

Grasping 351

Chapter 351.1 - Five Types of Sword Techniques

Five Types of Sword Techniques

Ning Fan stood at the empty courtyard. The Qixi Festival had ended and it was now the beginning of autumn. The floor in the courtyard was filled with fallen leaves but no one was there to clean it.

As dusk fell, Ning Fan looked at the sky and saw the bright red sun setting in the west. From that scene, he seemed to have gained a vague understanding of something but at the same time, he found it even more difficult to comprehend.

He remembered Old Devil's advice to bask in the sun more frequently to prevent losing sight of himself in the journey of cultivation.

He thought of Zhihe's young delicate appearance as she stood gracefully in the snow.

He recalled all the previous scenes of killings he encountered and he could vaguely see an unreachable giant which was ten thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall standing at the end of the sea of blood. A single step from that giant would be able to wipe out Seven Apricot City in its entirety!

He seemed to notice Emperor Moksha hideously grinning as his ears heard innumerable voices of mockeries which resounded from all directions.

Kill! Kill! Kill!

Ning Fan's mind became more and more chaotic. This was the sign of losing oneself in cultivation! He had once gotten in the same situation before. What he lost control of was his lust which was then relieved with Zhihe's help.

This time, what he lost control of was his desire to kill. It could not be solved without killing anyone. But if he kills someone, this desire would be rooted in him deeper and deeper and eventually, he would completely lose himself one day!

"The reason why Qiuling brought me to Gusu was to prevent me from being consumed by my killing intent... If I yield to that intent, wouldn't I be letting her down?!"

"I, Ning Fan, do not kill because of my thirst for blood but because of the perseverance of my Dao! I am a devil cultivator but I am different from other devils!"

Puff

In the courtyard, a wild gust of wind rose, making the leaves on the ground to swirl.

Despite the overwhelming killing intent which appeared within his mind, he firmly decided on not killing anyone in Gusu City and neither would he succumb to his killing intent!

After a long while, darkness gradually filled the sky. Ning Fan opened his eyes and they flashed with clarity this time.

After forcefully suppressing his killing intent, his state of mind improved slightly once again.

At the same time, he heard a few knocks from the door outside the mansion.

Along with the knocking sound, he also heard a soft gentle voice.

“Is Young Master Zhou asleep? Little Stone from my house has taken your things, I have come to return it to you.”

Door squeaks

Ning Fan opened the door with a flick of his sleeve. A good-looking woman wearing a linen dress and a thorn hairpin was standing outside the door.

She looked like she was in her late twenties and wore a set of linen clothes with her black hair tied with a white cloth. Her appearance looked prim and proper but her expression was filled with sorrow, as if someone in her family had died.

She carried a basket of eggs in one hand while holding the fine sword which was wrapped in silk cloth in the other.

Seeing the door open itself while Ning Fan was still standing in the courtyard, the good-looking woman could not help but think of the rumors about this mansion being haunted and began to feel a little scared.

However, when she remembered that her child had taken someone else's possession, the woman gathered her courage and stepped into the courtyard with her soft shoes.

"You are?" Ning Fan asked curiously.

"I'm Bai Su, Little Stone's mother. I heard Little Stone saying that the Young Master lent this sword to him to study. But this sword is too precious. It is a rare divine weapon. Little Stone is still young. If this sword is lost, there is no way we can afford to compensate for the sword even if we sell off all of our family assets. Therefore, I purposely came here to return to you this sword."

Bai Su tried hard to keep a calm face, but it was still difficult for her to conceal her fear.

Gusts of chilly wind kept blowing in the courtyard. Her gaze swept across the dark surroundings and found out that not a single lamp was lit. Moreover, the young man who was standing in front of her was overly young and handsome.

Is Young Master Zhou who bought this haunted mansion a demon...? I think yes. Such a good sword can only be owned by the demons in the legends. How could a mortal swordsman have such a fine sword?

Bai Su's husband died of illness six months ago. She still had not taken off her mourning dress and lived with Little Stone alone.

She knew that she was quite a beauty in this city. If Ning Fan was indeed a demon, it would be a grave mistake for her to enter this haunted mansion at this moment. If she falls into this demon's hands, her purity would surely be at risk.

Ning Fan did not know that he was already being suspected of being a demon in Bai Su's eyes.

He did not even know that this woman wearing a mourning dress was worried that he would deprive her of her purity.

"Oh, you're Little Stone's mother... You came to return the sword? That sword is of no use to me. I don't mind giving it to Little Stone as a gift. You don't need to return it to me..."

Ning Fan shook his head and said. But after hearing his words, she immediately said with a stern expression and she seemed to have forgotten her fear.

"Young Master Zhou, I disagree with you! I believe Young Master must be a swordsman for being able to own such an excellent sword. As a swordsman, how could you regard a sword as something insignificant let alone give it away to others without proper consideration?! Even though my husband died early and he wasn't a swordsman, he was once the most famous blacksmith in Gusu City and he had seen countless popular swordsmen. He once said that as one decides to become a swordsman, one should be connected with their swords! One should have a strong connection with his sword where both of them become one. The sword lives and the wielder survives; the sword breaks and the wielder perishes!"

Bai Su's words were like a burst of sweet rain showering on Ning Fan's heart.

Originally, Ning Fan was unable to comprehend sword intent from the sword. He only felt that something was missing. At this moment, however, he seemed to have an epiphany of it after hearing Bai Su's words!

"Yes! The reason why I couldn't condense sword intent is because I'm lacking any affection to swords! A swordsman should be fond of swords!"

However, Ning Fan disagreed with Bai Su on the part about 'the sword breaks and the wielder perishes'.

He only nodded his head and sincerely agreed with her point where she said 'fond of swords'.

It can't be wrong! What's inside Little Stone is indeed an obsession and attachment to swords!

Only those who have great passion for swords can be adept at them!

Only those who are adept at swords can grasp its intent!

A hint of enlightenment hit Ning Fan and a trace of sharp and vigorous sword qi rose around Ning Fan's body. This sword qi made Bai Su who had some knowledge in swordsmanship become filled with disbelief. Her jaw slightly dropped as she looked at the current Ning Fan.

“W-What an incredibly strong sword qi! I’ve been staying in Gusu for twenty-nine years but I’ve never seen such an amazing sword qi!”

Originally, Bai Su only thought Ning Fan as an inept swordsman who did not treasure swords.

At this moment, only then did Bai Su realize that Ning Fan was an expert who deeply concealed his capabilities.

“Sword, return!”

Ning Fan looked at the sword which was wrapped in silk cloth in Bai Su’s arms and called it. A tremendous telekinetic force surged and fetched the sword into his hand.

“Power of telekinesis! It’s clearly a technique that can only be performed by a swordsman with very strong Neigong!”

Bai Su’s eyes were brimming with shock. That feeling of shock, however, became a hint of shyness.

The strong telekinetic force had not only taken the sword away from her, but it also brushed past her chest. It made her feel as if a pair of invisible hands had violently squeezed her bosom.

It was clearly an accident that Ning Fan failed to notice. It was also impossible for Bai Su to reveal such a shameful thing.

Her beautiful eyes then stared at Ning Fan who was focused on his sword. She believed that a swordsman who was as skillful as him would definitely not commit such a lowly thing as touching her bosom.

“I suppose that was just an accident... This Young Master probably is a peerless swordsman! If my husband had not died, he would definitely have had no regrets in his life being able to witness Young Master Zhou’s excellent sword and meet such a swordsman in this world...”

“My husband’s lifelong wish was to let Little Stone become a peerless swordsman. If I let Little Stone learn some skills from him...”

The woman looked at Ning Fan and then shifted her gaze at herself and sighed gently.

The set of white clothes on Ning Fan’s body was sewed with a type of fabric that she had never seen before. Without a doubt, she thought that he must be a person from a wealthy and respectable background.

As for her, the condition of her family declined after her husband died. How would she have extra money to let her child become an apprentice to a good master like him...

In her eyes, Ning Fan was definitely the best master in terms of sword techniques in Gusu City!

Little Stone can't afford to be an apprentice to a master like him...

A while later, Ning Fan withdrew all his aura force. He unwrapped the cloth and perused the sword which was gleaming with green light. This time, the look he had in his eyes was different.

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As he placed all his focus on the sword, he seemed to be able to hear the breathing of this sword... This was doubtlessly the result of being one with the sword!

As for the rest of the process, he just needed to shift his focus from the sword to its intent. Afterwards, he would be able to condense his sword intent!

Speaking of which, it's all thanks to Bai Su's reminder which helped me to successfully comprehend this step.

Ning Fan raised his head to gaze and asked with an astonished tone.

"Mm? Hasn't madam left yet? It's already late. Wouldn't it stir up some gossip if madam, who isn't a dead person, still stays in my mansion?"

“Y-Yes, it would...”

Bai Su was really awkward. She certainly knew that it was extremely inappropriate to run into Ning Fan’s house in the middle of the night.

However, the affairs between men and women had never crossed her mind previously. Instead, she was just wholeheartedly admiring Ning Fan’s profoundness in sword techniques and wondering whether it would be possible for Little Stone to acknowledge him as his master.

Now, after being reminded by Ning Fan, she retrieved herself from her thoughts. She paused at the entrance and hesitated. However, she was still too shy to speak out in the end and left with a soft sigh.

At the moment she left, it struck her that she had brought a basket of eggs with her to Ning Fan’s mansion. It was originally a token of gratitude to Ning Fan for giving Little Stone the precious sword, wasn’t it?

“I know that Young Master Zhou is wealthy and does not care about these measly things. But this basket of eggs is a little token of gratitude from me for Young Master to thank you for being willing to lend the precious sword to Little Stone... I heard that Madam Zhou has fallen ill. These eggs are just right for her to nourish her body.”

Bai Su handed the basket of eggs to Ning Fan. Her actions were polite and she also bowed slightly as a sign of courtesy.

Ning Fan took the eggs and his heart felt a jolt.

A basket of eggs is one of the ways to express kindness among the mortals in a neighborhood.

Meanwhile, giving gifts to a stranger is considered a foolish act in the cultivation world.

But in the mortals' world, it's basic etiquette to express goodwill.

"Thank you..." Ning Fan sighed with feelings. He had not felt a friendly feeling like this for a long time.

"*Chuckle* Young Master is really a unique person. There is no need to say thanks for just a basket of eggs."

Bai Su's face puckered as her lips curved into a smile. Her expression was both rather fascinating and charming. Right at this moment, Xu Qiuling woke up. She pushed the door open and walked out from within the mansion. Then, she asked with a soft voice.

"Big brother, it's already late. Why don't you light up some lights? Eh? Is there a guest...?"

Other than her slightly pale complexion due to her illness, the rest of Xu Qiuling's appearance could only be described with one word: beautiful. In fact, as she stood and basked in the moonlight, she looked just like a fairy that descended to the mortal world.

As soon as Bai Su saw Xu Qiuling's attractive appearance, she was instantly overwhelmed and she inwardly mocked herself.

Since Young Master Zhou already has such a lovely wife, how would he be interested in an ugly woman like me, let alone molest me? I was really overthinking it just now...

"I'm Bai Su. Greetings to Madam Zhou. It's already late now. I will come for a visit again some other day."

Bai Su made a bow again and excused herself.

Xu Qiuling's eyes were flashing with surprise.

If this Bai Su was a few years younger, her appearance may not be inferior to mine.

After making a bow in return, she watched Bai Su leave. Then, she shifted her eyes to Ning Fan who was carrying a basket of eggs. Xu Qiuling burst into laughter as if a punchline just hit her.

"What are you laughing at?"

“I’m laughing at you. The dignified Great Devil Lord Zhou is carrying a basket of eggs... If your current look were to be seen by cultivators from the External Endless Sea, I wonder how many of them would get so shocked until their eyeballs pop out.”

...

In Gusu City, the news of a young master surnamed Zhou buying a haunted mansion was gradually forgotten after being a hot topic in everyone’s conversation for a few days.

As for the residences neighboring the haunted mansion, they also gradually grew familiar with Ning Fan.

They only knew that Ning Fan was rather weird. During the day, Ning Fan would sit in the yard with the gate wide open and stare attentively at a sword.

In the evening, Ning Fan would then bring a peerless beauty to go cruising on the Su River in Gusu.

However, no one knew that Ning Fan still had a nightlife which was to provide Xu Qiuling an erotic medicated bath treatment all night.

Many rumors claimed that Ning Fan was a swordsman but no one had actually seen him wield a sword.

The children who made fun of Ning Fan did not come anymore except for Little Stone. He never failed to visit Ning Fan every day, as if it was his daily routine. When Ning Fan was staring at his sword, he also stared at a sword, trying to learn something by imitating him.

“Uncle Zhou, are you really not a swordsman? You can tell me and I promise I will not tell my mother!” Little Stone pleaded.

“No, I’m not...” Ning Fan told him the truth. He was indeed not a swordsman.

Every time Ning Fan gave him this answer, Little Stone’s face would turn disappointed.

When evening fell, Bai Su would definitely come to bring the pestering Little Stone back home and occasionally prepare some food and wine for Ning Fan.

As a result, word about him spread and eventually, he was left with the reputation of being a lascivious guy.

Hooking up with a widow from the late blacksmith’s family during the day and cruising freely with a beauty at night. These accusations were placed on Ning Fan’s head.

To Ning Fan, reputation was nothing more than fleeting clouds. To Bai Su, however, it was difficult to clean her reputation once it was tainted.

No matter where she went, be it the Su River for laundry or the market for selling cloth, she would always be pointed at and criticised by others.

No matter how hard she tried to explain, no one would believe her. She had thought several times of not stepping into Ning Fan's house again. However, in order to let Little Stone learn sword skills, she clenched her teeth and thickened her face to endure the stigma.

"So this is what it takes to be a mother...?" Ning Fan closed his eyes and said something that Little Stone did not understand.

A month later, Ning Fan seemed to have gained new insights from the sword. He stashed the sword and then took out a soft sword made of crepe myrtle wood.

"Uncle Zhou, aren't you going to study the sharp sword more? Why are you looking at a soft sword? It looks soft and limp. Can it be used to fight and kill?" Little Stone asked confusedly.

"Of course it can..."

Ning Fan casually waved the soft sword and the rockery in the courtyard crumbled with a loud crash after a flash of sword light!

Little Stone was stunned. It was his first time seeing Ning Fan act.

With a trace of sword qi, he cut the rockery which had a height equivalent to three adult men into pieces. It was already at an extremely marvelous level!

“Uncle Zhou, y-you lied to me! You’re clearly a swordsman!” Little Stone exclaimed with excitement. He was now even more determined to learn sword skills from Ning Fan.

“I didn’t lie to you. I’m indeed not a swordsman. You have a good innate talent. Perhaps one day, you will understand my words when you walk my path.”

Ning Fan shook his head with a smile. He did not use any of his magic power or even the Neigong of the mortal martial arts in the strike he displayed just now. Instead, he just imagined sword qi in his mind and a trace of sword qi was then condensed.

This was the initial stage of condensing sword intent!

During the first month, Ning Fan only studied the sharp sword.

In the second month, he only looked at the soft sword.

The principle of a sharp sword lies in its sharpness and rigidity. There is nothing that it cannot destroy.

As for the soft sword, its essence lies in its flexibility and malleable nature. It was soft and tricky, making it difficult to deal with.

In the third month, Ning Fan took out more than one hundred low grade flying swords. Right before Little Stone's eyes, Ning Fan blew a breath and black flames suddenly burned all the flying swords. After a brief moment, they were melted and remolded into a broadsword which was nearly one meter long and as heavy as a giant rock.

Little Stone was once again petrified. He now had a feeling that Uncle Zhou was probably not a true swordsman but a god of swords.

He became more and more obsessive in the art of swords. In the end, he actually stayed at Ning Fan's house for an entire day. He would not leave even when Bai Su tried to drag him back. Everyday, Bai Su had to spend a lot of effort and strength in order to bring her silly kid home.

The weather gradually became cold. In the fourth month, heavy snow fell in Gusu. Little Stone's house which was built of thatch was crushed by the snow. Under Xu Qiuling's invitation, Bai Su brought along her kid and stayed in Ning Fan's mansion.

After Ning Fan extorted the five elderly men, the silver he had piled up like mountains in his mansion. As such, Bai Su no longer needed to show her face in public to earn money.

She could not help but feel bad by just accepting someone else's aid. Therefore, she took care of all the house chores within the mansion. As for Xu Qiuling, she no longer rested during the day. Her face began to get more and more ruddy as days went by. Every day, she would have Bai Su accompany her and the relationship between the both of them became so close that they were like blood sisters.

In the fourth month, Ning Fan snapped one of the peach trees in his courtyard and carved it into a wooden sword.

Little Stone just could not understand this action of his at all.

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Five Types of Sword Techniques

The first sword was sharp, the second sword was soft and malleable and the third sword was heavy. What advantage does this fourth sword, a wooden sword have?

Could a wooden sword be used to cut people down? Could it be used in battle?!

If it could, wouldn't everyone be wielding wooden swords while fighting their enemies during battle?

Outside the mansion, the street was crowded with people who were spectating the parade of the best imperial scholar who was riding a horse. However, Little Stone did not even dart a glance at him.

People laughed at him for his obsession with swords whereas he laughed at them for wasting their energy and effort in pursuing fame and reputation which were as transient as clouds and being childish but acting arrogantly on account of their seniority.

“So what if one becomes the best imperial scholar? Neither imperial examinations nor merit is more exhilarating than settling vengeance and debt of gratitude with a single slash of a sword!”

In Gusu City, Philanthropist Zhao whose age was over eighty years old, had married a beautiful concubine who was only thirteen years old. Many villagers had gone to spectate the groom's procession to the bride's house, but Little Stone did not even pay the slightest attention to it.

People teased him for being obsessed with swords while he laughed at them for being addicted to wine and women.

"Wine, women, wealth and pride are deceptive. Only the sword in one's hand is true!"

Little Stone was still a mortal, but under Ning Fan's influence, his heart had almost been filled with swords.

As long as he gains enough experience in the future, he could become a peerless swordsman in the mortal world. When he wields a sword, he will be undefeatable.

In the world of immortals, he would be capable of breaking through the Void Realm and stir up a storm!

He had this latent potential!

Gradually, Ning Fan no longer stayed still while holding the wooden sword in his hand. Now, even if he was wielding a sword made of wood, he could cause smoke and ashes to fly.

That was a realm where being formless wins against any forms. However, it was still not enough...

In the fifth month, Ning Fan held nothing in his hand. A sword would be formed with just a snap of his fingers.

An intangible aura condensed on him. He would only need to complete the final step and he could then wield it at will.

Seeing Ning Fan release sword qi which pulverized a massive rock weighing approximately fifteen thousand kilograms with just a snap of his fingers, Little Stone's eyes burned with excitement. At that very moment, a burning passion rose within his heart...

He wanted to be a swordsman!

"Uncle Zhou, I want to be a swordsman. Can you be my master?!"

Thud

Little Stone fell to his knees on the ground in front of Ning Fan, but the latter just shook his head with a kind smile.

“Your potential in the Dao of Sword may not necessarily be weaker than mine. It will only limit you if you acknowledge me as your master. You just need to remember the process that I went through for the past five months in comprehending swords. Carry this insight with you and go challenge all swordsmen beneath the heavens along your path in seeking the art of sword. One day, you will find your own Dao of Sword.”

“You’re too young right now and your eyes only see the sword but not life. This isn’t enough... Gusu is a good place. Get along well with your mother and be a filial son. There are two pills here, one is for you and the other one is for your mother. Consume it and your lifespan will extend for one hundred years. As for this book, it has a set of cultivation methods regarding the Dao of Sword which can lead you to the path of cultivation. However, do not open this book before you become a peerless and unrivalled swordsman in the mortal world!”

“When you become so strong that you wish to be defeated but no one can do it in this world, only then can you open this book and step into the world of cultivation. It will be a brand new world with even more challenges to satisfy you!”

Ning Fan’s gaze swept across Gusu City. He had stayed here for five months and it was about time to leave. Both his silver and mansion were all given to Little Stone including the sharp sword, the soft sword, the heavy broadsword and the wooden sword which he randomly chose to comprehend his sword intent.

Pulling Xu Qiuling into his arms, Ning Fan made a step forward and vanished completely into a ray of sword light.

Little Stone was stunned by the scene before his eyes while Bai Su felt an inexplicable feeling of sadness.

“Young Master Zhou has disappeared... So it turns out that he is not a mortal. Immortals really exist in this world...”

A tremendous sense of loss flooded her heart. It was hard to explain and it was even more difficult for others to understand.

Bai Su was unclear of the feeling she had and she just let out a gentle sigh.

“It’s good for it to end like this...”

...

With a flash of sword light, Ning Fan travelled away from the island to the sea in a single step with Xu Qiuling in his embrace. They dived ninety thousand zhang* (3.33 m per zhang) deep into the sea. Then, he waved his hand, summoning a sword light and split the sea apart, creating a space without water.

After five months of recuperation, the gold qi in Xu Qiuling’s life force had recovered up to 90%.

Next, he would only need to insert an extra powerful trace of gold qi into her and she would then be fully cured!

Ning Fan patted his storage pouch and took out the crimson-red metal piece – the remnant piece of the Immortal Entrapping Sword. His eyes sparkled with determination and he swallowed it down in one gulp.

The remnant piece was forced into his Sea of Consciousness and was engulfed by his sword sense. All of a sudden, his sword sense increased rapidly and the barrier of the sword intent that he had been comprehending for the past five months broke at this moment!

Sword intent, condense!

One would never be considered as a true sword cultivator without sword intent. When one successfully condenses sword intent, they would be able to unleash twice the power when using sword techniques compared to before.

“Congratulations to Big Brother for successfully condensing your sword intent! But is it really good that we leave Gusu City just like this...? Aren't you going to keep Little Stone as your apprentice? And that Bai Su, aren't you going...”

“My bonds with this mortal world have come to an end!” Ning Fan answered in a decisive manner.

Mortals should have a mortal life. Even though he gave Little Stone a book which recorded a set of sword cultivation methods in the end, if Little Stone fails to reach a level where he is completely unrivalled in the mortal world, he would not allow Little Stone to take the path of cultivation.

Cultivation is a path with no return. It may not necessarily be suitable for mortals as it involves too much bloodshed. If he can enjoy the peace of Gusu City, why should he involve himself with endless killings and battles like Ning Fan?

The things that happened in Gusu City were cast aside by Ning Fan in his mind.

In the past, the most beautiful memories he had in his life were those he had in Seven Apricot City. Along his path of cultivation, the collection of beautiful memories he had included those in the Luo Yun Tribe and now it was added with those in Gusu.

If possible, he would like to live in Gusu for the rest of his life. However, he had a reason not to stop moving forward.

“Next, I will expel a trace of sword power from the Immortal Entrapping Sword and insert it into your immortal veins. Then, I will help you refine this power. If everything is successful, not only will your gold qi be completely replenished, your cultivation base will also be improved greatly. At the very least, you will attain Half-Step Divine Transformation Realm!”

“I don’t care about my cultivation base. I am already content if I can stay alive and continue to stay by your side to relieve your exhaustion in killings...”

Xu Qiuling looked affectionately at Ning Fan and they grasped each other’s palms. A trace of sword power exuded from Ning Fan’s palms and entered Xu Qiuling’s body.

At this moment, Xu Qiuling revealed a pained expression but she clenched her teeth and endured it.

If I don't endure this pain, I will then have no qualifications to be with him till the end of my life...

This pain is nothing. Despite knowing it was withering day after day, wasn't it still able to wait for the butterfly to return? Though it was just the remnant ashes of the butterfly...

Ahh

Xu Qiuling clenched her teeth even more tightly and nearly lost her consciousness due to the excruciating pain. But she still struggled to open her eyes and looked directly at Ning Fan.

She felt that as long as she could look at Ning Fan, the pain and bitterness of the process would be less intolerable.

Puff

An aura which was getting stronger and stronger started forming within Xu Qiuling's body.

Everyone claimed that she would not live long, but she was determined to live on in a proud manner!

As the gold qi of her life force was fully replenished, the level of her cultivation base which had been suppressed by her sickness began to rise sharply.

In the past, the reason why Xu Qiuling did not break through to the Nascent Soul Realm was not because she was unable to do it, but because she did not have the courage. If one breaks through to the Nascent Soul Realm, one would need to combine the five elements into one. Since she was born with an inadequate amount of the gold element, she could not achieve Nascent Formation...

However, her magic power had been accumulating in her body through years of cultivation. All of them were now unleashed on this very day!

Her magic power rose to 5500 units and her cultivation base broke into Half Step Divine Transformation Realm!

“Big Brother! I-I...” Tears welled up within her eyes out of joy.

She finally won against her fate and survived!

All of a sudden, countless Heavenly Lightning Tribulations befell her, penetrating into the deep sea. Ning Fan intended to help her parry those lightning rays but she shook her head with a confident smile.

“Don’t worry... I can do it! I don’t want to be a woman that will only burden you!”

Chapter 352 - Washing Gusu with Blood

Washing Gusu with Blood

Xu Qiuling wore a black dress and appeared irresistibly charming. Despite knowing the incoming lightning tribulations from above her head, she appeared to be unconcerned.

She had never been a timid woman.

Shadows of floating flowers lingered around her, as if every inch of her magic power had turned into pitch-black petals.

When she made a gentle step forward that looked like she was stepping on a lotus leaf, innumerable rare plants within the deep sea rapidly withered and all their essence seeped into her body.

At this moment, her Half-Step Divine Transformation Realm aura was closely similar to that of a real Divine Transformation Realm expert!

“This is... the ‘Black Flower Empress’ physique!”

Ning Fan was inwardly astonished and his face slightly changed. He had never thought that Xu Qiuling would have such an excellent innate talent.

The Black Flower Empress' physique was the bane of nearly all kinds of demons and magical techniques related to plants. Moreover, it even possesses a secret power which allows her to borrow power by absorbing the essence of plants around her for her own use, making them wilt in the process.

According to rumors, the Black Flower Empress physique would only be bestowed upon cultivators who fulfilled certain conditions.

Firstly, that cultivator must be a woman and she must also possess a physique with Yin attribute.

Secondly, this female cultivator must be a plant once in her previous lives and had attained the status of being the emperor or empress among plants.

Previously, because of the inadequacy of the gold element in her life force, her true physique had not been revealed.

Today, however, after her lacking element was replenished, her physique became complete. She took a step, emanating a majestic aura that could make all flowers yield to her, just like an empress among flowers!

"Lightning tribulations, break!"

Xu Qiuling's eyes turned grim. As she waved her hand, the entire area became filled with falling black flowers.

A black garland slowly formed around her bare hand, glowing with a gleam of terrifying black light.

When she threw the garland into the sky, it became like a crescent blade of light, cutting everything in its path. All the silver lightning rays above her were cut into half by the garland and the Lightning Tribulation was destroyed!

It can even cut off lightning rays! The attack speed of this garland is so fast!

Ning Fan inwardly reckoned that not many cultivators below the Divine Transformation Realm would be able to withstand the attack that Xu Qiuling had just shown.

This woman had seen through the matter of life and death and she was not afraid of misery and hardship. The mentality she had was rare among the women whom Ning Fan had met. If she did not have a problem with her life force, she would have been even more outstanding than the so-called Seven Sons of the External Endless Sea!

“I did it...” Xu Qiuling’s smile was as beautiful as an orchid but her face was slightly pale. It seemed like temporarily boosting her power by absorbing the essence of hundreds of flowers was rather burdensome on her body.

Besides, as her gold qi was just fully replenished, her body was certainly worn out. Suddenly, she carelessly slipped on the ground and was about to fall down. Ning Fan immediately dashed towards her in a flash of light and held her delicate wrists. His eyes were filled with surprise.

“Your physique is so outstanding. If you can find a fiendgod cultivation method related to immortal flowers, your cultivation base will advance at a tremendous pace... On the basis of the potential of our physiques, I’m not a match for you.”

Black Flower Empress was a special type of physique, just like the Bewitching Physique that Zhihe had. At the moment they were born, they had an advantage that others could not compare.

Ning Fan did not have any physique. The only thing that made him luckier than other geniuses was the profoundness of his Yin Yang Transformation.

Of course, if Ning Fan had been born with any kind of unique physiques like the Yin Yang Body, his potential would definitely be much higher.

Xu Qiuling only smiled faintly at Ning Fan after hearing his praise and replied with a firm tone.

“Big Brother, you must be joking. Even though you don’t have any physique, no one can replace you in my heart!”

“Now, even though your injuries are healed, you still need to rest. Let’s return to the Pleasure Devil Island for now to recuperate...”

“No, I don’t want... Can we rest in Gusu? The Pleasure Devil Island is like a cage and I don’t like it.” Xu Qiuling pleaded.

“Silly girl, if I’m with you, which part beneath the heavens is not like Gusu?” Ning Fan stroked her cheek as he spoke. His words had brightened up her eyes.

“Big Brother, you’re right. I’ve been too obsessive. If Big Brother herds horses in the countryside, I would then shepherd goats and weave clothes for you. If you serve as an officer at the imperial court, I would then stand by your side and support you. If you hold a sword and go on a battlefield, I will follow you with wine in my hand and always drink with you to divert you from boredom. If you become a butterfly and fly against the sky, I would then give up my petals for you to help you soar to greater heights... As long as we go through the ups and downs in life together, wherever we are is the same as Gusu City...”

Xu Qiuling’s words were genuine and sincere. They made Ning Fan feel touched.

He had been going through hardships throughout his life. When he was young, he was bullied. Until that day in the All Pleasure Sect, he had no choice but to defy and fight back.

He had abandoned his mortality, chose the path of the devil and travelled through seas of blood. Even if he had countless beauties, his shadow was always lonely.

This loneliness was his perseverance and stubbornness to face all obstacles by himself. Now, however, Xu Qiuling was willing to stand with him and share his burden.

Ning Fan’s notoriety was widely spread around the world. However, the more notorious he becomes, the more people become afraid of him and despise him.

His cultivation method was mean and shameless but Xu Qiuling tolerated it regardless.

As long as we go through the ups and downs in life together, wherever we are is just the same as Gusu City...

“Thank you!”

Ning Fan felt warmth in his heart. He was more convinced that it was right to choose the path of cultivation.

If he had not stepped into the world of cultivation and had died willingly as a mortal, he would never have met so many beauties and female companions in his life.

“We will return to the Pleasure Devil Island first. There are some affairs I have to deal with after that... I need to see some people and beat some forces. Then, I will enter the Internal Endless Sea...”

“If Big Brother is going to enter the Internal Endless Sea and head to the Giant Devil Sect, I will also go together with you... It has been a long time since the last time I met Sister Xueyan. I miss her so badly...”

Ning Fan pondered.

The ‘Sister Xueyan’ that Qiuling is referring to is probably the little princess of the Giant Devil Sect, Feng Xueyan.

When he was about to continue asking her about the background of the Giant Devil Sect, the sound of something as heavy as an island crumbling was suddenly heard from above the sea!

Boom

This noise was soul-stirring and it was definitely not the sound from a volcanic eruption or an earthquake!

This was the sound of a powerful cultivator attacking Gusu island!

“What happened? Why is there such a loud noise in Gusu?! Uncle Wang, Uncle Qi, Sister Bai Su and Little Stone... Big Brother, I’m worried about Gusu. Should we quickly go and check it out?!” The indifferent expression on Xu Qiuling’s face was no longer able to hide her panic.

“Of course we should!”

An unpleasant feeling rose within Ning Fan’s heart. He spread his spirit sense fifty thousand li* (500m per li) wide, encompassing the surroundings of the sea as well as Gusu City!

What he had seen with his spirit sense was a sea of blood. Someone was there, staining Gusu City with blood!

Whoosh

He put his arm around Xu Qiuling's waist and vanished into a sword beam, zooming into the sky. His eyes flashed with a hint of cold rage!

In the sky above Gusu City, three black-robed swordsmen were hovering in midair. The loud noise that they heard just now was clearly caused by one of them who had broken the Spirit Separation Grand Formation with a slash and cut the island into half!

As the three of them had broken through the formation light of the city, one of the swordsmen who was as plump as a mountain of meat immediately let out a cacophony of laughter and began to commit a massacre there.

His magic power was vast like the sea. With a single slash of his sword emanating cold light, nearly one-third of the island was instantly crushed into powder.

When he saw the innocent people being killed on the island, he vigorously spread his spirit sense over the island. Whenever he finds a woman with good looks, he would summon a gust of black wind which would sweep her into a huge gunny sack.

Within a few breaths, he had already abducted thousands of women!

"Despite being a sword cultivator, you still long for external things like women. It's no wonder you can't condense your sword intent even if you have been cultivating the Dao of Sword for two thousand years!" The lanky expert among the two swordsmen who were standing beside him with their arms folded said with a disdainful tone while watching that tubby swordsman loot everything around the city.

“Hmph! Even if I don’t have sword intent, my combat power is not any weaker than the two of you! These women have massive use for me. Not only can I enjoy them, but I can also feed my ‘Sen Luo1 Sword’ with them after I am done using them. They can be the sword spirit’s food...

Hehe, especially mortal women like them, they aren’t polluted by any qi of the

cultivation world. Thus, their souls are the purest, and they are the best sacrificial offerings to my sword soul!”

“Don’t forget our main objective of coming here! Are we coming here this time just to abduct some mortal women?!” A bald swordsman standing beside the lanky swordsman spoke and his face looked rather impatient.

“Our main objective? Of course I remember it! The three of us are ranked within the top fifty on the ‘Board of Devils’ of the Internal Endless Sea and we were invited by Purple Gu to join the Alliance of Ming Assassins. Our job is to give Zhou Ming a blow! However, we have already scouted around the Pleasure Devil Island for him not long ago. That Zhou Ming was not around on that island. How are we able to assassinate him? Therefore, we went back to the Ying State Immortal Island to report our progress. However, we bumped into such a good mortal kingdom along our way. It would be such a waste if we don’t wipe it out!”

The tubby swordsman had a cold smile on his face while catching the women he wanted. When he had caught nearly ten thousand women, he finally nodded his head with satisfaction. He then said with a hideous grin while looking at Gusu City which was now half-destroyed.

“Wang Kun, Yu Ge, the task of killing the rest and handling the aftermath are now handed to the two of you. I will make a move first to return to the Ying State Immortal Island and enjoy my beauties!”

“Luo Sen, you!”

The tubby swordsman laughed loudly. Then, he carried the bag which was filled with women on his shoulder and conjured a flying sword which was shining with blood-red light. He rode on that sword and within a few breaths, he went out of the vicinity of a few hundred thousand li* (500 m per li) from the island.

These three experts were actually three famous devil cultivators from the Internal Endless Sea. The tubby one was called Luo Sen. He was excessively interested in sex. The lanky one was Wang Kun, and he liked slaughtering mortals. As for the third one, his name was Yu Ge and he only had one hobby – to eat a living person’s flesh bite after bite!

The three of them were among the top 50 experts in the Internal Endless Sea. And none of them wasn’t a Mid Divine Transformation Realm expert!

Their motivation of annihilating Gusu City was no doubt just for fun!

“Detestable!”

Inside Gusu City, the five old men who guarded the city were all trapped inside a light curtain formed with sword threads. That light curtain was doubtlessly created by one of them who had used the ‘Threads Transformation Sword’ technique.

These five Peak Nascent Soul Realm old men were dyed with blood. Just a moment ago, the three intruders' teleportation light had passed by Gusu City. These five old men didn't know their identities and showed up to request them to stop revealing their teleportation light in order to prevent the mortals in the city from knowing the existence of immortals in this world.

If these words were said to cultivators of the External Endless Sea, every one of them would definitely obey because this was a common rule in the External Endless Sea. Gusu City was the place for cultivators to cultivate their hearts and mind and experience a mortal's life. Thus, every cultivator of the External Endless Sea, including the thirteen Divine Transformation Realm old ancestors would probably need to comprehend a mortal's life here someday in the future.

Thus, none of the devil cultivators in the External Endless Sea would risk offending the thirteen old ancestors and bully any mortals here.

But this trio of experts was different. The three of them were originally devil lords of the Internal Endless Sea. Moreover, they even had Mid Divine Transformation Realm cultivation bases. When they travelled in the External Endless Sea, they were not afraid of any other cultivators of the External Endless Sea, including those old ancestors there!

Therefore, they naturally would not obey the five Nascent Soul Realm cultivators' request and hide their teleportation light. However, their request had given rise to the idea of slaughtering Gusu City to the trio.

Wang Kun waved his hand and turned his swords into threads, trapping the five old men. He wanted to let them witness the people of Gusu City being massacred with their own eyes.

His intent realm was hatred. Thus, the more someone hated him, the higher the improvement in his intent realm he would obtain after killing that particular person.

At first glance, he had known that the five old men wholeheartedly protected the city. Therefore, he was willing to give Luo Sen a hand in slaughtering the people of the city in order to make these five old men hate him to their core. Then, in the end, he would kill the five of them at their most desperate moment to improve his intent realm!

“You are all Divine Transformation Realm cultivators! Why do you want to bully these mortals!? What sins do these mortals have!?” The leader of the five old men, who was wearing a green shirt, asked with his eyes glaring at them.

His eyes were bloodshot and he was so furious that he almost went crazy. He was originally born in Gusu City. Because of his luck, he received teachings from a cultivator thereby beginning his path of a cultivator.

After walking the path of cultivation, he had committed countless killings until reaching the Peak Nascent Soul Realm. But he didn’t seek to achieve a higher cultivation base. Instead, he returned to Gusu and chose to spend the rest of his life here, living peacefully.

This place was his home, but now, his home was being destroyed by others. Moreover, his descendants had all been killed under Luo Sen’s strike!

“Give me a reason! Give me a reason for slaughtering Gusu!” The old man in the green shirt screamed out loud. His eyes opened so widely that the corners of his eyes cracked and blood of anger oozed from them.

“Reason? The only reason is that all of you are too weak! Weaklings are not qualified to survive!”

Wang Kun laughed out loudly. Since Luo Sen had left with all the beauties he abducted, Wang Kun was very willing to replace Luo Sen and continued to slaughter every last person in the whole city.

He descended at the city below and walked among the mortals while waving his sword.

Each and every one of the mortals was petrified while looking at Wang Kun who was heading towards them with a sword. Prior to this day, they did not know that immortals or cultivators actually existed in this world.

Neither did they know that someone could flatten a city or split an island into half with a sword!

Looking at Wang Kun who was emanating a black aura while walking towards them with a sword, every mortal was so terrified that they began to kneel down, begging for mercy.

“G-Great Immortal, please spare me. Please spare my life! Aa!”

Facing those who begged for mercy, Wang Kun would directly behead them with a slash of a sword without giving a single glance at them.

He did not like people who begged for their lives. They were only afraid of him and they harbored no resentment... He just like those who vowed not to yield despite dying. The stronger they resist, the more he wants to crush their pride to make them be filled with hatred!

While passing through piles of corpses and streams of blood, mortals were trying to run away from him in all directions. However, how fast could mortals go even if they flee? Would they be faster than a Mid Divine Transformation Realm expert's sword light?

Ahhh!

Each of the mortals died under Wang Kun's feet. However, the more he killed, the more unhappy he felt. He wanted to find someone who would hate him for having done so!

Chapter 353.1 Give me a Reason!

Aa!

Each and every one of the mortals died under Wang Kun's feet. However, the more he killed, the less satisfied he felt. He wanted to find and kill someone who would hate him!

Wang Kun spread his spirit sense and scanned the whole city. Then, a cold sneer appeared on his face. He turned himself into a sword light which was nearly a thousand zhang* (3.33 m per zhang) long and dashed towards a specific direction of the city. Every house, person and even animals that were blocking in front of his sword light were all shredded to pieces...

His sword light faded as he stopped, descending in front of the residence of the city's best imperial scholar. His eyes were filled with contempt.

This imperial scholar's residence was just refurbished not long ago after its owner obtained top marks in the imperial examination.

But as Wang Kun stepped into the residence, all of the owner's servants who resisted him died instantly.

"Interesting! This group of servants actually dared to resist me! Very well! It should be like this so I can feel the joy of killing!"

His gaze landed on an old white-haired scholar who stood among the dead bodies and blood in the residence.

This old scholar had studied diligently for 70 years and put all of his effort to comprehend the correct path of saving the world and his people.

At the age of seventy-nine years old, he believed that he had succeeded in achieving a certain milestone and participated in the imperial examination. As a result, he passed the examination and scored the highest mark!

He then crossed the street riding a horse to propagate his own political view. He met the emperor in person, putting his life on the line in admonishing him. Thus, he gained the emperor's respect and was granted the 'Sword of State' which had been used to execute the top ten most notorious evil courtiers.

He was an unyielding old man and his spirit also earned respect from the people of Gusu City.

He looked at Wang Kun indifferently, eyes filled with disdain and rage.

“Why do you all want to commit massacres in Gusu? Give me a reason!”

“You want a reason? Then let me tell you. The reason why I did all of this is... I like killing people! I like to slaughter mortals like you the most!” Wang Kun burst into laughter which sounded vicious. The smile on his face made the old man reach his boiling point but his anger then turned into calmness with a hint of contempt!

“So you are killing people just for fun! What an excellent reason! What an excellent... reason!!!”

“The one who stands above the rest and bullies those below him is nothing more than a mere ant! You’re just a mere ant who only knows of bullying weaklings!”

In this old scholar’s eyes, Wang Kun was just as lowly as ant!

Upon hearing those words, Wang Kun’s eyes darkened. He raised his sword which shone in cold light and cut the old scholar into half.

Licking the fresh blood at the tip of his sword, Wang Kun’s eyes flashed with excitement. After killing that old scholar, his intent realm had actually improved by quite a lot.

“This is how it should be. Hate me! Resent me!! If you don’t hate me, killing all of you will just be making my hands dirty!”

His expression was filled with brutality and ferociousness. He then stepped out of the residence and turned into a sword beam again dashing straight to another manor.

That place was named as Zhao’s residence and there lived a well-known man of Gusu City – Philanthropist Zhao.

His name was Zhao Shan¹. When he was young, he was a dissolute person. However, even when he had grown old, he still had not changed much. However, despite his dissolute nature, he always donated to others and helped the people of Gusu in areas struck by disasters. Nearly half of the entire population of Gusu had benefited from him.

Not long ago, Zhao Shan had just married a young girl. It was a joyful event in the mortal world of Gusu.

At this moment, however, Zhao Shan looked at the women who committed suicide by cutting their own throats in his yard. His eyes which were surrounded with wrinkles revealed an unspeakable resentment.

His wives and concubines were extremely beautiful. However, when Luo Sen came to kidnap them, all of them chose to end their own lives in order to keep their purity intact.

He glared at Wang Kun with his bloodshot eyes and then shifted his gaze to his dead wives, feeling pained and broken-hearted like his liver and guts were being cut to pieces.

“Give me a reason! Give me a reason why you slaughtered my whole family!”

“Reason? I just like killing people. Can there be no other reason!?”

Wang Kun looked at Zhao Shan. He wanted to anger Zhao Shan even more. He wielded his black sword and randomly slashed the women’s dead bodies on the floor, dismembering them. He was not planning on leaving these bodies complete and whole!

“You are inhumane! You are too INHUMANE!”

Zhao Shan raised his crutch, trying to swing it at Wang Kun with all the might his old body had.

His sorrow and grief were replaced with resentment. He hated himself for being too old and weak. He hated Wang Kun for being so evil and cruel.

“Good! That is the expression I want!”

Puh!

The black sword pierced right through Zhao Shan's heart, brutally crushing it. Wang Kun felt that his intent realm had grown once again.

The five old men who were trapped by the sword threads could no longer tolerate it anymore.

This was the place where they had lived for thousands of years. They nearly recognized each and every one of the mortals here in Gusu City!

"I will stop you with my life!"

The green-robed old expert's eyes were blood-red. He couldn't let Wang Kun continue killing his people anymore. His nascent soul left his physical body and performed a series of hand seals rapidly. Then, his whole body lit up with ferocious blood light, making him look like a blood-red sun.

He wanted to stop Wang Kun with his life. He wanted to detonate himself!

Bang

The explosive power from a Peak Nascent Soul Realm cultivator's self-detonation had actually blasted a hole on Wang Kun's sword threads. The other four old experts did not even have the mood to grieve for their partner's death. All of them had only one thought in their minds – stepping on their partner's corpse and avenging him!

“Detestable! One of them has blown himself up. What a waste...” Wang Kun felt bad that one of his prey that he was waiting to savor in the end was gone. However, what made him feel even worse happened right after that.

Yu Ge who was standing at one side with nothing to do saw the four experts dashing out from the sword threads. His eyes brightened up with interest and he swung the golden sword in his hand. An all-conquering ray of sword light shot out, cutting down the four of them.

As for their nascent souls, they were literally eaten alive by him.

“Yu Ge! You snatched my prey!” Wang Kun was furious. He killed so many people only to arouse and intensify the resentment within the five elderly cultivators. Now however, all of them had been eliminated by Yu Ge.

“Hmph! So what if I snatched your prey?! Do you still want to continue killing? If no, I will then directly swallow the entire Gusu using my ‘Corpse Swallowing Technique’!”

“No need. I haven’t killed enough!”

Wang Kun gave Yu Ge a dead stare, knowing that it wasn’t the right time to argue with Yu Ge.

When his gaze stopped at a mansion in front of him, his eyes suddenly lit up.

He dashed towards the mansion in a ray of sword light and stood outside. Looking at a child who was holding a wooden sword at the door and a beautiful but frightened woman who had not taken off her mourning dress, he coldly smirked.

“You have killed Uncle Xu, Third Aunt Yang, and also Grandpa Chu... I will fight you and seek revenge for them!”

Little Stone eyes were red. He raised the wooden sword in his hand and pointed it at Wang Kun.

What a great expression, an extremely great expression!

Wang Kun was overjoyed. He didn't expect that a child would have such a strong resentment.

It's no wonder all the devils who practice corpse refinement techniques love to refine children into corpses. The younger the child, the purer the heart. Therefore, when they hate someone, the hatred they harbor will be much stronger.

“Little Stone, run! Run away now! Mom will stop him while you run away!” Bai Su was panicking. She had never seen a cultivator before in her entire life.

Wang Kun's eyes narrowed with interest, as if he had figured something out.

“If I instill more hatred in you and kill you after that, there will then be hope for my intent realm to attain Large Accomplishment within a hundred years!”

“So this woman is your mother... Hehe...”

Wang Kun’s eyes scanned Bai Su’s delicate body from head to toe and licked his tongue.

With his cultivation base, he noticed a trace of the same qi within the blood of Bai Su and Little Stone at first glance. Thus, he could tell that they were most likely to be mother and child.

“Don’t you dare touch my mother!” Little Stone blocked in front of Bai Su. However, how could he stop a mighty devil lord with just a wooden sword?

Wang Kun did not even dart a glance at Little Stone. He kept his black sword, pointed one of his fingers at Bai Su and immobilized her. Then, he reached out both of his hands, intending to grab Bai Su’s face.

Although he hated dual cultivation, if he could cause Little Stone to hate him even more by abusing Bai Su, he definitely would do it!

However, before his devil claws could touch Bai Su, the sword light of a wooden sword slashed his wrists.

Despite his powerful Mid Divine Transformation Realm physical body, the wooden sword left a cut on him, causing a trace of blood to trickle from it.

Wang Kun was immediately taken aback and retreated a hundred zhang* (3.33 m per zhang) away. After he confirmed that it was Little Stone who slashed him, he was shocked.

“Who carved this wooden sword!? Such a powerful sword intent. Just a little trace of it is enough to break through my physical defense!”

At the moment Wang Kun felt surprised, several boats arrived at the coast of Gusu City. They had come to rescue the city.

Nascent Soul Realm travelling lights flew into the city one by one. The leader of the group was a strong-looking man with a Mid Nascent Soul Realm cultivation base – Wang Si!

When they spread their spirit sense to check Gusu’s situation, each of them were sad and furious.

“Who are you all?! Who the hell are you all?! Why did you do this?! Why?!”

“Why? Hmph...” Before Wang Kun uttered a word, Wang Si had already turned into a ray of ferocious light, charging towards him fearlessly!

“Don’t you dare hurt Little Stone!”

Wang Si's eyes glinted with worry. When he scanned his spirit sense around the mansion and failed to sense Ning Fan and Xu Qiuling's presence, the only thing he could think of was that both of them had been killed by Wang Kun. Rage erupted within him.

"Who are you?! You have killed Qiuling and her husband. You should DIE!"

Hundreds of years ago, it was Wang Si who brought Dong Xu and Qiuling to Gusu City.

During that time, Qiuling had stayed in Gusu for several years and she became like a niece to him.

Hundreds of years later, Qiuling returned to Gusu City again, bringing her husband along. But both of them died in Wang Kun's hands during their visit this time.

"You've killed my niece! I'll kill you! Ahh!"

Wang Si charged at Wang Kun. However, he did not lift the slightest interest within the latter at all.

Wang Si might harbor some resentment but compared to Little Stone's, his resentment was nothing.

"I no longer need resentment like yours. Get lost!"

Bang

Wang Kun made a stomp on the ground, forming an indescribable crushing force that struck Wang Si's chest.

With just a collision, Wang Si's meridians were all broken and he was sent flying away while spurting out blood. Even though he was not dead, he was already in a grievous state with half of his body being incapacitated.

He was coughing out blood while looking at Wang Kun who was approaching Little Stone step by step and lecherously smiling at Bai Su.

Wang Si was so angry that his eyes were stained with blood. He wanted to kill that murderer but he was unable to do it...

"Give me a reason! Give Gusu a reason!" He faced the sky and roared. He was unsatisfied!

He was unable to accept the fact that he was too weak and ordinary. He could not accept being trampled upon by others without being able to do anything.

"Reason? The reason is because... you are all too weak!"

Chapter 353.2 Give me a Reason!

Wang Kun produced sword threads by weaving them with his fingers and formed them into a jail to trap Little Stone within. Then, he sauntered towards Bai Su one step at a time.

Looking at Bai Su's hourglass figure and her resentful eyes which also revealed her worry for Little Stone, Wang Kun felt very pleased. He suddenly understood that it was quite reasonable for Luo Sen to be so fond of women.

Bai Su closed her eyes with humiliation. She could imagine that after ten breaths, no, nine breaths, her purity would then be taken away by this Wang Kun.

"Young Master Zhou... You are not as good as him... I suppose Young Master Zhou is probably an immortal being like you too, but he has never laid a finger on mortals like us... Even though the whole city laughed at him and looked down on him, he only dismissed the matter with a smile... You can't compare with his magnanimity!"

Bai Su had decided to bite her tongue and commit suicide when Wang Kun came near her.

She would never give her body to trash like Wang Kun!

"Young Master Zhou? What bullshit are you talking about? Who the hell is this Young Master Zhou? Are you saying that he is stronger than me and I can't match him? Ridiculous!"

Wang Kun leaned back and laughed loudly. He felt that the mortals here were really good at joking.

“I, Wang Kun, started my cultivation path when I was still seven years old. I entered the ‘Yellow Cloud Valley’ when I was nineteen. At the age of twenty-three, I attained Harmonious Spirit Realm and condensed my gold core when I was three hundred and nineteen years old. At the age of 752, I murdered my own master and achieved Nascent Formation! I attained the Divine Transformation Realm at 1400 years old and broke through to the Mid Divine Transformation Realm cultivator at the age of 2200! What cultivation base does your so-called Young Master Zhou have!?”

Wang Kun didn’t assault Bai Su sexually immediately. He looked at Bai Su from a distance and suddenly felt that it would be very pleasant to crush this woman’s final trace of pride and make her yield.

“I-I don’t know... I don’t know what a cultivation base is. Neither do I know what level he is at... I just have a feeling that while you might be able to kill me like crushing an ant, he can also kill you like an ant too... I believe so... Besides, this wooden sword was carved by him!”

A melancholic smile adorned Bai Su’s face. She knew nothing about cultivation.

She only knew that if Ning Fan was also a cultivator, he definitely is ten million times stronger than the man in front of her.

Wang Kun didn’t take her words to heart.

However, after hearing that the wooden sword that managed to hurt him just now was actually carved by Young Master Zhou, he began to feel a little dreadful of that man whom he had never met before.

“Young Master Zhou? All this while you only call him ‘Young Master Zhou’. Don’t tell me you don’t even know his full name... What’s his name?”

“His name...” Bai Su pursed her lips and smiled bitterly. That man had guessed correctly. She really didn’t know Ning Fan’s name.

“His name is Zhou Ming!”

Bai Su didn’t answer. However, a voice that was cold like ten thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) large profound ice had answered for her!

At the moment this voice fell, only the whistling sound of a sword light bursting out from the surface of the sea could be heard. Wang Kun who had not recovered from his shock upon hearing the mysterious voice was surprised once more!

A young man wearing white robes while carrying a lady in black robes in his arms suddenly appeared out of nowhere in front of Bai Su and Little Stone, shielding them from Wang Kun!

That teleportation light was no doubt a sword teleportation technique that one could only use after comprehending sword intent. It was much quicker than the usual Divine Transformation Realm teleportation technique!

It was so fast that Wang Kun and Yu Ge didn’t even notice how Ning Fan had appeared!

Ning Fan's presence emanated a tremendous amount of pressure, making the both of them be on the verge of suffocating.

They both immediately recognized that the white-robed young man in front of them was the person they wanted to originally assassinate – Zhou Ming!

Ning Fan slightly closed his eyes and spread his intent sense across the vicinity of fifty thousand li* (500 m per li) and scanned each and every inch of the land of Gusu City.

Within such a short period of time, two thirds of the population of Gusu City had died!

Only one day had passed after he brought Xu Qiuling into the sea to conduct her final medical treatment, but Gusu had already become unrecognizable.

“Give me a reason... A reason for slaughtering Gusu City...” Ning Fan tried hard to speak with a calm tone. Even though five months was not a long period of time, this place had given him a collection of warm memories during his stay...

Now, however, those memories had been cruelly crushed by someone!

“Reason? Mortals are weak and thus, they deserve death. So what if I kill them all!? Zhou Ming, you're also a devil lord who kills without blinking an eye. You don't have to pretend to be clean and lofty here! Besides, you have come here at the right time. I can now kill you and claim the reward for this mission from the Alliance of Ming Assassins. Then I can...”

Wang Kun looked at Ning Fan with a hideous grin. But before he could finish his words, a killing intent so terrifying that even the sky trembled was being emitted from Ning Fan, covering the entire Gusu!

“Give me a... REASON!”

Ning Fan’s eyes seemed to be shooting out blue electricity. He then made a step forward. This move seemed to be commanding thousands of clouds and wind as the color of heaven and earth suddenly changed.

At the moment he moved, a sense of imminent danger immediately rose within Wang Kun’s heart, making him feel that his life would certainly be taken.

Before Wang Kun could even react, Ning Fan had already emerged right before him, pushing his palm towards him. It carried a massive aura force that could topple mountains and overturn seas!

Wang Kun was only able to guard his chest with his black sword, letting the incoming palm hit his sword.

This black sword was forged using ‘dark steel’ which had been tempered for ten thousand times. It was strong enough to block an impact from a crushing mountain without breaking.

Besides, it was also a Mid Grade Divine Transformation Realm Spiritual Magical Treasure. It could cut down Early Divine Transformation Realm cultivators like a piece of paper!

However, despite being such an excellent sword, it was immediately smashed into powder under the force of Ning Fan's palm. Then, a heavy and ferocious force smashed onto Wang Kun's chest. The three layers of spiritual armor covering his body were broken!

With just one palm strike, Wang Kun's muscles and bones were all shattered. His physical body trembled for a while and was directly reduced to a cloud of blood mist!

After blasting Wang Kun to death, the remaining power of his attack did not subside. Instead, it spread out into the deep ocean through the land of Gusu Island.

All of a sudden, the water of the sea domain within the vicinity of one hundred thousand li* (500 m per li) was dispersed by the force of Ning Fan's palm, turning into thousands of water dragons which soared into the sky!

Yu Ge's expression changed drastically. He totally could not believe that Wang Kun, a dignified Mid Divine Transformation Realm expert, was killed by Ning Fan with just a strike of his palm! Before he could recover from his shock, he suddenly felt chills running down his spine making the hairs on his body stand!

Behind him, Ning Fan appeared abruptly like a ghost. One of his hands went towards him, penetrating into Yu Ge's dantian from his waist, literally pulling out his primordial spirit!

Wang Kun and Yu Ge's primordial spirits were being gripped tightly inside Ning Fan's hands. Both of them were frightened to the core.

They seemed to have witnessed something that was completely beyond logic and comprehension. The two of them who were Mid Divine Transformation Realm experts were actually instantly killed by Ning Fan!

How could it be possible!? Other than the Venerated Seven of the Internal Endless Sea, who else could instantly kill a Mid Divine Transformation Realm expert?!

“Y-You! What’s your cultivation base!? Killing Mid Divine Transformation Realm experts with a single strike... You aren’t an Early Divine Transformation Realm cultivator, definitely not! You must not kill me. I was invited by Purple Gu. It was him who said that we could slaughter all we want at the External Endless Sea... You cannot kill me. If you kill me, you will definitely offend Purple Gu, the whole Demon Sealing Sect and even Venerated Demon! It might be easy for you to kill me, but it is equally easy for Venerated Demon to kill you!”

“Venerated Demon?!” Ning Fan muttered this name and his eyes glinted with a cold light.

Wang Kun and Yu Ge thought that they had found a new bargaining chip that could make Ning Fan afraid. Thus, both of them gradually grew bolder.

“Precisely. It’s Venerated Demon! If you kill the two of us, you will definitely provoke him!”

“You said if I kill both of you... I will then offend Lu Jiefen?!” Ning Fan looked at the ruins which were stained with streams of blood within Gusu City, feeling an unvented killing intent that continued to swell in his chest!

I was too kind for not immediately eliminating the Alliance of Ming Assassins. As such, such a disastrous incident happened today!

I was too kind for not wiping out the Demon Sealing Sect. As such, Purple Gu, that self-important little shit thought that he can do whatever he wants!

Civilians should not be dragged into wars; mortals should not be involved in the brutality of the cultivation world.

Especially Gusu City that brought warmth to me. It can't be destroyed by anyone at will!

"Since you said that I will offend Lu Jiefen, then I will show you whether he will dare to mess with me or not!"

"Ying State Immortal Island and Alliance of Ming Assassins! All of you have crossed the line!"

"Since you all washed Gusu with blood, I will then do the same to the whole Ying State Immortal Island! I would like to see as to what explanation Lu Jiefen will give me!"

...

Luo Sen was overjoyed. After his trip to Gusu City, he had abducted at least ten thousand mortal women. Each and every one of these women had pure souls. He really could not wait to go back to Ying State Immortal Island immediately and enjoy these beauties.

Riding on the flying sword which was shining with blood-red light, Luo Sen was already not far away from the Ying State Immortal Island. However, he was suddenly bothered by a strange feeling.

What he felt strange about was why Wang Kun and Yu Ge had not caught up with him.

“It was nothing more than slaughtering a mortal kingdom. Why haven’t they finished yet? Humph! Wang Kun always says that I’m an indecent person, but I think that he is the true pervert. Intent realm of resentment? Loving brutally slaughtering mortals? What kind of bullshit is that? My way is much simpler. Just give them a quick one... Hehe, as for these women... Of course I have to have fun with them first before finishing them off!”

Luo Sen patted the gunny sack which was filled with women on his shoulder and licked his lips lustfully. Well, having fun with ten thousand women a day is really a wonderful thing!

Bang

All of a sudden, a deafening noise echoed in the distance behind him.

Luo Sen turned back and looked curiously. However, just as he turned over, what he saw made him so frightened as if his insides had been emptied out.

A million li* (500m per li) away from him, there was a colossal purple black giant with the height of almost three thousand zhang* (3.33 m per zhang). He was holding an island with one of his hands like he was holding the sky while trudging against the sea waves, moving directly towards the Ying State Immortal Island.

Even a single trace of that giant's qi was already enough to make Luo Sen feel an immense sense of danger.

Every single step that giant made could travel almost ninety thousand li* (500m per li) of the sea!

When Luo Sen's gaze was studying the giant with his eyes, the giant's cold, fearsome eyes suddenly focused on him, making him feel like he had been targeted by lightning strikes.

"You won't be able to run away! Ice Crush!"

The giant swung his empty right fist and the sea domain within the area of one hundred thousand li* (500m per li) was frozen in an instant!

At the next moment, the frozen heaven and earth broke and shattered. Then, a massive sudden force rushed towards him, striking right at Luo Sen's back. He shrieked in agony and fell off from his flying sword. That incident had nearly scared him to death.

Who is this giant!?

How could it have such a fast moving speed and powerful strength!

Shivering in fear, he quickly climbed back up to his flying sword and flew away as if his life depended on it, trying to enter Ying State Immortal Island before the giant could catch up with him. As he was running away, he was also begging for mercy! The giant gave him the feeling that he was invincible!

“F-Fellow Daoist, I have no grudges with you. Why do you want to kill me!? Give me a reason!”

“Who are you? Do you think you are competent enough to ask a reason from me, Zhou Ming?!”

Ning Fan, who had transformed into a giant, looked up to the sky and laughed coldly. His eyes revealed a hint of ferocity.

He wanted to flatten the entire Ying State Immortal Island with the Gusu Island on his shoulder!

Chapter 354.1 - Whoever Stands In My Way Shall Die!

Whoever Stands In My Way Shall Die!

Luo Sen attempted to escape using the ‘Sen Luo1 Sword’ under his feet which was glittering with faint blood-red light. Despite being just a Mid Divine Transformation Realm cultivator, his movement speed was fast and was comparable to a Late Divine Transformation Realm expert’s.

However, compared to the giant's terrifying speed, Luo Sen's was totally nothing special.

"Why can this giant still travel at such a speed even though he's carrying an entire island!? Who exactly is he!?"

Luo Sen could feel his scalp tingling. When he took a proper look at the island on the giant's shoulder, he immediately recognized that it was Gusu Island, the island on which he, Wang Kun and Yu Ge committed a massacre.

His heart thumped heavily. He instantly realized that... this giant in purple armor came to seek revenge!

However, there was one more thing that Luo Sen could not figure out. Why would the purple armored giant with such a terrific cultivation base be enraged over a mere mortal island?!

No idea. Luo Sen had no idea!

What he currently knew was that he must immediately escape to Ying State Immortal Island. As long as he could reach there alive, he had an army of one million cultivators from the Alliance of Ming Assassins by his side. He would then have no need to fear the giant anymore!

That purple-armored giant was doubtlessly the avatar that Ning Fan transformed into.

With the strength of his physical body on top of his Third Level of Jade Life Body Refining Realm combined with his Corpse Devil Body, he could totally be on par with an expert with the Fourth Level of Jade Life Body Refining Realm. Thus, it was completely possible for him to transform into a massive giant with a height of three thousand zhang* (3.33 m per zhang).

This giant wasn't a technique of his Dao of Body Refinement. This time, however, he deliberately turned himself into a giant because of his grievance and rage for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of mortals in Gusu City! He wanted to crush the waves of the Endless Sea and completely uproot the Alliance of Ming Assassins!

There was a heavy lump of killing intent building up in his chest that was difficult to vent out. It was like thunderclaps that kept exploding within his mind, urging him to kill and get revenge!

Such an immense killing intent had been triggered multiple times within him. For example, during the time he eradicated the Green Clan in the Demon Sinister Forest, the time he wiped out the entire sea in the Star Sea and so on... This time, however, it was different from all the previous instances.

In the past, he killed someone to settle old grudges, seizing opportunities and resisting his fate.

This time, his intention to kill was different. He only harboured one belief in him. That belief was a vow he made to avenge those innocent mortals of Gusu Island and vent out their grudges!

In the past, it was always the killing intent that dyed Ning Fan's heart red.

At this moment, however, Ning Fan felt that he could manipulate all of his killing intent at will!

Originally, he would not show compassion to any strangers. In the past, he was nothing more than a butcher who killed heartlessly like a killing machine.

However, when Ning Fan saw the mournful teardrops in Xu Qiuling's eyes, the resentment in Little Stone's gaze, the helpless look on Bai Su's face and each and every one of the cultivators who chose to detonate themselves to protect Gusu...

Their cries of despair... Their unreconciled questions... Their futile struggles!

Rage consumed Ning Fan!

The broken land of Gusu Island was forcibly restored by Ning Fan using his magic power.

After the indiscriminate attacks on the island, half of the city was turned into ruins. Each and every one of the mortals there who survived the flames and bloodshed were all terrified.

They were in disbelief as to what had happened today. They were in even more disbelief that the Young Master Zhou who had purchased the haunted mansion would transform into a giant three thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall and stride across the vast sea with their island on his shoulder!

"That Uncle Zhou can actually carry our entire island on just one of his shoulders! He's actually such a powerful immortal being!?" Those children who made fun of Ning Fan in the past were now dumbstruck.

“That young man who won twelve consecutive games against me is actually a Divine Transformation Realm expert. Moreover, he is an expert so powerful that he can even instantly kill Mid Divine Transformation Realm experts!” The Chess Madman, Uncle Qi was feeling extremely shocked while taking some pills to treat his injuries.

“My niece, Qiuling... Your husband is actually so powerful! Is he going to get revenge for us? Is he going to get revenge for our Gusu!?”

After consuming some pills, Wang Si managed to suppress his injuries. Upon seeing what Ning Fan was going to do, his bloodshot eyes revealed a hint of excitement.

“Mm. Big Brother is going to avenge you all!”

Xu Qiuling wiped off the tears in the corners of her eyes. Her expression looked pained and depressed.

Little Stone was already in the state of unconsciousness after the incident earlier. While taking care of Little Stone, Bai Su’s eyes were filled with confusion.

She finally knew that Ning Fan wasn’t a swordsman, but a sword cultivator instead. He was a sword cultivator who was so powerful that even ordinary Divine Transformation Realm experts would flee for their lives upon only hearing his name!

Bai Su was not the only person who felt shocked. Almost every single person who witnessed that scene on the island had the same feeling as her.

Luo Sen's sword light was extremely swift and did not make much noise. As for Ning Fan, however, he certainly would stir up fright and commotion everywhere he passed by while travelling in his giant form with an island up on his shoulder.

Gusu Island was located on the northern domain of the External Endless Sea. Ying State Immortal Island, meanwhile, was located at the far east of the External Endless Sea.

As Ning Fan was travelling all the way to Ying State Immortal Island in his giant form, he would of course pass by a lot of other islands along the way.

Although carrying an island with him had inevitably slowed his movement speed down, his aura force had grown much more imposing.

The rogue cultivators who were passing through immediately retreated in fear upon seeing a colossal man in the sea horizon that was moving towards them with an island on his shoulder.

"A-A three thousand zhang* (3.33 m per zhang) tall giant! Who is he!? This man's body refining realm is so powerful!"

"Nope! It might not be the case. Perhaps this man used some kind of illusory technique which made his body look bigger. I suppose the island on his shoulder is probably an illusion too... What kind of madman in this world would carry a whole island with his own body?"

“This man is exuding a tremendous killing intent. Where is he going?! Who is he after!?”

“It’s Luo Sen! I have just seen a sword teleportation light. A man was standing on a sword trying to run away and that man was Luo Sen!”

“What!? That Mid Divine Transformation devil lord who was ranked within the top fifty on the ‘Board of Devils’!? Isn’t this guy a member of the Alliance of Ming Assassins? Not to mention who that giant is and whether he is able to hunt Luo Sen down, is he trying to challenge the Alliance of Ming Assassins?! Doesn’t he know that the alliance is being backed by the Demon Sealing Sect!?”

An expert with a higher body refining realm would usually be able to transform into a giant with a larger size. Usually, only experts of the Peak Divine Transformation Realm could transform into a three thousand zhang* (3.33 m per zhang) tall giant. Of course, there were some secret techniques or secret magical treasures that could allow one to increase the size of their physical bodies to that extent. However, it would only be an illusion without any substance.

Each of the cultivators who were studying the giant could not be sure of whether the giant was a Peak Divine Transformation Realm expert or not. Thus, they intended to follow him and have a clearer look. However, as soon as they began to trail after him, the giant shot them a cold stare. What came along with the bone-chilling stare was a blood-curdling bellow which reverberated across the sky like multiple rays of sword light!

“Get lost!”

By just uttering those words, these old monsters who have at the very least Gold Core Realm cultivation bases, felt like they had been cut by the sword light, making their gold cores be on the verge of crumbling. That incident scared all of them half to death.

“What a formidable aura force! The body of this giant is not an illusion, but a real one instead! He really is an expert with Peak Divine Transformation Realm strength!”

“Sword intent! This guy not only has a strong physical body, but also an unrivalled sword intent!”

“Retreat! Don’t mess with this person.”

“But why does he seem to be so familiar to me... Yes, it’s him! This giant, this look... It can’t be wrong! It’s really him!”

“Who are you talking about?”

“Zhou Ming! That devil lord! Zhou Ming is clearly going to attack the Alliance of Ming Assassins. How could he be just hunting Luo Sen down? By the looks of it, he is totally preparing to wipe out the Ying State Immortal Island in its entirety!”

HISS

Each and every one of those old monsters who had seen the giant with their own eyes were not as terrified as when they heard Zhou Ming's name.

"Zhou Ming" was like an unspeakable name. The reason why he would be so scary to them wasn't because he had a powerful cultivation base. It was because when he goes crazy, no one could stop him!

In the Purple Primordial Immortal Island, Purple Charm Sect!

Today was the day when the Purple Primordial Sea was sealed off. All of this was because the old ancestor of Purple Charm Sect – Zuo Tong, was going to conduct his cultivation beneath the sea. This practice would be held once every ten years and it was called "Sea Refinement and Talisman Condensation".

The water of the Purple Primordial Sea contained a unique kind of nourishing spiritual qi. It was the most nutritious item for those cultivators who practiced the secret techniques of the Talisman Record.

The most famous quote that had ever been uttered by the old ancestor of the Purple Charm Sect, Zuo Tong, was 'A spark of spiritual glow is a talisman. The techniques in crafting a talisman not only requires one to have the right calligraphy skill, but also has to cherish the spiritual glow inside your heart!'

Every decade, the Purple Charm Sect would seal off a vicinity of one million li* (500m per li) above the sea and set up a grand formation to completely draw out the spiritual qi of the sea. This year was no exception.

A dozen Nascent Soul Realm elders led groups of Gold Core Realm cultivators to guard the grand formation carefully, not letting anyone enter the Purple Primordial Sea. No one was able to pass through

the restricted area of the sea unless they were the disciple of the sect or holds the token pass issued by the sect!

Tens of boats were blocked outside the Purple Primordial Sea by groups of experts from the Purple Charm Sect. None of the boats were permitted to continue sailing.

Most of these boats had no powerful backing. Upon hearing that the blockade was for a Divine Transformation Realm old ancestor to cultivate, no one dared to utter any complaints against the Purple Charm Sect.

The Endless Sea which was also known as the Grave of Cultivators was a place where the strong were respected and worshipped. Thus, it was very normal for a Divine Transformation Realm old ancestor to borrow a million li* (500m per li) vast sea domain to cultivate by blockading the entire area.

“Fine. We’ll make a detour. However, with our boats which are only Core Realm treasures, we have no idea how many additional months it will take to take a detour around one million li* (500m per li) to cross the Purple Primordial Sea...”

Many cultivators on the boats inwardly sighed. At this moment, however, they all heard an ear-splitting sound of a giant treading on the sea.

Hundreds of thousands of li* (500m per li) away, one could faintly see a giant in purple armor heading straight towards the Purple Primordial Sea with an unstoppable aura while carrying an island on his shoulder.

Due to the large distance between them and the giant, no one was able to tell the exact size of that giant.

Chapter 354.2 - Whoever Stands In My Way Shall Die

Whoever Stands In My Way Shall Die!

“A cultivator who turned his physical body into a giant? What is he carrying? It seems like he’s moving towards here.”

“Who is he? Is he going to rush into the Purple Primordial Sea? The Purple Charm Sect has already sealed off the sea now. If this person rushes into the Purple Primordial Sea, he will definitely disrupt Old Ancestor Zhuo Tong in his cultivation. Wouldn’t he offend the Purple Charm Sect and get himself in danger of being killed?”

While this group of cultivators were discussing spiritedly with each other, a burly man in linen robes wearing a haughty expression stepped out from the group of elders of the Purple Charm Sect who were responsible for blockading the sea. He directed a calm glance at the giant and spoke indifferently.

“Where are the Spirit Crossbowmen? Aim your crossbows at this giant! Once this man tries to intrude the Purple Primordial Sea, fire all your arrows to kill him!”

“Understood!”

At the next moment, nearly ten thousand experts of the Purple Charm Sect drew their Spirit Crossbows and aimed at the giant who continued to charge at their direction, going against the movement of the sea waves.

The behavior of this burly man in linen robes was somewhat bossy and domineering. He laid an order to shoot down the giant just because the latter might disrupt the cultivation of the old ancestor of his own sect.

However, no one thought that the burly man was wrong. In the Endless Sea, power was everything. If there's a Divine Transformation Realm expert overseeing your sect, you can surely be domineering and bossy too.

All the cultivators who were stopped and remained on their boats looked at the giant who was advancing from afar, inwardly feeling pity for him.

None of them knew who this expert who transformed himself into such a gigantic being was. Judging from how reckless he was by charging towards the restricted sea domain, his life was probably not going to be spared.

However, after ten breaths, be it the cultivators on the boats or the cultivators from the Purple Charm Sect, all of their expressions changed greatly.

Within ten breaths, that giant in purple armor traversed hundreds of thousands of li* (500m per li) of the sea at an unbelievable speed by treading on the waves, appearing at the border of the Purple Primordial Sea!

It was indeed astonishing to anyone who witnessed such an incredible speed!

When the eyes of all the cultivators fell on the giant's three thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall body, all of them gasped in horror and stared at him in disbelief, especially at his shoulder as it was actually carrying a real island!

“A three thousand zhang* (500m per li) tall physical body! Could this man be a Peak Divine Transformation Realm expert?! What should we do? Should we stop this man from entering the sea?”

The eyes of the burly man in linen robes were filled with shock. When the giant approached them, just a trace of aura from this giant was enough to nearly make his nascent soul collapse...

What exactly is this person's true cultivation base?

Unfortunately, he had no idea... The only thing he was aware of was that this man must not be provoked. No one could fire any spirit arrow or launch any attacks at him!

While he was hesitating, another immensely strong aura force surged from within the formation and transformed into a purple-robed old man. He stood outside the grand formation as his frosty gaze locked onto the giant. His presence continued to emanate a massive aura.

An Early Divine Transformation Realm aura force?!

This purple-robed old man was none other than the old ancestor of the Purple Charm Sect – Zuo Tong! He was one of the thirteen Divine Transformation Realm experts of the External Endless Sea!

“Who are you?! Why are you trespassing in my Purple Primordial Sea?! I am Zuo Tong and I need to use this area for my cultivation. Please take a detour!”

Zuo Tong’s words carried the majestic air of a Divine Transformation Realm old ancestor. Except for a handful of Divine Transformation Realm experts in the External Sea, no one else would dare to go against such majesty.

At the moment his voice fell, he flicked his sleeve and produced twelve fiery purple charms with mysterious runes. Each of the charms was equivalent to an attack at the Early Divine Transformation Realm!

If the giant insists on intruding the sea domain and does not take a detour, Zuo Tong would then fire the twelve Divine Transformation Realm attacks simultaneously at the giant to eliminate him!

“Whoever stands in my way shall die!”

Ning Fan’s eyes flashed with coldness and he slammed his gigantic palm forward. An unimaginably tremendous force rolled up a thousand waves which then took the shape of a massive palm imprint, rushing towards Zuo Tong.

At the moment the palm imprint appeared, an immense sense of danger seized Zuo Tong, depriving him of all his will to resist!

Countless parts of the sky shattered and cracks appeared amidst heaven and earth. All the waves within the vicinity of a hundred thousand li* (500m per li) were overturned by the force of Ning Fan's palm!

Zuo Tong narrowed his eyes. The force of this incoming palm would crush him like an ant!

Whizz

Without even thinking, Zuo Tong immediately turned into a trace of mist and dodged the attack in a hurry. Right at the moment he made a quick dodge, that giant palm brutally slammed on the formation which sealed off the sea domain. In an instant, a loud bang resounded within the vicinity of a million li* (500m per li) and sounds of innumerable formation eyes collapsing were heard.

Half a breath later, the formation shattered and countless fragments of the formation glowing in a variety of colors fell off one after another!

Hiss

An overwhelming sense of shock rose within innumerable cultivators, including Zuo Tong who had a Divine Transformation Realm cultivation base!

In order to seal off the Purple Primordial Sea, the Purple Charm Sect established at least hundreds of Nascent Soul Realm formations and seven Divine Transformation Realm formations.

With all the formations overlapping with each other, it might also be possible to withstand a Mid Divine Formation Realm expert's attack without collapsing.

However, under the giant's palm attack, not a single layer of formation light was left within the vicinity of a million li* (500m per li).

This giant's cultivation base is terrifyingly high!

Zuo Tong noticed that the giant had already shown mercy while delivering that strike just now.

Otherwise, he definitely would have not been able to avoid that strike. If the giant had used his maximum power, what has been destroyed would not only be the formation light within the vicinity but also Zuo Tong himself! Both his physical body and primordial spirit would have been eliminated under that single palm attack!

"Zuo Tong! Considering that we have met once before, I won't hold you accountable for attacking me today. If you dare to direct your charms at me again, your Purple Charm Sect will surely be eradicated!"

The giant's indifferent voice was filled with a terrifying Baleful Qi. At the moment he spoke, blood-red Baleful Qi dyed half of the sky red!

Zuo Tong would never forget this voice even in his dreams!

The owner of this voice had once received Yan Zhongze's Combined Five Palms in the Pleasure Devil Immortal Island. Twenty years ago, he dominated the External Endless Sea and no one dared to mess with him!

"You are Fellow Daoist Zhou, Zhou Ming!"

Zuo Tong was in great shock.

This giant was doubtlessly Ning Fan!

Twenty years ago, Ning Fan gave his best and the strength he exhibited was only strong enough to fight with a Divine Transformation Realm expert. At that time, he only managed to make Zuo Tong feel slightly dreadful of him.

However, twenty years later, he had become so powerful that if he did not show any mercy, he could instantly kill the latter!

The formation light broke! The blockade of the Purple Primordial Sea had been lifted!

The giant trod on the waves and continued to pursue Luo Sen while Zuo Tong and the other cultivators were all rooted to the spot, unable to recover from the feeling of immense shock.

The disappearance of the formation meant that the cultivators on the boats no longer needed to take a detour as they could directly pass through the Purple Primordial Sea.

The disappearance of the formation also meant that Zuo Tong's 'Sea Refinement and Talisman Condensation' had to come to a sudden end this time.

Each and every one of the Gold Core Realm and Nascent Soul Realm cultivators found it difficult to believe that the purple-armored giant's power was heaven-defying. With a single strike of his palm, he was able to break a formation light which was a million li* (500m per li) large and would have been able to kill Old Ancestor Zuo Tong as well if he had not gone easy on him...

Who is this man?!

Despite being forced to stop his cultivation, Zuo Tong totally did not dare to harbor any grudges against Ning Fan. His action of sealing off the sea domain for himself was extremely imperious. He was bold enough to do so because he was stronger than the rest!

However, Ning Fan possessed the capabilities of killing Zuo Tong in the blink of an eye today. If he insists on passing through the Purple Primordial Sea, who else would dare to ask him to stop outside the sea domain let alone ask him to take a detour!

At the very least, Zuo Tong was not bold enough to do that! After twenty years, Ning Fan had changed, just like the saying 'things might still look similar as before but men don't'. Now, Zuo Tong did not even have the qualification to stand beside Ning Fan as an equal!

After witnessing such a huge difference, he could not help but continuously sigh with emotion.

He now no longer had the courage to provoke Ning Fan.

“O-Old Ancestor, what should we do? The grand formation that sealed off the sea domain has already been shattered. The spiritual qi has already dispersed. I’m afraid that there is no way we can gather the spiritual qi for Old Ancestor to cultivate this year...” The burly man in linen robes spoke with a dispirited tone.

“Cultivation? Cultivate my arse! Zhou Ming is seething with killing intent and he had just displayed an aura which sends out a message – ‘WHOEVER STANDS IN MY WAY SHALL DIE’. I think some senseless people have provoked him. He is now going to kill them... Judging from the direction he is moving, he seems to be moving towards Ying State Immortal Island in the east... I am going there to have a look! If Ying State Immortal Island is eradicated, the forces of the External Endless Sea will be reshuffled... It’s a significant matter!”

When Zuo Tong thought of the might of Ning Fan’s palm, chills ran down his back again.

Terrifying... It’s too terrifying...

“The members of the Ying State Immortal Island truly deserve it for messing with Zhou Ming... No matter what, we, the Purple Charm Sect, must not offend him! In the past, Old Man Dong Xuan tried to lure me into joining the alliance. It’s lucky that I didn’t do so. It was really a wise choice... Old Man Dong Xuan, there is no way you can save your estate in Ying State anymore!”

“Because you have just offended a madman!”

Chapter 355 - Zhou Ming Must Not Be Provoked!

Zhou Ming Must Not Be Provoked!

Ning Fan plunged through the waves with Gusu Island on his shoulder and continued on pursuing Luo Sen.

His eyes remained calm and every step he made was steady and powerful. Regarding his intrusion in the Purple Primordial Sea which had startled Zuo Tong, he was not really concerned about it.

Instead of giving the Purple Charm Sect a hundred reasons to let him pass through, it was better to shatter the formation lights blocking his way with his palm.

What it takes to make the domineering Purple Charm Sect yield was not a touching story but an overpowering strength and power that no one would dare to resist.

Not only did Ning Fan want to let everyone in the External Endless Sea know that he had returned, he also wanted them to realize that it was a terrible mistake to provoke him!

Luo Sen seemed to be escaping in the direction leading to the top ten sects of the External Endless Sea on purpose, trying to make use of the experts from those forces to stop Ning Fan's pursuit.

That stout cunning devil lord had already gone quite far away.

However, Ning Fan took his time and advanced towards Luo Sen's direction unhurriedly. In front of him, floating islands inhabited by some forces appeared one after another.

Occasionally, he would meet some formations which were set up by some of the islands to seal off their territory on the sea. However, Ning Fan faced every one of them by tyrannically crashing into them.

Even the formation light of the Purple Charm Sect was unable to stop Ning Fan, how would it be possible for these ordinary forces to block him?!

The Xiang Family on the Pengwang Island!

The Xiang Family used to be an unrivalled force in the External Endless Sea. With Xiang Liao who was a Half-Step Divine Transformation Realm expert overseeing the Xiang Family, almost no one within the top ten sects and three islands of the external sea dared to mess with them. In the past, it was an influential force with a well-deserved reputation.

However, after the seventeen experts of the Xiang Family including Xiang Liao tragically died at the Pill Cauldron Gate, the status of the Xiang Family in the External Endless Sea could be said to have suffered a disastrous decline.

They were then pursued by the members of the Pill Cauldron Gate and even their old foes. The death of the most powerful cultivator of their family led the Xiang Family in a downward spiral. Twenty years later, the Xiang Family which used to be as brilliant as the sun in the noon had already become a third-rate force.

Seven Gold Core Realm cultivators of the Xiang Family were seated in their respective seats and were having a conference in the Elders' Hall. An Early Nascent Soul Realm elder sat on the highest seat with his eyes closed. Throughout the entire discussion, he had never uttered a single word.

The current Xiang Family was only left with seven Gold Core Realm cultivators and a Nascent Soul Realm expert.

Besides, that Nascent Soul Realm expert forcibly attained his current cultivation by using secret techniques. The only reason he did so was to put up a seemingly strong facade. In actuality, his combat power was pretty low.

The seven Gold Core Realm cultivators were discussing whether they should seek refuge from the Alliance of Ming Assassins.

The Alliance of Ming Assassins was purposefully established to kill Zhou Ming.

Likewise, the biggest foe of the Xiang Family was also Zhou Ming.

If they can turn to the Alliance of Ming Assassins and join their forces, perhaps the Xiang Family would still have hope of making a comeback.

“Master, in my opinion, since the ferocious Devil Lord Zhou Ming has returned to the External Endless Sea, the Alliance of Ming Assassins is already eager for action. They are getting ready to eliminate him. Now is the time to join them when they are short-handed. If we join the alliance, it's as good as clinging to a big stable tree! Why should we even hesitate on this matter?”

A Late Gold Core Realm cultivator got up with his fists cupped and spoke with fervor and assurance. After hearing his words, the other six experts all seconded his view by nodding their heads.

“No!” The Nascent Soul Realm old man who had been silent for a long time slowly opened his eyes. His appearance looked old and weary.

He was the only surviving Nascent Soul Realm cultivator in the Xiang Family and so he was the current master of the family.

“Why?! Master should prioritize the prosperity of the family first when making any decision! Don’t tell us that Master is reluctant to let go of your authority over the Xiang Family?”

The Late Gold Core Realm cultivator questioned.

If they seek refuge with the alliance, the Xiang Family would definitely be taken over. This was the price of joining a more powerful force. Seeing the Nascent Soul Realm old man disagreeing with his suggestion, that Late Gold Core Realm cultivator only thought that the old man had an axe to grind with the authority.

“Ridiculous! Why would I care for the position of a head of a declining family?! The reason why I oppose the notion of joining the alliance is merely because I’m afraid of one person... The Alliance of Ming Assassins, as its name clearly suggests, is trying to kill Zhou Ming. However, they’re just courting death! I’ve heard that the Devil Lord Zhou Ming has already attained the Divine Transformation Realm... What I’m trying to say is that if we want to preserve the last bloodline of the Xiang Family, we must not go against Zhou Ming!”

An insignificant hint of fear flashed within the old man's eyes as if he had recalled the tragic incident that had happened in the past.

His words made every cultivator in the hall contemplate. Those who had never witnessed how merciless Ning Fan was in killing would never fully understand how ferocious and frightening the name 'Zhou Ming' was!

On that day, no one expected that the Half-Step Divine Transformation Realm expert, Xiang Liao, would die in the Pill Cauldron Gate. But it turned out that the seventeen experts from the Xiang Family had died in Zhou Ming's hands so easily!

"When Zhou Ming was still at the Nascent Soul Realm, he was able to dominate the External Endless Sea and be unequaled. As he has attained the Divine Transformation Realm, he is even more unprovocable now!" The old man asserted.

The Late Gold Core Realm cultivator knitted his eyebrows. As a matter of fact, he had already joined the alliance in secret and that was why he spared no effort in persuading the entire Xiang Family to make the same choice as him.

"Even if Zhou Ming is a Divine Transformation Realm expert now, the alliance also has dozens of Divine Transformation Realm experts too ..."

He still continued on trying to persuade the old man. But at the next second, the whole Pengwang Island began to tremble, as if it was being hit by some kind of ferocious beast.

The eight experts immediately got out of the hall in eight rays of light. Their faces were filled with anxiety and shock.

The sea where Pengwang Island was located was an area with torrential waters. In the past, some sea beasts would stray from their original path due to the current and occasionally crash into their island.

If it was a Gold Core Realm sea beast which bumped into the island, the island would only tremble momentarily and stop. But if it was a Nascent Soul Realm sea beast, the island would sway for several breaths. However, after that period of time, the island would definitely return to its normal state.

This time, however, the island was shaking too violently, as if the island was being trampled upon by something so heavy that it was about to crush the whole island into half!

As soon as the eight experts got out of the hall, their gazes swept across their surroundings. At the next moment, what they had seen and heard was engraved right in their minds, making them unable to forget that very scene in front of them for the rest of their lives!

They saw a three thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall giant in purple armor stepping on the Pengwang Island while carrying another humongous island that was several times larger.

The step he made was too strong and heavy. Right beneath his foot, half of Pengwang Island was crushed, sinking into the ocean!

“A g-giant! Who is this! Crushing half of the island with just a single footstep... His cultivation base is too terrifying!” The Late Gold Core Realm cultivator’s face was pale with fright. If this giant was coming to destroy the Xiang Family, the Xiang Family would certainly vanish in no time!

“He is Zhou Ming! Just look at him. Do you still think that it’s wise to join the Alliance of Ming Assassins?!”

The Nascent Soul Realm old man took a deep breath and closed his eyes helplessly.

When his eyes met the giant’s just now, he felt like his nascent soul was going to collapse, as if it had been pierced through by a sword.

Even if an ordinary Divine Transformation Realm expert could kill a Nascent Soul expert in an instant, there’s no way they could make one feel his nascent soul be on the verge of collapsing with just a gaze.

The old man clearly knew that after Ning Fan attained the Divine Transformation Realm, he became someone beyond comparison among the ordinary Divine Transformation Realm experts.

“Impossible! Even among the Divine Transformation Realm ancestors from the Ying State Immortal Island, none can transform into such a huge giant!”

The Late Gold Core Realm cultivator was frightened to the core. The same terrified expression appeared on the faces of the other six cultivators and the eyes of thousands of cultivators in the Xiang Family.

Fortunately, the giant was just passing by Pengwang Island and killed not one of them. This made all the cultivators of the Xiang Family breathe a sigh of relief.

“Xiang Qi, as you can see, Zhou Ming can’t be offended... I know you’ve secretly joined the alliance. But let me remind you. If you try to put the Xiang Family in a dangerous situation again, I will instantly kill you!”

The Nascent Soul Realm old man’s eyes glinted with a cold light. He would never allow anyone to piss Ning Fan off.

The Xiang Family had already declined. However, it had not been eradicated anyway. The old man could not let the Xiang Family be completely annihilated in Ning Fan’s hands!

On Hengshan Island located in the sea of black reefs.

Hengshan Island was an island with cursed luck.

There was a luckless sect on the island called Permanent Cloud Sect.

The ancestor of the sect was even more unlucky. His name was Wang Heng.

Wang Heng was an Early Gold Core Realm cultivator. Thirty plus years ago, he already had this cultivation base and now, he was still at the same level.

Although his innate talent was weak, he had almost reached the peak state of the Early Gold Core Realm thirty plus years ago. However, even though so many years had passed by, he still had not broken through to the Mid Gold Core Realm. Besides, he even obtained a Gold Core Realm Dao Fruit once. After consuming the Dao Fruit, his magic power had almost reached the Late Gold Core Realm. Unfortunately, he could not achieve a breakthrough in his cultivation base because of a shadow in his heart.

Thirty years ago, a horrifying battle had left a nightmare within him.

On that day, a wild devil cultivator named Zhou Ming killed three Nascent Soul Realm experts of the Demon Sealing Sect on Hengshan Island to protect Yin Suqiu.

Wang Heng's life had become miserable ever since that day...

In the stone chamber, he tried to break through his current cultivation base again. However, he still failed. He could not help but grumble inwardly.

"Senior Zhou Ming, I know you are strong. I know you are powerful. I know you can kill anyone you wish. But why did you come to my island to kill them?"

"After you killed them, you ran away. Then, I ended up being investigated by the members of the Demon Sealing Sect countless times as their experts died on my island."

“If it wasn’t because I am not your kin and I’ve bribed them with a huge sum of immortal jade, I would have already died and the Permanent Cloud Sect would have been eradicated long ago...”

“Senior Zhou Ming, my life is a complete disaster because of you. Now, you might have become the number-one expert in the External Endless Sea but I have to live on the edge everyday, worrying that I will be suddenly assassinated if anyone assumes that you have a connection with me...”

Wang Heng’s face wrinkled in distress like a bitter gourd and he sighed incessantly.

At the same moment, Hengshan Island suddenly trembled violently.

“O-Old Ancestor, it’s bad...!” A Daoist child broke into Wang Heng’s stone chamber in an abrupt manner.

“Noisy! What are you making so much noise about? What is the disaster? Has another expert come to ask for bribes?”

Wang Heng walked out of the hall with impatience. However, as soon as he stepped out of the gate, what he saw and heard made him so frightened that he nearly peed himself.

A three thousand zhang* (3.33m per zhang) tall giant who was wearing purple armor approached the sea while carrying an island on his shoulder as if no one was nearby.

“WHAT THE HELL?! What a BIG giant... What is his cultivation base? No, his aura is very familiar. He is... He is Zhou Ming!”

Wang Heng’s ruddy old face was on the verge of crying.

“Senior Zhou, you can’t just bully me like this. You’re here again. You’re here to get me into trouble again...”

“You’re now being pursued by the Alliance of Ming Assassins and currently, it’s a critical moment. You must not drag me into this matter!”

“Besides, after you left the island that day, I was the one who helped you clear all the traces... When others came to investigate your background, I didn’t betray you at all. You can’t return my kindness like this!”

Seeing the purple-armored giant lift his foot and was about to crush Hengshan Island, Wang Heng closed his eyes in despair, muttering and grumbling.

As for that giant, he seemed to have heard Wang Heng’s words and withdrew his foot all of a sudden. His piercingly cold eyes swept across Hengshan island, recalling something. He then looked at Wang Heng silently. A brief moment later, he pointed his finger and shot out a ray of black light at Wang Heng. Afterwards, he made a step forward without crushing the island and disappeared into the distance. Only his voice lingered around the island after his disappearance.

“Considering the fact that you are one of my old friends, I will grant you good luck!”

When the ray of black light entered Wang Heng, it caused his body to tremble. The traumatic experience which shadowed his heart gradually faded away. It seemed like Ning Fan had used his magic power to help him break through the bottleneck in his cultivation.

Wang Heng was stunned and became rooted to the ground.

By just lifting one of his fingers, Ning Fan could actually help someone break through his bottleneck!

“It has been rumored that only old monsters who have gone through Void Inquiry can borrow the power of the void to help juniors open up the bottlenecks in their immortal veins... Could it be that Senior Zhou Ming has already gone through that test?!”

Wang Heng was flabbergasted. He felt that the way he walked out from the hall must be incorrect.

Is Senior Zhou Ming this powerful?

“I’m truly fortunate enough to have a brief relationship with a Void Refinement Realm expert!”

Wang Heng seemed to be much more confident and courageous than before. Now, he was not even afraid of the Demon Sealing Sect or the Alliance of Ming Assassins anymore.

The only thing he wanted to do now was to immediately enter into seclusion and prepare to break through to the Late Gold Core Realm while harboring endless good hopes in Ning Fan.