

Genius 1531

Chapter 1531 - Reunion with Xu Ling!

...

The little tricks Zhang Wei plays are not worth mentioning to Qin Fang at all; this guy's futile resistance is just humiliating himself...

Whatever's happening over there, Qin Fang is not concerned anymore. It's no longer his business, even if Zhang Wei is beaten to death by Fatty and the others; it's got nothing to do with him.

"Then who do you think is the one pulling strings behind the scenes?"

Knowing that there's someone malicious behind this incident and able to persuade the unusual identity of Zhang Wei, this person's identity is obviously quite extraordinary. Chu Yunxuan couldn't help but furrow her brow.

"Why worry so much! We'll face soldiers with generals and water with earth... Everything's on me, just enjoy yourself on the ship as if we're on vacation!"

Qin Fang laughed unconcernedly, seemingly not worried about who the person behind it is at all, even comforting Chu Yunxuan not to worry.

"You'd better be careful! Bright dangers are easy to avoid, hidden ones difficult... Who knows if that scoundrel might try something nasty again?"

However, Chu Yunxuan was still very worried about Qin Fang's safety. This matter was obviously targeting Qin Fang, meaning the person behind it has a grudge against him, so she was naturally very worried.

"Understood, understood!"

Qin Fang relentlessly comforted Chu Yunxuan, eventually managing to ease her worries.

"Xu Ling, you really can't give up, can you..."

But Qin Fang couldn't help but mutter quietly to himself.

Though he didn't tell Chu Yunxuan who the mastermind was, it's not because he didn't know, rather because it was inconvenient to say.

This whole affair was orchestrated by Xu Ling himself. Unfortunately for him, Qin Fang didn't fall into the trap but instead messed up his entire plan effortlessly.

Who exactly is Xu Ling?

He is one of the most significant rivals of Qin Fang, often clashing with him when they were in the Capital City...

This man, known as the most outstanding third-generation descendant of the Xu Family, holds a rather prominent position with considerable weight, which is why he could convince Zhang Wei.

Only with his words would Zhang Wei dare to agree, would dare to take such risks for him, even at the expense of making a fuss with Qin Fang and falling out with old friends and brothers.

However, this paragon particularly likes Tang Feifei, ended up losing to Qin Fang, who successfully snatched Tang Feifei, and still tidied up all his men, which is why he has an intense hatred for Qin Fang.

This isn't surprising, there are plenty of people who hate Qin Fang, a couple more wouldn't matter, but this time, conveniently, on a ship ready to battle Bloody-handed Demon Tu San, coincidentally Xu Ling is also here...

But Qin Fang didn't realize this; instead, Xu Ling saw Qin Fang first, which led to the previous scene; really, Qin Fang's luck is too good.

"Didn't expect to run into him again this time... Should I just toss him into the sea to feed the fish?"

Since Xu Ling is on the ship and played this trick on Qin Fang, if Qin Fang doesn't have some sort of response, he would truly be letting Xu Ling's "special hospitality" down.

However, figuring out how to deal with Xu Ling turns out to be quite a thoughtful consideration for the juniors.

This man's identity is special, he's surely protected by numerous experts. Qin Fang isn't afraid of these experts, but making someone disappear abruptly, he cannot easily escape the consequences.

This involves serious political negotiations. Qin Fang, though considering himself quite a figure, is still insignificant in the face of the enormous state machine.

After contemplating, Qin Fang decided he couldn't resort to overly violent means, that doesn't fit the current situation... nor his identity.

After sending Chu Yunxuan back to her room, Qin Fang discussed some matters with Shen Liang outside.

"How's the investigation going?"

Feeling the soft sea breeze touch his face by the ship's edge, Qin Fang asked calmly.

"Found him, he's staying in cabin 408 upstairs... That's one of the best and largest cabins on this ship!"

Shen Liang nodded and immediately replied.

Earlier, when Qin Fang was with Chu Yunxuan, he sent Shen Liang to investigate. Though the time was short, he still brought back the information.

"That matches his identity well..."

Qin Fang lightly nodded at this result.

The person he had Shen Liang investigate was certainly Xu Ling; only he could have such a grandeur, and only he could command Zhang Wei.

"Seems like I should go greet him..."

Knowing Xu Ling's location, with Chu Yunxuan resting in her cabin room, Qin Fang had nothing else at hand and some time before the battle with Tu San, perfect to sort out some matters.

"You go rest first, I'm going out for a walk..."

Thinking about it, Qin Fang simply instructed Shen Liang to go rest, while he himself wandered around on the ship.

He said he was going to wander, but it was easy to guess what he was actually up to. Shen Liang knew Qin Fang was skilled and brave, and he couldn't be of much help, so he pretended not to know anything and went straight back to rest, while Qin Fang quickly disappeared into the night.

...

Inside cabin 408.

"How did the task go?"

Xu Ling held a goblet in his hand, the red liquid inside flowed like blood, with a faint glow that suggested it was of considerable value.

Unfortunately, Xu Ling clearly wasn't in the mood for drinking at the moment, as he asked the subordinate beside him.

"Those few people failed! Moreover... the other side already saw through their little tricks!"

The one answering him was a strong man who looked like a bodyguard, with a slanted scar on his face, adding a touch of menace to his appearance.

"Hmph... as expected, useless people are just useless! Can't even handle such a small thing..."

Hearing this answer, Xu Ling's expression turned extremely sullen, his words carrying heavy disdain.

"Nevertheless, that person had already terrified many in the Capital City back then, those few guys naturally aren't a match for him..."

However, Xu Ling quickly changed his expression, looking like it was only to be expected.

"By the way, did he give me away?"

He quickly recalled and asked simply.

"No... even if you gave him several guts, he wouldn't dare to reveal the young master's name!"

The bodyguard shook his head, speaking with disdain.

As the saying goes, those close to red become red, those close to ink become black. These bodyguards had been by Xu Ling's side for years, and their vision was quite high. Someone like Zhang Wei, a frivolous second-generation official, could definitely call the shots in Jiangzhou, even Wu Jian might have to defer to him...

But Xu Ling didn't think much of Zhang Wei, not even Xu Ling's bodyguards appreciated this guy! If Zhang Wei knew this, he'd probably feel like spitting blood...

"Forget it, let this matter end here... handle it, make sure that man's mouth stays shut, I don't want him saying what shouldn't be said!"

With things escalating like this, Xu Ling had nothing more to say. Not many knew about his presence on the ship, and as long as a certain someone's mouth was shut, the news wouldn't easily leak.

Thinking about the opponent's strength and dominance, Xu Ling was quite frustrated, really at a loss for what to do...

In terms of identity and background, Qin Fang was on a completely different level, yet both the Tang and Chu families showed him exceptional care, even more so than their own children!

The Xu Family was indeed a prestigious family in the Capital City, with substantial depth, but facing someone like Qin Fang, Xu Ling was quite helpless too.

As for tactics and violence, Qin Fang had an absolute advantage. Regular updates showed Qin Fang's strength had reached a high level, making it difficult to find someone who could counter him, leaving Xu Ling feeling quite hopeless!

For all these reasons, Xu Ling hated Qin Fang to the core, yet he was also very cautious, so he could only resort to small tricks in the dark, not daring to act openly... He couldn't guarantee there weren't people from the Tang or Chu families around him...

"Understood, young master! I know what to do..."

The bodyguard nodded and was about to leave to handle the matter.

"Hmph... just a bunch of useless people! Why is there never someone really useful..."

After the bodyguard left, Xu Ling couldn't help mumbling, clearly not very satisfied with even this bodyguard.

Just as he dismissed the bodyguard and turned around, he found someone sitting at his place.

Who was it?

It was none other than Qin Fang himself. He had already arrived at Xu Ling's room, even smiling while looking at the slightly shocked Xu Ling.

"It's you..."

Upon seeing the sudden appearance of Qin Fang, Xu Ling was slightly stunned, then instinctively exclaimed.

"Young Master Xu, long time no see..."

Qin Fang was quite composed, even warmly greeting Xu Ling with a smile.

However, the look in his eyes was ill-intentioned, constantly evaluating Xu Ling's body like he was searching for a spot to strike... making Xu Ling feel all his pores open, an icy sensation creeping into him, sending chills down his spine!

Finding Xu Ling once again, Qin Fang not only felt some anger but more than anything, he felt somewhat surprised. It's as if they were destined enemies, meeting in the vast sea of people, further confirming that their relationship was extremely unfriendly...

Chapter 1532 - Fierce Counterattack!

...

This can be considered a meeting of old enemies... As for whether there's extra resentment, only the concerned parties know for sure, but at least on the surface, it seems nothing is apparent.

"It's really been a long time..."

However, Xu Ling is not an ordinary person. After a moment of surprise, he quickly regained his composure. Looking at Qin Fang, who was within reach, he showed a slight, calm smile and said.

"How does Young Master Qin have the time to visit me? As far as I know, you're quite a busy person now..."

Xu Ling did not mention anything about earlier occurrences, instead expressing extreme surprise at Qin Fang's appearance, as if he shouldn't have appeared at this time.

"I am indeed a bit busy, but with Young Master Xu's enthusiastic hospitality, if I didn't come to say hello, it would be my fault... Hence, I came as soon as I got the message, hoping it's not too late!"

Qin Fang maintained a relatively calm demeanor, but his words sounded like indirect sarcasm.

Don't say Qin Fang is ungentlemanly; Xu Ling has practically stomped on him, nearly defiling him, and if Qin Fang were to still smile and face it warmly, that would be too fake!

"Then I'm truly touched..."

Listening to Qin Fang's words, Xu Ling's expression was a bit strange but he didn't show it, instead pretending to be sincere.

"But today, please excuse my rudeness. I need to attend to a very important guest... We've already met, so if Young Master Qin has no other business, please take your leave... When I have time another day, I'll be sure to visit you!"

It was clear that Xu Ling was extremely uncomfortable with Qin Fang's arrival. He was already very wary of Qin Fang, and now Qin Fang entered his cabin as if it was his own home, which he couldn't take lightly!

"In that case, I won't disturb you any longer... farewell!"

Qin Fang was naturally aware that Xu Ling was displeased with his visit, but since this person feigned sanctimoniousness, while it nauseated Qin Fang, he wasn't about to say much. He cupped his fists in a salute and prepared to leave.

While speaking, Qin Fang headed towards the cabin door, and Xu Ling's expression slightly improved, at least Qin Fang hadn't turned hostile on the spot.

Just that...

Qin Fang hadn't reached the cabin door yet when he seemed to remember something, stopped in his tracks, and turned his face back.

"By the way, I think Young Master Xu should replace these people around you..."

Suddenly, Qin Fang said something seemingly nonsensical, making those who heard it involuntarily pause.

"What do you mean?"

At least Xu Ling was taken aback by this remark from Qin Fang, looking at him perplexedly, apparently mystified by his meaning.

"Nothing, just feels like having a group of dead people around... it's quite unlucky!"

Qin Fang shook his head, as if he didn't wish to elaborate, merely expressing in the calmest manner, as if discussing something entirely unrelated.

"Dead people? You..."

Xu Ling was first stunned, then reacted almost instinctively wanting to stop it.

But by then it was too late. As Qin Fang spoke again, he had already moved, swiftly navigating through this cabin.

This room 408 cabin, though one of the best on the entire ship and also the largest, is, after all, on a ship, far smaller compared to a presidential suite at a star hotel, much more compact.

With just a slight move, Qin Fang could quickly reach any position in this cabin...

Click!!

Qin Fang extended his wrist, gripping a person's neck, and with a light squeeze, it snapped like a noodle.

The poor guy could only clutch his neck tightly, his eyes bulging like dead fish, his face turning a strange purplish-blue, and after a couple of struggles, he was completely gone!

This was just the beginning. Qin Fang didn't stop after the first one fell, but moved quickly to the second person, repeating the same actions... extending hand, throat lock, snap... and just like that, another unfortunate soul met his tragic end!

The slaughter continued without pause, Qin Fang not lingering for even a moment, moving from one target to the next without stopping.

No one could withstand a second move from Qin Fang. Almost all fell with just a single encounter, having their necks effortlessly snapped and sent to Lord Yan.

The people in Xu Ling's room were all his close confidants, not many of them, only five, essentially all gathered here except one who had stepped out just now.

But now, none of the five were left breathing, all meeting their untimely deaths...

Clap, clap~~

After finishing all this, Qin Fang lightly clapped his hands, as if he hadn't just committed a massacre, but only completed a trivial task.

"Young Master Xu, I've done you a favor, haven't I? I'm afraid these people would develop bad thoughts about you, so I helped you deal with them, to ease your mind! Don't thank me too much..."

Killing them was one thing, but Qin Fang's words made Xu Ling feel like coughing up blood.

The people he kept by his side were basically trusted confidants. Yet, they were all wiped out by Qin Fang.

And Qin Fang's sarcastic tone almost made Xu Ling wish to draw a gun and shoot Qin Fang full of holes to vent his frustration.

The situation escalating to this extent was beyond Xu Ling's expectations; he never imagined Qin Fang's retaliation would be so intense, so bloody, leaving him without any useful men...

"Xu Ling, if you want trouble, come find me directly next time. Playing these amateur games makes me look down on you..."

Having reached this point, Qin Fang saw no reason to remain courteous to Xu Ling, immediately mocking him with disdain. Xu Ling's little tricks were indeed too amateurish.

This time, Qin Fang truly left, leaving only Xu Ling as the living being in this luxurious cabin, the rest transformed into cold corpses...

The misdeeds these people committed by Xu Ling's side, others might not know, but Qin Fang could see through their Sin Points. He did not mistakenly kill a single innocent!

Chapter 1533 - Floating Corpses at Sea!

...

Qin Fang walked out of Xu Ling's cabin with great dignity, leaving behind only the terrifying Xu Ling with a face ashen and the pile of corpses on the ground!

He didn't touch Xu Ling...

This person's background is complicated. Killing him wouldn't be a problem, but the trouble it would cause Qin Fang would be quite a headache.

So, for the time being, Qin Fang didn't want to touch him and decided to spare his life for now.

Qin Fang figured that every time he saw Xu Ling in the future, he would take out one of Xu Ling's people. He didn't believe that after three or five times, Xu Ling would still dare to play tricks on him.

These men have been with Xu Ling for many years and are trusted confidants. People like this are not easy to nurture, losing even one is a significant loss!

Qin Fang wiped them out in one fell swoop, enough to make Xu Ling grieve for quite a while.

Moreover, these people were all cultivated by the Xu Family. Now that Xu Ling is fuming inside and simultaneously facing the family's doubts, it's enough to give him a headache!

Just after Qin Fang left, within a few minutes, someone else came in. It turned out to be the big man who had been inquiring about Qin Fang earlier.

However, the moment he stepped inside, he sensed something was amiss in the cabin.

"Young Master Xu, this..."

Seeing so many corpses on the floor, the man was utterly shocked. When he left earlier, everything was fine, but in just a few minutes, all these people were dead!

"First, deal with the bodies..."

Xu Ling helplessly waved his hand, giving a simple instruction.

He hadn't anticipated such an incident occurring in advance. Originally, he just wanted to give Qin Fang a simple lesson. Even if he couldn't really do anything to Qin Fang, at least disgusting him a bit would be a sort of victory.

But Xu Ling, who considered himself exceptionally intelligent, found himself at a loss. He never expected Qin Fang, who didn't play by the rules, not only cleaned up Zhang Wei and his men but also directly confronted him.

What he didn't expect even more was that Qin Fang, though not laying a finger on him, almost killed all of his usable people around him, leaving him as a solitary commander.

If not for that last person coincidentally being out, he might have ended up like the others on the ground, another corpse among the many.

"Qin Fang... I won't just let this slide!"

Xu Ling's face was exceptionally ugly, perhaps extremely unsightly.

As a favored child of the heavens, hailed as the most outstanding offspring of the family, having grown up under the spotlight, he has always been the exemplar of excellence.

Yet to his surprise, Tang Feifei, whom he had admired and thought he could easily marry, resolutely fell into the arms of another, leaving him without even a trace of hesitation or unwillingness.

And the man's name was... Qin Fang!

From that moment on, Xu Ling marked Qin Fang as his enemy, and in his heart, this person had already made the death list.

However, on the trip to the Capital City, Qin Fang not only made a stellar name for himself but also dismantled all of Xu Ling's subtle attacks, leaving him with a silent loss.

That was only the first encounter between the two, and they hadn't even truly met face to face. So technically, Xu Ling just suffered a small loss, but it wasn't a defeat, just a lack of understanding of Qin Fang.

But this time, the two not only faced each other but actually took action against one another...

The result, then, Xu Ling's petty tricks were ineffective against Qin Fang, but Qin Fang's counterattack almost devastated Xu Ling, causing significant damage.

Such an outcome, perhaps no one anticipated, right?

Qin Fang left Xu Ling's side without taking this matter too seriously. Killing was just killing, and he had no regrets whatsoever.

Because he simply didn't care, and he also guessed that Xu Ling couldn't do anything to him, naturally leaving him with fewer worries, Xu Ling was sure to suffer this loss.

"This person is really a nuisance. If there's a chance, it's better to wipe him out, to avoid constantly guarding against him..."

Qin Fang was muttering to himself.

Today clearly wasn't the right time to make a move. Just after Xu Ling plotted against Qin Fang, if Xu Ling were suddenly killed on the ship, who would believe that Qin Fang wasn't the suspect?

In the end, even if it wasn't Qin Fang who did it, Qin Fang would be the prime suspect... it really would be mistaken for something it's not!

For this boring scapegoating, Qin Fang doesn't want to bear it for now. At least not until he's resolved those troubles; he's not willing to take the blame.

For example, the current situation really isn't appropriate...

Soon, he would be facing a battle with Bloody-handed Demon Tu San. If Xu Ling were killed mid-voyage, this ship's journey would end here. Although Qin Fang wouldn't face major issues, the battle would inevitably be delayed.

If that battle gets delayed, Qin Fang can't break through, the Tang Sect would come looking, Tu San wouldn't relent, and if it involves a major political game, then Qin Fang would really be in trouble.

In the middle of the night, the cruise continued navigating the ocean. Several floating corpses appeared on the sea surface, yet nobody noticed them.

Xu Ling's status is special; not many people on the ship know, but at least the captain and senior crew are aware. Typically, floating bodies on the sea require investigation, but this time no one bothered, pretending to see nothing...

Thus, the bodies were abandoned into the sea, eventually becoming fish food with nothing left but bones...

These matters have little to do with Qin Fang; Xu Ling handles them, Qin Fang doesn't even know, because he returned to his cabin to rest after his affairs.

Xu Ling was unable to sleep all night. Qin Fang, who came and went without a trace, put immense pressure on him; he was afraid he'd never wake up if he fell asleep. He didn't know if Qin Fang might suddenly appear before him in his sleep... This night was naturally very difficult.

In contrast, Qin Fang slept deeply. With a beauty in his arms and a peaceful mind, he naturally slept soundly until dawn, feeling much more refreshed.

He didn't need to worry like Xu Ling about someone suddenly attacking him in his sleep...

On this ship, the only person who could truly threaten him was Bloody-handed Demon Tu San.

Although Tu San has killed countless people, with blood-stained hands, he's extremely trustworthy; he does what he says.

He promised a fight with Qin Fang in three days, so he definitely wouldn't act before then. Moreover, if anyone dared to harm Qin Fang, Tu San would warn him.

Of course, he wouldn't help Qin Fang eliminate enemies...

If an enemy is strong enough to kill Qin Fang, that saves him some trouble; he wouldn't need to act personally.

Some might feel uncomfortable if someone takes out their opponent, but he wouldn't... Helping Qin Fang kill enemies brings him no benefit, and might even harm him. Why would he do such foolish things?

Besides Tu San, no one else could threaten Qin Fang, so he could sleep comfortably... Though Xu Ling despised Qin Fang, he had no people capable of dealing with him. He could only wallow in self-pity and nurse his wounds!

Qin Fang slept very soundly, waking at midday. Chu Yunxuan had already changed clothes, sitting on the small deck outside the cabin to sunbathe.

The luxury cruise offers such perks; outside some cabins with great locations, there's a small deck for guests to place beach chairs, lie down, and quietly enjoy a sunbath...

Unfortunately, it was still slightly chilly; even with sunlight, swimsuits weren't an option. So Chu Yunxuan was just lazily sunbathing.

"Hey, what's happening outside?"

She quickly noticed that a lot of people had gathered on the large deck at the bottom of the cruise, pointing at the sea as if something had happened.

This scene immediately caught her attention. Their cabin was high up; she could only hear buzzing noise below but couldn't tell what was happening.

"What's going on?"

Right then, Qin Fang came out in his robe, intending to sunbathe, noticing Chu Yunxuan's curious gaze and the crowd below, he also found it strange.

"Seems like something happened..."

Chu Yunxuan slightly frowned, not knowing for sure.

"I'll call Shen Liang to investigate..."

Qin Fang was unconcerned, pulling out his phone to call Shen Liang.

Just after he made the call, Shen Liang was already coming over. He had already gathered information on what happened below, and since Qin Fang asked, he came to report.

"What happened? People seem quite disturbed..."

When Shen Liang arrived, Qin Fang curiously asked.

Something must have happened below, otherwise such a crowd wouldn't gather.

"They found several bodies, floating in the sea for almost a day..."

Shen Liang reported the information he'd gathered to Qin Fang.

When Shen Liang said this, Qin Fang couldn't help but pause, his expression turning odd, silently muttering, "Xu Ling, that fool, wouldn't just throw corpses into the sea randomly, would he..."

Chapter 1534 - Japan Wanderer

...

This luxury cruise is mainly for travel, so its speed is not particularly fast. Even after a whole night, it won't travel too far...

Last night, Qin Fang killed five people beside Xu Ling, and naturally, their bodies needed to be dealt with. The most convenient and quickest way was to directly throw the bodies into the sea.

But the ship was moving a bit slow, and there's a chance that these bodies might catch up with the current, which has turned into the current situation.

If that's really the case, then it's no wonder Qin Fang would grumble about it in his heart, probably just short of cursing Xu Ling as a big fool!

"It is said to be coastal fishermen nearby... seems like they encountered pirates!"

However, before Qin Fang could grumble, Shen Liang shared the news he had received, which left Qin Fang a little stunned.

The victims were local coastal fishermen, so they couldn't possibly be the ones Qin Fang took care of beside Xu Ling. It's just that the timing of these bodies appearing is too coincidental, leading to misunderstandings.

"Pirates? How could there be pirates here?"

Qin Fang wasn't very sure about whether these floating bodies were the local fishermen, but the reason they were killed made Qin Fang feel a bit troubled.

"Actually, they're just some little devils..."

But Shen Liang gently shook his head and said.

"Little devils?"

Qin Fang was slightly taken aback, looking at Shen Liang with some surprise, obviously waiting for him to provide an explanation.

"The place we are at now is still within the Dragon Country's territorial waters, but in reality, we're quite close to several small islands at the southern end of Japan."

Shen Liang seemed prepared, as he had specifically brought a nautical chart, and had already marked their current position.

Qin Fang took the chart, and although he didn't understand it very well, the locations marked were relatively clear, especially the closest land to their current position, which wasn't the mainland of the Dragon Country, but rather closer to the southern end of Japan, Okinawa...

"Okinawa..."

Seeing this location, Qin Fang's expression became solemn, knowing that the "little devils" Shen Liang referred to were from this place.

Okinawa, a few hundred years ago, was a vassal state of the Dragon Country, serving as the most critical link between the mainland of the Dragon Country and the main island of Japan.

But later, Japan annexed Okinawa, and it became Japanese territory.

However, during World War II, this was the only occupied Japanese territory. The U.S. Military built a large military fortress here, and even after the control was returned to Japan, this military base remained, just like the Pacific Ocean's Guam base, both serving as critical military fortresses to restrain the Dragon Country's military capabilities!

Moreover, in the territorial disputes between the Dragon Country and Japan, the issue of Diaoyu Islands' ownership is somewhat related to Okinawa, as the little devils have always claimed that the Diaoyu Islands belong to the Ryukyu Islands...

Of course, these are not things Qin Fang truly cares about, as they have no relevance to him. He's just an ordinary person with some small abilities, but never expected to get involved in international disputes.

The reason he was so surprised about Okinawa is because, apart from its geographical significance, there's another crucial reason, which is... Japan Wanderer!

Japan Wanderer, a term that has existed for hundreds of years. The little devils, who thrived by taking advantage of the Dragon Country, relied heavily on these Japan Wanderers!

Japan Wanderers, originally known as Wokou, were a group of destitute, down-and-out martial artists who banded together to form a loose organization.

Typically, these people would organize temporarily, then elect a leader to lead them out to sea; this was the early form of pirates.

Back then, these Japan Wanderers engaged in rampant plundering along the Dragon Country's coast, committed all sorts of atrocities, but due to their high mobility and their organization mainly consisting of martial artists, whose combat power was significantly stronger than ordinary soldiers, they were able to menace the coast for hundreds of years.

However, in modern times, the development of firearms forced many martial artists to withdraw from the stage of history, becoming only shadows in the background. These Japan Wanderers gradually disappeared as well.

Actually, they didn't really disappear; they just became more low-key. After all, although they were stronger than ordinary people, they still couldn't withstand guns and cannons, so being low-key was unavoidable.

But these Japan Wanderers have always existed, and have even formed a fairly large-scale presence in the Ryukyu Islands area.

In the underground world, this isn't exactly a secret. Basically, anyone who hangs around for a while would know this kind of low-value information.

Although it's an open secret, many people look down on these Japan Wanderers. At least a few hundred years ago, they dared to raid the Dragon Country's coasts, but now they can only act like small-time thugs, extorting protection fees or extorting travelers around the Ryukyu Islands...

Originally, Qin Fang didn't think much of these Japan Wanderers either, but since it didn't concern him, and he hadn't been to the Ryukyu Islands, he naturally wouldn't have contact with them.

However, these fishermen's corpses in front of him... caused Qin Fang to almost immediately think of these Japan Wanderers.

Japan Wanderers are actually Japanese martial artists, some are Ninjas, some are Swordsmen, and others of various types mixed together, collectively known as Japan Wanderers.

Most of these Japan Wanderers aren't that remarkable, probably just beginners in martial arts without much talent, who learned a few moves and dared to venture out...

Only a very small number of Japan Wanderers are quite skilled, and among them could even be grandmaster-level experts... perhaps there's even a chance of having even stronger grandmaster-level experts.

These have little to do with Qin Fang. However, based on the information Shen Liang retrieved, it seems that these fishermen died at the hands of these Japan Wanderers, which made Qin Fang a bit uncomfortable.

These fishermen are certainly Dragon Country fishermen, definitely not from Japan. But to see them lose their lives after already struggling hard with fishing is really too tragic.

"Let's go down together and take a look..."

This information is all gathered through hearsay, whether or not it's reliable, only heaven knows. This could all be mere rumors, completely unrelated to the truth of the matter.

Especially regarding the wounds on these fishermen, if Qin Fang can't personally examine them, he can't be sure these injuries were inflicted by Japan Wanderers.

Japan Wanderers, although part of the Japanese Martial World, are outcasts within it... not by choice, but rejected by the mainstream.

This is why most of the skilled fighters in the Japanese Martial World are concentrated towards the main island, while these Japan Wanderers can only nestle on small islands like the Ryukyu Islands.

Not being accepted by the mainstream Japanese Martial World, becoming isolated and abandoned, it's no wonder these Japan Wanderers ended up self-destructive.

Therefore, they not only reject the Dragon Country Martial World, but also the Japanese Martial World, becoming a unique entity ignored by all sides.

It is the unique nature of Japan Wanderers that makes them prone to self-destructive behavior, leading to irrational incidents more likely.

Such as the floating corpses at sea today—it's not just Shen Liang who can sense the shadow of these Japan Wanderers behind it; even Qin Fang, pondering over it, feels it's very likely the work of these Japan Wanderers!

While Xu Ling's identity is high and revered, someone to be feared and wary of, Qin Fang's identity seems much simpler, perhaps not as distinguished as many of the privileged young masters on the ship.

But when Qin Fang speaks up, no one dares to disrespect him.

The incident he stirred up last night already spread across the whole ship, causing Zhang Wei, Zhang Xu, and others to lose face completely because a mere bodyguard had severely beaten them into pig-heads.

If the ship weren't sailing in the deep sea, preventing it from reaching the shore quickly, they probably would've escaped by now.

Yet, this fiasco established Qin Fang's unprovokable powerful image, making generally nobody dare to challenge him. Even the Captain greeted him with respect, not daring to show any negligence.

Of course, if they knew Qin Fang had invaded Xu Ling's room at night, and killed Xu Ling's men right in front of him, outsiders would likely be terrified.

The Captain knew several of Xu Ling's men were killed last night, yet Xu Ling showed no intention of revenge, making him worried.

The more this was the case, the more cautious the Captain was, so when Qin Fang approached, he agreed to Qin Fang's request without hesitation, not daring to refuse!

Yet, if he knew the one who killed Xu Ling's men was indeed Qin Fang, he'd probably be unsure whether to feel lucky for what he'd done or lament not knowing how to flatter enough.

Qin Fang's request was naturally simple—just to see these corpses...

The corpses weren't destroyed immediately. Firstly, there wasn't the capacity, and secondly, they needed to be handed over to relevant departments for processing...

Under the Captain's guidance, Qin Fang and another person arrived at the cabin where the corpses were stored, and Qin Fang promptly began examining the injuries on these corpses.

"It's really the Japan Wanderers..."

Seeing the wounds, Qin Fang couldn't help but furrow his eyebrows, muttering softly to himself. The method was indeed too similar to that of Japan Wanderers.

Almost everyone was killed by an extremely sharp blade—the Japanese katana is famous for its sharpness—and the speed of the strike was incredibly quick; almost all were executed with one fatal blow, too similar to the Japan Wanderers' technique...

Chapter 1535 - The Japs' Intentions

...

The Japan Wanderer is also a Martial Artist, using the Japanese Samurai Sword as well, and specifically the most traditional Dual Blade Style, which is quite distinct compared to local Ninja and Swordsmen.

Although Ninjas also use dual blades, due to ninjutsu, their blades are generally smaller, known as Sleeve Swords, meaning they're hidden inside sleeves.

This Sleeve Sword is even smaller in size and length than the Japanese Tachi, easy to carry and perfect for sneak attacks, making it easily distinguishable.

Japan's Swordsmanship Sect is even more specific, similar to Dragon Country in that it's just one sword, the longest one.

The Japan Wanderer is precisely a combination of these two styles, using the Dual Blade Style, one long and one short, with the long blade for frontal combat and the short blade for sneak attacks or finishing moves.

The wounds on these murdered fishermen are mostly from two types of blade injuries, clearly caused by two different sharp blades, and since the location is so close to the Ryukyu Islands, Qin Fang can basically confirm that this incident is related to these Japan Wanderers...

"Young Master Qin, what do you think about this matter..."

When it was confirmed that these fishermen died at the hands of Japan Wanderers, Shen Liang's face turned somewhat unpleasant, considering these victims were their compatriots.

If it were several decades ago, when the little devils invaded Dragon Country, the compatriots were killed out of helplessness amidst the chaos, as human life was truly cheap then!

But now, in peaceful times, such a serious incident happening has ignited a fire of anger within Shen Liang, a retired soldier.

"Let's go back first..."

Qin Fang waved his hand, halting Shen Liang's urge to continue speaking, and led them back to the quarters instead.

"Young Master Qin, shall I head to Okinawa to investigate this matter..."

Back in the room, Shen Liang couldn't contain his anger any longer and immediately volunteered.

Before actually seeing the bodies, Shen Liang was just mildly angry, but seeing the obviously tortured bodies, he couldn't hold back his rage.

Almost every fisherman endured torture before death, their body conditions revealing it, and afterwards, the bodies were thrown into the sea, which, had it not been for the coincidence of encountering their ship, would likely have ended up in fish bellies.

"You don't need to worry about this matter, I've got my plans..."

However, Qin Fang thought for a moment and waved his hand, rejecting Shen Liang's request, "Continue investigating Xu Ling's matters, as detailed as possible..."

Xu Ling's sudden appearance on this ship was originally unusual, so Qin Fang arranged for Shen Liang to investigate some of the insider information, not wanting Shen Liang to be distracted by other matters.

Xu Ling is a distinguished member of the third generation of the Xu Family, slightly older than Qin Fang. Unlike Qin Fang, who is an idler, Young Master Xu has already entered the system and would not be on this ship if not for something important...

Qin Fang had almost wiped out those available to Xu Ling, leaving at most one or two slip through the cracks, making it difficult for Xu Ling to accomplish anything.

With fewer people to guard against, Shen Liang's investigation would become easier, particularly during the period when Qin Fang should avoid appearing before Xu Ling.

"But..."

Shen Liang still seemed inclined to argue.

"No need to say more, I will handle this personally!"

Qin Fang only needed one sentence to leave him speechless.

Shen Liang went out to carry out his duties and investigate Xu Ling's objectives, while Qin Fang sat down pondering the incident caused by the Japan Wanderers this time.

The Japan Wanderers are not necessarily significant, mostly just some radical individuals among them. Some have always been eyeing the Western Regions covetously, never forgetting even after years of defeat...

But peace is the main theme, small conflicts arise constantly, while big conflicts don't exist.

Perhaps knowing this is why some continue to stir up small conflicts, like this case of fishermen bodies, which falls into this category.

Generally, small conflicts result at most in some ship collisions, but such cruel acts against civilians are rarely seen.

Yet such an incident not only occurred, but the other party seemed utterly fearless, not even bothering to properly handle the bodies, simply throwing them into the sea.

"Could it be these fishermen discovered something that led to them being silenced?"

Various possibilities arose in Qin Fang's mind; this whole incident seemed unusually bizarre, indeed quite mysterious and unpredictable.

This possibility isn't absent; the Ryukyu Islands are at the southernmost end of Japan, closest to Dragon Country, an excellent tourist destination, but also home to numerous restricted zones.

These restricted zones are mostly U.S. military bases, difficult for ordinary people to approach, as the Americans are famously secretive about their secrets, which explains restrictions on exporting advanced technology to Dragon Country.

Perhaps it's precisely because there are so many restricted areas that the Americans might not even know which parts belong to them and which are the Japanese's own...

Rumor has it that the Japanese have established some secret bases in the Okinawa area, engaging in some military and biochemical secret research...

The Fukushima nuclear leakage incident back then was caused by unexpected events in similar research.

Because of their defeat in WWII, the Japanese military power was stripped away, and the U.S. military occupied their territory for decades.

However, as the U.S. military gradually withdrew, Japan's military strength grew year by year. Although it couldn't possibly reach the level of the WWII era, their economic might strongly compensated, making them increasingly powerful.

But this still didn't meet Japan's expectations. This sinister country has never given up on its old plans and has always been amassing strength in secret.

They never stopped harboring malicious intentions towards their old neighbor, Dragon Country...

Qin Fang didn't care about these political matters as he wasn't at that level, but the case of the innocent fishermen murdered did touch him a bit.

"Forget it. Once this battle is over, I'll make a trip..."

At present, he had no time since he had to deal with the next crucial battle ahead.

At the moment, their ship was already very close to the Ryukyu Islands, but going out of his way to make a trip there would be a waste of time.

Although he could have Little Dragon take him quickly, investigating the case of the fishermen's murders was definitely not something that could be done in a short time.

Instead, it would be better to wait until the battle is over, when he would have plenty of time to investigate the issue, and it might even be possible to catch those culprits.

For now, he set the matter aside, and the bodies of the fishermen were already properly handled, intending to take them back to Dragon Country to let the victims' families claim them.

That was Qin Fang's suggestion, and the captain dared not defy it. Thus, it was settled this way.

Shen Liang was still busy investigating Xu Ling's purpose for the trip. However, it could only be conducted secretly, as he didn't want to alert the target. Xu Ling's trip was highly secretive, making the investigation incredibly challenging, so for now, there were no leads.

Qin Fang also shouldn't frequently appear in front of Xu Ling; after that encounter, both maintained a very discreet distance.

Precisely because of this, Qin Fang found it difficult to use the Mind Reading Technique to probe Xu Ling's secrets...

Not to mention that Xu Ling was extremely wary; even when Qin Fang killed many of his men, his mind remained undisturbed. Qin Fang's Mind Reading Technique didn't work then, let alone now—it was nearly impossible to succeed.

If not for this, Qin Fang wouldn't have specially arranged for Shen Liang to investigate secretly.

With nothing to do for now, Qin Fang was happy to rest peacefully, adjusting his own condition in preparation for the upcoming battle against the Bloody-handed Demon Tu San.

Tu San was doing about the same, always adjusting and not relaxing a bit, even though his strength was considerably superior to Qin Fang's.

Occasionally, the two would bump into each other, but mostly they would simply nod and go their separate ways.

Those who knew might think they were only acquaintances; those who didn't might not even notice since these two had virtually no interaction.

Neither Tu San nor Xu Ling came looking for him, yet unexpectedly, somebody did, slightly surprising Qin Fang.

"Qin... Young Master Qin..."

When Qin Fang opened the door, the person standing outside had a somewhat pale face, cautiously addressing him.

"What are you here for?"

Initially, Qin Fang was curious about who would seek him out at this time, but upon seeing the visitor, his expression became quite strange, his tone a bit hostile.

"I... I'm here... to apologize to Young Master Qin!"

The visitor was choked by Qin Fang's words, his face turning green as he cautiously spoke after a long pause.

"Forget it, I've already forgotten about that. You can leave now..."

Yet Qin Fang seemed uninterested in accepting the apology, his tone indifferent, not even inviting the person inside, directly intending to dismiss them.

"Wait... Hold on!"

However, the visitor seemed unwilling to give up, immediately using his somewhat plump body to block the door, posing defiantly,

"Young Master Qin... I've come not only to apologize but also to tell you something! It's about Young Master Xu Ling Xu..."

Not only did the visitor block the door, but he also said something that caught Qin Fang off guard.

Chapter 1536 - Learning the Secret

...

Qin Fang originally didn't care about the person's behavior of blocking the door. If he really wanted to kick someone out, it wouldn't matter even if they had already entered; he could still throw them out.

"Hmm?"

However, when he heard what the person said, Qin Fang stopped his action of pushing the person out in shock and looked at them with a face full of surprise.

"Young Master Qin, what I said is true... I was supposed to come and apologize yesterday, but I spent a day investigating this matter instead!"

The person earnestly stated, as if they really had some secret information.

"Come in first then..."

Qin Fang thought for a moment and decided to let the person in.

The person nodded and smiled, walking inside. After taking just two steps, they bumped into Chu Yunxuan coming out of the inner room.

"Why are you here?"

Chu Yunxuan was momentarily stunned seeing the person, then exclaimed unhappily, clearly not pleased to see them.

"I'm sorry, Miss Chu... I was reckless that day, Young Master Qin already severely reprimanded me. If you're still not satisfied, you can hit me however you like... Anyway, I've got enough flesh to handle it!"

The person straightforwardly apologized to Chu Yunxuan while also presenting themselves for punishment, showing a certain sincerity.

"Er..."

Chu Yunxuan didn't expect this reaction, and her anger dissipated instantly. "Forget it, I won't hold it against you..."

She remembered that night when Qin Fang had Shen Liang harshly punish this guy, who was already a bit chubby, and ended up looking like the second brother Zhu Bajie!

"Thank you, Miss Chu..."

Upon hearing this, the person immediately thanked her with a happy face, leaving Chu Yunxuan a bit speechless.

This person was none other than Zhang Xu, the chubby guy who had teased Chu Yunxuan with inappropriate words that day.

That day, the chubby guy was badly beaten by Shen Liang, and later he found out that his good friend Zhang Wei had betrayed them, which made him furious.

Unexpectedly, he came today to apologize to Qin Fang and brought some important information that even Qin Fang needed to take seriously... Without this, Qin Fang wouldn't have let him in at all.

"How did you get him here?"

Chu Yunxuan didn't bother with the chubby Zhang Xu anymore and instead curiously asked Qin Fang.

Though the incident had passed, and the chubby guy had been beaten by Shen Liang, Chu Yunxuan still had some reservations. Having this chubby guy in the room made her slightly uncomfortable.

"He came on his own, I didn't call him... But this kid seems to know something, that's why I kept him around!"

Qin Fang shook his head, feeling somewhat helpless.

"Then I won't interfere... but be careful yourself!"

Chu Yunxuan understood that Qin Fang had a good reason to let the chubby guy in, so she decided not to dwell on it further. Qin Fang's matters were more important, and since her anger had already been vented before, it would be pointless to hold a grudge now; it would only make her seem petty.

"You go rest..."

Qin Fang nodded. If the chubby guy dared to play any tricks, he'd make sure he'd regret it deeply...

"So, tell me, what do you know?"

Chu Yunxuan headed back to rest, not staying to disturb them. After sitting down, Qin Fang went straight to the point and asked.

The previous mischief by the chubby guy was not something Qin Fang wanted to pursue anymore, but if the chubby guy dared to mess with him, he wouldn't hesitate to show him what a real "thrashing" was!

This time, Xu Ling's purpose was being investigated by Shen Liang under Qin Fang's orders, but they had no leads yet.

On one hand, there were too few insiders left, as most had been taken down by Qin Fang. On the other hand, Xu Ling was very cautious, making it difficult to catch him off guard, especially as Qin Fang couldn't afford any extreme actions.

Due to these reasons, there was no progress in the investigation on Xu Ling, and the reason the chubby guy was let in was that he held some secrets Qin Fang needed to know.

"Young Master Qin, it's like this..."

The chubby guy seemed to have anticipated Qin Fang's response and did not dwell on unnecessary explanations, instead straightforwardly disclosing what he knew.

Interestingly, he got hold of this secret thanks to Zhang Wei, the one who had set up Zhang Xu and his friends.

Initially, Zhang Wei wanted to come by himself, but now he has become a target of everyone, shunned by his family, so he didn't dare to come to Qin Fang's place lightly to court death.

He had royally offended Qin Fang by what he did. Beating him once was already lenient, and since he didn't accomplish his task, he didn't gain any favor from Xu Ling either.

This left him in a situation where he pleased neither side, making him feel like an outcast...

Xu Ling had just lost many people at the hands of Qin Fang, and was already very upset; Zhang Wei going over would be purely seeking death — a good outcome would be surprising.

This made Zhang Wei feel so powerless, and just when Fatty Zhang Xu found out about Qin Fang's identity, it gave Zhang Wei quite a shock.

After pondering it over, he revealed something he accidentally learned to Fatty Zhang Xu, letting him be the one to bring this good news to Qin Fang...

"Xu Ling came to Jiangzhou this time, boarded this ship, mainly to meet someone, someone very important to him..."

This information was overheard by Zhang Wei when Xu Ling had initially asked him to do something, and Xu Ling made a call during a bathroom break.

Zhang Wei didn't clearly hear the content of the call; he could only guess from the scattered words Xu Ling said.

"Who is this person?"

Qin Fang furrowed his brow slightly and immediately asked.

It's just to meet someone, but must be done so secretly, that person obviously isn't simple and possibly involves something very confidential.

Xu Ling's status is special, and he is a person within the system, but as he just started his career, his position isn't high, generally not at sensitive times.

But even so, Xu Ling chose to meet someone on this ship, which makes that person's identity questionable, and the matters discussed even more so.

"I don't know... but it seems to be related to some Japanese multinational corporation! Seems like Xu Ling has some secret cooperation with them..."

Fatty shook his head. He didn't hear the original call. This is all what Zhang Wei relayed, and the specifics of the matter aren't particularly certain.

"Japan? Some multinational corporation?"

Upon hearing these keywords, Qin Fang's expression froze instantly. Obviously, he didn't initially think in this direction, but immediately realized there might be significant underlying issues.

As a child from a privileged family in the Dragon Country, his identity itself is quite sensitive, and such people, even in business, are often avoided by multinational corporations to prevent any political involvement.

Of course, it's much better now than before, and there are more frequent trade exchanges. Many multinationals pursue children like Xu Ling precisely because of their backgrounds, which make doing business in the Dragon Country simpler...

Therefore, pure commercial contact usually doesn't need such evasiveness, but Xu Ling's actions seem sneaky, which is odd!

"Secret cooperation..."

Especially hearing this term from Fatty's mouth made Qin Fang even more curious about what kind of secret cooperation requires such clandestine arrangements?

"Do you know when they plan to meet?"

Qin Fang thought about it and immediately asked again.

The more details he knows, the easier it will be for him to investigate. If he figures out the meeting time, he can ask Shen Liang to start with the surveillance footage from then.

"It seems they haven't met yet; that day Zhang Wei only heard they planned to meet... the exact time isn't clear!"

Fatty shook his head, indicating he didn't know much about this matter either.

"Where is that brat Zhang Wei?"

Unhappy with such an answer, Qin Fang immediately inquired.

Only Zhang Wei knows the most about this matter; asking him directly might be more reliable.

"He's kind of afraid to see Young Master Qin, already boarded a ship and left. By now he should have landed..."

To Qin Fang's surprise, Zhang Wei's courage had seemingly shrunk, or maybe he realized this matter involved a struggle between two people with backgrounds much more powerful than his, and he didn't want to be a pawn in their battle, so he retreated quickly.

The reason he told this to Qin Fang through Fatty Zhang Xu was, one, to vent his frustrations towards Xu Ling, and two, to try to please Qin Fang.

"That brat... ran away quite fast!"

Hearing this, Qin Fang could only mutter helplessly, but ultimately, he could only express his disdain with resignation. "Try to get in touch with him, and it's best if he could clarify this matter a bit for me..."

Though displeased with the lack of detailed information, it was still much better than having no leads. At least the purpose of Xu Ling's trip became clearer.

The task of finding out the full truth was directly handed to Fatty Zhang Xu to continue contacting Zhang Wei, while Qin Fang also provided Shen Liang with some useful leads.

Since Xu Ling hasn't met the person, it's either not yet the appointed time, or the person isn't on the ship at all. Considering the ship currently sailing close to Japanese waters, Qin Fang suspected that this person might plan to board midway to meet Xu Ling.

Because further delay would mean they'd have to wait until the ship docks, this kind of arrangement from Xu Ling would then become unnecessary...

Chapter 1537 - The Final Battle Begins!

...

Qin Fang doesn't have time to deal with Xu Ling's matters right now. He can only have Shen Liang monitor him in secret and report any developments back to him... In any case, Qin Fang doesn't plan to let Xu Ling comfortably finish this task.

The little fatty Zhang Xu continues to try to contact Zhang Wei, who has gone into hiding, but there hasn't been any news for a while. Zhang Wei has really been scared senseless and they don't even know where he's hiding.

Qin Fang isn't idle either. Three days is neither too long nor too short, and it just passed by in these whirlwinds of activities.

Tu San must have planned this well because when the third day arrived, their ship was just resting at sea, and the distance to the Ryukyu Islands of Japan was very close at that moment.

If their ship could dock without restrictions, they would most likely have reached Okinawa directly.

However, Qin Fang vaguely understood that the reason Tu San chose this day for a decisive battle was perhaps because he intended to leave the ship immediately after the fight.

From their position, using an ordinary lifeboat, they could quickly reach the nearby islands, which could save a lot of unnecessary trouble.

Of course, this is just Qin Fang's speculation, only Tu San would know if this is really his plan.

Similarly, this position also made Qin Fang wonder if the person Xu Ling wanted to meet would also arrive by boat from Okinawa tonight.

The truth of the matter will only be known when it actually happens. Until then, Qin Fang can only speculate by himself.

The night of the third day is the time for Qin Fang and the Bloody-handed Demon Tu San to have their duel!

The weather on this day was fairly good, with a bright moon and sparse stars in the open sky. A few clouds floated by faintly.

The Princess cruise ship continued moving slowly, its pace not particularly fast since it was primarily for sightseeing, so rushing would be inappropriate.

The time slowly moved forward to midnight when the ship was still brightly lit, and the various entertainment venues bustled with noise, undiminished by the late hour.

"Get some rest, I'll be back soon..."

After settling Chu Yunxuan, Qin Fang left his cabin and headed for his duel destination.

Chu Yunxuan vaguely knew what Qin Fang was going to do, and her heart was clearly anxious. However, she didn't try to stop him and prayed silently for him.

As the woman who understood Qin Fang the most, Chu Yunxuan knew the significance of this battle for him. She didn't want to be a stumbling block, so she could only silently pray in her heart, hoping he would win the fight and break through to the next level!

The duel location was at the top of the Princess cruise ship, providing the broadest view and least likelihood of interruption.

When Qin Fang arrived, Bloody-handed Demon Tu San was already quietly standing there, hands behind his back, bracing himself against the night breeze.

The back silhouette appeared somewhat melancholic and desolate, and even Qin Fang could sense that Tu San must have had a hidden past and many stories.

"You're here... you didn't disappoint me after all!"

When Qin Fang stepped on the scene, Tu San immediately turned around, looking at Qin Fang with a calm demeanor, speaking in an inexplicably familiar tone.

This tone, in this setting, instantly gave people a quite awkward feeling... at least that's how Qin Fang felt.

"Yeah, I'm here..."

Gazing at Tu San, Qin Fang also slightly nodded in acknowledgment.

"Then let's cut the crap and start..."

Tu San quickly adopted a stern expression, replacing it with a cold demeanor, and said indifferently, positioning himself in a corner with one hand raised slightly, his palm faintly turning crimson.

"Blood Hand Print..."

Seeing that crimson palm, Qin Fang immediately recognized it as Tu San's signature Blood Hand Print. It's an insidious cultivation technique that requires utmost caution.

Once hit by the Blood Hand Print, it's extremely dangerous, and it's not impossible to die!

Tu San's origins are enigmatic. It's rumored that he is from the Esoteric Sect, but they have neither confirmed nor denied this.

The Blood Hand Print looks quite similar to the Esoteric Sect's Big Hand Seal, which is why the rumors exist...

However, others say Tu San is actually from the Demon Sect's Blood Demon Sect, as the Blood Hand Print also resembles their Cultivation Technique.

In short, the speculations continue, and each sounds plausible, but Tu San has never expressed anything regarding these, making the mystery an unsolved one.

Although Qin Fang has such a heaven-defying skill as Reconnaissance, he can only gather some information on Tu San. However, he is powerless to discern his exact origins.

Unless he could use the Mind Reading Technique on Tu San...

But that's simply impossible; any Martial Artist has a firm will, making the Mind Reading Technique difficult to succeed. Unless his psychological defenses completely collapse, it's fundamentally impossible to succeed.

Tu San's strength is far superior to Qin Fang's, and since his debut, he has rarely been defeated, killing countless without fear of death. Such a person practically has no flaws whatsoever, even if the Mind Reading Technique is quite heaven-defying, it still has no effect on him.

Qin Fang no longer expects to defeat Tu San using other methods; he must confront him with direct Strength, for this is his pivotal battle to advance to Grandmaster Level, and no mistake can be allowed.

Qin Fang collected his thoughts, gazing quietly at Tu San opposite him, fully mobilizing the True Qi within him. Every string in his body was tightened to the extreme, ready to react at the fastest speed anytime.

Tu San's gaze also became extremely fierce, and the aura of his body surged quickly, the Master Level Peak strength erupted instantly, and the terrifying power caused Qin Fang's eyebrows to slightly furrow.

"Such strong strength..."

Although Qin Fang was mentally prepared in advance, when the Master Level Peak strength truly erupted, Qin Fang couldn't help but be amazed.

Qin Fang's master, Cai Pingyuan, is also a Master Level Peak expert, but Cai Pingyuan's presence feels far less fierce compared to Tu San.

Tu San grew through slaughter, not only does he possess immense Strength, but his murderous aura is overwhelming, making his combat power explode to three hundred percent of its terrifying potential!

"This battle may be a tough one!"

Feeling Tu San's terrifying aura, Qin Fang's expression changed slightly, carrying a hint of bitterness, clearly knowing this battle won't be easy.

"But what of it! The least I'm afraid of is a prolonged battle..."

But Qin Fang is not one to easily yield; although Tu San is terrifying, Qin Fang still has a chance of winning as he holds quite a few trump cards.

Moreover, what Qin Fang needs most right now is such intense pressure, only then can he quickly advance to the Master Level.

The leap in level is also a huge leap in strength.

Qin Fang believes that as long as his strength steps into the Master Level, then Master Level Peak Tu San won't be a threat...

"Ah, ha~~"

Seeing Qin Fang ready, Tu San let out a loud roar, suddenly moving his feet, instantly soaring to the sky, transforming into a terrifying giant bird, rapidly charging toward Qin Fang.

Tu San's strength is very strong, and he also possesses a set of movement techniques, although somewhat incomplete, but when utilized, they are very formidable.

Tu San quickly struck, his form becoming elusive even in mid-air, giving an unpredictable feeling, clearly in front, yet Qin Fang felt Tu San wasn't in the sky at all...

Qin Fang's gaze contracted slightly, his steps quickly shifting, and the Snow Traversing Step was pushed to the limit, his form becoming quite elusive.

Movement technique against movement technique!

Incomplete technique against complete technique!

This should have originally been a clear result, but at this moment it isn't so, only faint shadows of two figures rapidly shuttling on the ship's top, sometimes intersecting, but never with any contact.

"What an impressive movement technique..."

Such a result was unsurprising to Tu San, for he didn't know Qin Fang also mastered a Light Body Technique, while Qin Fang was surprised at Tu San's skilled technique.

Back on Hong Kong Island, the two had a gunfight, at that time Qin Fang merely thought Tu San's Light Body Technique was remarkable, but in the end still incomplete, hence some flaws and lack of smoothness remained.

But now, after a true exchange, Qin Fang realized how naïve his previous thoughts were...

Movement techniques are also a form of martial arts, the fact that Tu San managed to cultivate an incomplete technique indicates he obtained a complete part of it.

As for the complete technique being incomplete, perhaps some later content was lost, Tu San merely obtained the initial part of it.

This isn't strange at all, the Snow Traversing Step Qin Fang acquired is actually divided into three parts, the first part is what Qin Fang obtained, but the System automatically filled in the latter two parts, hence Qin Fang possesses the complete Snow Traversing Step.

Tu San evidently is the same; he also obtained part of this technique, cultivated it successfully, which is why it holds such power.

Both are secret movement techniques, Tu San's Strength is far greater than Qin Fang's, and his technique is operated with more proficiency, naturally its power is slightly stronger.

The two shadows rapidly traversed, their speed increasing, the distance between them closing in, the first clash seemingly imminent...

Chapter 1538 - Fight to the Death with Tu San!

...

The distance became closer and closer... until the two finally could no longer avoid it. A blood-red palm instantly rose, and a massive fist carrying a terrifying gale also approached head-on.

Bam~

The first confrontation between the two occurred.

Qin Fang's fist, Tu San's Blood Hand Print, hit each other almost simultaneously, and then the two quickly separated, each retreating rapidly backward.

Both retreated at least over three meters, backing into the corners before barely steadying their stances, both panting heavily.

"Not bad, much stronger than I anticipated..."

After taking a slight breath, Tu San's sinister face revealed a slight smile, seeming to appreciate Qin Fang's display somewhat.

"You're much weaker than I anticipated..."

Unlike Tu San's praise, Qin Fang responded with a bit of sarcasm, striking at Tu San's confidence.

"Such simple goading strategies are useless on me..."

However, who is Tu San? A notorious killing maniac of the underground world; if he were easy to deal with, he wouldn't have survived until now.

Tu San saw through Qin Fang's little tricks all too clearly, unconcernedly retorting while the aura on his body began to rise steadily.

"The palm just now was only thirty percent of my strength, so you better enjoy what's next..."

As Tu San's aura surged, Qin Fang clearly felt Tu San's power escalating. When Tu San mentioned "thirty percent strength," Qin Fang pondered that it might not just be bluffing; it could very well be true!

"Too bad, I was only using twenty percent of my strength..."

However, not willing to concede, Qin Fang retorted without hesitation, even slightly belittling Tu San a bit.

"Really? Then it seems I need to exert more strength..."

Tu San responded with a light, dismissive smile, speaking while the aura on his body indeed continued to rise, quickly reaching its peak state.

The strength at the Master Level Peak was fully displayed at this moment, the kind of terrifying aura, combined with the overwhelming killing intent, made Qin Fang experience a delusion.

It made Qin Fang feel as if he was facing not a master-level expert but rather confronting a grandmaster-level expert...

Thus, it was evident that Tu San's strength had vaguely reached a level comparable to a grandmaster-level expert!

Qin Fang's face turned somewhat unpleasant; such a result was the worst-case scenario he anticipated, and unexpectedly, he guessed it right.

"Blood Burst Technique..."

Facing Tu San, whose power surged to his strongest state, the pressure on Qin Fang also reached its peak. At this moment, he deeply understood that Tu San would burst out with his strongest offensive next.

What he needed was to withstand Tu San's attacks under such powerful pressure, and simultaneously, he had to break open the master-level barrier in front of him.

At this point, Qin Fang had no options left. He directly used the Blood Burst Technique, exchanging seventy percent of his essence for a surge in power, which took his originally near Master Level Late Stage strength directly to the Master Level Peak...

The aura on his body became intense, seemingly not much weaker than Tu San!

"Now this is fun!"

Feeling the shift in Qin Fang's momentum, Tu San not only showed no concern but appeared rather pleased, seemingly thinking Qin Fang finally acted as he should.

"Blood Burst Technique..."

But it was clear that Qin Fang's methods did not end there. After using the Blood Burst Technique, Qin Fang immediately used Blood Replenishing Pill to quickly restore his Life Points and then directly used the Blood Burst Technique again.

Continuously using the Blood Burst Technique may not always increase power, but accumulating it still had some effect, though the increase would progressively weaken.

"Hmm? Interesting..."

Qin Fang's momentum rose again, and Tu San, always observant, expressed considerable interest in Qin Fang's transformation, even while surprised.

"Haha~~"

Right now, however, the two are not simply sparring but engaged in a life-and-death struggle. Tu San couldn't allow Qin Fang to continue to unleash Blood Burst indefinitely; that would be disadvantageous to him.

Thus, Tu San unhesitatingly cast aside his master's pride, immediately shouted, and moved once again, his blood-red palm quickly invading Qin Fang's body.

The speed was extremely fast, so fast that Qin Fang almost had no chance to dodge...

Qin Fang reacted quickly, but it was too late to avoid at that moment; he could only raise his fist, circulate all the True Qi within his body, concentrating it entirely on this punch, and struck towards Tu San's Blood Hand Print.

Even though Qin Fang had the Snow Traversing Step, Tu San's movement technique was also quite impressive. Therefore, in terms of movement technique, they were mostly canceling each other out, so Qin Fang had no way to dodge.

The Blood Hand Print, unleashed with Tu San's full power, was absolutely terrifying. Moreover, he attacked proactively, taking attacking advantage and incorporating some acceleration, making the power of this palm extremely dreadful to the utmost nature.

Qin Fang planned to attack defiantly, channeling all his True Qi into the punch, prepared for a direct and fierce clash with Tu San.

Furthermore, almost as he was about to strike, he immediately drank the Berserk Potion.

This collision was incredibly fierce; Qin Fang had elevated his strength to the extreme through consecutive Blood Bursts, and now had drunk the Berserk Potion, directly triggering the most formidable cultivation within him.

At least for that moment, the momentum on Qin Fang surged skyward dramatically, not weaker than Tu San in his peak state.

Boom~~

Soon, their fist, Blood Hand Print collided, and the terrifying True Qi rippled, creating strange crackling sounds.

Qin Fang, who played all his cards, faced off against Tu San, whose power was terrifyingly comparable to a grandmaster-level expert; this clash was almost enough to decide the final victory.

Under such terrifying might, Qin Fang endured immense pressure while simultaneously triggering all his cultivation, intending to smash through the barrier for progression in this strike...

Puff~~

Qin Fang used all his cultivation to strike the barrier for progression, leaving only a portion of power to resist Tu San's dreadful assault.

Tu San's attack was incredibly terrifying; almost upon contact, Qin Fang immediately spat a mouthful of fresh blood, his whole body directly flying backward.

"Oh..."

However, Tu San didn't attack again after his successful strike but instead watched the retreating Qin Fang with a strange look, feeling the evident change in his momentum...

Chapter 1539 - Advancement! Grandmaster Level!

...

The aura around Qin Fang was undergoing a noticeable change, previously already quite strong, almost comparable to Tu San.

However, in the recent exchange, Tu San's strength remained exceptionally powerful, and in a direct clash, Qin Fang was ultimately knocked flying.

Such an outcome perhaps even Qin Fang himself did not anticipate, Tu San's strength far exceeding his prior estimation, almost on par with a Grandmaster-level expert.

However, Qin Fang would not regret his actions in the slightest!

It is indeed under the greatest pressure that the best breakthroughs occur.

When Qin Fang channeled all his explosive strength to break through his own realm, the once unyielding barrier became significantly softer.

The series of Blood Explosion Techniques, the replenishment of the Berserk Potion, and Tu San's blow akin to a Grandmaster-level expert's strike, these three combined unleashed an absolutely terrifying power.

The barrier of the Grandmaster Level, under this combined attack by these three forces, was instantly punctured through like a sheet of window paper.

Qin Fang was struck by Tu San's palm energy and spat out a mouthful of reverse blood, causing significant damage to his body, reducing his Life Points by nearly eighty percent instantaneously.

However, the barrier of the Grandmaster Level was also simultaneously shattered, and the aura surrounding Qin Fang continued to rise because he... officially stepped into the Master Level Realm!

After much effort, seizing this opportunity and adventure, Qin Fang finally crossed the martial artist's most critical threshold.

Without a moment's hesitation, while still flying through the air, Qin Fang immediately opened the Props Box and drank a vial of liquid stored within.

The liquid in the bottle was scarce, just a few drops, but each drop was precious beyond measure, for this liquid was known as Golden Dragon Saliva, a lost peerless elixir.

Qin Fang had already scavenged it from the puppet person before the battle, stored it in the bottle and placed it in the Props Box, intending to use it precisely at this moment.

As the Golden Dragon Saliva entered his body, its immense medicinal power instantly invaded every part of Qin Fang's body, with massive energy aura surging through his meridians.

Yet Qin Fang dared not waste any, completely sealing his pores, even holding his breath completely, allowing the True Qi within to circulate swiftly, aiming to fully integrate the Golden Dragon Saliva's medicinal power into his body as rapidly as possible.

Still amidst battle, Qin Fang had little time to spare, daring not waste a single bit, hence adopting this almost suicidal method of integration.

Of course, this method of integration is extremely dangerous to a martial artist, with even the slightest issue possibly leading to irreparable fatal damage.

But Qin Fang couldn't be bothered with that much, as he could control his integration speed at any time, able to detect any issues instantly and adjust promptly to avoid any mishap.

This method of breath-holding integration was a special secret technique of the Turtle Breathing Technique, which Qin Fang was also trying for the first time, though it seemed effective.

With the operation of the True Qi, after almost every cycle, Qin Fang felt his power stabilize significantly, with his True Qi becoming much more robust.

"Oh..."

Feeling the change in Qin Fang's aura, Tu San's expression grew stranger, seemingly quite curious.

Yet he did not strike Qin Fang again, rather stood quietly there, as if waiting for Qin Fang's recovery, more like safeguarding Qin Fang.

Time ticked by, second by second, as Qin Fang's integration entered a critical stage, seemingly forgetting he still had an opponent...

Centered on Qin Fang's body formed a strong flow of True Qi, similar to when Song Qingshan advanced, only the air at sea was fresher, the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi richer than the land's polluted qi, enhancing the effect notably.

The terrifying Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi swirled around Qin Fang's body, since his pores were completely closed, unable to be fully absorbed yet, but it gathered more and more, forming a formidable flow of Spiritual Qi.

The emergence of this Spiritual Qi flow even made Tu San click his tongue in awe; he was a top expert, having witnessed many young experts advance, yet the commotion from Qin Fang advancing to the Master Level was evidently far greater.

Watching Qin Fang's changes, Tu San's eyes didn't express gravity, rather a hint of appreciation... unfortunately, Qin Fang, busy consolidating his realm, did not notice this.

Time passed by, and about half an hour later, Tu San felt the surrounding Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi suddenly become turbulent...

At this moment, Qin Fang's sealed pores all opened instantly, and the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi surged toward Qin Fang's body, being absorbed rapidly at an incredibly swift speed.

At this moment, Qin Fang was like a bottomless pit, relentlessly absorbing the Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi that came his way.

Meanwhile, the aura surrounding Qin Fang was also escalating at an equally terrifying speed...

Master Level Early Stage... easily surpassed!

Master Level Mid-Stage... easily leaped over!

Master Level Late Stage... slowed down slightly, but eventually crossed it!

Master Level Peak...

Until the energy around Qin Fang reached the Master Level Peak, the surrounding Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi finally began to slow its flow and eventually settled down.

The Master Level is a threshold for martial artists, a barrier that the majority of people are blocked by, ultimately spending their lives without ever crossing it.

But for some martial artists who have crossed this threshold, it is considered as truly setting foot into the Martial Way, becoming a real martial artist.

However, even among those who have crossed this threshold, some spend half a lifetime painstakingly accumulating and breaking through, only to barely make it across and ultimately stall at the Master Level...

Others, who reach the Master Level at a young age, can still advance to higher levels like Grandmaster Level and Great Grandmaster Level... becoming martial artists of a higher tier.

Especially for those martial artists from the Great Sects, the Master Level is merely a minor hurdle for them, which they can easily breeze through...

And some genius martial artists, who could easily cross it, deliberately accumulate slowly before the Master Level, and upon breakthrough, with their solid foundation, leap into an even higher level within the Master Level!

For instance, Song Qingshan is one such person. Before breaking through, he already possessed Master Level combat strength. After breaking through, he could even reach the Master Level Mid-Stage... and Qin Fang offered him a drop of the Peerless Elixir Golden Dragon Saliva, allowing him to achieve Master Level Late Stage cultivation after breaking through!

This time it was Qin Fang's turn, and he wasn't stingy with himself in the slightest.

Using continuous Blood Explosion Techniques, combined with the terrifying amplification of the Berserk Potion, and the fearsome Palm Energy of Tu San, these elements combined to break the barrier of the Master Level.

Additionally, with a large amount of Peerless Elixir Golden Dragon Saliva as a catalyst, all the medicinal power was completely fused together, becoming one through the most thrilling secret technique.

Thus, under such risky conditions, Qin Fang reaped a jaw-dropping result... Master Level advancement, a leap into the Master Level Peak!

This achievement is something that even those at the Grandmaster Level, Great Grandmaster Level, and even higher-level experts might not have witnessed...

The breakthrough was completed, and the Realm was quickly consolidated. Once everything was settled, Qin Fang slowly opened his eyes and mouth.

"Ah~~~"

A low whistle erupted from Qin Fang's mouth, and in the quiet sea and the silent night, the clear sound was incredibly sharp.

But for such a sound, many tourists on the ship might have heard it, yet they wouldn't pay much attention; after all, Qin Fang wasn't the only one shouting like this at night.

Almost as soon as Qin Fang finished his low whistle, he could faintly hear similar exclamations echoing from various positions on the ship, seemingly as people vented their emotions.

Of course, with Qin Fang's shout, he also released the suffocating air in his chest, expelling all the turbid air accumulated within his body.

As a result, Qin Fang felt significantly lighter, as though he had entirely renewed himself.

"So, this is the Master Level Realm..."

His meridians were swelling, his True Qi was abundantly filled, and with a gentle movement of his arm, he could feel the flow of True Qi within, seemingly brimming with power at every point.

Before, although Qin Fang could fight against Master Level experts by crossing realms early, he felt that even if he didn't enter the Master Level, he was no weaker than any Master Level expert.

But now, having truly stepped into this level, Qin Fang realized how naive his earlier thoughts had been...

The Master Level is far from being as simple as he imagined, with qualitative changes that exceeded Qin Fang's expectations... Not to mention Qin Fang had killed several Master Level experts before, but now he realized those people were not truly top-tier Master Level experts!

Shangguan Tianling, Tang Nan, Ma Shengye, Kondo Ryota, and that unnamed young swordsman...

Counting the Master Level experts Qin Fang had dealt with, they were generally not the pinnacle of formidable Master Level fighters, either just newly advanced or lacking life-and-death battle experiences, or just had their essence drained... Essentially, they were all pushovers!

Chapter 1540 - Tu San's True Strength

...

Those grandmaster-level experts previously taken down were just a bunch of weaklings, not even one was a true top fighter at the master level.

Thus, Qin Fang felt that his previous assumptions were quite naive, as true grandmaster-level experts were much more formidable than he had imagined.

Let's put Song Qingshan aside for now—he hasn't been advancing for long, so although his strength is solid, he's not a cause for concern. But then Qin Fang thought of the Monk Wukong from the Inner Temple of the Shaolin Temple.

Previously, Qin Fang had only suspected that he might not be a match for Monk Wukong, but now he truly understood just how powerful Monk Wukong was.

Shen Wuben was extremely wary of Monk Wukong; aside from the personal connections between them, strength was also a very important factor.

Before the breakthrough, Qin Fang felt there wasn't much difficulty dealing with Shen Wuben, but he had absolutely no confidence against Monk Wukong.

Now that he had broken through, Qin Fang was even more aware that killing Shen Wuben was no trouble at all, but dealing with Monk Wukong... he feared that he might not necessarily win even now!

"The standout disciples from these ancient sects are indeed not typical freaks..."

Thinking this, Qin Fang couldn't help but murmur.

Monk Wukong had passed through the Wooden Men Lane before being allowed to descend the mountain. Earlier, Qin Fang thought that anyone at the grandmaster level could pass, but now he realized that without reaching the master level peak, one might not easily get through Wooden Men Lane...

The Shaolin Temple is an ancient school with a profound foundation, and the inner sect disciples in the Inner Temple are plentifully skilled, yet for hundreds of years, few monks from the Inner Temple have emerged...

Is it because they lack strength? Obviously not!

Qin Fang estimated it was mostly because Wooden Men Lane was excessively challenging... which forced many monks to remain in the temple.

"I wonder if those from the Tang Sect are also as formidable as Monk Wukong..."

Understanding how formidable grandmaster-level experts are made Qin Fang quite concerned about facing the experts from the Tang Sect.

No need to mention Tang Huaiyuan, a grandmaster-level expert whom Qin Fang surely wasn't a match for; he couldn't consider facing him openly, and would have to rely on unexpected stratagems to possibly achieve an unforeseen victory.

Besides him, there are over a dozen grandmaster-level experts, especially Tang Huaiyuan's brother, Tang Huaiming, who is definitely a master level peak expert and might have even reached the grandmaster level, making him a formidable opponent for Qin Fang...

Besides that, there are several other grandmaster-level experts who, even if they gang up, would still be extremely terrifying and make Qin Fang quite apprehensive.

"Right, Tu San..."

Lost in these thoughts, Qin Fang suddenly remembered he should currently be in a mortal combat situation against Tu San, but even after spending time breaking through and consolidating his realm, Tu San hadn't made a move against him?

Thinking of this, Qin Fang finally looked over at Tu San, only to find him leisurely standing at the edge of the boat, having somehow acquired a cigarette and puffing away.

"Finished up?"

Seeing Qin Fang staring at him, Tu San took a deep drag, and then flicked the cigarette butt into a graceful arc in the air, finally landing in the pitch-black sea.

Yet at the same time, he looked at Qin Fang with a very calm expression and spoke in a rather tranquil tone.

"Fight again..."

Tu San's change made Qin Fang feel somewhat strange, while he also took a deep breath, once again channeling the True Qi within him, ready to continue the unfinished battle.

"Are you sure you want to continue?"

Tu San, however, seemed as though he hadn't noticed Qin Fang's actions and rather spoke with a playful smile.

"Of course..."

Qin Fang almost said instinctively.

At that time, Tu San, with his master level peak strength, was indeed the first among the grandmasters Qin Fang encountered, who, even under his multiple explosions, was still steadily held down by Tu San.

Though Qin Fang used this opportunity to leverage his crossing, his strength at that time was indeed insufficient to shake Tu San, forcing him to change strategies.

Though such a change was quite risky, the result was satisfactory, as he finally stepped into the long-awaited grandmaster level and reached the master level peak.

This way, at this moment, Qin Fang's strength might not fall much short of Tu San, but Qin Fang also had the Unlimited Blood Explosion Technique, allowing him to unleash continuous big moves.

At Level 5, the Blood Explosion Technique could increase his strength by nearly a quarter. Now that he had stepped into the grandmaster level, particularly at the master level peak, using the Blood Explosion Technique again meant truly achieving invincibility below the grandmaster level.

Since he could reach such strength, why should he fear Tu San? Thus, Qin Fang's confidence in this battle was even higher!

"I don't think so..."

Tu San only chuckled, showing no significant change in his expression, but the aura from his body suddenly began to escalate dramatically.

Originally, Tu San's master level peak aura was already extremely terrifying, but now his aura surged up like a released tiger once again.

Tu San's aura grew stronger and stronger; initially, Qin Fang could still channel True Qi to counteract it, but quickly, his momentum was completely overpowered.

"Grandmaster Level..."

Feeling the rising momentum of Tu San, Qin Fang's face became quite unsightly, his brows furrowing deeply.

Evidently, this change had once again caught him by surprise.

Initially thinking Tu San was still at the master level peak, little did he expect that Tu San had already crossed that barrier, advancing to the grandmaster level realm.

Qin Fang faintly sensed that Tu San's strength might even be more formidable than the elder Alai, an experienced grandmaster-level expert from the Green Gang whom he had recently fought.

It turned out that Tu San had been hiding his true strength all along, only displaying a master level peak, and it was only at this moment that he finally revealed his true strength.

Grandmaster Level!

And indeed, a grandmaster-level expert who had advanced for quite a while!

"You..."

Realizing this result, Qin Fang felt deeply helpless, pitying himself for thinking Tu San would be his ideal opponent and the best choice to pressure him into a new realm.

Now Qin Fang had entered the grandmaster level, but the strength of this ideal opponent had far exceeded his expectations, having long since crossed into the grandmaster level...