

Genius 1411

Chapter 1411 - I'll Fight!

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Ten years ago, Kawasaki Ichiro was already at the level of a Gambling King, and his strength was on par with Yu Zheng, the former Asian Gambling King.

Although it's unclear why he retired back then as well, his strength is definitely not to be underestimated.

For over a decade, Yu Zheng almost never gambled, but his realm has reached a certain level of transcendence, and his strength has not declined but advanced.

Kawasaki Ichiro is the same. Although he rarely gambles, he is focused on training disciples. Even a former World Gambling King like Gambling King He is willing to entrust his son to him, which shows the high trust and recognition of Kawasaki Ichiro's strength...

This Gambling King-level expert was invited by He Feifan to participate in this duel. Although it seems like using a cannon to kill a mosquito...an unnecessary move, it shows how much He Feifan values this battle against Qin Fang!

"This is really a tough opponent..."

Kawasaki Ichiro's strength, Qin Fang estimates, shouldn't differ much from the current Yu Zheng. Even if Yu Zheng faced him, it would likely be an even match.

If it were an average Gambling King, they might not even be his opponent...

"It seems He Feifan really went to great lengths to deal with me!"

With such a simple thought, Qin Fang also understood He Feifan's intention.

In such a gambling duel, He Feifan seems to fear that Qin Fang might pay to invite a Gambling King to intervene. Although He Feifan's gambling skills aren't bad, compared to a Gambling King, he's still quite lacking.

With Qin Fang's status and wealth, plus the face of the Qu Family, inviting a Gambling King to step in wouldn't be difficult. He Feifan estimated to ensure nothing goes wrong, so he invited his mentor Kawasaki Ichiro to handle it.

Kawasaki Ichiro has been retired from the martial world for over a decade, and there are almost no legends about him in the martial world anymore. But any slightly older Gambling King knows his extraordinary gambling skills, and this first comeback duel will surely be a resounding victory...

Those who can have an intense match with Kawasaki Ichiro and not lose are the elites among Gambling Kings. There really aren't many who have such confidence... at least one of the favorites to win the championship, Japan's Gambling King Tian Gangchuan, admits he is not as good as Kawasaki Ichiro!

Tian Gangchuan is considered a strong expert among Gambling Kings, and most of the Gambling Kings participating in this Gambling King Tournament are of similar strength to him, slightly weaker than Yu Zheng, Kawasaki Ichiro, and the others.

This doesn't mean they will surely lose to Yu Zheng or Kawasaki Ichiro. If a small surge of form occurs, or if Yu Zheng or Kawasaki Ichiro perform slightly poorly, defeating these two isn't impossible.

But this would only be in lucky circumstances. Generally, if Yu Zheng and Kawasaki Ichiro don't make major mistakes, their chances of winning are quite solid.

If they experience such a failure before the tournament, it would be a serious blow to the Gambling King's confidence, which could affect their performance in subsequent matches. If the outcome of such a duel is a crushing defeat, it's indeed a fatal blow!

On the other hand, a victorious Kawasaki Ichiro can use this great win to boost his vitality, spirit, and mentality to the best state. Then, in the official tournament, he can outshine others and seize the crown of Asian Gambling King! Then proceed to challenge the title of World Gambling King...

"Young Master Qin, do you want me to fight on your behalf?"

After talking about Kawasaki Ichiro, Yu Zheng offered proactively.

Yu Zheng himself is also looking forward to the duel with Kawasaki Ichiro. He didn't have the opportunity ten years ago, and now that both of them are back in the martial world, using such a duel to motivate and uplift their condition is also a major pre-match boost!

As for winning or losing, Yu Zheng is now filled with confidence, and his condition is quite good. Even if Kawasaki Ichiro is of the same Gambling King level as him, he believes he can win.

Kawasaki Ichiro has such thoughts, and Yu Zheng himself has the same thoughts. So, he isn't afraid of Kawasaki Ichiro, but rather looks forward to it a bit.

"Uncle Yu, you should focus on preparing for the World Championship, Kawasaki Ichiro is unlikely to compete with you..."

But Qin Fang said nonchalantly, even indicating it with great conviction.

Kawasaki Ichiro indeed has formidable strength and is a very tough Gambling King, but Qin Fang might not be afraid of him. Yu Zheng and Kawasaki Ichiro are both master-level experts among Gambling Kings, and seasoned gambling masters who are indeed stronger than ordinary Gambling Kings.

But Qin Fang may not necessarily lose to Kawasaki Ichiro. With his master-level scouting skill, combined with advanced cheating skills, the two together might not match those gambling grandmasters, but against Yu Zheng or Kawasaki Ichiro, they are definitely not weak by any means...

"Are you really confident?"

Yu Zheng knows that Qin Fang's gambling skills are very strong, almost as good as his own, but their previous encounters were before he had fully recovered. Now is his peak state, and facing him in peak condition, from Yu Zheng's viewpoint, Qin Fang's chance of winning is nonexistent.

Considering that Kawasaki Ichiro's strength should be similar to his own, Qin Fang's confidence is good, but the odds are extremely unfavorable, which is why Yu Zheng is so concerned.

"I can't guarantee a full certainty, but there's a sixty to seventy percent chance..."

Qin Fang stated quite candidly, even suggesting that his odds might be slightly higher.

This wasn't just a burst of overconfidence; it was because Qin Fang genuinely had the strength to back it up.

Yu Zheng's concerns were indeed valid, but he didn't realize that Qin Fang's prowess was continually advancing, even at a much quicker rate than his own.

With master-level detective skills at his disposal, whatever tricks Kawasaki Ichiro wanted to play, Qin Fang could clearly discern them. He might want to outsmart others, but he wouldn't be able to outsmart Qin Fang.

Conversely, Qin Fang was equipped with advanced cheating skills, an excellent secret technique for dealing with people. Now that Qin Fang had mastered several relatively simple but practical secret

techniques, he was planning to find someone to test them on, and Kawasaki Ichiro seemed like a perfect candidate...

"Don't underestimate Kawasaki Ichiro. I heard about him years ago. His abilities are very strong, and he's extremely cunning and skilled. Winning against him isn't easy..."

Kawasaki Ichiro became famous over a decade ago, which means he's definitely not a simple character. Now, returning to the scene, he's even tougher due to his experience and his skills have surpassed his past self.

Even Yu Zheng didn't dare to say he could definitely defeat Kawasaki Ichiro; their chances were fifty-fifty. Qin Fang's odds of sixty-forty or seventy-thirty suggested that Yu Zheng wasn't a match for Qin Fang either...

Yu Zheng didn't want to say much about Qin Fang, but clearly, he still wanted to remind Qin Fang not to underestimate his opponent.

"Don't worry, Uncle Yu. I know what I'm doing..."

Qin Fang nodded. Yu Zheng was looking out for him, so he needed to acknowledge that.

The battle with Kawasaki Ichiro was something Qin Fang had to undertake, not just for himself, but for Yu Zheng as well.

Kawasaki Ichiro and Yu Zheng were equally matched. Meeting in the main event was inevitable, and who would win or lose in the end depended on their respective abilities and performances.

However, in Qin Fang's assessment, it was highly likely they'd both end up defeating each other.

But mutual destruction in such a grand event is extremely unwise. It makes them easy targets for other opponents, which would spell disaster for both of them.

Whether Kawasaki Ichiro loses doesn't concern Qin Fang much, but if Yu Zheng lost because of it, then Qin Fang wouldn't be happy, even more so than Yu Zheng himself.

Because of this, Qin Fang felt it was most suitable for him to take the fight. If he could defeat Kawasaki Ichiro in the preliminary gambling match, it would be a fatal blow to him.

Such a fatal blow is almost unbearable for Kawasaki Ichiro, and he might not even want to participate in subsequent matches.

Without Kawasaki Ichiro's threat, and with Yu Zheng being a cut above the rest in terms of strength, he could easily sweep through all his opponents, reclaiming the title of Asian Gambling King.

The reason Qin Fang was so confident, aside from his own skills, was his greatest advantage—he was younger than Kawasaki Ichiro...

In the world of gambling, skill and rank aren't determined by age. Many established masters may not necessarily win against lesser-known young experts.

Many gambling kings became famous at a young age, just like Yu Zheng. He is only in his forties now, and when he first became famous ten-odd years ago, he was in his twenties, already able to dominate the entire Asian gambling scene.

Being young is certainly synonymous with immaturity, but it's also a form of capital!

Being young represents agile thinking and extremely clear and strong computational abilities, whereas older individuals benefit from rich experience and have the best responses to various situations.

Younger people can play the adversity card well, mainly due to their hot temper and lack of endurance, which can make them edgy, a disadvantage in a gambling match.

Older individuals, however, lack the physical energy to sustain prolonged confrontations. The longer the time drags on, the more it works against them. Once their energy depletes, computational ability and judgment decline, leading to vulnerabilities.

Therefore, both young and old have their advantages and shortcomings.

But these shortcomings might not exist for Qin Fang. As a martial artist, he could meditate for hours in a trance-like state, unfazed by such lengthy gambling sessions.

Besides, Qin Fang also held other trump cards.

"Since you said so, I won't waste any more words. Just be careful... don't take winning or losing too seriously. Even if Kawasaki Ichiro wins, Uncle Yu will still avenge you in the main event..."

Yu Zheng didn't know Qin Fang's trump card, but he confidently expressed his support, showing a united front against a common enemy...

Chapter 1412 - Kawasaki Ichiro

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He Feifan's private villa.

A black Rolls-Royce Phantom slowly drove in. He Feifan, who had been waiting by the gate, quickly walked up and respectfully opened the car door, simultaneously calling inside the car.

"Master..."

This call was extremely respectful, showing immense reverence.

This scene made the servants familiar with He Feifan inside the villa slightly shocked; it was their first time seeing He Feifan act in such a manner.

Except for the head of the He Family... Gambling King He, He Feifan hadn't shown such respect to anyone. Who exactly was sitting inside this car?

Many couldn't help but have this thought in their minds!

Just as these people were puzzled, they saw a middle-aged man step out of the car. On his feet were wooden clogs, he wore a light-colored Japanese kimono, and his hairstyle was the typical center-parted style of a Japanese officer, so oily and shiny that even a fly would slip off...

His face was slightly long and narrow, giving a very sinister feeling, and the little Japanese mustache under his nose was unforgettable, resembling a Japanese officer from an inland anti-Japanese war movie if not looked closely...

This middle-aged man was He Feifan's master, the Japanese Gambling King, Kawasaki Ichiro.

Kawasaki Ichiro was a typical Japanese person and a staunch right-winger. It's said that his ancestors were senior officers in the Japanese Army that invaded Dragon Country, but ultimately died there and never returned to Japan...

Because of this, Kawasaki Ichiro harbored great resentment towards the Dragon Country people, viewing each Dragon Country person he faced like a murderer of his father.

It is his character and style that made him very unsatisfied when Yu Zheng quickly rose to fame and captured the title of Asian Gambling King. Firstly, because he believed his gambling skills were no less than Yu Zheng's, and secondly, because Yu Zheng was from Dragon Country...

Just before he could challenge Yu Zheng, Yu Zheng mysteriously disappeared, vanishing completely from the gambling world, leaving him disappointed and temporarily withdrawn from the martial world himself.

This withdrawal lasted over a decade. Yu Zheng remained missing, and Kawasaki Ichiro focused on training his disciples, allowing him to calm down for a time.

As a result, during this calm, Kawasaki Ichiro's gambling skills not only didn't regress but improved, reaching a grandmaster-level, almost feeling invincible.

This time, with Yu Zheng re-entering the gambling scene, he received the news almost instantly and came along without hesitation, wanting to completely defeat Yu Zheng after more than ten years, to truly place Kawasaki Ichiro's name above the Dragon Country people...

However, Kawasaki Ichiro studied the recent gambling matches of Yu Zheng, and although Yu Zheng didn't showcase much strength, he noticed from the small details that Yu Zheng had also reached that level and was of equal strength to him.

This discovery didn't dampen Kawasaki Ichiro's spirit or disappoint him; quite the opposite, it excited him. Under pressure, he gained even more passion.

It had been many years since he gambled with anyone. To adjust his state, he needed an opportunity to practice, and He Feifan, his outstanding disciple, promptly arranged this gambling match for him.

Yet it seemed He Feifan hadn't told that this gambling match was prepared as practice for Kawasaki Ichiro, rather than to entrap Qin Fang...

"Hmm!"

Kawasaki Ichiro was not tall, but his demeanor was grand. After getting out of the car, faced by He Feifan's respectful posture, he just let out a light hum before stepping into He Feifan's villa.

Tap tap tap tap~

The wooden clogs struck the ground, making a series of crisp sounds. He Feifan followed behind Kawasaki Ichiro, slightly lowering his head, seemingly looking at his feet, but if one noticed his eyes, or the sarcastic and disdainful expression they concealed, one might not consider He Feifan a truly dutiful disciple...

He Feifan was a schemer, a villain, not only to Qin Fang, Kong Er, and others, but also not sincerely treating his family and master.

Just like this gambling match, which seemed to be arranged specifically for his master but was actually designed to deal with Qin Fang. If not for Kawasaki Ichiro coincidentally being available, he wouldn't have actively invited him!

The He Family ran a casino, organizing such a gambling match wasn't difficult. Qin Fang was unknown, Kawasaki Ichiro's real name had long disappeared from the martial world, so even including them wouldn't cause unnecessary trouble...

Though He Feifan couldn't oversee the casino's operations, organizing a simple gambling match was no problem, plus he occasionally participated himself, though he always controlled it well without any anomalies, making He Feifan's name relatively trustworthy.

The benefit of this was that once He Feifan organized such a gambling match, many people would actively participate without realizing they were merely there to provide money, like God of Wealth boys...

Chapter 1413 - Kawasaki Ichiro

He Feifan invited Kawasaki Ichiro into the villa, while instructing the servants to brew tea, he sat down with Kawasaki Ichiro.

"Tell me about the situation..."

Kawasaki Ichiro carried a lot of airs, but that didn't mean he was overconfident. Before the competition, he had to take every opponent seriously enough; this was the only way to ensure victory.

Even if the opponent was an utterly incompetent ordinary gambler, he treated them the same way...

It was precisely because of his serious attitude that his victories had been maintained until now, with hundreds of battles big and small, and never losing a single one, an impressive record indeed.

The reason he had so many big wins was that he clearly understood the information about his opponents. He studied some simple little habits thoroughly, allowing him to know both himself and his opponent, ensuring victory in every battle...

"Just got the news, that main opponent just went to visit Yu Zheng today..."

He Feifan immediately chimed in eagerly.

He was the landlord of Macau. Although he wasn't a major figure in his family, he still had a different status in the eyes of ordinary people, making it relatively easy to investigate matters, especially since his spies were scattered throughout Macau.

However, what surprised He Feifan was that Qin Fang actually went to visit Yu Zheng, who lived upstairs, suggesting they seemed to know each other, which made him become somewhat wary.

"Hmm?"

Kawasaki Ichiro, who had just sat down, immediately stood up, his expression becoming unprecedently solemn, as if something very important had happened.

"Details..."

Kawasaki Ichiro had come for Yu Zheng; otherwise, he really hadn't planned on competing with other gambling kings. But Yu Zheng's appearance changed everything.

He had waited for Yu Zheng for over a decade, just to defeat Yu Zheng once he reappeared, thus becoming the true Asian Gambling King...

Originally, Kawasaki Ichiro thought he had to deal with just an ordinary person, at most an ordinary gambling king, who might cause him some trouble, but Kawasaki Ichiro felt he was sure to win.

But unexpectedly, this young man could align himself with Yu Zheng, which made Kawasaki Ichiro extremely sensitive.

He couldn't help it; Yu Zheng was like a sensitive word. Just mentioning it slightly would immediately catch his attention...

"Whether they know each other or not, I really don't know!"

He Feifan shook his head. Though his spies reported this situation, the exact relationship between Qin Fang and Yu Zheng was unclear.

Perhaps they were long-time friends, or had some close relationship, but it could also be that Qin Fang heard how formidable Yu Zheng was and planned to invite him for a match with Kawasaki Ichiro.

"Send someone to investigate it, make sure to find out the truth and get it to me as soon as possible..."

After some thought, Kawasaki Ichiro decided not to take risks and to quickly investigate the matter, just as usual. This was crucial for his judgments and strategies in the gambling competition.

"I'll arrange for people to handle it right away..."

He Feifan didn't object at all, nor did he engage in unnecessary talk, promptly starting to arrange for someone to investigate.

His master, Kawasaki Ichiro, couldn't afford to lose, and neither could he. He had been with his master for so many years and understood this clearly.

If Qin Fang managed to invite Yu Zheng to join the battle, it would indeed be a fierce confrontation, and who would win or lose would depend on their fortune.

As the landlord, He Feifan had plenty of people at his disposal, much like Elder Long of Hong Kong Island. With just one command, many underlings would work for him immediately.

Although He Feifan couldn't inherit the He Family's company, the reputation alone was enough to make many people wary.

Macau was one of the world's three major gambling cities. Countless people flocked there, investing unimaginable sums, and many worked for the He Family as well.

He Feifan could easily use his influence to find people to investigate these more hidden matters, without easily being discovered.

The relationship between Qin Fang and Yu Zheng was challenging to uncover, but since Kawasaki Ichiro mentioned it, He Feifan had to try to find out as much as possible about their relationship.

At the very least, determining whether Yu Zheng would participate in this gambling match was vital. Yu Zheng was Kawasaki Ichiro's biggest threat and most dreaded opponent, so he had to be prepared in advance!

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"Since you feel so confident, go ahead and handle it yourself... But I must remind you, Kawasaki Ichiro is definitely not simple, you shouldn't underestimate him!"

After a brief chat with Yu Zheng, Qin Fang left there. Before leaving, Yu Zheng specifically reminded him of this point, clearly indicating that Kawasaki Ichiro's caution and meticulousness were formidable!

"Kawasaki Ichiro, I hope you won't disappoint people too much..."

Leaving Yu Zheng's place, Qin Fang couldn't help but think this way.

Kawasaki Ichiro was indeed terrifying, even Yu Zheng felt immense pressure, but Qin Fang didn't feel such pressure. Firstly, he was confident he wouldn't lose this match easily; secondly, he wanted to clear any obstacles for Yu Zheng as much as possible.

Qin Fang wasn't interested in such gambling king competitions. He didn't want to be in the spotlight for no reason; that was certainly unwise.

No help for it, Qin Fang had too many enemies, with more to be offended in the future; it was better to keep his face as hidden as possible.

Although he could use metamorphosis to alter his appearance during future missions, even this might not be so effective.

The gambling king competition was organized by various major casinos and the Global Gambling Association, a worldwide event, though its audience was relatively narrow. The problem was the underground world was part of that audience.

If Qin Fang showed his face in this competition, there would be endless trouble afterwards. If during a mission, someone accidentally saw his face, trouble would come swiftly.

Although Qin Fang wasn't afraid of these troubles, if they affected his tasks and actions, it wouldn't be worth it.

Moreover, Yu Zheng was already participating, and he had the best chance of winning the title of Asian Gambling King. If Qin Fang entered as well, it would be meaningless; he couldn't steal the honor that belonged to Yu Zheng.

Qin Fang's missions often involved things unseen in the light, mostly involving killing, with those he killed often being significant figures of great power.

To kill such people meant offending great powers. If Qin Fang's identity was exposed, it wouldn't just endanger him; he could protect himself, but it would be highly detrimental and dangerous for his family and friends.

Besides, Qin Fang intended to go to Devil's Island in the future, along with others, and during the inevitable infighting, many would surely target him.

This was the downside of being a well-known figure; too easily recognized and too easily targeted as an enemy...

Compared to a minor benefit, just a mere gambling king title and a pitiful bit of prize money, it wasn't worth putting himself in endless danger. Qin Fang certainly wouldn't do something so foolish.

"Gambling King? Is this title so impressive? Why is it everywhere... I should strive for the title of King of Assassins!"

Nowadays, gambling kings are everywhere and worthless. Comparing the two, the title of King of Assassins has more value... Qin Fang naturally wanted to seize that for the best gains!

Chapter 1414 - Unmatched by the Gambling King!

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"Young Master Qin, you're here..."

The nephew of Chief Executive Leung, Young Master Liang, who was taught a lesson by Qin Fang earlier, immediately hurried over when he saw Qin Fang coming down, addressing him very cautiously.

That day, being reprimanded by Qin Fang made him lose face a lot, but he didn't dare show the slightest displeasure, and was even afraid of making Qin Fang unhappy.

To this end, after returning home, he specially asked his uncle about Qin Fang's identity background.

Coincidentally, Chief Executive Leung had witnessed the moment Qin Fang presented the Millennium Clam Pearl and remembered Qin Fang's relationship with Tang Feifei. Although he did not directly name the identity, he still repeatedly warned his nephew not to offend Qin Fang and to be very careful in befriending him...

This gave Young Master Liang quite a scare, and he was grateful that he didn't do anything too outrageous, and fortunate that Qin Fang's strength was far superior to his. In the end, he was the one who suffered a loss. If it had been Qin Fang who suffered, he would have really gotten himself into a big trouble...

Putting aside what Qin Fang and Tang Feifei might do to him, the Qu Family People would not spare him lightly, not to mention his uncle would be the first to severely reprimand him...

"How's the situation over there?"

Qin Fang nodded, smiled casually at Young Master Liang, and asked offhandedly.

Young Master Liang had a good relationship with He Feifan, once close friends who could share everything, but He Feifan, being a sly person, had schemed against him in the matter involving Qin Fang, making Young Master Liang very displeased and naturally creating a rift...

Although they hadn't directly fallen out, Young Master Liang was already very displeased with He Feifan as a person. Adding to this, his uncle kept urging him to befriend Qin Fang, so he became an informant for Qin Fang.

"He Feifan invited a master, his gambling skill instructor, the Japanese Gambling King Kawasaki Ichiro, who is said to be a very formidable expert..."

Talking about the situation on He Feifan's side, Young Master Liang couldn't probe too specifically, but it wasn't too hard to learn of Kawasaki Ichiro's arrival. The people around He Feifan were cautious but wouldn't guard against him.

Young Master Liang vaguely knew that Kawasaki Ichiro was He Feifan's gambling instructor, but he wasn't very sure how formidable Kawasaki Ichiro was. Just from He Feifan's tone, he seemed to be considered one of Asia's top-notch gambling masters...

This made him feel quite depressed, and now Qin Fang was asking about it, he couldn't help but worry a little for Qin Fang.

"I'm already aware of this..."

But Qin Fang appeared unconcerned, seemingly not taking Kawasaki Ichiro seriously, casually saying, "When and where is the gambling match arranged?"

This gambling match, although organized and designed by He Feifan, did not lead to direct confrontation between Qin Fang and He Feifan. They interacted through intermediaries like Young Master Liang, so it was naturally inconvenient for Qin Fang to directly seek He Feifan for inquiries.

"The time is tomorrow night at eight o'clock, and the venue is VIP room No. 88 at the Grand Lisboa Hotel... The specifics are all arranged by He Feifan, and I am not particularly clear!"

Young Master Liang revealed some of the information he knew, as for the unknown parts, He Feifan wouldn't tell him, and even if he tried to probe, he wouldn't find anything out.

"Okay, then I'll be there on time tomorrow..."

Qin Fang nodded in response.

The Grand Lisboa Hotel is a property of the He Family, considered He Feifan's home turf, but for Qin Fang, whose turf it is doesn't matter. His performance remains unaffected regardless of the location.

Other Gambling Kings might suffer due to this or that reason, affecting their status, but Qin Fang doesn't have this issue. His skills are a combination of Scouting Skill and Cheating Skills, related to Skill Proficiency, with no influence from the state...

"Young Master Qin, there's nothing scheduled for tonight, I wonder if I could..."

Hearing Qin Fang's words, Young Master Liang also nodded, he would relay this to He Feifan, but it didn't matter when, he wasn't in a rush.

Coincidentally, Kong Er and Qu Yuancheng were not around, and seeing Qin Fang alone, Young Master Liang couldn't help but extend such an invitation.

With his uncle Chief Executive Leung repeatedly instructing him to befriend Qin Fang, he naturally didn't want to waste such a good opportunity...

"Dinner isn't necessary, how about we stroll over to the casino?"

Although Young Master Liang was somewhat of a playboy, he was decent as a person, not like other playboys with varying levels of Sin Points. He not only didn't have Sin Points, but surprisingly had a tiny bit of Justice Points... Although not significant in amount, it certainly indicated something.

"Alright, alright, alright... This way please!"

Young Master Liang naturally agreed readily. As long as he followed Qin Fang, it didn't matter where they went. He was quite familiar with the casino, so he immediately led the way.

They naturally wouldn't go to the He Family's territory, so they didn't choose the Grand Lisboa Casino, but instead went to the nearby Kailay...

Qin Fang wasn't very clear about the background of Kailay, but he didn't care too much about it. The casino was open for business, and except for those banned by the global Casino Alliance, they generally wouldn't turn away anyone.

Young Master Liang was doing quite well in Macau. Although he mostly mingled at the Grand Lisboa, given his good relationship with He Feifan, he occasionally enjoyed visiting other casinos.

The decor of Kailay was not inferior to the Grand Lisboa Hotel, just slightly smaller in scale. But as one of Macau's eight major casinos, its business was booming.

When Qin Fang and the others arrived, they saw all sorts of luxury cars parked outside in the Kailay parking lot, including some top-tier limited edition cars globally.

The security measures around the casino were quite good. In fact, the entire Macau had pretty good law and order. Otherwise, if robberies happened every day in such a gambling city, the casino business would have failed long ago.

A thousand Hong Kong dollar tip was thrown, and the doorman at the entrance sported a bright smile, ushering Qin Fang and the others into the casino.

Once inside the casino hall, they immediately felt a very lively atmosphere.

The hall was already the official casino, with many gaming tables inside. Around each table were people either gambling or watching from the sidelines...

Among the crowd, from time to time, there were very sexy waitresses carrying trays, offering wine to every guest in need... Of course, the drinks were free, but the tips were indispensable.

Behind the gaming tables, smartly dressed croupiers were seated, collecting money, paying out, rolling dice, placing cups, all busily and passionately...

"Qin Fang, what do you feel like playing?"

Young Master Liang quickly went to exchange some chips, not too much, roughly two to three hundred thousand Hong Kong dollars, and eagerly offered more than half to Qin Fang while asking enthusiastically.

Today, he mainly accompanied Qin Fang, mostly just playing a few hands casually. He didn't plan to keep playing seriously here, so he didn't keep much.

"Don't need that much, one is enough..."

Qin Fang smiled, not refusing Young Master Liang's kindness, but didn't take more of his chips, only taking one from the batch.

The amount wasn't large, just chips worth ten thousand Hong Kong dollars.

He was also idle, casually playing a few rounds. Winning or losing didn't matter much; moreover, these Macau casinos weren't like the old Bihai Pavilion. A few rounds were fine, but playing too aggressively could easily make one an unwelcome figure at the casino, even getting on the global Casino Alliance blacklist, and that would be unnecessary...

So, Qin Fang leisurely wandered around the casino hall, and Young Master Liang honestly followed behind Qin Fang, becoming a diligent follower.

Most of the guests at the casino came from all over, from Hong Kong Island, Macau, Southeast Asia, Japan, Little Island, and seemingly also quite a few from the dragon country's mainland...

Occasionally passing by, Qin Fang could hear some gambler cursing angrily in a particular dialect; after all, in the casino, it's normal to curse a bit when one's luck is bad and loses money.

With nothing to do, Qin Fang would use his scouting skill to check out the identity of some gamblers, finding that among those from the mainland, some were ordinary tourists purely on vacation, some were billionaires, and also some outstanding ones... civil servants!

Of course, how these officials got their money is debatable, but Qin Fang was not the discipline commission and couldn't manage such injustices.

Qin Fang occasionally placed bets, not sticking to any particular game, just based on his mood. If he was happy, he'd bet; if not, he'd just watch from the side.

However, Young Master Liang noticed that as long as Qin Fang was willing to bet, he basically always won without losing. Initially, he casually followed along, not paying much attention. When seeing Qin Fang betting, he randomly bet a little too. The result was, after a round, Qin Fang's chips grew from ten thousand to three hundred thousand, while his own twenty-something thousand chips became two million...

It seemed like Qin Fang had a higher winning rate, which was the case because Young Master Liang betted more cautiously... But without a doubt, at this moment, Young Master Liang looked up to Qin Fang's gambling skills with admiration.

Previously, he thought when Qin Fang went against Kawasaki Ichiro, he'd definitely be in a losing situation, and Qin Fang would most likely ask a Gambling King for help.

But now it seemed Qin Fang himself was already a gambling expert. Young Master Liang was unaware of the Gambling King's true strength, but he personally witnessed everything earlier and truly sensed Qin Fang's excellent gambling skills—probably no less than the Gambling King himself...

"This is my family heirloom; it can sell for at least three to five million. How could it only be worth ten thousand? You guys are too shady..."

Chapter 1415 - An Ancient Painting!

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Just as Young Master Liang was marveling at Qin Fang's exquisite gambling skills, the two of them happened to pass by the small room for exchanging chips, and immediately a man's sharp voice reached their ears.

Qin Fang's steps paused slightly, and he turned his head to look in that direction...

A man in his forties, dressed in a somewhat worn-out suit, yet fairly neat, with well-groomed hair.

At this moment, he was holding a scroll in his hand, the paper looked somewhat old, clearly something handed down from ancient times...

Of course, this was just the first impression, whether it was truly an antique needed careful identification... In these days, there are simply too many counterfeit antiquities.

"Take it or leave it, if you think the price is too low, you can go somewhere else..."

The pawnshop staff showed obvious displeasure on his face, waving his hand rudely to indicate.

Besides the usual cash, checks, and transfers, the casino occasionally accepts some valuable items for pawn, which is also to cope with some gamblers' urgent need to recoup their losses and make a profit.

In fact, some casinos even offer high-interest loans, but those require local guarantors, generally not allowing outsiders to borrow.

Kailay doesn't offer high-interest loans, but it does have pawning, with both short-term and direct pawning... Gamblers desperate to recoup often do unexpected things in the heat of the moment.

At pawnshops outside, the value of general items will be undercut and underestimated, otherwise, the pawnshops can't make money...

The lower the price is pressed, the higher the interest isn't low at all, so if the customer doesn't redeem it, the pawnshop can immediately sell it and earn quite a profitable margin.

The casino's pawning operates on the same principle, as long as the item is genuine and holds some value, they directly offer a rock-bottom price. Gamblers desperate to recoup, without cash at hand, might indeed pawn valuable items here...

If they win, they'll, of course, redeem their items, albeit with substantial interest, which seems reasonable, as winning makes one not care about that meager interest.

But if they lose, they have no money to redeem, and if they can't raise money within the pawn's time limit, the pawnshop immediately sells the item, recovering the principal and interest, and even making a tidy profit.

To make more profit, the price has to be slashed hard...

The pawnshop staff before him was doing just that, having long noticed the man, knew he'd lost a lot and was eager to recoup his losses, and that his item was genuine, though unsure if it's worth three to five million, but surely not less than thirty to fifty thousand, he directly reduced it to ten thousand. If he could seize it, he'd truly profit, and once the item is sold, his commission would be quite substantial...

"Sir, could I have a look at this item?"

Qin Fang observed the scene, used his Scouting Skill on the scroll, and as the results came back, he was slightly taken aback, then he stepped forward and very politely inquired.

"Uh..."

The middle-aged man was indeed anxious, the casino staff was too frustrating for him, he cursed him thoroughly in his heart, but the guy simply wouldn't raise the price.

"Please, take a look, please..."

Upon seeing someone come to inquire, he immediately felt a change of fortune, eagerly handing the scroll to Qin Fang, speaking with some excitement.

Of course, he wasn't so much a fool to be oblivious; he had already noticed Qin Fang and Young Master Liang's attire, Qin Fang appeared fairly modest but in actuality, his clothes were custom designed by internationally renowned designers... though the clothes, shoes, etc., had no explicit brand logos, so the average person wouldn't recognize them.

Young Master Liang, on the other hand, was a bit flamboyant, wearing Versace clothes, Louis Vuitton shoes, and a Vacheron Constantin watch on his wrist...

The middle-aged man seemed somewhat knowledgeable too, instantly recognizing them, his gaze towards Qin Fang and Young Master Liang altered.

Just from their attire, it was evident that these two men's identities were not simple, and they must have considerable wealth, so if they wanted to see his treasure, if they wished to buy it, surely they wouldn't offer just ten thousand...

Qin Fang took the scroll, slowly unfolding it, revealing its true face.

It was a landscape painting of quite high quality, from the inscriptions on the painting, it should be a Song Dynasty work.

But upon closely examining the few inscriptions, Qin Fang found that most of the names and seals were not of any renowned figures, at least not known masters that he was familiar with.

This being the case, the price of this painting naturally wouldn't be too high, so it wasn't surprising the casino's pawning staff would press the price so low.

The painting was good, and indeed a genuine ancient piece, but unfortunately not by any great masters, at most the work of a somewhat famous painter.

A price of ten thousand was indeed too low, thirty to fifty thousand certainly wouldn't be enough, perhaps it could reach up to a million.

Judging from the quality and age of this painting, it shouldn't be the work of an unknown. If a professional traces its origin, then selling this painting for three to five million wouldn't be a problem at all...

"I really like this painting. I wonder if you would be willing to part with it?"

Qin Fang looked at the painting, showing an expression of "I really like it," and asked with a smile.

"Sure, sure! It's just the price..."

This middle-aged man originally planned to pawn this painting. It is said to have been passed down from his ancestors and has always been treated as a family heirloom.

It's just that he's been tight on money lately, and this heirloom can't be used as food. He once had experts in the field appraise it. Three to five million was an exaggeration, but at that time, the expert suggested it could be bought for eight hundred thousand...

He came here today and gambled a few rounds. At first, luck was on his side, and he won quite a bit, but soon he lost it all back... In his urgency to turn things around, he thought of this painting, planning to pawn it temporarily and redeem it once he won some money!

But the staff member was pressing too hard on the price, and he was naturally unhappy about it.

Now that Qin Fang suddenly expressed interest in buying it, how could he not be pleased?

It's just the price...

"Price isn't a problem. Just name your bottom price, if I find it acceptable, I'll buy it right away..."

Qin Fang waved his hand, speaking in a very casual tone, as if he didn't consider this a big issue, which made the middle-aged man's heart skip a beat.

"Three million!"

The middle-aged man thought for a while with his head down before blurting out a number while keeping a close eye on Qin Fang's expression.

"That's what the expert originally said. I urgently need money now, so I'll sell it to you for three million..."

He didn't forget to explain a bit while speaking.

But upon hearing this price, Qin Fang frowned slightly, showing a hint of dissatisfaction, which immediately made the middle-aged man's heart tense up.

Young Master Liang beside Qin Fang furrowed his brows instantly, speaking in a rather displeased tone, "I say, you have a really black heart. The pawnshop is only willing to give you ten thousand, yet you're asking us for three million, are you sincerely trying to cheat us... Young Master Qin, I think we better not buy it, this guy is too shady!"

"It's because they don't know the real value. This is an ancestral treasure of mine. I'm definitely not randomly asking for three million..."

The middle-aged man had been observing Qin Fang's reaction. He realized that this was the main person in charge. Although Qin Fang frowned, he didn't say it was expensive, indicating there was still hope. Faced with Young Master Liang's accusation, he replied firmly.

"Enough, let's not discuss this anymore..."

Young Master Liang was about to continue arguing, but Qin Fang waved his hand to stop him, then turned to the middle-aged man and said, "I really like this painting, but three million is indeed too high... How about this, two million, if you agree to this price, I'll buy it."

"Young Master Qin..."

Young Master Liang was taken aback, opening his mouth to say something, but Qin Fang gestured him to stop talking.

"Well... okay, two million it is. I'll sell it to you since I urgently need money!"

The middle-aged man hesitated for a moment, finally gritting his teeth and agreeing, though he seemed a bit reluctant in his words. However, his slightly raised eyebrows revealed his excitement.

Qin Fang knew this very well; he even understood that the middle-aged man's psychological price was one million. Qin Fang was just unwilling to haggle any further here; securing the deal quickly and obtaining the painting was most important.

The more time dragged on, the higher the chances of something going wrong. He didn't want to delay his matters for a small amount of money...

"Cheque or transfer?"

Qin Fang nodded. The man's agreement was the best outcome, and he immediately asked, preparing to make the payment.

"I'll handle it, I'll handle it..."

Before the middle-aged man could speak, Young Master Liang jumped in, putting chips worth two million directly into the man's hand, "Here are two million in chips, count them yourself..."

Two million, to him, wasn't an insignificant amount. Though he came from a wealthy family, with his uncle being the Chief Executive on Hong Kong Island, his money came from legitimate sources, and he spent it cautiously, unlike other wealthy wastrels who splurged...

But this time was different. Apart from trying to ingratiate himself with Qin Fang, the money was from the winnings he accumulated while following Qin Fang, making it very reasonable for him to pay on his behalf.

After subtracting these two million in chips, he still had over ten thousand in scattered chips, meaning he hadn't lost much at all...

Chapter 1416 - Qinggong: Snow Traversing Step!

...

"The amount is right, this painting is yours now..."

The middle-aged man quickly counted the chips, and indeed it was two million, with an additional ten thousand as a tip, which Young Master Liang didn't mind at all, and he pretended not to see it either.

Basically, this transaction was over. They took two sheets of paper from the side, each wrote a simple transaction contract, and after both parties signed it, the transaction was completed.

The middle-aged man didn't want to stay there any longer and immediately took the chips to the gaming table, seemingly eager to win back his losses.

"I'll pay you back later..."

Qin Fang rolled up the painting again, held it in his hand, and did not forget to say something to Young Master Liang.

"Young Master Qin, you're too polite, it's just a small amount of money..."

Young Master Liang waved his hand carelessly, saying that it was no big deal, since Qin Fang had helped him win money, selling Qin Fang a favor, so why not?

"Business is business... Let's go and have some fun over there!"

Qin Fang knew what was on Young Master Liang's mind, but he didn't care, pointing to a table not far away, and the two of them went over together.

A few minutes later, Qin Fang pushed a pile of chips to Young Master Liang, about two million, "Here's the money back... I owe you one!"

Qin Fang did not like owing others. Two million was not a big deal for him, but at that moment, it was more appropriate to directly give that middle-aged man the chips, so when Young Master Liang offered, Qin Fang did not stop him.

He would definitely repay the money; he was not short of it. But he acknowledged this favor, and after interacting with Young Master Liang, he found him to be a decent person and could consider him a friend, so he naturally wouldn't keep his distance.

"This is what you call amazing..."

Young Master Liang was quite proud at this moment, recalling when he was with He Feifan. Although he made a name for himself, compared to Qin Fang, He Feifan was nothing!

A piece of ancient painting worth a million, bought with two million on the spot, and Qin Fang didn't even have to spend his own money. A few plays at the table and the money was immediately covered.

It was as if the casino paid for Qin Fang's antique purchase...

"Young Master Qin, is this painting really something good?"

Young Master Liang accepted all the chips without fuss, as Qin Fang's words were enough, and he understood that Qin Fang didn't care about such small amounts of money.

With Qin Fang's skill, two million was just a few minutes' work, so why would he worry about this?

However, regarding Qin Fang's intention with the painting, Young Master Liang sensed something unusual, though he knew it might be a touchy subject. His curiosity got the better of him, and he couldn't help but ask.

"It's kinda good..."

Qin Fang chuckled and replied vaguely without giving a clear explanation.

"As long as it's something good, as long as it's good..."

Young Master Liang, being sensible, understood that Qin Fang seemed unwilling to elaborate about the painting, knowing he probably crossed the line, so he didn't ask further.

It wasn't that Qin Fang didn't want to say anything; rather, it was pointless even if he did.

This painting was indeed a good item; although not a master's work, it still held some value.

But regarding its true worth, that fell short.

In some people's eyes, this painting was merely a common piece of artwork, or perhaps just an antique.

Yet in the eyes of certain individuals, it was absolutely priceless.

Unfortunately, only Qin Fang might be aware of its secret.

"This trip was not in vain..."

Qin Fang sat there watching the gamblers bustling and shouting, but his thoughts drifted far away, as he sighed inwardly.

"I never expected to find such a treasure in Macau..."

It was indeed unexpected. Had he not skipped shopping with Tang Feifei and the others, or meeting with Kong Er and Qu Yuancheng, but instead came to Kailay with Young Master Liang to play a few hands, he wouldn't have encountered this painting-selling middle-aged man, and wouldn't have obtained this painting.

The painting itself wasn't particularly special, but it concealed a very big secret.

Of course, this secret was probably only solvable by Qin Fang.

Even if someone else accidentally discovered it, it would still be useless, because this secret was primarily of interest to martial artists... Specifically, this painting contained a cultivation technique.

Qin Fang's current strength had reached a very high level, and due to the national arts skill, he wasn't lacking in cultivation techniques.

But national arts are national arts; as Qin Fang's horizons widened, he realized that national arts were simply a modern term, and the true essence of Longguo martial arts was far more complex.

The martial arts of old, known as martial skills, were once extremely prosperous, but eventually fell into decline, and martial artists today couldn't cultivate true qi, resorting to practicing inner breath, only managing to condense true qi after reaching grandmaster level.

Back in ancient times, an inner sect expert would cultivate true qi right from the start... The difference is obvious.

Chapter 1417 - Qinggong: Snow Traversing Step! (Part 2)

It's a pity that nowadays in the martial world, apart from those ancient sects that remain concealed, most of the sects outside focus on cultivating various national arts.

True martial arts are only inherited by those ancient sects...

Such as Shaolin, Tang Sect, Kunlun Sect, among others...

Qin Fang has clashed with experts from both Tang Sect and Shaolin. Tang Nan can be disregarded; he tried to outsmart Qin Fang in their encounter, using either poison or hidden weapons, but neither worked against Qin Fang, and ultimately he died in vain.

From Shaolin, Shen Wuben is considered an expert. Qin Fang exchanged blows with him, just a simple spar, but also witnessed the formidable inner strength of Shaolin, and Shen Wuben is merely a secular disciple.

As for Monk Wukong, his Shaolin inner strength is extremely pure. Though his strength may not appear profound, his power definitely ranks him as the top martial artist just below grandmaster level in Qin Fang's knowledge.

That's already something, but Qin Fang is confident that once he takes that crucial step, his own cultivation won't be weaker than Monk Wukong's.

However, Qin Fang knows that even if he truly reaches grandmaster-level, he still won't be able to defeat Monk Wukong. This bald monk has cultivated the Shaolin Secret Transmission's Reed Crossing River Technique, which allows him to perform incredible feats, leaving Qin Fang unable to land a hit...

"Little Monk Wukong, looks like you'll have to endure it..."

But today, Qin Fang is feeling particularly pleased, already imagining himself able to easily defeat that showy bald monk Wukong in the future.

Why?

Because the thing hidden in this painting is actually a martial arts manuscript, to be precise, a light body technique manuscript.

And that's why Qin Fang was so excited upon seeing this painting.

Qin Fang lacks ordinary cultivation techniques, but this light body technique manuscript is what he desires the most.

Light body technique has long been lost, only retained by a very few ancient sects. According to Qin Fang, only Shaolin and Kunlun Sect have it passed down; even Tang Sect seems not to have it, at least according to Tang Xin, who said she hadn't seen it.

That scarcity makes it exceptionally precious. Monk Wukong has the Reed Crossing River Technique, which frustrates Qin Fang endlessly.

Bloody-handed Demon Tu San seems to possess some kind of light body technique too, though only remnants, yet still far superior to most experts. This is evident in his skill at dodging bullets.

Now, Qin Fang finally obtained a light body technique manuscript, so he wouldn't need to always think of targeting Monk Wukong or Bloody-handed Demon Tu San, especially since even if he explosively defeated them, he might not necessarily get that manuscript.

Moreover, with Qin Fang's current strength, he's hardly a match for either of these people... Rashly trying to defeat them would surely result in him being counter-defeated.

However, the emergence of this painting spared Qin Fang from those dangers and troubles.

"Snow Traversing Step... It's the secret technique of the Snow Mountain Sect!"

With the scroll in hand, Qin Fang's scouting skill continuously observed it, gradually uncovering the secrets hidden within the painting...

This manuscript is actually the painting itself, without a single word or phrase, only the painting's artistic conception...

In the past, during the most prosperous time of the martial world, understanding was a crucial criterion for accepting disciples, while qualifications were less important.

A martial artist with good understanding might not cultivate as quickly as those with good qualifications, but once they understand, their strength would suddenly leap forward, reaching a high level in a very short time, even challenging the top experts in the world.

Similarly, many sects' cultivation techniques and secret skills are comprehended by martial artists with good understanding and then refined over generations to form a complete cultivation system.

The light body technique Qin Fang acquired, named Snow Traversing Step, is one of the renowned secret techniques of an ancient sect.

The name of this sect is the Snow Mountain Sect...

Simply mentioning the Snow Mountain Sect might not ring many bells in the martial world, but among ancient sects, it is legendary.

Their reputation might not be as prominent as Shaolin, Kunlun, or Tang Sect, but in terms of strength or heritage, they are equally formidable.

Qin Fang learned about the existence of the Snow Mountain Sect from Tang Xin, and previously, not only Qin Fang but many people from Dragon Country thought of this sect as merely fictional.

Because the Snow Mountain Sect's location is in Tianshan, and their mountain gate is called... Lingjiu Palace!

Tianshan Lingjiu Palace, Misty Peak...

Famously mentioned in Elder Master Jin's "The Eight Parts of the Heavenly Dragon", this place indeed exists but is known to very few.

Of course, the sect residing here is the Snow Mountain Sect, not the Tianshan Childlike Elder's, and definitely not the Xiaoyao Sect; it is an ancient sect comparable to Kunlun and Shaolin, just more mysterious and rarely seen.

"Didn't expect the Snow Mountain Sect's light body technique to be spread..."

Qin Fang felt fortunate. The Snow Mountain Sect has few members and passes down their legacy very secretly, with disciples rarely venturing out. Unexpectedly, even their secret manual Snow Traversing Step could be leaked; it's hard to imagine...

Earlier, he also used Mind Reading Technique on that middle-aged man, and this painting is indeed passed down from his ancestors. As for how his ancestors obtained it, it remains unknown.

"Doesn't matter, now that this secret technique is in my hands, there's no need to be courteous..."

Qin Fang is not one to shy away from trouble. Cultivating the Snow Mountain Sect's unique light body technique is sure to stir up some issues, like if the Snow Mountain Sect knew, they might send someone to demand it.

However, these light body technique manuscripts are sparsely passed down, already incredibly fortunate to have stumbled upon one. Qin Fang has long desired it.

Now the secret technique is in his possession; he cannot just look at it without practicing it.

"When weapons come, block them; when water comes, cover it with earth. Who's afraid of whom?"

Anyway, Qin Fang has so many foes already that another Snow Mountain Sect doesn't matter.

Moreover, if the Snow Mountain Sect comes looking for trouble, it might not necessarily be hostile. If they approach with good manners, Qin Fang wouldn't mind returning the Snow Traversing Step manuscript...

Of course, if the Snow Mountain Sect behaves like Tianchi Sect, Qin Fang won't be polite to them...

Qin Fang certainly plans to cultivate this secret technique, but this place isn't suitable. After returning Young Master Liang's two million, he had no intention of staying any longer.

The Snow Traversing Step light body technique is waiting for him; not rushing back to practice and swiftly mastering it makes Qin Fang impatient.

Light body technique!

Qin Fang has longed for it for a long time, how could he possibly stay still!

"It's just not interesting anymore, I'll head back first..."

Qin Fang took the painting scroll, bid farewell to Young Master Liang, and planned to return to the hotel to quickly study this light body technique.

"Yeah, not much interest, let's go together..."

Young Master Liang felt slightly unsatisfied but seeing Qin Fang didn't want to stay anymore, staying alone seemed pointless.

Comparing gambling skills, Young Master Liang is a novice, a sucker next to Qin Fang. When Qin Fang was around, he naturally followed Qin Fang's bets, almost always winning, but if Qin Fang left, betting alone, his over two million chips would likely be gone soon...

Earlier, he observed the situation with the middle-aged man who sold the painting, and within a short time after getting two million, he'd already lost over fifty thousand, this speed...

Chapter 1418 - Enemies Cross Paths

...

However, this has nothing much to do with Qin Fang and the others. Both sides are settled with money and goods, all clearly stated in black and white, and the transaction is already completed.

As for how much of this two million that the middle-aged man just acquired will remain on the casino table, they couldn't be bothered to mind it too much...

So Qin Fang and Young Master Liang got up, ready to head out.

Yet, just as the two of them reached the doorway, they immediately felt as if someone had their eyes on them, almost instinctively raising their heads to look over.

"Hmm?"

Qin Fang was taken aback, his brows slightly furrowed, "This really is a case of enemies meeting on a narrow road..."

It was indeed a coincidental encounter with an enemy, because the person he saw was none other than the opponent he was supposed to face the next day—He Feifan...

At this moment, He Feifan was also like Young Master Liang, serving as a companion, walking in with a middle-aged man in his forties. Judging by his posture, this middle-aged man's identity seemed to be quite significant, at least enough for someone like He Feifan to adopt a very humble stance.

"Kawasaki Ichiro?"

Upon witnessing such a scene, even without deploying his Scouting Skill, Qin Fang could guess who this typical small-statured man was.

It was apparent that the person targeting Qin Fang was He Feifan, who was at that moment leaning beside Kawasaki Ichiro, seemingly saying something to him.

Although Qin Fang couldn't hear what they were saying, from He Feifan's gaze, it was clear he was introducing Qin Fang's identity to Kawasaki Ichiro...

Kawasaki Ichiro wasn't tall, a typical image of a Japanese figure. He didn't appear sleazy, but that opening and closing of eyes always gave off an extremely sinister impression, his gaze exuding sharpness, indicating he wasn't a simple character...

Of course, this was all within Qin Fang's anticipation. If he were just an ordinary person, he wouldn't have caused even the former Asian Gambling King Yu Zheng to be so apprehensive.

"Young Master Qin, I never thought I'd run into you here..."

The two groups collided face-to-face. He Feifan cast a peculiar glance at Young Master Liang, but said nothing, choosing instead to greet Qin Fang warmly and amicably.

"Indeed, I didn't expect this. I thought Young Master He usually plays in his own family's casino. What brings you to Kailay?"

If one didn't know He Feifan's temper, merely observing his demeanor, expressions, and attitude would surely make one think he was an exceedingly friendly and humble gentleman. His overall presentation was so perfect that it left no room for criticism.

Of course, only those who have been deceived by him would know what kind of person he really was, like Young Master Liang who now understood.

The saying goes, 'One doesn't hit a smiling face!'

With He Feifan being so polite to Qin Fang, Qin Fang couldn't appear petty either, he responded with a smile. Yet, between the lines, there was always a subtle, intriguing undertone.

"Haha, Young Master Qin surely knows how to joke around..."

Though He Feifan felt repressed inside, there was no visible reaction on his face, and his words carried no irregularity, responding in a perfunctory manner.

The Grand Lisboa Hotel was their turf, and taking his master, the Japanese Gambling King Kawasaki Ichiro, to play in their own casino would be counterproductive, wouldn't it?

Winning money would mean losing his own family's money. Though it might benefit the master, it was bound to stir up gossip...

But coming to Kailay was different. Here, it counted as one of Grand Lisboa Casino's rivals. Winning here posed no problem and could even deal a blow to a competitor... This was something many casinos had done before, and He Feifan was not the first!

However, such actions usually don't occur until a falling-out, maintaining competitive relations, but within limits.

As long as the He Family's casino remains the most powerful in Macau, holding a third of the city's twenty-seven casinos, even though it doesn't account for more than half, the other two-thirds were split among various other forces. Plus, the He Family's deep-rooted control in Macau was unmatched by any newcomers.

But once this ice was broken, with Gambling King He getting older and still capable of passing anytime, whether the next generation of the He Family could maintain such control was uncertain.

So, for the He Family to remain prosperous and thriving, despite the disputes caused by the division of inheritance among the ten plus children, every member hoped that the He Family could continue to thrive...

Thus, everyone would strive to protect the He Family's interests, using any means available, and He Feifan's tactic to hit competitors was one such method.

This time, he came with Kawasaki Ichiro, whose identity is quite peculiar. Besides being the Japanese Gambling King, he reportedly had a very special identity, allowing him to wreak havoc in Kailay without getting blacklisted...

Because Kawasaki Ichiro's identity is not something that the Casino Alliance can afford to offend.

However, only very few people like Kawasaki Ichiro know what exactly this identity is, and He Feifan has a vague guess, but he's not particularly clear about it either.

"What? You're leaving? Not staying for a few more rounds?"

But soon he noticed that Qin Fang and Young Master Liang were about to leave, so he asked with a cheerful smile.

"Not playing anymore, just have something to do, so I'm heading back first..."

Qin Fang waved his hand to refuse. Although he was interested in witnessing Kawasaki Ichiro's achievements in gambling skills and probing into it, compared to his cultivation of the Snow Traversing Step, it was completely insignificant.

At most, the gambling table could just mean losing, at the cost of a little money, which Qin Fang could handle. But the Snow Traversing Step can't be practiced immediately, and that's something he was always concerned about.

"What a pity, I was planning to introduce someone important to you two, but since it's like this, it really is a shame..."

Seeing that Qin Fang seemed to have made up his mind, He Feifan didn't try to persuade him more and instead made a regretful expression.

As for who this important person might be, he didn't name names directly, but it's likely the Japanese Gambling King Kawasaki Ichiro beside him.

All the while, Kawasaki Ichiro had remained silent, just quietly observing, with a trace of arrogance in his eyes but also a cold and sinister feeling coming from his squinting eyes.

"Let's meet again next time, if fate allows..."

Qin Fang acted as if he didn't know anything and didn't look at the proudly standing Kawasaki Ichiro, as if Kawasaki Ichiro was just an insignificant passerby, not worth his attention or notice...

After saying this, Qin Fang walked straight away without looking back, and Young Master Liang just glanced lightly at He Feifan, also seeming unwilling to speak further, quickly followed suit.

By this point, the relationship between Young Master Liang and He Feifan basically ended, though neither of them seemed to care much.

"Hmph..."

Qin Fang left, very decisively, very casually, and even the follower Young Master Liang was the same, which made Kawasaki Ichiro feel a bit stifled and depressed.

He had always been doing well, never been taken so lightly by anyone, almost always a focal point wherever he went, but today he was ignored, and twice by two people, leaving him feeling embarrassed.

"Master, don't lower yourself to his level, tomorrow he'll have his reckoning..."

Having studied under Kawasaki Ichiro for many years, He Feifan naturally understood his temperament. Seeing signs of his anger brewing, he quickly spoke to comfort him.

"Hmph..."

With He Feifan's persuasion, the fire in Kawasaki Ichiro's heart was not completely quelled, but it did make him feel a bit better.

However, he was already planning tomorrow's gambling session, determined to make Qin Fang lose not only his money but his face as well!

Kawasaki Ichiro wasn't known for being magnanimous, so having lost face today naturally left him feeling very displeased. With Qin Fang gone, he had no opportunity to teach this young man a lesson, so all his frustration was bound to be unleashed on some unfortunate souls.

Immediately, under He Feifan's lead, he entered the Kailay Casino, causing tragedy for those at his table, with the gamblers suffering heavy losses, and even the casino took a beating, unable to stop him even after changing several croupiers, with even a Gambling King almost driven to flee by Kawasaki Ichiro...

However, while Kawasaki Ichiro was venting his frustration, He Feifan temporarily left to see the manager of the Kailay Casino to take care of some matters.

What was he up to?

He was reviewing some of the casino's surveillance footage to see what Qin Fang had been up to earlier, or rather to gauge Qin Fang's skill level.

Even though Kailay and the Grand Lisboa were rivals, they were both in Macau, living off the same trade. As the son of Gambling King He and a gambling expert himself, He Feifan was able to obtain the relevant surveillance video from Kailay under the pretext of investigating a suspected cheat...

The time Qin Fang and Young Master Liang spent at Kailay wasn't very long, so the video footage wasn't lengthy either, and He Feifan quickly finished watching it.

"So that's why, a master indeed..."

Seeing the footage, He Feifan was truly taken aback. Earlier, Qin Fang had been quite restrained, consistently winning but not making many moves, frequently changing tables and games...

But in those last few minutes, when Qin Fang returned two million to Young Master Liang, it was almost as if every move he made was a guaranteed win, showing his remarkable gambling skills...

Chapter 1419 - Cultivating the Snow Traversing Step

...

Of course, He Feifan also saw the process of Qin Fang purchasing that ancient painting, but he automatically ignored it...

Although He Feifan was born into a prestigious family, he had no great interest in antiques, and the He Family wasn't lacking in such things, so he naturally didn't care about them.

Moreover, he couldn't discern the true secret within the painting, so naturally, he paid even less attention to it... and just skipped over it.

After obtaining what he needed, He Feifan returned to his master Kawasaki Ichirō and briefly reported the situation to him, to give him a psychological head start.

"Know your enemy and know yourself, and you will never be defeated."

He Feifan might be a bit narrow-minded, but he leaves no stone unturned in his tasks, hoping to have everything within his grasp that he might encounter, so he doesn't end up scrambling at the last minute with no chance even to pray for miracles...

Originally, he hadn't planned on investigating Qin Fang much, mainly because he knew Qin Fang went to see Yu Zheng, assuming that Qin Fang would invite Yu Zheng to step in.

But after watching videos of Qin Fang in action, He Feifan suddenly thought Qin Fang might handle matters himself... This conclusion was evident from the multiple near-certain kills Qin Fang delivered, showcasing Qin Fang's absolute confidence in his gambling skills, so much so that after watching these videos, He Feifan felt he might genuinely be no match for Qin Fang.

But that didn't matter, He Feifan wasn't too concerned, after all, he had already persuaded his master Kawasaki Ichirō to intervene, and as Qin Fang had just offended Kawasaki Ichirō, tomorrow's gambling contest was destined for Kawasaki Ichirō to show no mercy to Qin Fang.

...

Qin Fang didn't pay attention to what He Feifan thought about these matters; he rushed back to the hotel immediately, and Young Master Liang also left midway, leaving only a contact number through which he could be called at any time.

Back at the hotel, Tang Feifei and her companions had not yet returned, and there was only Qin Fang alone in the room. He did a simple check to ensure that no one was eavesdropping...

Despite the fact that they were staying in a five-star hotel, in a presidential suite, it couldn't guarantee that no one with intentions wouldn't deliberately make certain arrangements.

Qin Fang was obviously unwilling to be spied on needlessly and did a thorough check, confirming that there was no abnormality, only then did he take out the ancient painting, carefully unfurling it, and observed the artwork.

"Discovered Qinggong Manual: Snow Traversing Step, would you like to cultivate it?"

Qin Fang fixed his gaze on the image within the painting, his eyes unmoving; the painting itself was quite ordinary, though the expected prompt sounded in Qin Fang's mind.

The Qinggong manual hidden in this ancient painting, for other martial artists, required self-realization, and whether it could be realized depended on one's comprehension.

Those with good comprehension could naturally grasp this set of movement techniques, but for those with poor comprehension, it was like having a treasure mountain but not being able to find the path to climb it.

This was a special method the Snow Mountain Sect used to control the dissemination of this key secret technique, Qinggong being always highly treasured and controlled even by the ancient large sects, just as the Shaolin Temple and Kunlun would do...

Yet the Snow Mountain Sect's method was even more obscure...

Unfortunately, this method was very effective for most people, as nearly no one could see through the painting, but Qin Fang could not only see through it, he could directly cultivate it without intentionally comprehending it.

"Cultivate!"

Qin Fang naturally had no hesitation and immediately chose to cultivate it. He came back precisely for this Qinggong manual and even skipped his first opportunity to confront Kawasaki Ichirō directly.

"Congratulations, you have acquired the skill: Snow Traversing Step!"

With Qin Fang's consent, the system's feedback came instantly, and in Qin Fang's skill panel, a new cultivation technique appeared.

"Snow Traversing Step: Second-grade Qinggong movement technique... When cultivated to a higher level, one can be as light as a swallow and traverse snow without leaving a trace!"

Flipping through the skill panel, Qin Fang found the Snow Traversing Step and simply checked its description, which wasn't much but was rather useful.

"Second-grade Qinggong movement technique?"

Seeing this grade, Qin Fang was slightly taken aback, appearing somewhat surprised, as if it was his first time seeing the grade of this cultivation technique.

Thinking of this, Qin Fang immediately opened his other skill panels and directly checked the National Arts skills, discovering that the Xingyi Fist within also had a grading, but... Qin Fang's Cai's Xingyi Fist was only a sixth-grade technique, whereas the Wu Family's Tiger Fist's Tiger's Rush was categorized as a fifth-grade technique.

"It seems these ancient sects can become leaders in the martial world not only due to their deep foundations but also this grading of cultivation techniques is a very crucial factor..."

Techniques have levels, and this is something Qin Fang anticipated.

When facing off against experts of equal strength, they may not necessarily end in ties. Though personal status matters, the grade of one's technique plays a significant role.

Using a six-grade technique versus a three-grade or two-grade technique presents a vast difference. Even in the same realm, the higher the technique's grade, the more explosive the power, naturally resulting in greater prowess...

"Seems I'll have to find a way to acquire higher quality techniques from now on, otherwise... one day I'll surely suffer a big loss!"

Understanding this point made Qin Fang increasingly aware of where his disadvantages lay.

He may rely on his own strength to withstand martial arts experts now, but there are few true masters around. Yet, having eliminated Tang Nan, he's already embroiled with the Tang Sect experts. Once they appear, Qin Fang is likely to suffer.

Even with system assistance, he wouldn't be killed—at least escaping would be easy, especially enhanced with Snow Traversing Step.

But the problem is, if he encounters such experts, he might be defeated due to underestimation, possibly without even a chance to escape.

Thus, Qin Fang mused that if he ever had the opportunity, he'd try to acquire more higher-grade techniques. He couldn't always rely on the same few moves; that definitely wouldn't work.

However, those are matters for the future. Now, Qin Fang's focus remained here and now, having just obtained the coveted light body technique, Snow Traversing Step—no wonder he's thrilled.

"Let's try it out..."

With such a light body technique in hand, not personally testing it would be senseless. Moreover, practicing more is the foolproof way to progress in Qinggong; more proficiency is key!

Before truly cultivating Snow Traversing Step, it seemed incredibly mysterious. Since Qinggong defies natural laws, it's almost as if the body defies Earth's gravity. This is quite unscientific!

Yet logic follows reality, and after witnessing Monk Wukong's Reed Crossing River technique, Qin Fang realized such scientific-defying techniques do exist, having seen it firsthand.

Now, having acquired this technique himself, naturally he must try it personally...

First, he familiarized himself with the flow sequence of True Qi through meridians and acupoints in Snow Traversing Step, and upon understanding, Qin Fang began to initiate it slowly.

A breath centered in the Dantian, gathering an extraordinary force, soon led his robust True Qi to circulate via this new path.

Shortly, Qin Fang felt his limbs seemingly immersed in a curious warmth, his body feeling increasingly light.

Swish~~

This sensation intensified, filling Qin Fang with a desire to soar. A gentle movement, a light step, and instantly he turned into a rapid, light shadow, darting forward.

Witnessing Qin Fang become a flowing light, swiftly rushing from one corner of the room to another, nearly hitting the ceiling.

If not for his quick reflexes to make adjustments before impact, he might have faced an unfortunate incident.

"Tsk tsk, impressive..."

After this attempt, Qin Fang refrained from further testing due to the near-accident, which left him slightly apprehensive—he didn't want to try that again.

However, despite this outcome, he felt quite satisfied.

"Pity the space is a bit small here, truly restricting its full potential..."

He was somewhat vexed that Snow Traversing Step rightly deserved its reputation as a second-grade secret Qinggong technique. Even as a beginner, Qin Fang exhibited notable prowess, anticipating even greater feats through deeper cultivation...

"I wonder which is more powerful, Snow Traversing Step or Reed Crossing River..."

Aware that techniques have grades, both being Qinggong techniques, Qin Fang couldn't resist comparing his against Monk Wukong's Reed Crossing River technique.

He was merely a novice, far from reaching proficient levels, and the space size here was inadequate to unleash Snow Traversing Step's full power.

In contrast, Monk Wukong had cultivated Reed Crossing River for much longer, advancing beyond proficient levels. His skill has truly transcended, becoming almost instinctual.

Confronting Monk Wukong's Reed Crossing River with his current Snow Traversing Step, Qin Fang would likely suffer defeat. Even if Snow Traversing Step might bear a higher grade than Reed Crossing River, comparing them at mismatched proficiency levels is a tall order...

Chapter 1420: A Failed Scheme Backfires

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Due to the Gambling King Tournament, Macau has been really bustling recently, especially each casino is more lively than ever.

It's not just the gamblers having a great time; the casinos are also incredibly busy...

Casinos aren't winning money until their hands are tired; on the contrary, they're losing money until their hands cramp!

As the Gambling King Tournament approaches, Gambling Kings from all over Asia are converging in Macau. Although most know they'll soon be eliminated, it doesn't dampen their enthusiasm for participating.

Moreover, only during this time can they frequent various casinos without ending up on a blacklist...

Of course, if they accidentally run into other Gambling Kings, even a small gamble might escalate into a fierce battle, often ending tragically for one side.

But a Gambling King is still a Gambling King. Unless they've lost everything, they can easily make a comeback. Even if they're not strong enough to participate in the Gambling King Tournament, they'll at least make some money.

This way, the many casinos in Macau are out of luck!

However, the casinos' money also comes from those gamblers, and ultimately the gamblers lose the most.

The closer it gets to the Gambling King Tournament, the more Gambling Kings arrive, making the casinos even livelier.

But most people just see the excitement as a spectacle since whoever wins won't share anything with them; they just enjoy the fun.

Qin Fang is the same. The Gambling Kings battle outside has already begun. Just in the past two days, Yu Zheng has taken down three Gambling Kings participating in the tournament, raking in a good haul.

"Young Master Qin, today's gambling match..."

Young Master Liang arrived early. The gambling match will take place tonight. He's now completely at odds with He Feifan, naturally siding with Qin Fang.

"Let's go..."

Qin Fang wasn't worried. While Kawasaki Ichiro was formidable, he wasn't at a level that intimidated Qin Fang. Moreover, this little bastard had already irked him, and he was just about to clear an obstacle for Yu Zheng.

Qin Fang had already cultivated the Snow Traversing Step. What remained was to improve his proficiency, but Macau wasn't conducive for his martial training. He could only wait until returning inland to raise his proficiency.

Putting that aside, Qin Fang's next focus was naturally on this gambling match. Kong Er and Qu Yuancheng were among Qin Fang's supporters, and they all went together to the Grand Lisboa Casino.

The gambling match would be held at the Grand Lisboa Casino. Qin Fang only knew one of the gamblers was Japanese Gambling King Kawasaki Ichiro; as for the others, he really had no idea.

Young Master Liang originally had a chance to find out, but since falling out with He Feifan, he couldn't get the information, leaving Qin Fang to grope in the dark.

However, Qin Fang wasn't too concerned about this matter. A gambling match arranged by He Feifan would naturally favor his side.

With Kawasaki Ichiro being that formidable, it's unlikely the others are particularly formidable experts, much less at the Gambling King level.

With the Gambling King Tournament about to begin, any Gambling King would be very cautious, never joking with their reputation and confidence.

Encountering a Gambling King-level expert prematurely could lead to defeat before the tournament starts, and if such assured confidence collapses, then rebounding in the main tournament would be difficult...

Because of this, these Gambling Kings are more cautious, not putting themselves in such a position for no reason...

Soon, the group arrived at the Grand Lisboa Casino and entered the reserved gambling hall.

The gambling halls at the Grand Lisboa Casino are quite special because not everyone can enter. Of the dozens of gambling halls, at least more than half have been long-term privately reserved.

For instance, the "Gathering Hall" of the Hong Kong Island Dragon Master, the "Hearing Wave Hall" of the Hu Family, and others such as "Green Bamboo Hall" and "Plum Orchid Hall" are all long-term reserved by famous tycoons or mafia bosses from Hong Kong Island, Macau, and Little Island.

Of course, to reserve such a gambling hall at the Grand Lisboa Casino, an annual rent of tens of millions is inevitable...

But He Feifan is the son of Gambling King He, so even with the high demand for gambling halls, getting one is no problem for him.

Especially since tonight's gambling match involves Kawasaki Ichiro, he easily arranged for a gambling hall and set the event there.

The gambling hall is large. Though it only has one gambling table, it has plenty of spectator seats, allowing several hundred people to watch this gambling match.

When Qin Fang and his group arrived, coincidentally, He Feifan's group also showed up at the same time, leading to a chance encounter.

"Qin Fang? What are you doing here?"

Seeing Qin Fang appear, Hu Jiajia was taken aback. She obviously didn't expect to see Qin Fang here, and as soon as she did, her whole demeanor seemed to change.

Originally, she came with He Feifan. The two were an engaged couple, so coming and going together was quite reasonable. But upon seeing Qin Fang, she immediately abandoned He Feifan without hesitation and ran over to talk to Qin Fang.

Qin Fang wasn't alone; Tang Feifei, Xing Jingjing, and Fan Ning were with him, forming a sort of support group for him.

Seeing this beautiful woman, who was no less attractive than themselves, speaking so intimately with Qin Fang, the three girls exchanged glances, each displaying a wary look in their eyes.

Fortunately, Qin Fang hadn't noticed this, otherwise, he would have been perplexed as to when Xing Jingjing had joined forces with Tang Feifei and Fan Ning.

Qin Fang noticed Hu Jiajia's closeness to him and also saw He Feifan's dark, shadowy look in his eyes, which he quickly ignored. Looking at the charmingly smiling Hu Jiajia, the once fiery Little Chili now seemed more like the girl next door, which stirred a sense of affection in Qin Fang.

"I arranged a gambling match tonight, so why wouldn't I be here?"

Faced with Hu Jiajia's query, Qin Fang responded with a cheerful smile. Obviously, she was previously unaware of Qin Fang's involvement in this gambling match. It was also apparent that He Feifan had concealed a lot from her...

This was something many anticipated, as He Feifan was known to be a schemer with a remarkably narrow mind. He didn't quite like Qin Fang, likely due to Qin Fang's relationship with Little Chili.

He organized this gambling match specifically to embarrass Qin Fang, naturally intending for him to look bad in front of Little Chili. Therefore, he hid the fact that Qin Fang was participating until they were all gathered here to reveal the truth.

"He Feifan, what do you mean by this?"

Upon hearing Qin Fang's words, Little Chili was initially stunned, but then she turned to He Feifan with a very unfriendly tone.

Others might not know what this had to do with He Feifan, but Little Chili was well aware since she had already understood He Feifan's character. Seeing the situation unfold, she knew it was He Feifan's doing.

"Besides Qin Fang, who from your side will step in? Will you do it yourself?"

Before He Feifan could respond, Little Chili tilted her head and immediately asked again.

"My master..."

He Feifan was momentarily embarrassed by Little Chili's questioning before reluctantly replying.

If Qin Fang was just an ordinary person, He Feifan wouldn't mind stepping in himself. He was somewhat average—better than some, but not the best.

Compared to those highly proficient gambling experts, his winning rate wasn't too high but not that low either... however, he still had a gap to cover before reaching the level of a Gambling King, who could easily outmatch He Feifan.

If Qin Fang were an ordinary person, He Feifan could dominate him easily... but unfortunately, after seeing the video, he knew Qin Fang was also a skilled gambler, even surpassing him. This was acknowledged by his master, Kawasaki Ichiro, as well.

Knowing that he couldn't win, insisting on pushing forward would only cause more trouble for himself... hence He Feifan firmly decided to have his master, Kawasaki Ichiro, take action instead.

"You..."

Hearing He Feifan's answer, Little Chili's expression turned quite grim.

Little Chili naturally knew who He Feifan's master was, being his fiancée and all, she knew some of his background.

His master was Kawasaki Ichiro, one of the top gamblers from Japan, and among the many gambling masters who rushed to Macau, not many could genuinely challenge Kawasaki Ichiro.

Now, placing Qin Fang as an opponent to Kawasaki Ichiro, Little Chili immediately realized He Feifan definitely intended to trap Qin Fang, which naturally frustrated her.

"Let's go inside first, or else your boyfriend might actually get jealous..."

Qin Fang chuckled, making a playful remark while also casting a casual glance at He Feifan, clearly teasing him.

"Hmph, don't bother with him..."

But being the Little Chili she was, she straightforwardly refused to oblige, clearly dissatisfied with what He Feifan did, wishing to string him up and give him a thrashing.

Little Chili casually dismissed it with a remark, which immediately infuriated He Feifan, though he was helpless against it.

Soon after, He Feifan's expression returned to normal and he resumed his calm demeanor, as if he was unrelated to the matter, merely whispering a few words to someone beside him, leaving everyone wondering what he was up to...