

Genius 1701

Chapter 1701 - The Master Hidden in the City (Part 2)

"How can mere flesh withstand such sharp-edged weapons?"

Wu Jian's mind was filled with questions, but in reality, that's what happened. Song Qingshan appeared just in time and blocked several machetes with one arm.

However, there wasn't a single mark on his arm, as if the thugs weren't chopping at Song Qingshan's arm, but at a hard steel ingot instead.

Not only was Wu Jian astonished, but the girl Bingbing also wore a look of disbelief, and those thugs looked as if they had seen a ghost.

If it weren't for the fact that they were adversaries, they would have wanted to check if Song Qingshan's arm was a prosthetic.

"You should take her inside..."

Song Qingshan remained indifferent. At his level of strength, he was nearly at the peak of the Grandmaster level, and the Thirteen Taibao Horizontal Training Golden Bell Shield he had mastered reached a terrifying level, almost achieving invulnerability to swords and guns...

If these blades were wielded by a Grandmaster-level expert, Song Qingshan might still have been wary, as techniques empowered by True Qi are far more terrifying than mere strength, even more than triple.

But these thugs were all ordinary people, and some lacked even basic Strength, relying solely on the sharpness of their blades.

Once the sharpness of the blades couldn't be brought into play, their threat significantly decreased... they were utterly ignored by Song Qingshan.

"Just had something to eat, time to exercise..."

Having safely escorted Wu Jian away, only Song Qingshan and these thugs were left. This usually stoic person surprisingly cracked a joke.

However, only Qin Fang and his group found it amusing; the thugs couldn't laugh at all. They were utterly outmatched by someone unscathed by blades.

Clatter~~

Thud~~

Upon hearing Song Qingshan's words, the thugs turned pale with fright, dropping their machetes to the ground with crisp sounds. Some were so scared they knelt, crying with snot and tears.

"Boss... We... we'll never dare again... Please just treat us as a fart and let us go..."

"Boss, I have an eighty-year-old mother and a three-year-old child..."

These were just petty thugs, hardly to be expected to have much grit. Seeing this formidable person about to act, they wailed for mercy pitifully, which indeed tugged at the heartstrings.

Bam bam bam bam bam bam~~

Whether their pleas had any effect was hard to say because Song Qingshan swiftly kicked each one away at lightning speed, piling them up into a "small hill" outside the barbecue restaurant.

"Scram..."

Before the thugs could cry out in pain, they heard Song Qingshan's cold voice, as if a Five Elements hand strangled their throats, silencing them instantly...

Granted amnesty, the thugs endured the pain, scrambled up, and disappeared swiftly, leaving their boss behind...

Song Qingshan also ignored the thug boss who was already unconscious with a bloody head, casually returning to sit with Qin Fang as if nothing had happened.

"Qin Fang, that guy... Will he be alright?"

Despite being a privileged young master, Wu Jian didn't revel in insolence or lawlessness, and he looked at the unconscious thug with concern.

"He'll live..."

Qin Fang glanced carelessly at the thug, dismissing Wu Jian's worry immediately.

To Wu Jian, Qin Fang was like an almighty deity; if he said something, it must be right, so he stopped worrying.

The girl Bingbing clung close to Wu Jian, cautiously observing Song Qingshan and Qin Fang, less concerned about Kong Er or Qu Da.

At that moment, Qin Fang and Song Qingshan stood up and walked straight towards the barbecue restaurant owner, also Bingbing's father.

"Senior..."

To the surprise of Kong Er, Qu Da, and even Wu Jian and Bingbing, Qin Fang and Song Qingshan reached the barbecue restaurant owner, cupping their hands in a respectful gesture.

"Uh..."

Everyone was dumbfounded, especially Wu Jian and Bingbing, who felt they were seeing an illusion.

The barbecue owner hesitated, casting a strange look at Qin Fang and Song Qingshan. His eyes initially showed confusion, quickly replaced by sharpness, and his aura dramatically changed.

Such a change made the people present feel that this seemingly ordinary barbecue owner was anything but simple.

Particularly Bingbing, who was stupefied since, as the owner's daughter, she knew less about her father than these outsiders, Qin Fang and Song Qingshan.

"From the Tianying Sect?"

The owner glanced at Song Qingshan and softly inquired.

The question didn't truly need answering. Although Song Qingshan never showcased any Eagle Claw Skill, one could deduce just by looking at his fingers.

"And you are... Snow Mountain Sect?"

Turning his gaze to Qin Fang, a hint of uncertainty colored the owner's enquiry.

"No, you're from the Demon Sect..."

Before Qin Fang could reply, the owner's expression grew serious, indicating sensitivity to the Demon Sect association.

"Neither, just an average person... happened to learn some Snow Mountain Sect and Demon Sect skills!"

Qin Fang shook his head; although he had no ties to those sects, he did not hide possessing their techniques.

The Traceless Snow Stepping Technique is a Snow Mountain Sect's secret light skill, and the Demonic Divine Art is inseparably tied to the Demon Sect...

The seemingly ordinary barbecue owner could identify Qin Fang's martial arts through just his eyes, suggesting his identity and skills were anything but simple.

"I see..."

The owner easily accepted Qin Fang's explanation but quickly turned to ask, "How did you recognize me?"

"Actually, we recognized you from a painting in your restaurant..."

Qin Fang smiled, pointing to a painting on the restaurant's wall.

The barbecue restaurant outside was plain, yet clean inside, with decorative calligraphy and paintings on the walls, preventing monotony.

Qin Fang and his group noticed this upon entering, especially when seeing one landscape painting, which left Qin Fang and Song Qingshan momentarily stunned, unlike Kong Er or Qu Da, as they were outsiders.

"The painting in the restaurant... I see!"

Understanding dawned upon the barbecue owner hearing Qin Fang's explanation...

Chapter 1702 - Qianyu Divine Sword Chu Tianji!

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In the barbecue shop, the calligraphy and paintings on the wall are not really genuine antiques, especially the one that Qin Fang and Song Qingshan saw, which resembles a child's graffiti.

But upon seeing the painting, both Qin Fang and Song Qingshan were momentarily stunned, although their reactions soon differed.

The painting itself is nothing special; the real focus is the inscription on the painting... Ling Xuze!

In the martial world, especially within some major sects, there is practically no one who doesn't know what the name Ling Xuze represents, because he is clearly the current Kunlun Sect Leader, standing at the peak of the martial world, without a rival!

In Dragon Country, there aren't many sects that can be called time-honored, and the most powerful with the deepest foundations are Shaolin and Kunlun.

Next are sects like the Snow Mountain Sect, Qingcheng, Tang Sect, and the Esoteric Sect, though they are obviously weaker compared to the former two.

Further behind are sects like Wudang, Emei, Kongtong, and others like Tianchi and Jian Nan. These sects have weaker foundations but still boast hundreds of years of accumulated heritage and have many strong experts within them...

These sects are the real backbone of Dragon Country's martial world and the strongest forces within the martial world, once forming the forces of the Righteous Alliance...

As for other sects like the Xingyi Twelve Branches, their foundations are much weaker, and their power is highly dispersed. While there may be a few decent experts, compared to these sects, they are on a completely different level... at most they are considered unremarkable.

In other words, the strongest sects in the Dragon Country martial world are Shaolin and Kunlun, and the person whose name is on this painting that Qin Fang and the others saw is called Ling Xuzi, who is clearly the current Kunlun Sect Leader and the top martial artist of the past thirty years...

Perhaps Shaolin also has experts at a similar level to Ling Xuzi, but Shaolin, as a Buddhist sect, is relatively low-key, and those enlightened monks do not vie for such vain titles, naturally making Ling Xuzi's renown even more prominent...

The reason Qin Fang and the others know that the endorsed "Ling Xuzi" is the Kunlun Sect Leader Ling Xuzi is due to the presence of a seal beside it. Although the ink mark is faint, it can still be discerned that it is clearly the Sect Leader's seal of the Kunlun Sect stamped on it.

Just this alone is sufficient proof that this Ling Xuzi is definitely the Kunlun Sect Leader.

And it was precisely because of this discovery that Qin Fang decided to use the Scouting Skill on the father-daughter pair who owned the barbecue shop. However, the girl Bingbing turned out to be quite ordinary, with no traces of martial training, but this barbecue shop owner was not an ordinary person...

"Level 8 Great Grandmaster..."

This barbecue shop owner is not very old, seemingly in his forties, at most in his fifties, about the same age as Qin Fang's father, Qin Tiannan. But his prowess made Qin Fang awestruck, reaching the level of a Level 8 Great Grandmaster.

Such an expert, concealed as the owner of a seemingly inconspicuous barbecue shop, dealing with barbecue every day, is truly puzzling.

Even if Qin Fang and Song Qingshan combined their strength, they fear they wouldn't match a single hand of his, yet here he was standing right in front of them.

Even when his daughter was being harassed by hooligans, Qin Fang and his companions felt compelled to help resolve the situation unnecessarily... Even if they hadn't intervened, those hooligans probably wouldn't have come to any good end.

At least Qin Fang noticed afterward that several skewers used for grilling meat had appeared beside the barbecue shop owner, and each was heated to a glowing red at the tip...

If such skewers were to pierce the hooligans, even imagining the consequences made Qin Fang and Song Qingshan's scalps tingle.

The information relayed by the Scouting Skill not only informed Qin Fang that the barbecue shop owner was a Level 8 Great Grandmaster but also confirmed his identity.

Kunlun Elder!

This seemingly ordinary, common middle-aged man was surprisingly an elder of Kunlun, one of the two sects with the strongest foundations in the martial world!

Discovering such a revered figure, how could Qin Fang and Song Qingshan remain seated, and so they politely approached to greet him.

No matter what, an encounter is a kind of fate, especially since their earlier intervention also formed a good bond with this top figure. Perhaps they might even establish a connection with such a remarkable character.

Song Qingshan was in a slightly better position as a member of the Tianying Sect, which could barely be considered a formal sect within the martial world. Compared to the Kunlun Sect, it is unremarkable.

If Song Qingshan could attach himself to the Kunlun Sect, it would also benefit Tianying Sect, potentially enhancing its position within the martial world.

Qin Fang, on the other hand, had a deadly feud with Tang Sect and a similarly irreconcilable relationship with the Tianchi Sect, and his connection with Shaolin was neither good nor bad. If he could associate with the Kunlun Sect in some way, he might not have anything tangible to gain, but he could use their influence to gently suppress Tang Sect and Tianchi Sect...

He only needed these two sects to calm down temporarily so that when Qin Fang returned from his journey to Japan or completed his task on Devil's Island, he wouldn't fear these two sects, as by then Qin Fang's power should have securely reached the Grandmaster-level tier...

"Thank you both for helping just now, it's because of you that my daughter didn't get into trouble!"

Understanding how Qin Fang and his companion figured out his identity, the barbecue shop owner returned to his previous calm demeanor, gently clasping his fists in response, seemingly not very enthusiastic about Qin Fang and his companion's friendliness.

"You're too kind, elder, even if we juniors didn't step in, you could have easily handled those hooligans yourself..."

Qin Fang and Song Qingshan both chuckled bitterly, feeling a bit embarrassed. They could handle it easily, so how could this Level 8 Great Grandmaster not handle it?

"You all go inside first. I still have business to attend to. Let Bingbing offer you a few cups of wine on my behalf as a token of my gratitude..."

The expert seemed not to want to get too close to Qin Fang and his group and, knowing their identities, somewhat impatiently ushered them inside.

Faced with such treatment, Qin Fang and Song Qingshan could only smile wryly, clasp their fists, and obediently return inside the barbecue shop.

The skillful uncle continued with his work, leisurely grilling food, as if the previous event had no impact on him.

"Thank you, big brothers, for your help. Otherwise, I would have..."

However, the girl Bingbing, just as her father mentioned, poured them a cup of wine to express her gratitude to Qin Fang and the others.

Even though only Wu Jian and Song Qingshan actually stepped in, clearly, the other three helped as well, even if they didn't all need to act.

"Miss Bingbing, you're too kind. If you really want to thank someone, thank Wu Jian. This guy went all out for a beauty, and since we're his brothers, we can't let him suffer alone..."

Qin Fang chuckled, downed his drink, and good-naturedly pushed Wu Jian forward, making a lighthearted joke about the pair.

Before the confrontation, Wu Jian and Bingbing only had a hint of romantic tension, but hadn't broken the ice.

Yet, Wu Jian's fierce protection of Bingbing punctured that thin barrier, and Qin Fang simply seized the opportunity to push things along.

"..."

The girl Bingbing, still young and bashful, became even more embarrassed when teased by Qin Fang, casting a coquettish glare at Wu Jian, while her face turned a deep shade of red.

"Hehe..."

Wu Jian, usually sharp-witted, seemed at a loss under her gaze, almost losing his soul, only able to stand there grinning foolishly, unable to utter a word.

"By the way, Miss Bingbing, what is your family name?"

Brushing off the jokes, Qin Fang naturally did not forget about serious matters. With a few words, he managed to get closer to Bingbing, and now he politely inquired.

Though the girl was not a martial artist, her father was highly skilled, prompting Qin Fang to tread carefully.

"I bear my mother's surname, Bai... but my father's surname is Chu!"

Bingbing smiled, understanding Qin Fang's underlying inquiry and courteously replied.

"Surname Chu?"

Qin Fang and Song Qingshan paused, exchanging glances, seemingly recalling someone quite renowned in the martial world.

"Is your father by any chance Chu Tianji, the Qianyu Divine Sword?"

This question almost slipped from Qin Fang's lips involuntarily, and Song Qingshan, intending to ask the same, refrained after hearing Qin Fang voice it.

The Kunlun Sect is unusual, with elders primarily being Taoist priests, each with a Taoist name, except for one, the one Qin Fang mentioned, Qianyu Divine Sword Chu Tianji.

"Huh, how do you know my father's name?"

Bai Bingbing was taken aback, surprised, for she hadn't mentioned her father by name, yet Qin Fang seemed to guess it right away.

"Why call my dad the Qianyu Divine Sword? Is he really a master?"

Evidently, this innocent and charming girl knew little about her father's exploits. It's likely that Chu Tianji wished to keep his daughter out of martial disputes, hence concealing these matters, and hadn't even taught Bai Bingbing any martial arts...

Chapter 1703 - The Great Grandmaster's Gift

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"This... better ask your father!"

Upon hearing Bai Bingbing's remark, Qin Fang was momentarily stunned, only then realizing Bai Bingbing seemed unaware of her father's situation.

So Qin Fang naturally couldn't be the villain to tell her the glorious exploits of Qianyu Divine Sword Chu Tianji... even though Bai Bingbing seemed quite interested, it wouldn't be appropriate!

"Hmph..."

Seeing Qin Fang remain silent, Bai Bingbing was somewhat frustrated, her delicate nose crinkled slightly, while Wu Jian quickly tried to comfort and cheer her up.

Watching this pair of young lovers, Qin Fang and Song Qingshan exchanged wry smiles, truly finding the temper of the one outside not to be good, almost an anomaly of the Kunlun Sect.

Though the Kunlun Sect is a leading figure in the Martial World, akin to Shaolin, both major sects have a common issue of being mostly detached from worldly affairs.

Shaolin, being part of the Buddhist Sect, has Inner Temple disciples that rarely venture out. They're either meditating or studying Buddhist doctrines, with almost no connection to the Jianghu.

The Kunlun Sect is similar, with even fewer sect disciples, numbering only about a dozen each generation. So, even with four or five generations together plus some lower members and servants, there are barely over a hundred people total...

Even though this hundred people are all experts, the number is still too few, not to mention Kunlun is located in the remote Western Regions, making rare appearances, much less walking the martial world.

But this Qianyu Divine Sword was different; he left the sect to roam when he was over twenty. Although at that time his cultivation level was Master Level Late Stage, even at the peak, similar to Monk Wukong, but he quickly made quite a name for himself.

Moreover, his temperament was considerably violent, with slightly ruthless methods, having once stirred up a bloody storm in the Jianghu.

He first killed the notorious fugitive in Mongolian Province, Thirteen Eagles of the Northern Desolate... they were all chopped into seven or eight pieces by his Divine Sword, incredibly gruesome.

Then he headed south to Miao Jiang, slaying the remnants of the Five Poisons Cult, the colorful snake lady He Hongyun... He Hongyun's venomous insects, snakes, and gu worms were all killed, even the Heart Gu didn't escape.

Furthermore, he killed numerous wrongful experts like the Great Owl of Lingnan, Demon of the Tibetan Border, Evil Flood Dragon of the Eastern Sea, all of whom fell under his Qianyu Divine Sword...

Within just a few years, he built a vast reputation, elevating from Master Level to Grandmaster Level, then returning to the sect for seclusion.

Of course, having killed so many people, he naturally amassed immeasurable blood feuds. Indeed, the people behind those killed feared the terrifying power of the Kunlun Sect, yet this didn't prevent them from slandering the mighty swordsman in other ways.

When Chu Tianji returned to the sect for seclusion, rumors spread, portraying Chu Tianji as a hypocritical, sanctimonious villain, with the Kunlun Sect getting splashed with much mud alongside.

This outcome naturally enraged the Kunlun Sect; it's said Sect Leader Ling Xuzi directly dragged Chu Tianji from his secluded cave, forcing him to deal with the matter...

Right during a crucial period of cultivation, Chu Tianji was forced to resolve the issue, missing the best timing for practice, leading to little progress in the following decade, almost destroying his future...

Yet, Chu Tianji didn't resent Ling Xuzi but respected his master tremendously. Having received the order, he immediately descended Mount Kunlun to tackle this very damaging matter...

Then the Jianghu once again erupted in a storm, and the name of this Kunlun disciple, Chu Tianji, became even more resounding.

But as Chu Tianji's fame reverberated throughout the Jianghu, he suddenly vanished like a shooting star, disappearing from the sight of the martial world folks, completely without any news.

Almost everyone thought Chu Tianji had returned to the Kunlun Sect, yet unexpectedly shortly after, the sect dispatched disciples to search for him, never finding a trace...

Though Chu Tianji completely vanished from the Jianghu afterward, many believed he had unfortunately passed away, yet his name continued echoing within the Jianghu.

But Qin Fang and the others never imagined, this Qianyu Divine Sword Chu Tianji, supposedly non-existent now, not only still lived but opened this barbecue shop, even having a young, attractive daughter...

However, judging from Bai Bingbing's age, her birth seemingly coincided with the years surrounding Chu Tianji's disappearance. Qin Fang has reason to believe Chu Tianji's sudden disappearance likely relates significantly to his wife and daughter...

As for the exact relationship, it's clear Qin Fang couldn't possibly know, nor would Chu Tianji reveal it to him. If Qin Fang truly nosily probed, who could assure Chu Tianji wouldn't turn hostile?

This man, though hiding in the secular world for nearly two decades, with cultivation delayed, has now reached Great Grandmaster Rank, which far exceeds what Qin Fang and the others can contend with.

Chapter 1704 - The Great Grandmaster's Gift

To know that a Level 8 Grandmaster-level Expert is already considered a top master in the Martial World, although there are stronger experts above, they are so distant, it feels unattainable.

For the glorious deeds of this martial world elder, both Qin Fang and Song Qingshan are very respectful. They also wish to be as renowned, but unfortunately, today's society rarely offers them such opportunities...

Firstly, there are genuinely not many experts worthy of their action. Compared to Chu Tianji back then, they are not even on the same level, as the further back in time, the more numerous the experts of that era were.

The economic development over these years indeed brought modernity to cities, but severe pollution has made the originally very scarce Heaven and Earth Spiritual Qi even more precious, and naturally, the number of experts is becoming fewer and fewer... Moreover, most hide away in remote mountains and forests for cultivation, seldom coming out to do mischief, so they hardly have such instances of revenge and chivalric justice.

Just as Qin Fang and the others were speaking, Chu Tianji, who had finished barbecuing outside, also walked in slowly. His steps were exceptionally steady, and his aura had become elusive.

This is the demeanor of a Great Grandmaster-level Expert. Qin Fang and Song Qingshan felt that powerful aura and couldn't help but have a slight tremor in their hearts.

However, they are not the kind to easily give in, both activated their skills in resistance, especially Qin Fang, who operated his Demonic Divine Art to the extreme. The Blood Explosion Technique also instantly erupted, and his aura rapidly ascended until it reached a threshold of stepping into the Grandmaster level, only then stabilizing.

The disparity between a Grandmaster level and a Great Grandmaster level is akin to that of a Grandmaster Level countering a Grandmaster level. These are completely different realms, not achievable by mere strength or external devices.

Yet with Qin Fang at full power, the pressure he bore was significantly lessened since the gap between the two was not as immense as before.

At least looking at Song Qingshan's appearance at this moment, his originally somewhat dark face was now flushed red, looking somewhat like a crimson-faced Guan Yu.

Compared to Qin Fang, his strength is still slightly weaker, so his situation was a bit worse.

"Hmm..."

But soon, Chu Tianji noticed the abnormality with the two, his gaze surprisingly fell on Qin Fang.

"Interesting..."

With the Demonic Divine Art fully operated, Qin Fang's body was flowing with Demonic Sect Inner Strength. In Chu Tianji's eyes, Qin Fang was now emitting black Demonic Qi all over, resembling a ferocious demon.

Yet Qin Fang's true nature remained intact under the assault of this dense black Demonic Qi, not being eroded or corrupted, which was quite admirable, so much so that Chu Tianji's gaze towards Qin Fang changed.

"Qin Fang, Qingshan, what's wrong with you?"

Though Qin Fang and the others suffered in silence, it didn't go unnoticed by others. Kong Er and Qu Da quickly became curious and asked.

At this moment, Qin Fang and the others dared not speak, for if they did, the breath in their chest would immediately dissipate. Facing such a terrifying aura then, they would likely be severely injured if not dead, whereas holding on offered a shimmer of hope...

So Qin Fang could only wryly smile and shake his head, gritting his teeth and holding out, seemingly unwilling to give up easily...

Qin Fang's speculation was evidently rather reasonable because soon Chu Tianji's aura swiftly retracted, leaving Qin Fang and Song Qingshan drenched in sweat, looking as if they'd been fished out of water.

"You two brats, follow me in..."

However, Chu Tianji seemed to show no sympathy, leaving just a simple remark before leading the way toward the back of the barbecue shop.

Qin Fang and Song Qingshan exchanged a glance, gritted their teeth, got up from the ground, barely managing to stand straight—it was indeed a bit too perilous just now.

From the outside, the barbecue shop seemed ordinary, but upon entering, it felt different, as the kitchen led to the back—a rather nice little courtyard.

Precisely, besides being the back hall of the barbecue shop, it appeared to be the home of Chu Tianji and Bai Bingbing, since Chu Tianji headed straight for the room upon entering the courtyard...

Naturally, Qin Fang and Song Qingshan followed him in. Once inside, they found Chu Tianji sitting there, seemingly waiting for them.

"Senior, you sought us... for something?"

Since everyone was waiting there, Qin Fang respectfully asked, noticing that Chu Tianji evidently did not wish for others to hear their conversation.

At least Kong Er, Qu Da, Wu Jian, and even Chu Tianji's daughter Bai Bingbing were not members of the Martial World, and some things within should naturally remain unknown to them.

"My identity, it's best you don't spread it around; it won't do you any good..."

Chu Tianji nodded, for Qin Fang's courtesy was ample. With him being a martial elder, a certain degree of majesty was permissible, but not excessively so.

Nonetheless, Chu Tianji couldn't help but warn them, as he had been living incognito in Jiangzhou for years without exposure, yet he didn't expect to be recognized by Qin Fang and his companion.

Not wishing for his life to be disturbed, he nudged Qin Fang's duo.

"Yes, Senior..."

Qin Fang and Song Qingshan almost spoke in unison, sounding very respectful and courteous.

"You two youngsters..."

Seeing how Qin Fang's duo reacted, even Chu Tianji couldn't help but chuckle, "Young as you are, you got some schemes... Worry not, since this old man has something to ask of you, I certainly won't let you leave empty-handed!"

As he spoke, Chu Tianji stood up and went into the inner room. Qin Fang and the other stood still, awaiting patiently.

Before long, Chu Tianji came out carrying two wooden boxes from the room.

"These two items are things I seized during my martial exploits in my early years; keeping them for so many years hasn't been of much use, so I might as well give them to you..."

Cavalierly, he handed the wooden boxes to Qin Fang and Song Qingshan, who eagerly opened them.

"This is... Xuanyin Divine Claw?"

Song Qingshan, being the first to receive, opened his box earlier than Qin Fang, and upon seeing the treasure lying quietly within, his eyes widened in disbelief, filled with astonishment.

"Kid, you've got some knowledge. This was taken by me back when I killed the Thirteen Eagles of the Northern Desolate; it was supposed to be six pairs in total, but five pairs were severed by my Qianyu Divine Sword, leaving just this single pair..."

Upon seeing how Song Qingshan recognized the origin of the treasure in the wooden box immediately, Chu Tianji briefly explained, leaving Song Qingshan even more astounded.

The Xuanyin Divine Claw was made of Xuan Yin Stone, one of the Meteoric Irons; however, it's considered inferior compared to other Meteoric Irons, with relatively lower value.

For example, Chu Tianji's Qianyu Divine Sword, although not one of the Ten Great Divine Weapons, is only slightly inferior to them, similar to the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword in Qin Fang's possession, both made using Meteoric Iron...

Who would have thought such a divine object as the Xuanyin Divine Claw could have five pairs severed by Qianyu Divine Sword, leaving just this singular pair... The prowess of Qianyu Divine Sword is evident through this.

"Let me see what's mine..."

Seeing Song Qingshan receiving a claw weapon extremely suitable for him, Qin Fang, with anticipation, hastily opened his wooden box.

"This... This is..."

But like Song Qingshan, when Qin Fang opened his wooden box and saw the item inside, his eyes, like Song Qingshan's, were about to pop out!

Chapter 1705 - Demon Sect Sacred Fire Order!

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Inside this brocade box, there lies a token that appears extremely ancient, its material neither gold nor iron, exuding a rather archaic look, clearly having an age exceeding the norm.

"You recognize it?"

Noticing Qin Fang's expression, Chu Tianji was also momentarily surprised; it seemed he did not expect Qin Fang to recognize this item.

"What is this?"

At least next to him, Song Qingshan glanced at the box in Qin Fang's hand, looking bewildered as he asked, evidently unfamiliar and unheard of it.

"Well, I happened to have heard of it, not sure if I'm guessing correctly..."

This item belonged to Chu Tianji, who naturally knew its origins; Qin Fang, however, utilized his scouting skill, although seeing it for the first time, the skill immediately relayed results back to him.

"Go ahead, let's hear it!"

Chu Tianji seemed quite interested too, lightly nodded, and remarked.

"This should be the Sacred Flame Order of the Supreme Demon Sect... Rumors say it's an item representing the highest authority of the Six Paths of the Demon Sect, but it was lost many years ago, seldom seen by anyone... From the patterns on this token, this piece should belong to the Dark Demon Sect!"

The scouting skill now moves towards the grandmaster level, though progress is notably slow, it's getting increasingly accurate; Qin Fang conveyed simple information gathered to Chu Tianji.

While the Demon Sect is a vast entity, internally divided into six major sects; at its founding, it was a singular sect once self-proclaimed as the Holy Sect.

And the six Yin Yang Holy Fire Commands were the supreme holy objects of the Holy Sect, controlled by six Sacred Flame Order Envoys, symbolizing the greatest power; even the sect master had no jurisdiction over them.

However, the Demon Sect's division was indeed due to the excessive power of these six envoys, coupled with the untimely death of a sect master, leading the envoys to each gather followers and form new sects independently, thus the origin of the six major sects...

In the same logic, the six Sacred Flame Orders were owned by each of the sects respectively, inherited over generations...

Later, several unrivaled sect masters emerged in the Demon Sect, attempting to reunify the six sects and gather all six orders, yet personal interests thwarted such efforts, making the ventures fade out eventually; some orders even got lost amidst subsequent sect chaos...

Some spread beyond their borders, while others vanished entirely with the deaths of their owners, leading to a situation today where none of the six sects seems to have had the orders passed down...

The Sacred Flame Order represents supreme authority in the Demon Sect, serving as a symbol but also a weapon, rivaling any divine weapon, rumored each contains a set of supreme martial arts skill...

If all six were united, these martial arts would form the most supreme Heavenly Demon Strategy of the Demon Sect...

Just by stating this, Chu Tianji, though surprised, gazed at Qin Fang with a very peculiar look, his eyes flickering as if pondering something.

"Please be assured, Senior, this junior hails from Ninghai Cai-style Xingyi Quan, under Master Cai Pingyuan, not a disciple of the Demon Sect... I merely acquired their martial arts by chance!"

However, Qin Fang understood what Chu Tianji was contemplating, promptly introduced his lineage simply; although Cai Pingyuan didn't possess widespread fame, he indeed was Qin Fang's master, even now as Qin Fang surpasses him, it remains an unchangeable fact...

The explanation served merely as proof of his identity, since he denies affiliation to Demon Sect yet knows so much, bound to spark speculation.

"You're overthinking..."

But Chu Tianji merely chuckled and shook his head, saying, "Even if you truly are a Demon Sect disciple, it doesn't matter... I've already retired from the martial world!"

Qin Fang smiled; though that's what Chu Tianji said, had he been a Demon Sect disciple, things would unquestionably differ.

"Senior Chu, is this... truly meant for me?"

Despite having the items in his possession, Qin Fang still couldn't quite believe it, feeling intensely surreal.

"I've long withdrawn from the martial world, not intending to return; these mean nothing to me now, might as well gift them directly to you..."

Chu Tianji smiled candidly, seemingly unimpressed, remarking lightly, while these items could surely stir envy and longing in many, he seemed to equate them with scrap metal.

Of course, he would not genuinely treat them as scrap; only upon encountering Qin Fang and sensing some fate did he opt to gift them.

"But, I don't come without any conditions..."

Chu Tianji then shifted his tone cheerfully.

"Senior, please say it..."

Qin Fang and Song Qingshan slightly straightened their demeanor, responding courteously, finding some reassurance in having conditions, averting the awkwardness of free acceptance.

Chapter 1706 - Demon Sect Sacred Fire Order! (Part 2)

"Actually, it's not a big deal, I just hope you two can help me return it to my sect..."

At this time, Chu Tianji took a sword from the wall and handed it over to Qin Fang with a calm tone.

"This is... the Qianyu Divine Sword!"

Qin Fang was slightly taken aback. When he looked at this inconspicuous longsword in its sheath, his scouting skill activated, and his expression became quite strange.

It turned out this sword, decorated to look like an unsharpened ordinary iron sword used for fitness, was actually Chu Tianji's personal weapon, the Qianyu Divine Sword. Pity that he and Song Qingshan both noticed the sword when they walked in, but never imagined that such a precious treasure was hanging here so openly, even covered with dust...

"Indeed... I don't wish to travel the martial world again, nor see anyone from my sect, but I also don't want my old companion to be buried with me!"

Chu Tianji gently caressed the sword that had been with him for nearly forty years, speaking with a touch of sentiment. So many years of companionship, yet now they have to part.

Qin Fang and Song Qingshan exchanged a glance, their expressions rather peculiar, but in the end, they nodded.

"Senior, rest assured, we juniors will definitely return it safely to Mount Kunlun, to the Kunlun disciples!"

Though the Qianyu Divine Sword is extraordinarily precious, Qin Fang already has the Flowing Shadow Divine Sword, so he wouldn't be tempted. And Song Qingshan, who doesn't use a sword, finds the Xuanyin Divine Claw much more precious and suitable for him than the Qianyu Divine Sword!

They got two treasures from Chu Tianji just for agreeing to return this sword to Kunlun, which isn't exactly a difficult task.

The only trouble is that Kunlun's sect gate is really difficult to find. Without a Kunlun disciple or a familiar person to guide them, finding the Kunlun Sect could take a year or two.

"Kunlun's sect gate is at Jade Maiden Peak, you just need to wait there for three to five days, and a Kunlun disciple is sure to appear..."

However, Chu Tianji evidently anticipated this issue long ago, so he had given Qin Fang and them an advance notice.

Otherwise, they might never find it, even if they searched all over Mount Kunlun, let alone search the entire mountain.

"Understood..."

Qin Fang nodded. Since he agreed, he wouldn't go back on his word, and he wasn't about to covet the Qianyu Divine Sword.

Of course, why Chu Tianji trusts them with the Qianyu Divine Sword is something only he himself knows.

In short, now that this matter had essentially reached a conclusion, Chu Tianji directly ushered Qin Fang and them out of the door.

When Qin Fang and Song Qingshan returned, holding something in their hands, though both were contained in boxes, it was clear from their cautious manner that the contents were quite precious.

"Brother Qin, what treasure is this, let me have a look too..."

Wu Jian, with a rather impatient nature, immediately expressed his interest. If Qin Fang weren't there, he might have opened it himself.

"You're not from the martial world, you wouldn't recognize it even if you saw it—it's pointless..."

Qin Fang waved it off, unconcernedly. As he said, even Song Qingshan, someone of the martial world, couldn't recognize the Sacred Fire Order, let alone Wu Jian, a regular person.

"Oh, come on, I'd just like a look..."

The more Qin Fang said this, the more curious Wu Jian became, pleading pitifully, while Bai Bingbing next to him seemed intrigued too.

Though these things were gifts from her father Chu Tianji to Qin Fang and them, Bai Bingbing herself didn't seem to have much impression of them.

"Alright, I'll let you have a look to settle your mind..."

Qin Fang smiled helplessly, opening the brocade box. The people nearby couldn't help but lean in to take a look.

"Just a piece of scrap iron..."

Seeing the Sacred Fire Order, Wu Jian found it unremarkable and muttered listlessly, his enthusiasm waning.

"Hey, why does this look so familiar?"

But Kong Er suddenly muttered in surprise. Though his voice wasn't loud, Qin Fang's keen ears missed nothing.

"Brother Er, have you seen it before?"

Qin Fang immediately reacted, looking at Kong Er with excitement.

"I think I've seen it someplace... but I can't remember!"

Kong Er frowned deeply in thought, but try as he might, he couldn't recall. Nothing about it seemed distinctive enough to make a lasting impression.

That he even found it familiar was already quite good...

"Brother Er, please think it over. This is a treasure. If you recall anything, do let me know immediately..."

Seeing Kong Er's expression, knowing his memory failed him, Qin Fang was equally helpless. The Sacred Fire Order is a precious artifact of the Demon Sect, which they've been ardently seeking, though tracking it down has proven almost impossible.

If Qin Fang hadn't obtained the Sacred Fire Order, while aware of its existence, he wouldn't have paid much attention, considering it almost a mere legend and questioning its realness.

But now having acquired one, naturally, he hopes to collect all six Sacred Fire Orders. The difficulty, however, sounds astronomical—a true ultimate quest.

"Oops, you're such a jinx!"

"Let me think about it; I'll tell you if I remember..."

Kong Er shook his head helplessly, thinking hard but knowing he wouldn't remember right away, planning to recall gradually. He wouldn't overlook the significance Qin Fang placed on this matter.

"Luckily, no quest triggered; otherwise..."

Qin Fang nodded, content not to worry in the absence of new leads, reassuring himself thusly.

"Ding, congratulations on triggering the ultimate quest... Seek the Sacred Fire Orders! (1/6 Acquired)"

Yet, just as Qin Fang mused this, a notification rang in his mind, making him feel like crying.

"You and your jinxed mouth..."

Qin Fang wanted to slap himself. Good omens never seem to come true, while bad ones do. No sooner did he think it, than the quest was upon him—an ultimate quest, as expected.

Though the task seems simple—to find six Sacred Fire Orders—the difficulty far exceeds Qin Fang's previous feats, like becoming the King of Assassins or seizing control of Shiling Group.

Finding the Sacred Fire Orders is nearly as challenging as finding a needle in a haystack, with no clues and such a vast world to search.

"Qin Fang, what's wrong?"

Noticing Qin Fang's odd expression, Kong Er showed concern, cajoling, "Don't worry, brother can handle this matter seriously, won't forget it..."

He assumed Qin was upset about the situation, and promptly assured him by thumping his chest.

"Brother Er, it's not that... I just thought of something else. You try your best; if it's too hard to recall, it's alright. The thing is rather elusive, so finding it isn't crucial."

Having reviewed the details, Qin observed no time limits or severe penalties associated with this ultimate quest, easing his mind.

While an ultimate task, it won't feel burdensome, and though challenging, it's less dangerous—a comparatively light endeavor...

Chapter 1707 - Kill Order!

...

Having acquired the items, this BBQ meal was quite enjoyable. Chu Tianji remained like a regular BBQ shop owner, busy with his business outside, paying no attention to Qin Fang and the others.

Those few hooligans were sent packing, and after a brief calm, the BBQ shop welcomed a bustling and noisy atmosphere again, leaving Chu Tianji even busier and unable to pay attention to Qin Fang and the others.

Although Bai Bingbing wanted to accompany Wu Jian for a chat, her father gave her a stern look, forcing her to obediently handle her own affairs.

"Wu Jian, you're on your own..."

Seeing the deeply resentful look in Wu Jian's eyes, Qin Fang could only helplessly pat Wu Jian's shoulder and say.

No matter if this young man sincerely liked Bai Bingbing or if it was just a youthful impulse, with someone as formidable as Chu Tianji in charge, winning over Bai Bingbing would undoubtedly be extremely difficult for him.

Of course, Bai Bingbing is still young, and even if they have some affection, they need to slowly nurture it. Whether they can endure until that day is uncertain.

This meal was quite joyful overall, despite the minor hiccup in the middle, the outcome was quite delightful.

Especially for Qin Fang and Song Qingshan, it was as if they won the lottery, the gains were immense...

After eating and drinking, Wu Jian initially planned to invite Qin Fang and the others to find a club for some fun, but Qin Fang and Song Qingshan clearly had no such intention. Kong Er and Qu Dagang, having come inland, weren't fully accustomed to the environment yet and decided to return to the hotel for a good rest.

Thus, they abandoned the entertainment plans and each returned to their hotel to rest... As for Wu Jian, he faced a long night ahead and stayed to help out.

Perhaps seeing it on account of Qin Fang and the others, or that Wu Jian performed decently today, Chu Tianji didn't kick him out this time. Although there wasn't an official permission, there wasn't a rejection either, which counted as a tacit approval...

Bai Bingbing was naturally quite pleased about this, despite the busy shop, with both of them occupied, having little time to talk, yet the young couple seemed quite satisfied with the situation...

Naturally, this had nothing to do with Qin Fang and the others, who had already left, departing from this place where they gained so much.

The meal wasn't very lengthy, primarily because they obtained the Sacred Fire Order from the Demon Sect, and Song Qingshan acquired the Xuanyin Divine Claw, shifting their interest from eating and drinking, so the meal concluded quickly...

Since it was brief, when Qin Fang returned, Chu Yunxuan hadn't arrived back yet. However, she left a message saying she went with Helen to a high-end spa in Jiangzhou for a water therapy session...

Although Chu Yunxuan didn't need such maintenance, since every night when doing love-making activities with Qin Fang, the True Qi of Joyous Zen flowed naturally, which was thousands of times better than the best maintenance in the world...

However, Helen obviously didn't have the same treatment as Chu Yunxuan. There are some differences between Europeans and Americans and Asians physically; if not maintained well, it's really hard to look at when slightly aged.

Although Helen carries partial Dragon Country bloodline, the other part is still European-American, so she has smaller issues like this and naturally pays attention to maintenance, conveniently pulling Chu Yunxuan along.

Actually, back when they studied in the United States, the two often went together for such maintenance and therapy sessions, so it's nothing unusual...

With Chu Yunxuan not yet back, Qin Fang was alone in the room. Not idle, he took out the Sacred Fire Order and inspected it carefully.

The items were brought back together; Chu Tianji's Qianyu Divine Sword was thrown into the Props Box by Qin Fang, since he won't be heading to Mount Kunlun in the short term.

Moreover, Chu Tianji didn't set a time limit for going to Mount Kunlun, so Qin Fang wasn't feeling any urgency, leaving it there temporarily. It's impossible to lose or be stolen, so safety is fully assured!

"What secrets are hidden within this Sacred Fire Order?"

Looking at the vintage-looking Sacred Fire Order, with no unusual patterns on it, Qin Fang meticulously examined it for a long time, pinching and pressing repeatedly, yet found nothing out of place, feeling as if he had reached a dead end.

The Sacred Fire Order, whose full name is the Yin Yang Holy Fire Command, is the supreme relic of the Demon Sect, representing the highest authority. Legend has it that whoever gathers the six pieces can command the entire Demon Sect...

However, since the six Sacred Flame Order Envoys split, the pieces have never been gathered again, even though successive Demon Sect Masters were exceptionally talented, they still couldn't succeed...

Later, as the Sacred Flame Orders gradually disappeared, the Demon Sect further fragmented, making it almost impossible to unify the sect under one leader, let alone merging the six pieces!

"It's said that each piece contains a martial arts skill, but... where is the skill?"

Holding this Sacred Fire Order, looking left and right, up and down, and even using the Scouting Skill to take another look, Qin Fang still couldn't find where that martial arts manuscript was hidden.

"Damn it..."

Even with the Scouting Skill, his last resort skill, unable to reveal the secret hidden in this Sacred Fire Order, Qin Fang was completely at a loss. Apart from cursing to the sky, he couldn't think of any other action to vent his pent-up frustration.

Ring ring ring~~

Just then, Qin Fang's phone rang. When he picked it up and took a look, he frowned slightly but immediately answered the call.

"Brother Da, what's the matter?"

The call was from Chen Da, who was supposed to be stationed over in Ninghai, with Jiangzhou's matters being handled by Shen Liang in secret.

It's precisely because of this that Chen Da didn't need to get involved unless something very important happened. Chen Da would only reach out to Qin Fang proactively in such cases.

Typically, any very important matter wouldn't be anything good.

"Young Master Qin, something's happened... Tiger unexpectedly got news that someone in the Underground World issued an assassination order on you... A group of assassins has already arrived in Ninghai and might soon head to Jiangzhou!"

Chen Da couldn't elaborate over the phone; besides, his information wasn't very accurate, which Tiger had obtained through some special channels.

After the downfall of the Li Family's influence, Tiger quickly seized control of most of the territory once dominated by Li Ruiba, becoming the largest underground force in Ninghai, with informants spread throughout the entire Ninghai.

These assassins might have infiltrated Ninghai very discreetly, but with this information, it's quite easy to detect if one pays attention.

Tiger is one of Tang Cheng's men, and Qin Fang is Tang Cheng's brother-in-law, which makes this clearly not a trivial matter. So, Tiger immediately relayed this matter to Chen Da, reaching out to Qin Fang as quickly as possible.

"Assassination order?"

Upon hearing this news, Qin Fang was slightly taken aback, then quickly retrieved the computer assigned by the Assassin's Alliance, swiftly logged into the assassin trading system, did a simple search, and indeed discovered his own assassination order...

Qin Fang then spent a few points to check on other forces like the Black Fist Alliance and Mercenary Alliance, and found similar bounties...

After roughly calculating the total bounty amount, it totaled more than 50 million US Dollars, equivalent to over 300 million RMB.

"The person behind this is really sparing no expense..."

Seeing this bounty, Qin Fang couldn't help but comment. The resources invested by this person were indeed substantial, particularly the 30 million US Dollars bounty from the Assassin's Alliance, which could basically mobilize a Five-Star Assassin... the Four-Star Assassins would go crazy over it!

The key thing is, this is a bounty mission rather than a simple assassination task, meaning any assassin can accept this mission, increasing its variability and putting Qin Fang in extreme danger, where even the slightest mistake could be fatal.

"Seems like my King of Assassins task is also starting to set sail..."

Looking at this bounty task, Qin Fang frowned tightly, as if realizing something, immediately opened his task list and found the King of Assassins task had finally shown some changes, which prompted Qin Fang to make that statement.

Clearly, the System seemed disgruntled with Qin Fang not completing several of these ultimate tasks, or perhaps his previous strength wasn't enough, but now that it was adequate, the task started showing some movement.

"Bring it on, I hope a few decent opponents show up..."

This task of King of Assassins cannot be abandoned, because letting it go would mean only one path... death.

Since it couldn't be given up, Qin Fang had to confront it actively. He wasn't afraid of these assassins; he even wished they would arrive sooner.

"Just worried about not having enough experience points..."

Currently, Qin Fang's strength had reached a bottleneck. Further advancement to the realm is unrealistic for now. The next step would be Grandmaster Level, and if advancing were that easy, many wouldn't be stuck at it for a lifetime.

If further advancement in realm is impossible, Qin Fang could only find other ways to enhance his strength, and upgrading skills and proficiency is clearly a very good and feasible route.

The quickest way to upgrade skill levels and proficiency, aside from Qin Fang's frequent usage, is to rely on exchanging experience points, which becomes Qin Fang's best path. But gaining experience points apparently requires someone to voluntarily bring it over... These assassins became the best fodder.

Chapter 1708 - Sweeping All Foes!

...

The news delivered by Chen Da was quite timely. Although Qin Fang was part of the underground world and an Assassin's Alliance member, he wasn't a very competent assassin, as he wasn't even aware of the latest movements within the Assassin's Alliance...

A staggering bounty of thirty million US Dollars is a significant offer even on the assassin trading platform, enough to attract Five-Star Assassins.

If Qin Fang had been a little more attentive, he would have noticed this massive bounty earlier, and he would have been on guard in advance.

Undoubtedly, Qin Fang received the news a bit late. Those assassins had already appeared, but they went to Ninghai only to find no trace of him.

At the same time, Qin Fang believed that those who were willing to pay a high price clearly already knew that he wasn't in Ninghai but in Jiangzhou, which might mean someone had already come over, maybe even secretly ambushed!

Speak of Cao Cao, and Cao Cao arrives!

Just as Chen Da hung up, Shen Liang's call came in, and as soon as the call was connected, Shen Liang spoke urgently before Qin Fang could even utter a word.

"Young Master Qin, there seems to be a problem here. Some unidentified people have appeared..."

Almost as soon as he said this, Shen Liang seemed to have encountered something, and Qin Fang could vaguely hear the sound of the wind, as if Shen Liang was running at high speed.

"Unidentified people?"

Qin Fang paused slightly at the words, furrowing his brows but quickly relaxing, "Could it be that someone has already arrived in Jiangzhou?"

Qin Fang had just been pondering whether any assassins had arrived in Jiangzhou and were lurking nearby. Now Shen Liang had noticed something unusual there.

It's not just unusual; judging by the commotion from Shen Liang's side, it seemed more troublesome than Qin Fang had imagined.

"Must make a trip..."

If it was indeed a case of assassins lurking around and suddenly going after Chu Yunxuan and the others, it was definitely targeted at him, Qin Fang.

Although Shen Liang was a decent bodyguard, with sufficient strength, having reached Level 5 by now, he obviously still wasn't enough to deal with those assassins.

It was already quite difficult to deal with Four-Star Assassins, let alone the hidden Five-Star Assassins. Even someone as strong as Qin Fang didn't dare to claim he could definitely handle a Five-Star Assassin...

Although Qin Fang was currently only a Three-Star Assassin, his actual combat power was not weaker than that of a Five-Star Assassin, perhaps even stronger.

But for an assassin to gradually rise to the level of a Five-Star Assassin speaks volumes, proving that their strength is undeniably formidable and that the blood on their hands is countless.

Having killed so many people, their murderous aura is extremely dense, and their assassination techniques are terrifyingly proficient, allowing a Five-Star Assassin to possess the capability to kill above their rank.

If it were purely a sneak attack, it's not impossible to kill two ranks above... Although so far, it seems few Five-Star Assassins have managed to kill Grandmaster-level Experts!

But Qin Fang was not a Grandmaster-level Expert, only a Quasi-Grandmaster-level Expert at best, and even with that slight difference in title, the difference in strength was quite significant. Facing such a Five-Star Assassin naturally carried great risk...

From Shen Liang's implication, Qin Fang estimated it was likely that assassins had indeed arrived, but they didn't come directly for Qin Fang; they seemed to be planning to take a roundabout approach, getting to Chu Yunxuan first, in an attempt to use her to put pressure on Qin Fang, which would possibly complicate matters extensively.

Qin Fang understood very clearly, so he couldn't stay in the hotel any longer, quickly going downstairs and driving straight to the spa center where Chu Yunxuan and Helen were having a spa treatment.

Traffic in Jiangzhou was a significant issue even at midnight, with many vehicles still on the road. Fortunately, there wasn't much congestion along the way, and thanks to Qin Fang's exceptional driving skills, he reached the spa center in the shortest possible time.

Shen Liang was no longer there, and Qin Fang wasn't sure where he had gone, but presumably, he hadn't gone far, likely nearby.

"Lured away?"

Qin Fang furrowed his brows again, unable to see Shen Liang or receive any news, understandably leading him to this thought.

However, Qin Fang wasn't too concerned. If he hadn't arrived, Shen Liang's absence would significantly impact Chu Yunxuan's safety.

But since Qin Fang was already there, everything naturally fell under his control, and those assassins hiding in the dark gradually revealed themselves on Qin Fang's mini-map's radar.

"One, two, three, four, five... six!"

Qin Fang, following the indicators on the mini-map showing these assassins hidden in the dark, counted briefly and discovered that there were quite a number of them.

Most assassins are lone wolves because it's hard for them to find someone they can trust, especially someone they would trust with their life's safety.

Of course, there are also group-style assassins with a few people in a small group, which is slightly larger than an average assassin squad, but such groups aren't numerous. More often, it's the lone wolves venturing into the dragon pool tiger den that are more common...

Chapter 1709 - Sweeping All Foes! (Part 2)

Although Qin Fang knew that assassins had already begun to infiltrate Jiangzhou to deal with him, he was still slightly surprised by the number of these assassins when he actually saw them.

"Don't rush, wait a little longer..."

Under the surveillance of Qin Fang's mini-map, these assassins were naturally revealed, but Qin Fang hesitated and did not act rashly, as he was looking for an opportunity.

To be precise, Qin Fang vaguely felt that the number of assassins in the background might continue to increase, possibly far exceeding just six.

The strength of these six people was within Qin Fang's control, the highest being only at about the mid-master level. Their actual combat power might be slightly strong, but still not worth Qin Fang's concern.

As for the others, most weren't very strong, not even reaching grandmaster-level expertise, with only one of them being a grandmaster-level expert, and the other four being below that.

But precisely because these people were too weak, Qin Fang couldn't help but feel suspicious. He believed that there might be others besides these six who hadn't shown themselves.

The mini-map initially covered a surrounding area of fifty meters, but now it had expanded. Qin Fang glanced roughly and noticed the range was indeed broader, about seventy to eighty meters in diameter.

Thus, the scope that the mini-map could grasp was just this small and no more; anything beyond that would really be out of reach.

This was what worried Qin Fang the most. If the assassins were too far away, he wouldn't be able to detect them and would have to constantly guard against the possible gunshots from afar.

Of course, Qin Fang came secretly, perhaps even Shen Liang didn't know clearly. After all, Qin Fang hadn't had time to say much before Shen Liang had already moved to action.

Now, though, Shen Liang's whereabouts were unknown, indicating he might be held up by something. It could be a person, an object, or some special environment... In short, various possibilities existed, although there was no solid evidence.

Thinking of this, Qin Fang hid in the dark, continued to watch these assassins, and took out his phone to call Chu Yunxuan.

"Qin Fang, what's the matter?"

Qin Fang's luck was evidently quite good; this time, he got through immediately, saving a lot of trouble.

Receiving this call, Chu Yunxuan was very baffled; however, she didn't say much, just asked simply, vaguely sensing that something was about to happen.

"There's a bit of trouble outside and a bit of danger. After I deal with all of them, I'll contact you, and then we can slowly make our way out..."

Qin Fang gave a simple explanation, causing Chu Yunxuan to freeze for a moment. However, she listened attentively, realizing from Qin Fang's serious tone that no mistake could be afforded here, as it could result in losing their lives.

While Chu Yunxuan wasn't particularly afraid of death, if she knowingly charged into such severe risks outside, it would seem like her mind had been jolted so much it turned chaotic...

"By the way, be careful inside as well, and avoid getting too close to strangers. Be cautious in everything..."

With Chu Yunxuan hiding inside and not coming out, the assassins outside were clearly helpless. But Qin Fang was worried the assassins would still infiltrate in, meaning Chu Yunxuan wouldn't be entirely safe.

"Mm, understood, don't worry!"

Chu Yunxuan assured him confidently while she also took Helen with her to a small private room to rest.

Since they couldn't get out at the moment, the two women stayed inside, willing to see who would give up first from the outside!

Of course, Qin Fang wouldn't really let Chu Yunxuan keep tangling with these people outside, potentially reducing unnecessary trouble.

Qin Fang observed for quite a while, and although he vaguely sensed something odd in all this, within the mini-map's covered range, there really were only these six assassins...

Whether there was a seventh assassin, Qin Fang was not certain. After all, if there indeed was one, it would be over a hundred and fifty meters away, outside the mini-map's detection range.

But at this time, the assassins lurking in the shadows finally started to stir, seeming too impatient to wait any longer.

"Alright, I won't play with you anymore..."

Seeing this scene, Qin Fang realized he couldn't continue dragging things on.

After multiple confirmations, with even the assassins noticing Qin Fang's presence, he had no interest in continuing to hide and seek with them. He decided to take action.

Six assassins, although the number was somewhat more than just Qin Fang alone, he wouldn't leave them be; otherwise, Chu Yunxuan and the others wouldn't necessarily be safe when they came out.

So for safety, and to leave the assassins with a strong impression, Qin Fang immediately took action...

"Hey, where did that person go?"

Qin Fang's reaction was indeed somewhat strange, so much so that one assassin had fixed his gaze on Qin Fang. However, he didn't expect that after just turning around to say something to someone, Qin Fang disappeared without a trace.

This was something the observer of Qin Fang had not anticipated at all, and an immediate sense of foreboding came over him.

An individual suddenly vanishing like that couldn't possibly mean nothing was amiss, and the assassins wouldn't believe it.

For a standard person, disappearing unnoticed in front of their eyes would be nearly impossible.

Even weaker experts couldn't escape these assassins' sharp vision...

But now Qin Fang had indeed vanished, and without any flaw in it, which was quite telling indeed.

Uh~~

Just as an assassin perceived that something wasn't right, even before having a chance to retreat, a large hand suddenly appeared, covering his mouth.

At the same time, another hand clamped onto the assassin's body, preventing any struggle or movement, finishing him brutally... just like that, an assassin was effortlessly eliminated.

Pfft~~

But the slaughter was far from over. Qin Fang didn't want to waste a moment. After dispatching the first assassin, he immediately charged at another one.

This move was as clean and efficient as before, with a silver flash gleaming in the darkness, swiftly decapitating. The blood gushed as if costless.

The severed neck sprayed blood endlessly, covering the surroundings in a blood mist, making everything appear gruesomely sinister, and the unfortunate target barely had a spot untainted by blood...

Thud, thud, thud~~

The slaughter continued relentlessly; Qin Fang had no intention to stop, and each strike brought a storm of bloodshed, leaving behind the assassins' corpses...

These assassins were no good, sending themselves to Qin Fang's hands, who wasted no courtesy, swiftly wiping them all out. In mere minutes, Qin Fang had thoroughly wiped out all six assassins, not sparing a single one.

Mostly, there was just a faint scream followed by silence, as if another person vanished without a trace...

Chapter 1710 - Shadow Viper

...

Six assassins, in almost no time at all, silently fell under Qin Fang's blade, without making even the slightest noise, they were just gone like that.

To avoid some unnecessary trouble, Qin Fang also took the bodies away, planning to dispose of them altogether. Leaving them here was obviously inappropriate.

"Something's not right..."

But after all this was done, Qin Fang showed no intention of resting. Instead, he furrowed his brow, vaguely sensing that something seemed amiss.

However, after carefully checking the surroundings, he found no other enemies present, which puzzled Qin Fang a bit.

But if there were enemies farther away, they would already be beyond his perception and surveillance range. Even if there were indeed enemies hiding there, he still wouldn't be able to find them.

"Forget it, let's not worry about it for now..."

Currently, there's no way to find out, and the crisis has already been resolved. Those assassins were after him, yet he had already appeared, and the opponent could have made a move if they wanted to...

But right now they hadn't attacked, so it either means there are temporarily no enemies, or for some reason, the opponent chose not to act. This has nothing to do with Chu Yunxuan and Helen inside the spa, so Qin Fang immediately contacted Chu Yunxuan and Helen by phone.

As Qin Fang expected, Chu Yunxuan and Helen cautiously came out, while Qin Fang remained highly vigilant, watching the surroundings carefully, but eventually, there was no movement, and then the three of them drove away.

And just as Qin Fang and his companions left, about three hundred meters away in a building, two pairs of sinister eyes never left them.

These were two foreigners, one black, one white, both appearing to be in their thirties, not particularly strong-looking or brawny, but giving an even more terrifying impression than those heavyweight boxers.

On the edge of the balcony nearby, there lay a sniper gun quietly, moreover, it was the kind that had undergone special modifications, much more powerful than a regular sniper gun.

At this moment, the two foreigners each had a cigar in their mouths, smoking quietly, their eyes always fixed ahead, maintaining a somewhat relaxed demeanor.

"Hori, how's the target's strength?"

Not until Qin Fang's car disappeared into the distance did one of the foreigners casually ask.

"The strength is indeed strong... at least stronger than we anticipated!"

The white foreigner named Hori nodded lightly, spat out the cigar from his mouth, and licked his slightly chapped lips.

"But opponents like this make it more thrilling... don't you think so, Far?"

Then his eyes flashed with even more astonishing light, as if the whole person became excited, even looking at the black man, Far, beside him with a very strange gaze.

"Of course... if too weak, there's no point in taking this bounty! Let's hope this target doesn't disappoint us... hahaha!!"

Black man Far also nodded approvingly, a bloodthirsty gleam in his eyes.

Yet...

The moment these two men, one black, one white, exchanged glances, their eyes and demeanor quickly changed from bloodthirsty viciousness to tenderness, and then...

These two strong men suddenly embraced each other passionately, kissing deeply, with their hands even exploring each other's bodies...

Fortunately, Qin Fang and his companions didn't witness this scene, otherwise, they would probably have been disgusted to the point of throwing up uncontrollably...

Meanwhile, Qin Fang may have been able to guess who this black and white duo was.

After all, this bounty was exceptionally generous, alarming Five-Star Assassins, who are almost legendary within the Assassin's Alliance.

And a black-and-white partnership like this is extremely rare, Qin Fang would certainly know these two are the famous Shadow Vipers if he saw them.

Viper is a type of venomous snake, though not as famous as rattlesnakes, cobras, or black mambas, yet it's more akin to the style of these two Five-Star Assassins.

In terms of physique, these two would be considered small among Caucasians and African-Americans, only slightly taller than Asians.

In terms of methods, these two have never been known for brutality, even though their mission completion rate has always been terrifying, they rarely involve innocent people outside their targets.

But when it comes to their fame in the Assassin's Alliance, it's a completely different story, as they are amongst the top in the Five-Star Assassins.

Of course, this refers to their fame and strength as a duo, not as individuals, because their greatest strength is their coordination, not solo combat.

If they were to be separated, each would only have the strength equivalent to a Four-Star Assassin, still significantly weaker than a Five-Star Assassin...

But once united, they become extremely terrifying, with a seamlessly coordinated partnership, not just a simple arithmetic of one plus one equals two, but possibly three, or even four...

However, what makes this assassin duo famous is not just their strength and terrifying mission completion rate, but that they are a gay couple, and many believe their impeccable coordination stems from what they've built over time in bed...

Qin Fang drove away with Chu Yunxuan and Helen, unaware that the two infamous Shadow Vipers in the Assassin's Alliance had set their sights on him.

The reason these two hadn't acted directly earlier was because they were surprised by Qin Fang's speed and prowess in instantly killing those six assassins.

As assassins, especially top-tier ones, Hori and Far rely on their extremely keen senses and seamless coordination time and time again, but no one knows that their caution and prudence are a magical treasure to their success.

Without fully understanding Qin Fang's strength and capabilities, even with such an opportunity earlier, they weren't willing to make a hasty move.

Hori and Far, one near, one far, one a close-combat specialist, the other a long-range sniper expert, with a partnership so seamless it could be described as flawless.

But in the earlier situation, even though Hori, the sniper, was confident about a seventy percent chance to hit the target Qin Fang, he ultimately held back.

A seventy percent chance, judged based on Qin Fang's displayed capabilities, was already considered very high, but Hori still felt it wasn't enough.

Especially since Qin Fang swiftly killed those six assassins without much effort, not fully displaying all his abilities.

If Qin Fang's abilities were three to five percent higher than what was shown earlier, Hori's hit rate would drop from seventy percent to fifty percent, or even lower...

And that was just the hit rate; Qin Fang was clearly a martial arts expert and had a much stronger sense of danger than an average person.

In a moment of crisis, just a slight movement of his body could cause the bullet to miss vital organs, or even allow Qin Fang to dodge it entirely.

Hori's sniper rifle was specially modified, and the bullets were made by himself, incredibly powerful, even a mere graze could be fatal or at least terribly injurious...

Despite this, Hori still didn't feel assured of certain victory, so he and Far ultimately decided to continue observing, rather than rushing into action!

A significant number of assassins were dispatched by the Assassin's Alliance this time. While not many Five-Star Assassins came, there were definitely a lot of Four-Star Assassins...

As for those non-mainstream assassins encountered earlier, most of them Three-Star or above, unless they were ambitious newcomers pretending to be weak, they were practically sending themselves to their deaths upon confronting a powerful target like Qin Fang...

Thus, these two Five-Star Assassins let Qin Fang depart without worry about him being killed on the road, and they could even be quite certain that more unfortunates would meet their end at Qin Fang's hands along the way.

In fact, as Qin Fang drove down the road, he was pondering this very matter.

He knew that the news had reached him slightly late; the first batch of assassins should have already set their eyes on him.

The effort in Ninghai would definitely be in vain, as Qin Fang hadn't returned there for some time. It's also his base camp with many informants; even if the Assassin's Alliance were adept at concealing themselves, any inquiry about Qin Fang would easily expose them.

But Jiangzhou was different; under circumstances like today, the six hidden assassins evidently didn't belong to the same force, probably working independently.

Perhaps they hadn't found Qin Fang's definite location, felt they couldn't match up to him, or for other reasons chose to target Chu Yunxuan instead, intending to leverage Qin Fang, forcing his hand, making their task easier.

However, they clearly underestimated the situation, simplifying it too much, and before capturing Chu Yunxuan, they lost their lives, without even knowing whose hand they died by, a truly frustrating incident.

Qin Fang held no sympathy for these assassins, even felt immense hatred. Had he not received the news just then, Chu Yunxuan might have indeed fallen into their hands.

Regardless of whether these assassins would harm Chu Yunxuan and the others, the entire matter was something Qin Fang didn't wish to see, let alone Chu Yunxuan being frightened or hurt as a result...

This was why Qin Fang acted as he did, striking with overwhelming might, leaving his opponents no opportunity, a response both venting his indignation and as a show for those lurking in the shadows...