui didn't believe in such superstitious nonsense, he still couldn't fathom a reasonable explanation. It seemed that the theory of a haunting was somewhat more plausible.

Right now, though, all he wanted to know was where the safe had been taken.

Without finding the safe, his mind wouldn't be at peace. Inside the safe were not only all the deposits for the gambling round, but also some items that could be extremely disadvantageous for Li Rui, such as the accounts of his gang members and some financial dealings with certain officials in Ninghai...

Chapter 1094: Turning Green with Envy

There were many items in the safe that couldn't withstand the light of day; should they come to light, not only would the officials involved be doomed, but Li Rui wouldn't escape implication either.

If Li Rui's past deeds were to be exposed, it would represent an incredibly huge corruption scandal, which would deal a massive blow to the entire Li Family.

As one of the most important members of the Li Family and a pillar of support, Li Rui absolutely would not allow such a thing to happen.

The thought of these items falling into the hands of some unknown person made Li Rui frown deeply. He pondered the whole affair meticulously, trying to identify the possible perpetrator.

"Could it be her?"

The image of another person appeared in Li Rui's mind, also one of the three people who could open the safe, although she had never even touched the safe before.

The person who stole the safe might have been simply after the money, after the security deposits left by the billionaires, possibly amounting to hundreds of millions of US Dollars, and might not be interested in the other items.

But this safe was custom-made; besides the three people including Li Rui, the only option would be to ask the custom company for the special password.

And that query must come from Li Rui himself; only then would the safe manufacturing company send a specialist over to handle it, no one else had the authority to do this.

It essentially ruled out the possibility of anyone else impersonating Li Rui and calling the manufacturing company to inquire about the special password...

Without the special password, to open the safe, one must have the correct safe password, key, fingerprint, and iris.

Excluding Li Rui himself, and Li Hui was also basically out of the question. It seemed that only one person was left...

"It can't be her!"

Just the thought of that person made Li Rui's trust in her surpass even that in Li Hui; even if Li Hui could betray Li Rui, she would never do such a thing.

She was the person Li Rui trusted the most; for Li Rui, she could do almost anything, even sacrifice her life without hesitation.

Such a person was impossible to betray Li Rui, no matter what!

...

"Right, did any unusual people appear in the casino today?"

Unable to make sense of the safe situation, Li Rui turned his attention elsewhere. After watching the surveillance videos back and forth to see who had entered his office before and after the event, he suddenly asked Li Hui a question...

"Unusual people?"

Li Hui was slightly startled, then frowned and thought about it. He then noticed the frozen frame on the computer screen and his eyes lit up.

"Yes, there was such a person..."

Li Hui immediately thought of a person; it was Yu Zheng who he had invited into his office to discuss opinions for resolution. Before this, although he found Yu Zheng very strange, he didn't associate Yu Zheng with the loss of the safe.

"This man's surname is Yu. He came from out of town and is quite a capable gambler..."

So, Li Hui briefly recounted how Yu Zheng appeared, how he was invited into the office, then sent to participate in high-stakes gambling, and told Li Rui everything without omitting a detail.

"Have you checked out this man's background?"

After hearing Li Hui's introduction, Li Rui also felt that Yu Zheng was quite suspicious, and Yu Zheng's group was precisely the last to appear in Li Hui's office. Although the video showed Yu Zheng and his companions leaving the office, they were still suspects.

"Couldn't find anything..."

Li Hui shook his head, "They're not locals from Ninghai, and there is no information about this person in the Casino Alliance's blacklist. We still don't know his true identity... But I've already dispatched people to follow up based on the car they used. I believe we will have results soon!"

When Qin Fang and his group came over, in order to showcase their extraordinary status, they specifically rented a Bentley. Given Li Rui's power in Ninghai, it would be relatively easy to trace back from the car information and find out Yu Zheng's identity.

"I know who he is..."

But just then, a man in the crowd saw the video segment and caught sight of Yu Zheng's face; he suddenly cried out in shock.

"Who is this person?"

Li Rui was taken aback and immediately called the man who had spoken over, asking with a severe tone, his eyes brimming with a murderous aura as if Yu Zheng was the very person who stole the safe.

"If I'm not mistaken, this person is named Yu Zheng. Fifteen years ago, he was the Asian Gambling King, only to mysteriously disappear afterwards. Some say he was chopped to death, others say he made a fortune and retired. But for these past fifteen years, indeed no one has seen him..."

The person speaking is a cheater nurtured by the casino, stationed there specifically to guard against other cheaters trying to infiltrate and cause trouble...

The profession of cheating is exceedingly narrow, especially for those who have reached the pinnacle of skill; they are the models and targets that many cheaters aspire to surpass.

The title of Asian Gambling King represents the strongest expert in the Asian gambling world. It's the ultimate honor for all the cheaters in Asia, with everyone hoping to ascend to that throne.

Although this particular cheater's skills weren't exceptionally strong, he was well familiar with the succession of Gambling Kings. Even though Yu Zheng shone briefly and rarely did anything earth-shattering, he was a rather mysterious Gambling King, so the cheater paid him a bit more attention.

Despite more than a decade having passed, the once young and handsome Yu Zheng, now a mature and steady middle-aged uncle, could still be recognized from the contours of his face.

"Yu Zheng, the Asian Gambling King?"

However, Li Rui was clearly not entirely satisfied with such an answer, and his face grew more sullen.

If this cheater had claimed that Yu Zheng was some internationally notorious thief, perhaps Li Rui could have accepted it a bit more, providing a somewhat normal explanation for the disappearance of the safe...

But Yu Zheng just happens to be a Gambling King, a man who once stood at the pinnacle of the gambling world in Asia.

A Gambling King is never short of money; if he wants money, he could casually enter any casino and easily win a substantial amount, just like today, where in a few hands of cards, he earned over ten

million, then slipped into a high-stakes game. Although he was playing conservatively, within less than an hour, he had earned more than thirty million...

In just over an hour, without spending a single penny, he made over thirty million. The strength of a Gambling King is unquestionably beyond doubt...

With such a rate of earning money, it's much faster than robbing his safe.

The casino at Bihai Pavilion can only be considered minor-league, nothing compared to the likes of those in Macau and Las Vegas—it's simply not worth mentioning...

Despite how the cash, checks, and the like in Li Rui's safe may add up to several billion, when converted to US dollars, it barely reaches one billion.

For a Gambling King-level expert, winning a billion US dollars isn't particularly difficult in the gambling city...

Although Li Rui isn't a professional gambler, he had heard of a Gambling King-level bet, where the two Gambling Kings themselves put up as much as five or six billion US dollars.

And the side-betting gamblers put in a terrifying amount, with over one hundred billion US dollars thrown into this astounding showdown...

Every profession is like this, the bottom may live quite miserably, but those standing at the top are always very wealthy.

It's no exception for gamblers!

Ordinary cheaters, as long as they're not too down and out, are definitely much wealthier than the average person—the stronger the skills, the wealthier they are.

The title of Asian Gambling King alone is worth at least ten billion...

"That's highly unlikely..."

Though frustrated, Li Rui could not ignore this problem.

Even though Yu Zheng had disappeared for over a decade and had suddenly re-emerged in the martial world, it seemed quite suspicious, but it obviously had nothing to do with his safe being stolen, as he and his assistant Ye Ping had been at the gambling tables all along.

As for Yu Zheng's bodyguard, the surveillance camera showed he had been wandering around the casino, playing a few hands, and then went to the restroom holding his stomach...

Perhaps the bodyguard spent a bit longer in the restroom, but from the restroom, there's simply no way to get to Li Hui's office, not to mention the surveillance video showed that the bodyguard never left the restroom.

"Li Hui, immediately search the entire Bihai Pavilion, leave no stone unturned, and ensure to find that safe..."

The suspicions about Yu Zheng had been mostly excluded, and Li Rui once again focused his attention on the missing safe. Such a large safe would not be easy to take out of Bihai Pavilion, and with Li Hui quickly taking control of the scene, theoretically, the safe should still be within Bihai Pavilion.

"Yes!"

Li Hui's heart still trembled, knowing he had made a colossal blunder; if that safe isn't found, his life would be in significant danger.

As Li Rui's right-hand man, Li Hui understood Li Rui's character all too well...

Running away might seem like the best option, but Li Hui knew it was also the most foolish one.

If he chose to flee, it would be as good as admitting his guilt in betraying Li Rui's suspicions, even if he hadn't actually done anything; it still wouldn't change Li Rui's opinion of him.

Without leaving, Li Hui held no confidence in retrieving the safe.

The safe had vanished into thin air, without a trace or any clues left behind, leaving no leads to pursue.

Even though he also suspected the safe had not left Bihai Pavilion, for some reason, he felt the search results would definitely not satisfy him or Li Rui.

Nonetheless, the search for the whereabouts of the safe had to continue. He immediately directed a thorough search of the entire Bihai Pavilion, sparing no nook or cranny, even places where a dead mouse couldn't squeeze into...

Chapter 1095: Strike Despite the Risk

While Li Rui was suffering from a throbbing headache, his face turning green, Li Hui was nervously directing his men to search for the whereabouts of the safe.

As for Qin Fang, things were much more relaxed on his side; after sending Yu Zheng and Ye Ping back to the hotel, Qin Fang headed to their new base.

He even specifically found a large truck to transport the equally large safe back to the new base.

The origins of this item were dubious, and even if Qin Fang told Chen Da and the others— "I stole this massive safe from Bihai Pavilion," they would probably find it hard to believe.

"Holy shit, Young Master Qin, what do you need such a huge thing for?"

Indeed, when Chen Da and the others saw the massive safe, they were all surprised, clearly not understanding what Qin Fang was up to.

"Quit the nonsense, get the brothers to come over and help, let's get this thing inside... Be careful, the stuff inside is really important!"

Qin Fang chuckled, not directly explaining the origins of the item, and first arranged for it to be unloaded, then sent straight into the base.

"What? This safe belongs to Li Rui..."

During the moving process, Qin Fang casually mentioned the safe's origins to Chen Da, which gave Chen Da quite the shock.

In Ninghai, Li Rui was someone many people didn't want and wouldn't dare to offend. Although his name wasn't enough to stop children from crying, it was still enough to instill fear at the mention of it.

Li Rui was quite troublesome to deal with, and Qin Fang had always found him to be a thorny issue... Although killing him wouldn't be hard, the trouble that came after such an act was hard to deal with.

Until now, Qin Fang had only been passively defending against Li Rui, who always struck first, forcing Qin Fang to defend or just retaliate mildly.

Chen Da and the rest understood that their side was still a bit weak. Although they had won a few minor victories, they were just minor scuffles that hadn't shaken Li Rui's foundations.

Yet unexpectedly, Qin Fang was ruthless this time; he had actually brought back Li Rui's safe—whether it was stolen or snatched, that was no longer important. This deed alone was enough to cause quite an embarrassment for Li Rui.

"Just keep this to yourself, don't let it slip! If I'm not mistaken, Li Rui must be frantically searching everywhere for the safe's whereabouts right now..."

Qin Fang quickly reminded Chen Da; knowing about it was enough, there was no need to reveal it and slap Li Rui's face publicly because that would not lead to Li Rui's embarrassment but rather to his crazed retaliation. He would definitely mobilize full force to try and snatch the safe back.

The existence of certain items in the safe was still unknown to Qin Fang, but just the huge amount of cash and checks inside alone was enough to cause Li Rui considerable pain.

Most of that money came from wealthy gamblers, people with significance, and although it wasn't a problem now, once discovered, Li Rui and Bihai Pavilion would definitely not be able to withstand it.

Qin Fang didn't care how frantic Li Rui was; his current strategy was to quietly make a fortune, delivering a stealthy blow to Li Rui, who still had no idea who his adversary was.

"Don't worry, Young Master Qin, when have I, Old Chen, ever been a gossip?"

Chen Da chuckled. As a former soldier, he was much better with secrecy than those ragtag crowds. Qin Fang emphasized the importance, so Chen Da naturally wouldn't carelessly leak the information.

As for his subordinates, it was the same; they were all former special forces soldiers, the kind who would rather die than betray their comrades. All he needed to do was issue a gag order, and the matter would be buried deep in their hearts, never to be spoken of.

While the two were talking, several people had already worked together to unload the massive safe, weighing several tons, and settled it in a room in the base.

Qin Fang left the others and stayed behind alone, trying to figure out how to open the safe.

The Lockpicking Skill was a bit too mysterious and eerie; it was fine for him to use it alone, but it was inconvenient to use it in front of Chen Da and the others.

"Lockpicking in progress..."

"Sorry, Lockpicking Skill Level too low, operation failed!"

Qin Fang tried again, but the outcome was the same as before: a failure.

"Let's try again..."

Unconvinced, Qin Fang persisted. Although his Lockpicking Skill Level was indeed low, it didn't mean it was completely impossible to open the safe, there was still a slight chance.

"Lockpicking in progress..."

"Sorry, Lockpicking Skill Level too low, operation failed!"

Another attempt, and the result was the same as before, yet another failure.

"Lockpicking in progress..."

"Sorry, Lockpicking Skill Level too low, operation failed!"

"..."

This process repeated many times, so many that Qin Fang himself had lost track of the number of his failures.

The Proficiency of his skill did increase a bit, but the result was still the same; he could not open the custom-made safe.

"Sigh~~ Seems like it can't be opened for now..."

Even though Qin Fang was truly unwilling to give up, facts spoke louder than words; the extended period of attempts had confirmed that his Lockpicking Skill Level was still too low.

Chapter 1096: Strike with Full Force_2

"First, I should enhance my Lockpicking Skill. Once it reaches Intermediate level, maybe I'll be able to open it..." Qin Fang pondered to himself.

Looking at the upgrade bar for his Lockpicking Skill proficiency, it's almost full, only one-fifth left before an upgrade is possible.

Improving the Lockpicking Skill certainly isn't an overnight task. Qin Fang still needs some preparation time, but it won't be too long.

"Brother Da, I'll just leave this thing here for now. Guys, don't touch it yet. I'll deal with it after I get the password and keys from Li Rui..."

Unable to open the safe at the moment, Qin Fang isn't too rushed. After all, it's Li Rui who's losing out, not him, so he doesn't need to be anxious.

After simply informing Chen Da and the others, Qin Fang left the base, leaving the safe there for the time being.

The base is still very well-hidden, and it's located in the south of the city, within Tiger's territory. Even if Li Rui's men find this place, they wouldn't dare to make a rash move.

Not to mention, the weaponry of Chen Da and his men is quite formidable. Qin Fang initially wiped out half of the Remnant Wolf Mercenary Corps and acquired a large stash of weapons for them, effectively arming their squad to the teeth.

Li Rui's people are numerous and powerful, maybe even well-equipped with weapons, but a large-scale gunfight is absolutely impossible in Ninghai.

Even if a real fight did break out, those on Li Rui's side would definitely be the ones suffering.

Do you still expect that a disorganized mob armed with rifles could truly defeat a special forces squad that is coordinated and fully equipped?

Do you really think it's like back in the eight-year resistance war?

Not to mention, who was the main force in the resistance back then is still debatable...

...

Leaving the base, Qin Fang temporarily put the safe matter aside. Right now, Li Rui is probably freaking out over this, his attention completely focused on finding the safe. As for cooperating with Shen Wuben against Qin Fang, he's put that on hold too.

Qin Fang achieved his goal. Since the safe couldn't be opened, the items inside couldn't be taken out right away. Although he didn't gain any real advantage, at least Li Rui was worse off than he was.

How Li Rui will get past this obstacle is momentarily of no concern to Qin Fang. Without Li Rui's crucial support, Shen Wuben is left significantly weaker. Qin Fang can now afford to focus on dealing with him.

However, to handle Shen Wuben, there's one person who needs to be informed in advance—Monk Wukong from Shaolin Temple...

"Monk, you're living quite the carefree and joyful life these days..."

But when Qin Fang saw Monk Wukong, the Flower Monk was actually enjoying his time, indulging in wine and women with two girls in his arms, prompting Qin Fang to tease him.

"Patron Qin, your words are not quite right. As the saying goes: 'Wine and meat pass through the gut, but Buddha stays in the heart.' To me, feminine allure is just but a dust of rouge, unable to shake my true essence."

Monk Wukong's expression remained unchanged, still calm as usual. He grabbed a greasy chicken leg and took a big bite, then playfully pinched the pert buttocks of the girl next to him. This provoked a playful scold from the girl, who cooed, "You actually called me a rouge skull, see how I will deal with you..."

Thus, Monk Wukong demonstrated to Qin Fang a scene of a Buddhist monk subduing the rouge skeletons on the spot... Within moments, he had the girl gasping for air, her cheeks flushed red, looking very seductive.

"You really have a knack for this; are you not afraid of ending up like those fake monks who got exposed at the hotel a few days ago? Then I would like to see if your true essence can still be preserved..."

Qin Fang laughed, not taking Monk Wukong's antics seriously, and casually teased him again.

As for other monks from Shaolin Temple, Qin Fang hadn't interacted with them and had no right to comment. But at least, Monk Wukong here, though he munches on meat, drinks wine, and embraces pretty, sensuous girls, his eyes betrayed a clarity unlike the lustful gazes of other patrons.

From this, it's not hard to tell that Monk Wukong's mental fortitude is indeed quite solid. Mere beauty, strong liquor, and meat indeed cannot sway his devoted Buddhist heart.

Of course, this does not change the fact that he's violated the precepts...

But—

"I'm not from Shaolin Temple, why should I care!"

Qin Fang's thoughts were simple; he and Monk Wukong were now on the same side and were even somewhat friends.

Since they were friends, Qin Fang naturally wouldn't betray Monk Wukong, especially since the attitude of Shaolin Temple towards him was still uncertain. There was no need for Qin Fang to go out of his way to ingratiate himself with Shaolin Temple.

"By the way, there's something I need to discuss with you..."

Qin Fang waved his hand, dismissing the girls accompanying Monk Wukong, and then started discussing serious matters with him.

"The matter with Shen Wuben?"

Monk Wukong had now reverted to his former demeanor as a high Buddhist monk. Hearing Qin Fang's words, he showed no doubt and immediately counter-asked.

"Exactly..."

Qin Fang nodded, not hiding his intent. This matter had to be discussed with Monk Wukong first; otherwise, if he really handled Shen Wuben, it might be difficult to explain here with Monk Wukong.

The stance of Shaolin Temple remained unclear. Shen Wuben wanted to deal with him and reclaim the Buddha Bone Relic, while Monk Wukong wanted to protect him. The relationships were truly too muddled.

"Then just do as you see fit..."

Seeing how straightforward Qin Fang was, Monk Wukong didn't bother with further idle talk. With just that simple sentence, he continued to drink his wine and eat his meat.

"Aren't you afraid I might..."

Qin Fang was slightly stunned, finding it odd that Monk Wukong would react this way, and couldn't help but inquire.

But as the words reached his lips, Qin Fang stopped just right there.

"That's destiny! If Shen Wuben is fated to face this calamity, even if I stop you this time, he will meet it next time... Since that's the case, why should I bother meddling, let all be as fate wills!"

Monk Wukong not surprisingly responded as expected, while gnawing on a chicken leg, seeming very indifferent about Shen Wuben's fate.

"Alright, that's all I needed to hear, I know what to do now..."

Qin Fang scrutinized Monk Wukong for a long time and couldn't see even a flicker of change in his expression, then nodded in acknowledgment.

His purpose this time was to notify Monk Wukong before handling Shen Wuben, and now that it was achieved without causing any disagreements, naturally, he was very satisfied.

As for how Monk Wukong and Shen Wuben had such a big grievance, that was not something Qin Fang needed to delve into. It was a matter between Shen Wuben and Monk Wukong.

This was quite understandable since Monk Wukong and Shen Wuben studied under different masters, and their masters' relationship had long been at odds. Their disciples not getting along was inevitable.

Whether in the mountains or outside, as fellow sect brothers, Monk Wukong and Shen Wuben should not be killing each other, even if they were rivals. Any confrontation should be moderate and stop at the immediate point.

However, if it involved Qin Fang acting, whether it was injuring Shen Wuben or even killing him outright, Monk Wukong would be delighted to see that happen.

Monk Wukong was commanded by his master to protect Qin Fang. As long as Qin Fang was safe, his mission was not a failure, as for Shen Wuben's life and death—very simply, why should he care!

Chapter 1097: Confronting Shen Wuben

Having greeted Monk Wukong, Qin Fang felt no need for further politeness, ridding himself of a psychological burden.

Of course, Qin Fang never really felt much of a burden to begin with; he simply didn't want his relationship with Monk Wukong to become too strained, especially since they currently maintained a relatively decent rapport.

After parting with Monk Wukong, Qin Fang immediately began to search for Shen Wuben's whereabouts.

Now, Li Rui must be at his wits' end, no longer in the mood to continue collaborating with Shen Wuben against Qin Fang, giving Qin Fang a relatively easier time.

Finding Shen Wuben wasn't particularly difficult. Qin Fang enlisted Tiger's help, and although his influence didn't extend to the downtown area, he was still capable of gathering intel. In just half an hour or so, news came in.

"Is this a tradition for all monks from Shaolin Temple?"

When Qin Fang learned of Shen Wuben's location, his expression was quite odd, and he couldn't help but murmur this thought.

Imperial Palace Nightclub. It was a somewhat reputable nightclub in Ninghai, though it fell short by quite a bit in class compared to Elite Salon and Bihai Pavilion. Despite the tacky name, the place wasn't cheap, and a visit could seriously dent an average person's wallet.

Shen Wuben was currently in a private room of Imperial Palace Nightclub, enjoying his time singing and drinking with four very beautiful ladies... He was living it up in carefree comfort.

Perhaps because life in the mountains was too harsh, as a powerful Grandmaster-level Expert cultivating the robust and vigorous techniques of Shaolin Temple, Shen Wuben had a lot of pent-up energy needing release. Given the opportunity, he certainly wouldn't let it pass.

Back in Yangcheng, Shen Wuben was already infamous for his fondness for the company of women, requiring several at a time to barely satisfy his desires.

The situation was no different in Ninghai; he needed several women at once to allow him a proper release, or else he would remain unfulfilled.

This was a minor matter to Li Rui, who didn't even have to make a move. A slight hint from Shen Wuben, and his subordinates would immediately make the arrangements for him.

However, the cooperation between Li Rui and Shen Wuben was nothing more than a mutual exploitation for their own needs, far from trust, but rather a shared goal.

Without this common goal, it was hard to say how their relationship would evolve. So Li Rui was unable to lodge Shen Wuben in his stronghold, the Bihai Pavilion, preferring instead the Imperial Palace Nightclub.

Although Shen Wuben was treated to the best of conditions and luxuries, he had nothing to complain about.

Meanwhile, turmoil reigned in Bihai Pavilion, with Li Rui desperately searching everywhere for the missing safebox, to no avail. He was utterly frustrated, his face permanently clouded, his tone increasingly harsh, his anger painstakingly repressed...

But to any observant person, it was clear that Li Rui was on the brink of an outburst, one that would be terribly violent if someone were to provoke it...

Even across the telephone, Shen Wuben could sense the suppressed rage in Li Rui's voice, prompting him to decisively hang up, unwilling to get involved.

Li Rui was wary of Shen Wuben, and Shen Wuben was equally cautious around Li Rui. The Imperial Palace Nightclub might have been within Li Rui's territory, but it wasn't directly under his control and was somewhat associated with Shaolin Temple instead.

Shen Wuben was able to wield Shaolin's influence to some extent—not for major issues, but he could sort out smaller troubles if needed.

Li Rui, as the underground boss of Ninghai with significant official influence from his "second generation" official parentage, was feeling stifled by this black and white intersection of his double identity indicating some serious troubles...

If Shen Wuben were to intervene, Li Rui would naturally take advantage and ask for his help, and then it would be difficult for Shen Wuben to refuse.

No one would do something for nothing, and Shen Wuben was no exception... so he hung up decisively, too lazy to even inquire further, embracing the philosophy of "less trouble, the better," and went back to his merry, carefree indulgences.

As for Li Rui's troubles—what do they have to do with me!

With Shen Wuben making no inquiries about Li Rui's issues and Li Rui not volunteering any information, their communication temporarily ceased.

But the one thing they had in common was the likelihood of them teaming up again the moment Qin Fang showed up.

Qin Fang saw right through this, which is why he restrained Li Rui first and then went after Shen Wuben, reducing his own pressure significantly.

Qin Fang did not go to Imperial Palace Nightclub alone; he brought Song Qingshan along as well, ensuring a fail-safe operation.

Shen Wuben's strength may not compare to Monk Wukong, who has successfully braved Wooden Men Lane, but when facing Qin Fang or Song Qingshan alone, he might not be much weaker.

If Qin Fang does not use heavy weaponry, he has no assurance of keeping Shen Wuben in place...

And once Shen Wuben escapes, it could become a significant issue for Qin Fang later on, which is why he also brought Song Qingshan along—not to kill the enemy, but just to block Shen Wuben's escape.

In the VIP room at the top floor of Imperial Palace Nightclub.

Four young and beautiful girls surrounded Shen Wuben, one sitting there with a microphone singing a song, one peeling grapes to feed Shen Wuben with her seductive little mouth...

Only Shen Wuben was enjoying the spicy feeding of the girls, his hands not idle—one had snuck under the hem of a girl's clothes, lifting her little bra, grasping a smooth and towering breast as he toyed with it; the other hand was fiddling at the small stream of another girl...

Though Shen Wuben had learned his skills at Shaolin Temple for many years, his handiwork here seemed quite excellent, teasing so easily that it made that girl blush, her delicate face now red and dripping with charm, her little mouth slightly open, seemingly emitting low and nearly inaudible moans, and her eyes were filled with endless heat...

The scene was one of extreme sexiness and heat!

Although they hadn't gotten to actual physical action, it was pretty close.

Bang~~

Just when Shen Wuben was about to do the deed with the tempting demoness on the spot, the door to the room was suddenly opened from the outside.

Without a single knock beforehand, someone just walked in so boldly.

This scene suddenly ruined Shen Wuben's good mood, and his face showed considerable dissatisfaction, even his eyes brimming with intent to kill.

Imperial Palace Nightclub has some connections with Shaolin Temple, and although it's not overt, the club's boss had long given instructions to treat Shen Wuben as a VIP, forbidding anyone to disobey his wishes.

Shen Wuben had no interest in mingling with ordinary people; he focused on playing with women, the VIP room in Ninghai was exclusively his, and he had made it clear that without his permission, no one was allowed to enter, not even the nightclub's boss.

But now someone had ignored his prohibition and barged in—and at the moment when Shen Wuben was about to take off his pants to have a good time, how could he not be angry?

Enraged, Shen Wuben with murderous eyes gently pushed away the girls beside him, preparing to deal with this ignorant fool, and immediately looked towards the two people who had walked in.

These two were none other than Qin Fang and Song Qingshan. While the VIP rooms on the top floor are often booked in advance and not accessible to ordinary people, it wasn't too difficult for Qin Fang, who easily made his way here, providing Shen Wuben with an unexpected surprise.

"It's you?"

When Shen Wuben recognized Qin Fang's face, he also showed a look of surprise, clearly not expecting Qin Fang to suddenly appear here.

"Indeed, it's me!"

Qin Fang appeared quite calm, speaking casually and then sitting down on the sofa not far from Shen Wuben, with Song Qingshan quietly standing behind him, resembling a bodyguard.

"I suppose there's no need for us to get acquainted again, although this is our first meeting..."

Having sat down, Qin Fang still sported the same expression, speaking indifferently.

"No need indeed..."

As a Grandmaster-level expert, Shen Wuben also had remarkable control over his own emotions, quickly regaining his composure, he gestured with his hand, sending all those ignorant girls away.

Shen Wuben certainly knew who Qin Fang was, having inquired in great detail.

Although he had always thought that Qin Fang had not returned to Ninghai—at least there was no news from Li Rui's end, now that Qin Fang was here, and had come directly to his door, it was clear that both were here for the same reason.

With men about to discuss serious matters, these girls were no longer needed and were sent away by him. The girls, sharp as they were, realized that they could not be a part of this and left quickly...

"I heard Mr. Shen came to Ninghai specifically for Qin. When Qin Fang first heard the news, he was quite flattered... It's just that there was an affair that called me away from Ninghai, so I couldn't meet with you. That's why as soon as I got back, I came looking for you..."

Chapter 1098: Tit for Tat

Shen Wuben was slightly older than Qin Fang, about the same age as Song Qingshan, at around thirty years of age. To possess such cultivation at this age among the younger generation definitely made one a first-class expert.

Of course, this was after excluding the inner sect disciples of those ancient sects and then making the comparison... If these ancient sect disciples were included, Shen Wuben and Song Qingshan would be considered only above average at best.

Shaolin Temple is one of the oldest and most powerful sects, with countless experts among its ranks, and Grandmaster Level is the bare minimum cultivation for its disciples...

However, even within the Shaolin Temple, there is a significant difference between inner sect disciples and secular disciples. The more superior resources are inclined towards the inner sect disciples. The elite disciples could even have access to the most resources, while the secular disciples have it much harder; they are just somewhat stronger than those from other sects outside.

Shen Wuben was one of such secular disciples. Hence, even if both were Grandmaster-level Experts, Monk Wukong, who was even younger than him, could almost make Shen Wuben unable to raise his head if the two were to spar...

This had little to do with Qin Fang, but Qin Fang didn't dare to show even the slightest contempt for Shen Wuben because of it; doing so would only put him at a disadvantage.

Especially since Shen Wuben was surrounded by a faint red glow, Qin Fang had to be very cautious towards him, indicating that Shen Wuben harbored considerable hostility towards Qin Fang.

"I am indeed flattered..."

While Qin Fang was sizing up Shen Wuben, Shen Wuben was also paying attention to Qin Fang. Although he had already seen photos of Qin Fang, this was their first meeting in person.

The difference between the person and a photograph was still pretty obvious. At least by looking at the photo, Shen Wuben could not gauge what kind of person Qin Fang was, or the extent of his formidable strength... But now, looking at Qin Fang himself, he could make some guesses.

Very few could discern Qin Fang's cultivation level; at least Shen Wuben couldn't. But Qin Fang's composed demeanor as he sat there had already made Shen Wuben quite vigilant.

The sight of Song Qingshan standing like a standard-bearer behind Qin Fang caused even Shen Wuben, a secular disciple of Shaolin with Grandmaster-level strength, to frown involuntarily.

Especially when the gazes of Shen Wuben and Song Qingshan inadvertently collided, sparks burst forth radiantly between the two of them.

If it weren't for the fact that this was not the place to fight, they might both have wanted to test each other's skills already. For many, the opportunity to spar with a peer of equal expertise was something eagerly sought after.

Of course, compared to the official business at hand, this had to be set aside for the moment.

"Mr. Qin, since you've already arrived, I won't waste words. You must know that I am here for the Buddha Bone Relic, which is a sacred item of our Shaolin Temple and should rightfully be returned..."

Shen Wuben straightened his expression, getting down to business with Qin Fang and not concealing his intentions.

He stated his reasons so self-righteously, as if not returning the relic would seem completely unjustifiable,

"As I understand, the Buddhist Sect emphasizes the law of karma; since the Buddha Bone Relic has come into my possession, it means I am due to be connected with it. If it is already your Shaolin Temple's sacred item, why should I return it and make a fool of myself?"

Qin Fang found Shen Wuben's words to be quite ridiculous. Although Shaolin Temple was powerful and sometimes quite domineering, this kind of bullying seemed a little too much, and understandably, no one would be happy with it, Qin Fang included.

Especially Shen Wuben's arrogant demeanor was quite irksome to Qin Fang; it would be strange if he behaved politely...

"Of course, our Shaolin Temple won't let Mr. Qin suffer this loss for nothing; we naturally would offer Mr. Qin some compensation!"

Shen Wuben didn't mind, knowing that this kind of negotiation involved starting with extravagant demands to then bargain down. From the beginning, he knew that this wouldn't be a matter that could be settled with just a few simple sentences.

Upon hearing Qin Fang's words, Shen Wuben smiled lightly, maintaining a detached expression.

"Oh, some compensation? What a concept... I am indeed curious as to what this 'certain' compensation entails..."

Qin Fang scoffed, his eyes brimming with sarcasm.

Shen Wuben was basically trying to fool him as if he were an idiot. Never mind that Qin Fang wouldn't simply hand over the Buddha Bone Relic to Shen Wuben, even if he did consider giving it back to Shaolin Temple, it surely wouldn't be settled just with some unsubstantial talk.

"This matter would need to be decided by the elders in our sect... However, according to my estimate, it should be possible to exchange for a secret mental method passed down in Shaolin Temple, or a Healing Sacred Medicine like the Great Rejuvenation Pill... These are treasures that many people outside long for but can't obtain!"

Shen Wuben seemed to be well-versed in the art of negotiation, offering one empty promise after another, and he talked about them as if they were real, with convincing details.

"A secret mental method? Could it be the Seventy-two Ultimate Skills of Shaolin? That's actually worth considering... As for the Great Rejuvenation Pill, forget it, I'm still so young, I don't want to die so early..."

In any case, Qin Fang was also just spouting nonsense with his eyes open and started to ramble back, increasingly heavy with sarcasm in his tone.

Shen Wuben wasn't a fool and could certainly hear the meaning behind Qin Fang's words, could he not?

The Seventy-two Ultimate Skills?

The value of the Buddha Bone Relic truly warranted one of the Seventy-two Ultimate Skills, though not for Qin Fang, but for Shen Wuben himself.

As long as he brought this Buddha Bone Relic back to the Shaolin Temple's Inner Gate and offered it to his master, his master could use it as a basis to request the Council of Elders to impart one of Shaolin's Seventy-two Ultimate Skills to Shen Wuben.

Although Shen Wuben's cultivation had already reached the Grandmaster Level, he had not learned any of the Seventy-two Ultimate Skills of Shaolin and had only practiced some more basic cultivation techniques. Though his strength was quite formidable, it was a world apart compared to the Seventy-two Ultimate Skills of Shaolin.

Take Monk Wukong, for instance; his Reed Crossing River Technique was something even Qin Fang coveted, not to mention Shen Wuben, who had seen others perform this movement technique but was not qualified to cultivate it himself...

As for the Great Rejuvenation Pill, it indeed was a Healing Sacred Medicine. Even within Shaolin Temple, they did not have an abundance of it. Primarily, it was controlled by a few of the most powerful elders.

The Shaolin disciples usually carried the Minor Restoration Pill with them, the effects of which were significantly reduced, yet it was still an excellent medicinal remedy for healing... Essentially, every Grandmaster-level Disciple carried one, including Shen Wuben who had one with him.

The Seventy-two Ultimate Skills of Shaolin Temple were the secret skills that upheld Shaolin's dominance over the Martial World. They were not easily revealed to outsiders, and the Great Rejuvenation Pill was even considered one of the best Healing Sacred Medicines. Many Elite Disciples of the Inner Gate didn't have the chance to access it, let alone Shen Wuben.

The Buddha Bone Relic might be worth a Great Rejuvenation Pill, but obviously, Shaolin Temple wouldn't trade a Great Rejuvenation Pill for it...

All things considered, Shen Wuben's words from beginning to end were utter nonsense, not a word of it was reliable.

Since none of it was true, Qin Fang had no intention of speaking the truth either and began to ramble as well, wanting to see who would cave first.

"That's easy to say, as long as Mr. Qin gives me the Buddha Bone Relic to bring back to Shaolin Temple, I will then request the elders to teach Mr. Qin a secret technique from the Seventy-two Ultimate Skills..."

Shen Wuben continued to talk nonsense with his eyes closed, sounding as if it were the truth, yet in reality, he didn't even have the qualification to be granted an audience with the Shaolin elders—he was just a Secular Disciple, whose status was only slightly better than those miscellany servants who chopped wood and carried water.

"I'm afraid that won't do. I think it's better for Mr. Shen to invite the esteemed elders of your temple to bring one of the Seventy-two Ultimate Skills here. It's always better for us to exchange goods for money directly..."

Qin Fang laughed, seemingly disapproving of Shen Wuben's approach, and deliberately suggested a modification. The message was clear—if you want the Buddha Bone Relic, you need someone of significant status from Shaolin Temple to make the trade, otherwise, forget it.

"If Mr. Qin is to put it that way, then it really loses all meaning. You should know that there are rules in the temple. It is not permitted for the monks to arbitrarily leave the mountain, not even the elders are exceptions..."

Even Shen Wuben did not anticipate Qin Fang to be so difficult to deal with, but he quickly turned the situation around with a very compelling reason. This was a fact well known in the Martial World, and for once, he actually spoke a true statement.

"That's not correct. You just said that the Buddha Bone Relic is a sacred object of Shaolin Temple. For such an important event as welcoming back a sacred relic, how could it be considered a casual departure from the mountain? I don't expect all the elders to come together, but having one or two is not a big issue, right..."

When it came to nonsense, Qin Fang didn't necessarily fear Shen Wuben, as shown by the current situation, where neither seemed focused on the actual negotiation, and yet they continued to argue back and forth, seemingly making sense with their points.

"Mr. Qin, now what you are saying truly has no meaning. I have said all I needed to say. The Buddha Bone Relic is in Mr. Qin's hands; the decision is naturally yours. Now I just want to ask—one last time: Will Mr. Qin return the Buddha Bone Relic, or will you refuse to return it..."

Shen Wuben seemed to have lost his patience too, after so much pointless chatter with Qin Fang without any substantial progress, and with Qin Fang revealing no openings, it made Shen Wuben quite helpless.

Being gentle was definitely not working, and at this moment, Shen Wuben's aura began to escalate, the increasing intensity pressing down on Qin Fang, seemingly ready to take a harder stance.

"I'm afraid that will truly disappoint Mr. Shen. I still stand by my words—if you want the Buddha Bone Relic, it's possible, but only if someone very significant from your temple comes, otherwise—let's forget it!"

Chapter 1099: A Move to Disable

To just take the Buddha Bone Relic from Qin Fang's hands like this would be way too cheap for Shen Wuben, not to mention that Qin Fang had never intended to hand over the Buddha Bone Relic to Shen Wuben.

Given what Shen Wuben had done to Qin Fang, the relationship between the two had long been irreversible. No one could guarantee that they wouldn't suddenly erupt into a fight.

Seeing the increasingly dense red glow on Shen Wuben, Qin Fang knew that the two were destined to oppose each other, and could even become sworn enemies...

The origins of the Buddha Bone Relic, Qin Fang had already learned from Monk Wukong, were by no means as simple as just something the Shaolin Temple needed. To be precise, it was Shen Wuben's master who needed it.

Qin Fang had yet to grasp the full use of the Buddha Bone Relic. Even in his teachings, Monk Wukong remained tight-lipped about it, clearly touching upon some secrets of the Buddhist Sect. As an Elite Disciple of the Inner Gate of Shaolin Temple, Monk Wukong could break minor monastic rules, but as for matters concerning the foundations of the Buddhist Sect, he was determined not to speak of them.

Yet, the more it was so, the more Qin Fang understood that the Buddha Bone Relic was absolutely tied to a huge secret. This was why Shen Wuben's master was so keen on it, sending Shen Wuben out to search for it, and when necessary, to use some unorthodox measures to take it away...

When the Buddha Bone Relic was in the hands of the Su Family, Shen Wuben had let Zhao Si employ rather despicable means to try to get hold of it —(actually, it was Zhao Si's own initiative); and when the relic came into Qin Fang's possession, Shen Wuben once again sought to repeat the same tactics on Qin Fang. He specifically colluded with Qin Fang's enemy, Li Rui, attempting to make a move on Qin Fang and take away the Buddha Bone Relic...

However, although their plan was not bad, Qin Fang did not give them any chance. Just as they were about to act, Qin Fang suddenly departed for the south, forcing them to continue waiting for his return.

Yet, Qin Fang did show up, but it was not them who found or targeted Qin Fang first; it was Qin Fang who directly came looking for them, rendering the original plan useless.

"It seems Mr. Qin prefers punishment over the toast..."

With things having reached this point, Shen Wuben could no longer present a facade of goodwill to Qin Fang. His hypocritical mask was instantly torn apart, and his expression turned extremely gloomy as he looked at Qin Fang with a murderous glint in his eyes.

Qin Fang clearly saw the red light on Shen Wuben's body suddenly become even more intense, as if the entire area had been dyed red.

At this moment, Shen Wuben regarded Qin Fang with undisguised animosity. Real murderous intent was present...

"I've seen no respectful toasts, only compulsory penalties..."

Looking at Shen Wuben, who was now fully unleashing his killing intent, not only did Qin Fang not worry at all, but he replied indifferently, seemingly not taking Shen Wuben too seriously.

"Do you think he can protect you?"

Shen Wuben tensed his body, fully mobilizing his Inner Breath, clearly ready to strike at Qin Fang. But seeing that Song Qingshan behind Qin Fang had the same reaction, a trace of wariness flashed in Shen Wuben's eyes.

Although Shen Wuben had not yet fought Song Qingshan, he had ascertained that Song Qingshan was undoubtedly a Grandmaster-level Expert who was not weaker than him, and one with formidable combat capabilities.

"Capture the ringleader first to catch his followers... Let's capture this brat first!"

If he were to confront Song Qingshan, Shen Wuben was not fully confident in defeating him, and since his target was not Song Qingshan, he naturally would not provoke Song Qingshan. Instead, he resolved secretly and with a slight motion, his hands shaped like claws, he quickly reached for Qin Fang's chest.

Shen Wuben's attack was incredibly fast, like a phantom, almost instantaneously reaching Qin Fang's chest. It was almost too late for Song Qingshan to react and intervene.

Thump~~

But just as Shen Wuben was about to capture Qin Fang and then use him to threaten Song Qingshan, thus achieving his plan to "capture the ringleader first," just as he was about to strike, a sinister shadow appeared on Qin Fang's hand and forcefully stabbed forward...

The shadow was a Military Spike with a very sharp tip and a blood groove on it, something that could turn into a nightmare if stabbed by it, potentially leaving one bleeding out or, at the very least, severely ill from blood loss...

Ah!!

Shen Wuben's face turned completely pale as he tightly clutched his blood-drenched palm which now had a gaping bloody hole, looking quite gruesome.

This was because he withdrew his hand quickly in reflex action; only then did he sustain a hole instead of a potentially crippling injury.

Even so, Shen Wuben couldn't act tough at this point. Clutching his palm, he retreated to the side, watching Qin Fang cautiously, looking at the bloody Military Spike in Qin Fang's hand with an extremely ugly expression.

He had underestimated Qin Fang, thinking he was just an ordinary person who had perhaps practiced Martial Arts for a few days... The cultivation of Martial Arts outside was much slower.

Chapter 1100: One Move to Waste_2

Young people of Qin Fang's age are mostly at around Level 3, with only a few geniuses capable of stepping into Level 4. Those who can reach Level 5 are absolutely rare.

Below the rank of Grandmaster Level, all are merely ants; even a peak Level 5 expert is still facing a considerable gulf when compared to a Grandmaster-level Expert.

Many might soon overcome this barrier, but for some, they may never cross it in their entire lifetime...

This was precisely why Shen Wuben didn't pay much attention to Qin Fang from the beginning, focusing instead on guarding against Song Qingshan, who seemed no weaker than him.

But it was at this moment that problems arose; Qin Fang had seemed just like any ordinary young man, unremarkable until he made a move.

And it was such an unremarkable young man who had crippled one of his hands with a single move... Shen Wuben practiced palm techniques, and now, with one hand disabled, his combat effectiveness was significantly reduced, possibly to only half or even one third of his usual capacity.

With such a large hole left in the palm of his hand, Shen Wuben was in considerable pain, and his hatred for Qin Fang deepened, wishing he could tear Qin Fang limb from limb to vent the anger and hatred in his heart.

However, the situation now seemed quite unfavorable for him. Although this was his territory, there were not many who could prove useful; in fact, it could be said that there were none...

Without help, facing Song Qingshan, an opponent not weaker than himself, and Qin Fang, who seemed to be quite a formidable young expert, along with his own injured hand and diminished fighting power, Shen Wuben had no intention of staying put. His gaze drifted subtly, taking note of the room's door, obviously contemplating an escape.

This is the top floor of the nightclub, usually very quiet, and this room's door is the only way out—unless someone wants to be bold and jump out the window, which is merely a few dozen meters high. They may not necessarily fall to their death...

The moment Shen Wuben entertained the thought of retreat, he immediately put it into action. His body moved slightly as he prepared to rise and flee, though his actions appeared as if he were about to attack Qin Fang once more.

But Qin Fang was not so easily fooled. The moment the red glow on Shen Wuben's body dimmed significantly, he knew it was just a feint, a diversion with another purpose.

Besides attacking Qin Fang directly and capturing him to gain a bargaining chip, targeting Qin Fang was evidently one of the available options. But since Qin Fang knew that Shen Wuben hadn't chosen that, there was only one other possibility...

"Trying to leave? It won't be that easy..."

Seeing Shen Wuben trying to flee, Qin Fang immediately let out a cold shout, and his counterattack followed swiftly.

Qin Fang initially wanted to use his gun, but considering the environment, he abandoned the idea. With a flick of his wrist, a black iron tube appeared in Qin Fang's hand.

No sooner had Shen Wuben thought of escaping, his body barely moving, when he suddenly heard Qin Fang's words. Instinctively, he glanced over at Qin Fang and instantly froze; his entire being became rigid there and then because he noticed the object in Qin Fang's hand.

"Are you a disciple of the Tang Sect?"

Upon seeing the thing in Qin Fang's hand, Shen Wuben's face changed dramatically, no longer as arrogant as before. Mixed with his surprise and astonishment, there was also a considerable fear...

The Tang Sect, a sect not weaker than the Shaolin Temple, is an ancient faction known for its poisons and hidden weapons. Though not part of the orthodox, it wields supreme authority among the side sects.

The Tang Sect Twin Marvels, hidden weapons, and poisons, all make countless martial arts experts extremely wary and fearful; no one can be sure they won't be struck by a hidden weapon or poisoned and die an unnatural death...

Even the disciples of Shaolin Temple are no exception. Even if they have practiced a powerful Body Protecting Divine Skill, impervious to blades and resistant to fire and water, they still cannot fend off the assault of poisons.

Moreover, all of the Ten Great Hidden Weapons of the Tang Sect are specialized in breaking through body-protecting divine skills, with a track record of success for each one. Combined with the extremely lethal power they possess, almost no one can withstand them...

The object Qin Fang was holding in his hand, although not very large and not imposing too much pressure by appearance—after all, it was just an inanimate object—it still exerted an immense amount of pressure on Shen Wuben.

Because this seemingly insignificant little object, just based on its external appearance, resembled the Storm Pear Blossom, one of the Ten Great Hidden Weapons of Tang Sect...

The Ten Great Hidden Weapons of the Tang Sect are quite mysterious, and very few people have seen what they actually look like due to their rare appearances.

And because they are incredibly challenging to forge, their numbers are also extremely limited. The higher ranked the weapon, the fewer in existence. It is said that there is only one of the number one ranked weapon throughout the history of the Tang Sect. Although the descendants of the Tang Sect had

tried very hard to replicate it, none could reach the original's standard, and they eventually had to give up.

With such scarcity comes an extremely low usage rate. Moreover, since the Tang Sect receded from the Martial World hundreds of years ago to hide in the mountains and forests, it became even more unlikely for them to appear again.

However, Storm Pear Blossom is among the more abundant of the Ten Great Hidden Weapons. The Shaolin Temple, once the foremost faction in the world, all-encompassing, also had close connections with all the major factions.

Though the Tang Sect had not appeared in the world for hundreds of years, they still maintained ties with the other ancient factions, such as the Shaolin Temple and the Kunlun Sect.

Their disciples have even had matches and exchanges, so comparatively, they were somewhat more knowledgeable than other external factions.

The Tang Sect Twin Marvels were thus well-known to the disciples of Shaolin Temple. Some of the Ten Great Hidden Weapons have even been revealed before, with Storm Pear Blossom being one of them.

Although Shen Wuben was not an Inner Sect Disciple, he had the fortune of seeing the diagrams of these rare Hidden Weapons of the Tang Sect, including the Storm Pear Blossom. Now, suddenly seeing that Qin Fang held one, he was immediately frightened...

Which of the Ten Great Hidden Weapons of the Tang Sect is not famous and imposing? The appearance of any one of them would lead most people to utter despair, even if a Grandmaster-level Expert cannot

guarantee resisting the assault of the Ten Great Hidden Weapons. Now, as only a Grandmaster-level Expert, how could Shen Wuben possibly withstand it?

Therefore, seeing this object resembling the Storm Pear Blossom that Qin Fang deliberately took out, even though he was uncertain about Qin Fang's identity, he did not dare to act rashly at this moment.

"It's not important who I am..."

Qin Fang shook his head; he hadn't expected that although Shen Wuben's strength wasn't particularly outstanding, his discernment was exceptionally precise.

He had just taken the Storm Pear Blossom out, and the young man recognized it immediately, causing him to become cautious and careful, while also trying his best to protect his own body.

The fame of the Storm Pear Blossom had already intimidated the Martial World hundreds of years ago, and the number of Martial Arts Experts who died at its hands is countless, almost none of them obscure individuals.

Mainly because those obscure individuals had already faded into obscurity, killing such people brought no sense of achievement. Especially using Storm Pear Blossom for such a task would only sully its reputation.

Although Shen Wuben is a Grandmaster-level Expert, his reputation in the Martial World is probably not as distinguished as that of Song Qingshan. After all, he has only just descended from the Inner Temple of the Shaolin Temple and hasn't made a name for himself in the Martial World yet.

However, Qin Fang didn't truly intend to use Storm Pear Blossom against Shen Wuben. After all, restoring it once would require 400 Justice Points. To kill someone like Shen Wuben, it simply wouldn't be worth it.

If Qin Fang had to make a choice, he would rather shoot Shen Wuben with a gun here, which would be more hassle-free. Bullets are, after all, much cheaper than restoring Storm Pear Blossom...