

## King Hall 1341

Chapter 1341: Cultivation Breakthroughs All Around! Preparing to Return!

Sea God Palace.

After a day of cultivation, Mu Jinyu's cultivation finally advanced from the late Fourth Layer of the Hedao Realm to the early Sixth Layer Hedao Realm.

And it solidified there.

"Strange..."

After stabilizing his cultivation, Mu Jinyu also discovered that although the golden dragon soul in his dantian was still circling around the Golden Core, his cultivation could no longer increase dramatically.

Similarly, during this day of cultivation, Mu Jinyu felt that his rapid cultivation progress seemed not solely due to the dragon soul.

"What exactly is going on?"

Mu Jinyu thought for a while but still couldn't come up with a reasonable explanation.

Eventually, he shook his head, choosing not to dwell on these issues any longer.

He got up and took another look at this great hall. Mu Jinyu searched around inside, but found nothing useful.

Finally, Mu Jinyu stored the stone box and stone table into the storage bag before leaving the hall.

Stepping out of the hall and standing on the steps, Mu Jinyu saw Yu Shenfeng sitting cross-legged on the plaza below, deep in cultivation.

Upon closer inspection, his cultivation level had reached the Peak Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm!

"Hmm?!"

Upon seeing Yu Shenfeng's change in cultivation, Mu Jinyu's eyes focused, and the previous inexplicable feeling rose in his heart again.

Yesterday, Yu Shenfeng's cultivation was only at the Peak Third Layer of the Fanxu Realm; how did it reach Peak Fifth Layer today?

Could it be... that his previous feeling was correct, and his cultivation breakthrough wasn't actually due to absorbing the dragon soul?

Otherwise, there's no reason for Yu Shenfeng, who hadn't gained any opportunity in the Sea God Palace, to have his cultivation suddenly jump to such an absurd level!

Just as Mu Jinyu was pondering, Yu Shenfeng happened to awaken from his cultivation.

"What a feeling..."

Yu Shenfeng stood up, his skeletons emitting sounds like firecrackers, crisp and pleasant.

"Dragon Master, strangely enough, my cultivation just suddenly advanced to Peak Fifth Layer of the Fanxu Realm..."

Seeing Mu Jinyu standing on the steps, having just exited, Yu Shenfeng spoke to him delightedly.

Inside, he felt a spark of pride.

He thought it was remarkable to advance two minor realms without ingesting any elixirs or heavenly materials and earthly treasures.

"Hmm, my cultivation also advanced from Fourth Layer Hedao Realm to Sixth Layer Hedao Realm. I had thought it was the effect of refining the dragon soul, but now it seems that might not be the case..."

Mu Jinyu nodded, frowning slightly as he spoke.

"What?"

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Yu Shenfeng's slight look of pride instantly froze on his face.

He hadn't expected Mu Jinyu to also leap two minor realms.

It seemed similar to his own advancement, but...

Mu Jinyu's cultivation is in Hedao Realm, and these two minor realms equal several minor realms in the Fanxu Realm.

Instantly, Yu Shenfeng's self-satisfaction vanished.

Mu Jinyu, unaware of Yu Shenfeng's thoughts, asked, "Senior Yu, did you gain any opportunity here, causing your cultivation to improve?"

He thought if Yu Shenfeng's cultivation increased because he gained some fortune in the Sea God Palace while Mu Jinyu was in seclusion, it would make sense.

Perhaps his strange feeling, thinking the cultivation surge wasn't due to the dragon soul, was just an illusion.

Hearing Mu Jinyu's inquiry, Yu Shenfeng shook his head and said, "No, yesterday I was preparing to refine the dragon soul; I went out to take care of those remaining Rugens. Just as I reached the plaza, I suddenly felt my bottleneck seem to be touched, and nature's spiritual energy was surging toward me, so I decisively started to cultivate on the spot..."

"I cultivated for a day, and my cultivation soared from Peak Third Layer of the Fanxu Realm to Peak Fifth Layer..."

After speaking, Yu Shenfeng smiled bitterly and said, "I just thought I finally had an epiphany. Turns out, Dragon Master, you also had a cultivation surge, so it looks like the change isn't just on my side."

"Does it mean this is from the Spiritual Energy Revival's grand changes?"

Mu Jinyu and Yu Shenfeng exchanged glances, reaching this conclusion.

In last year's first Spiritual Energy Revival, the world's changes weren't as harsh as the Ice Age. Many worldwide transitioned from ordinary people to martial arts experts, some even mutated, growing wings and gaining the ability to fly...

But those with such changes weren't significant and didn't turn an ordinary person into someone of the Divinity Transformation Realm.

Mostly, it was between Mingjin and Dark Energy, only extremely talented people could suddenly transform into a Master of Energy Transformation.

Such individuals were rare.

Now, this Ice Age marks the second Spiritual Energy Revival. Mu Jinyu and Yu Shenfeng both experienced a two-minor realm surge yesterday, reminiscent of last year's Spiritual Energy Revival.

This indicates that the disaster known as the Ice Age is likely nearing its end and those who survived had their cultivations transformed dramatically.

"Let's look around to see if there's anything we missed; if not, let's head out and check the outside."

Mu Jinyu suggested to Yu Shenfeng.

Then, they spent half an hour searching through the Sea God Palace, looking for any missed valuables.

But there weren't any.

It seemed the only treasure in the Sea God Palace was the dragon pearl stored in the hall.

The Sea God statue, covered in cracks, crumbled into fragments during Yu Shenfeng's inspection.

Yu Shenfeng felt regretful, complaining that the mermaid deceived them; there wasn't any Sea God Spirit Sacrifice.

Mu Jinyu told him that the Sea God Spirit Sacrifice had been dealt with, soothing Yu Shenfeng.

Then, they regretfully left the Sea God Palace.

Emerging from the lakebed, leaping back to the cave's entrance, Yu Shenfeng looked at the calm Emerald Lake, regretfully saying, "Too bad, a few Rugens still got away yesterday..."

"Let's go."

Mu Jinyu said, and then both he and Yu Shenfeng left the cave, returning to the desolate island.

"Hmm?!"

"Indeed..."

As they exited the dark cave and saw the scene of the island's snow melting, the sun shining again, they paused, then spoke with satisfaction.

"The blizzards finally stopped. Now, those still living outside shouldn't have to worry about being buried under snow..."

Mu Jinyu chuckled lightly, relieved of a burden in his heart.

"Let's head back to the Dragon King Hall, see how things are now..."

Yu Shenfeng couldn't wait to see how Huaxia had changed.

Chapter 1342: Reunion with Old Friends! The Most Successful Investment!

The blizzard ceased, the dark clouds dispersed, the sun rose, the ice and snow gradually melted, and all things began to revive anew.

Mu Jinyu and Yu Shenfeng hurried back to Yinlong Mountain from the Southern Sea. Along the way, they saw countless ancient trees, once frozen to death, begin to bud anew. In many places where the snow was not deep, lush flowers and plants started to grow, painting a vibrant scene full of life.

In places where the snow was deeper, there were also incredibly resilient exotic herbs, piercing through the thick snow layer, adding a fresh touch of green to the white world.

Most importantly, these mutated flowers, plants, and reborn ancient trees exuded a sense of spirituality, as if they were the spirit roots of heaven and earth.

Mu Jinyu felt that perhaps they could all be used in medicine refining.

And the density of the spiritual energy dispersed in the air was more than ten times richer compared to nine days ago!

Mu Jinyu and Yu Shenfeng could understand why their cultivation levels could suddenly soar.

With such density of spiritual energy, perhaps a newborn child could have the cultivation of Dark Energy or Energy Transformation, and if they have exceptionally high talent, they might even be born with the cultivation of the Divinity Transformation Realm!

This speculation was extremely terrifying!

But Mu Jinyu thought that if the spiritual energy revival on Earth didn't stop, such things might indeed occur in the future.

Soon, Mu Jinyu and Yu Shenfeng returned to Yinlong Mountain.

And San Liu, Qiu Bai, and the others, who received Mu Jinyu's message, had already returned to Yinlong Mountain a day earlier. When they saw Yu Shenfeng return, they all gathered around, concernedly asking about Yu Shenfeng's condition.

Because yesterday, when Mu Jinyu informed them that Yu Shenfeng had been found, he also mentioned Yu Shenfeng's injuries to them.

Yu Shenfeng's face showed a gentle smile as he shook his head and said, "It's fine now. Don't you know the Dragon Master's medical skills? There's not a single internal injury left."

"Master, my cultivation is now at the Third Layer of the Fanxu Realm as well..."

Qiu Bai said to Yu Shenfeng somewhat proudly.

"Me too, but I'm at the middle stage of the Third Layer of the Fanxu Realm, stronger than you..."

Chen Xiuying also chimed in, glancing at Qiu Bai with a bit of smugness in her eyes.

San Liu, although having a master-disciple relationship with Yu Shenfeng, had studied under him for only about a year. Unlike Qiu Bai and Chen Xiuying, who were raised by Yu Shenfeng from a young age, he naturally lacked that deep sense of admiration and wouldn't speak to Yu Shenfeng in such a manner.

But Yu Shenfeng could also tell that San Liu's cultivation had reached the later stage of the Third Layer of the Fanxu Realm, even stronger than Qiu Bai and Chen Xiuying!

As for Nameless, originally because she needed to stabilize her cultivation, she hadn't attempted to break through the Fanxu Realm, but due to yesterday's spiritual energy surge, her cultivation reached the middle stage of the Second Layer of the Fanxu Realm.

"Hmm, very good..." Yu Shenfeng praised Qiu Bai and Chen Xiuying.

Mu Jinyu, on the other hand, did not join in their master-disciple merriment, but instead approached Mu Hongchen and Su Zijin.

"Mom, Aunt Mu, Xiyan..."

After greeting the women, he asked, "How is it now? Has Xia Ruochen started arranging for people to leave the famous mountains?"

On the way back with Yu Shenfeng, he had already informed Mu Hongchen in Qinling via Communication Talisman about the blizzard's cessation, asking her to contact Xia Ruochen, also in Qinling, to possibly clear the snow and arrange for people to leave the famous mountains.

After receiving the news, Gu Xiyan and the others had all returned to Yinlong Mountain accordingly.

"Not yet, though many in our Dragon King Hall and Great Xia Dragon Sparrow have currently broken through from Dark Energy and Energy Transformation to the Divinity Transformation Realm, making it much easier to clear the snow, but Huaxia is so vast, how could it be cleared in just one day? However, some might have started arranging to return..."

Mu Hongchen said to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu nodded slightly, saying, "That's true, in that case, I'll first go see your families..."

His last sentence was addressed to Gu Xiyan and the others.

He had been back from the Kunlun Ruins for some time already but hadn't yet gone to see the families of Gu Xiyan, Xu Qingya, Yu Linglong's father, and Lin Qiaoxia's parents.

Now that they had been brought back to Yinlong Mountain for refuge recently and he was not as busy, he could take the time to visit them.

"Alright, my grandpa has been wanting to thank you in person."

Gu Xiyan, hearing Mu Jinyu's words, nodded with a smile.

Xu Qingya also nodded, saying, "My grandpa too, he said he hasn't seen you in a long time..."

"Okay, I'll go see them all later." Mu Jinyu said with a smile.

Xu Qingya's grandfather, Xu Tianzheng, was the first patient Mu Jinyu encountered after descending Yinlong Mountain. He was also the first source of funding he acquired from the Xu Family.

His former Jinyu Group also developed from a small company in the Xu Family.

Every time he recalled this period, Mu Jinyu, although it seemed to have only been over a year, felt especially nostalgic.

Perhaps it was because, back then, he didn't have as many responsibilities on his shoulders, so he could live more freely and easily?

And now, as the Dragon King, Hall Master of the Dragon King Hall, he had to shoulder some of the responsibilities he should bear.

Then, Mu Jinyu followed the women to a dormitory building on Yinlong Mountain.

He also met Xu Tianzheng and Gu Zhengxin, who instead of aging, appeared even younger.

Among Mu Jinyu's six wives, Gu Xiyan and Xu Qingya's grandfathers were still alive, Mei Yinxue was an orphan with no family, Wen Rou had only a mother and the Chen Family at the Kunlun Ruins, Yu Linglong had only a father left, and Lin Qiaoxia's parents were alive but her grandparents had passed away early.

Therefore, the ones Mu Jinyu could call grandpa were only these two old gentlemen.

When Gu Zhengxin saw Mu Jinyu appearing, he held his hand warmly with a face full of gratitude.

But his feelings were very complex.

He knew full well that if it wasn't for his granddaughter being with Mu Jinyu, he, an old man, even if he survived the first wave of darkness upheaval and the second ferocious beast frenzy, wouldn't have survived this third Ice Age.

He had many old friends who, without the aid of the Dragon King Hall, also managed to survive the first two calamities, but during this blizzard, which lasted just nine days, they all perished...

Recalling how he once forced Gu Xiyan to marry this or that person to gain benefits for the Gu Family, Gu Zhengxin felt a deep sense of shame and self-reproach.

When he and Gu Xiyan started selling Beauty Pills at the Jinyu Group, the Gu Family once completely turned against Gu Xiyan, yet in the dark upheaval Gu Xiyan still saved them without holding a grudge.

This short year felt like a hundred years to him, leaving him with a sigh of the changing times.

Gu Zhengxin felt neither resentment nor dissatisfaction towards Gu Xiyao and Mu Jinyu, only a complex mixture of remorse, self-blame, and heartfelt gratitude.

Xu Tianzheng also sighed with emotion towards Mu Jinyu.

He never imagined that the boy from back then would become someone who has repeatedly saved the Xu Family several times.

Perhaps, this was the most successful investment of his life?

Chapter 1343: Changes After the Great Blizzard! Circulating Documents Among Nations!

A few days later.

The snow brought by the massive blizzard melted across Huaxia under the spiritual power of the Divinity Transformation Realm cultivators.

Roads have cleared, and it's possible to return home.

Thus, the billion people who had taken refuge in the famous mountains across Huaxia, gradually returned home under the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow's arrangements.

According to the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow's subsequent statistics, despite their best efforts during this Ice Age catastrophe, the dead still numbered in the hundreds of millions.

Most were the elderly, weak, sick, and disabled.

During the disaster, the families of the deceased could not even cry, and after the disaster ended, they found it hard to even shed tears.

Afterward, to prevent the spread of disease from decomposing bodies as temperatures rose, cremation arrangements began across various regions, followed by simple burials without elaborate funerals.

According to the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow's estimates, Western countries, lacking Essence Qi Pills and unaware of the refuge spaces behind famous mountains, likely suffered deaths outnumbering half the population!

It was a super catastrophe!

Mu Jinyu felt genuine sadness over this, mournful of humanity's fragility.

However, he felt powerless, for even saving his own nation came at the cost of so many lives, leaving little effort available to save the entire world.

Yet, the sole piece of good news was that those who survived the heavy blizzard also benefited from the last moments of Spiritual Energy Revival, experiencing astonishing physical changes.

In Huaxia, over two-thirds of the population had attained Energy Transformation capabilities by the ninth day of the blizzard, while the remaining portion possessed Dark energy capabilities.

Some pregnant women gave birth to babies with Mingjin-level abilities after the events...

It seemed that from now on, there would be no ordinary people left.

People were about to embark on a path of cultivation and evolution.

Several more days passed.

Since ordinary people were essentially nonexistent, the process and speed of repairing local power stations, base stations, and water facilities accelerated tremendously, and within a few days, electricity, water, and internet started recovering across regions...

People began discussions online again, with varying topics each day.

Today, astonishment is found in roadside wild grass, some discovering that the grass gleams with vibrant green leaves and wafts of spiritual energy, significantly boosting the strength of a stray dog that ate it, sparking a trend of eating grass and leaves.

Tomorrow, it is discovered that crops in fields, miraculously spared from complete freezing during the blizzard, began to grow as the climate gradually recovers.

Moreover, the growth rate is so incredible that within a week or so of the blizzard's end, the crops matured fully, their golden stalks bending...

Crucially, consuming these crops as food also appeared to enhance one's strength to a certain extent.

Thus, specialists in botany began to study this phenomenon, and discovered that the internal structure of various crops such as rice, wheat, corn, soybeans, and sorghum underwent thorough transformations, containing a mysterious energy.

These were no longer the ordinary crops they once were, and could be termed as Spirit Plants.

Of course, it's unsuitable to refine medicine from rice and wheat, so the term Spirit Food might be more apt.

In this atmosphere of universal revival and burgeoning vitality, the negative impact brought by the massive blizzard, the heavy and unspoken sorrow burdening everyone's hearts after the death of loved ones, gradually began to dissipate.

Another week passed, and people finally moved past the shadow cast by the blizzard and resumed work, school, restoring previous social order.

Some individuals initially harbored thoughts of newfound strength, no longer being ordinary people, eager to act as they pleased...

However, after committing a few misdeeds, they quickly received a lesson from strengthened police arriving on notice.

Meanwhile, online, some fervently discussed the rapidly changing various matters, while some couldn't resist wielding heavy-handed comments in digital confrontations, feeling they were strong enough to break free from meek conduct offline...

So, they arranged to meet in reality for combat, akin to a Mount Hua contest or a duel atop the Forbidden City...

Of course, they're not free to enter Mount Hua or the Forbidden City anytime, so their chosen battlegrounds were merely ordinary squares.

Upon realizing these occurrences, the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow and Dragon King Hall deliberated, and some believed such events should not be allowed to occur, to prevent severe incidents resulting in deaths...

Some felt that with the different era, everyone held considerable strength, constantly suppressing their Essence Qi without an outlet might not be beneficial; like compressing a spring, the tighter the compression, until a possible final explosive outburst making things hardly containable.

After intense discussions, with increasing daily conflicts, the authorities ultimately decided to allow competitions provided they were reported and supervised to avert accidents.

Likewise, as Spiritual Energy Revival again surged, Huaxia officially entered an era of national martial cultivation. The Great Xia Martial Pavilion managed by the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow, due to strict recruitment, only accepted those meeting moral standards, thus inevitably generating several other martial arts schools.

These schools were some evolved from traditional martial arts schools, teaching classic martial arts like Tai Chi Fist, Eight Extremes Fist, Bagua Palm, Cailei Fut, Yongchun Palm, etc...

While some schools taught Hunyuan Xingyi Tai Chi, Lightning Five Consecutive Whip, etc...

Initially, these schools gave an impression of expertise, attracting many to enroll, but later, realizations of discrepancies caused challenges to the masters, resulting in masters being knocked out within three punches!

Soon, these schools couldn't operate anymore.

Henceforth, the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow began rigorous oversight on these martial arts schools, not dictating exclusive existence of the Great Xia Martial Pavilion, but minimum requirements of Divinity Transformation Realm cultivation to establish a school at least.

At this moment, Western countries finally began restoring electricity and internet post-blizzard...

"What?!"

"Why has Huaxia managed to keep so many people alive?!"

"With countless deaths and injuries worldwide, indeterminable, why does Huaxia stand out?"

"The emergence of this blizzard must be Huaxia's conspiracy!"

Upon discovering Huaxia's situation, nations fumed yet feared rash actions.

Simultaneously, documents suddenly began circulating among Western nations.

Majority were focused on Xiang Mantang, accompanied by numerous images displaying Xiang Mantang commanding demons, spreading Ghastly Presence, cities decaying, inciting dark chaos...

These documents caused uproar and fury!

A minority least introduced Xiang Mantang, instead, introduced Mu Jinyu, further detailing Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang's relationship, and how Mu Jinyu helped conceal Xiang Mantang's crimes following the chaos...

Most critically, outlining how during the latest blizzard, Mu Jinyu guided his countrymen to shelter in the famous mountains, explaining why Huaxia managed to retain so many survivors!

Having read these documents, nations worldwide reacted in shock and commotion!

Chapter 1344: Western Eastern Expedition! Three Conspire! A Glimpse of the Future!

"Too terrifying! How can there be such cruel and malicious people in this world? This is simply a devil crawling out of Hell!"

"Incomprehensible! Intolerable! If that man named Mu Jinyu is harboring criminals, perhaps after a long time, I could tolerate it, but the occurrence of this blizzard, I truly cannot tolerate!"

"I think he's more like the Destroyer of Worlds!"

"Even the executioner nailed to the pillar of shame in the world, all the evil they committed combined, cannot compare to him!"

"We must unite, perhaps individually we can't deal with them, but together, we won't lose to them!"

"..."

The citizens of various Western countries, after reading these widely circulated materials online, were all outraged, feeling that Mu Jinyu was practically the number one devil of this era, and must be exterminated!

Finally, the new Archbishop of the Brilliant Divine Authority Headquarters located in the Vatican, Francis, after reviewing these materials, confirmed that the photos were not doctored, and the deeds of Mu Jinyu were not fabricated either...

Feeling unworthy for Reinhardt and many other bishops who sacrificed during the dark turmoil, Francis stood out to declare that the Crusaders would once again embark on an Eastern Expedition, determined to confront the Dragon King Hall!

The matter spiraled out of control.

Meanwhile, in a dilapidated church in a certain Western region.

Withered Wood Taoist and Amalia, who once went with their avatars to Yinlong Mountain to besiege Yu Shenfeng, had both come here.

The four who besieged Yu Shenfeng that day, now the Golden-Winged Roc King is dead, the Curse World Master has been pursued and his whereabouts by Yu Shenfeng are unknown, yet the Withered Wood Taoist representing the Withered Tree Quest for Spring, and Amalia representing Paradise Lost, still live well under the pursuit of San Liu and Qiu Bai's people.

"The matter went very smoothly, now Francis is about to lead the Crusaders on an Eastern Expedition, thanks to the evidence of the Dragon King's various crimes provided by sir..."

"Hehe, during the dark turmoil, the Brilliant Divine Authority suffered significant losses, like taking a hit to their Elemental Qi, resulting in no further action, but over the past year, they have recovered in the Spiritual Energy Revival, and on the ninth day of the natural disaster, miracles frequently appeared in the Vatican, truly letting them fight to the death with the Dragon King Hall, even if they can't destroy the Dragon King Hall, it will at least give them a headache!"

The Withered Wood Taoist thanked the vague figure before him, while Amalia coldly smiled intending to sit back and watch the Dragon King Hall and the Brilliant Divine Authority fight, curious as to how the matter would unfold in the end.

The vague figure slightly raised a hand to gesture to the Withered Wood Taoist that thanks were unnecessary, then spoke, his voice still vague, indistinguishable as male or female:

"The existence of the Dragon King severely affects the development of our few great organizations. We cannot deal with the Dragon King for the time being, but letting countries and the Brilliant Divine

Authority handle them, even if it won't necessarily achieve good results, will certainly make them struggle, thus giving us time to continue perfecting our plans..."

Upon hearing the vague figure's words, Kamalia laughed: "Yes, indeed, our Paradise Lost is close to succeeding in our plans after obtaining the Dragon Qi Crystal from the Qinling Dragon Vein, by then, it will be necessary to make the Dragon King look bad!"

The vague figure said: "Your plan should still be missing the last Dragon Soul, right? Here, take this."

While speaking, he tossed a parchment.

Amalia reached out to catch it and asked: "What is this?"

The vague figure replied: "It's a piece of information recorded long ago by a former Observatory Master of the Omniscient, on a certain deserted island there is a Sea God Palace, where it seems there is a Dragon Ball sealed with a Dragon Soul, you can go check it out, although it might be quite dangerous, but it's better than having no clue."

"Alright, then thank you so much, Observatory Master." Amalia's eyes shone with joy as she hurriedly expressed her gratitude.

"What about me?" seeing Amalia gain benefits, the Withered Wood Taoist quickly said to the vague figure.

Compared to the more mysterious organizations Paradise Lost and Omniscient, they, the Withered Tree Quest for Spring, originally aimed only to find the Fountain of Youth, and the Fountain of Immortality, hoping to let the tycoon bosses behind them live longer, but now, this purpose was naturally long abandoned.

And instead, they originally only aimed to enhance their subordinates' strength to better complete their task of exploring the Fountain of Youth, hence the development of the Genetically Modified Persons...

But now, in the Spiritual Energy Revival, the strength of the Genetically Modified Persons simply cannot compare to the cultivators who can improve daily in this environment, so if the Nine Great Organizations were to be ranked again, the Withered Tree Quest for Spring would undoubtedly be at the bottom.

Therefore, the Withered Wood Taoist is eager for the Omniscient to provide them with a better gene.

"Here, take it."

Upon hearing the Withered Wood Taoist's request, the vague figure casually tossed out a glass vessel, inside which a pool of crimson blood could be seen, if inspected closely, the blood seemed to have its own life, wriggling slowly...

"What is this?"

The Withered Wood Taoist quickly received it, with a few hints of surprise and doubt, asking the vague figure.

The vague figure said: "The most pure True Blood of the Blood Clan provided to me by the Curse World Master."

"That's wonderful!" the Withered Wood Taoist was overjoyed upon hearing this.

Meanwhile, Amalia's heart inevitably sank.

The Curse World Master has been missing for some time, and they couldn't contact him, now the Observatory Master of the Omniscient suddenly provides the True Blood of the Blood Clan to the Withered Tree Quest for Spring, it's hard not to think of a bad direction.

But she dared not say anything openly, nor question it.

After all, in this era, with the sudden emergence of a nearly invincible Mu Jinyu, without the Omniscient providing them with various clues and information, these organizations would have long been eradicated by the Dragon King!

So even if they feel that the Omniscient is plotting against them, they can only harbor apprehension, while cooperating, yet also guarding against each other...

Afterwards, after a few more discussions, the vague figure suddenly dissipated.

Subsequently, Amalia and the Withered Wood Taoist, each holding what the vague figure provided, left the dilapidated church.

...

In a dark valley, after a slight twist in the void, the vague figure appeared again.

He looked up at the sun in the sky, his face still vague, making it difficult for people to see his expression, but faintly giving off a sense of bewilderment.

"The glimpse of the future that I saw is indeed too terrifying, until now, I still cannot guarantee that after setting all this up, I can stand firm in the future..."

He murmured softly.

His sight gradually drifted downward, revealing at the entrance of the valley, a shriveled male corpse lay.

Upon closer inspection, it could be seen that the face of this corpse matched that of the Curse World Master...

Chapter 1345: Nailed to the Pillar of Shame! Live Broadcast Begins!

"Dragon Master, something terrible has happened!"

Mu Hongchen rushed into the Secluded Valley with an anxious expression, shouting loudly.

In the Secluded Valley, Mu Jinyu was lying on a bamboo rocking chair, basking in the sun.

It had been more than ten days since the snow disaster, and as the effects gradually faded and society resumed order, he was no longer as busy, allowing him a rare moment of rest.

Due to the snow disaster, Mu Jinyu also enjoyed getting out to soak up the sun more often.

Upon hearing Mu Hongchen's shout, Mu Jinyu, who was dozing off on the rocking chair, fluttered his eyelids open lazily and asked, "What's going on? What happened this time?"

Mu Hongchen approached, speaking anxiously, "There are rumors abroad spreading about the cause of the dark turmoil and this snow disaster being instigated by you and Xiang Mantang, saying you are the mastermind, the sinner of humanity. Look..."

With that, Mu Hongchen handed a phone to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu took the phone and glanced at it, his previously lazy and calm expression slightly darkening.

"Eastern Expedition! The Eastern Dragon King must pay the price!"

"The Vatican's Archbishop Francis has spoken, Eastern Expedition! Determined to demand an explanation from the Dragon King!"

"Shocking! Two-thirds of the world's population has died, why is Huaxia an exception, the real answer is this..."

Mu Jinyu looked at a few of these headlines and then clicked on the first post, but it was full of curses against him, not providing any useful information.

He angrily closed that post, then opened the second one, concerning the topic of the Vatican's archbishop wanting to conduct an Eastern Expedition to demand answers from him.

Mu Jinyu remembered that Brilliant Divine Authority, unlike Fallen Splendor, Omniscient, Paradise Lost, and Withered Tree Quest for Spring, didn't have hidden headquarters. The headquarters of Brilliant Divine Authority was in the well-known Holy City, Vatican...

Given that they mentioned the Vatican's archbishop, it likely referred to the new leader of Brilliant Divine Authority?

Mu Jinyu also remembered the time when a group of them had been trapped in the Mirror World, nearly unable to return. It was Reinhardt and his group who sacrificed themselves to bring them back to the real world.

Because of this, Mu Jinyu's previous negative impression of Brilliant Divine Authority changed, and he didn't wish to be enemies with them anymore.

But why now does the new leader of Brilliant Divine Authority want to conduct an Eastern Expedition and demand answers from him?

Is he unaware of what the dark turmoil was about?

Mu Jinyu's mood grew gloomier as he opened the post, which clearly outlined the accusations against Xiang Mantang and himself. It stated that Brilliant Divine Authority's Francis couldn't stand it anymore and was preparing an Eastern Expedition to demand answers from the Dragon King!

The post also mentioned that the reason why so many former archbishops and cardinals of Brilliant Divine Authority disappeared a year ago was due to sacrifices made during the dark turmoil. So, it was understandable why Francis was enraged!

"This is..."

After reading the post, Mu Jinyu's expression darkened further as he searched for the earliest circulated photos and accusations against Xiang Mantang. When he saw the initial photos of Xiang Mantang harnessing demons and turning an entire town into a Ghastly Presence, his expression became even more grim!

"Paradise Lost, or perhaps Omniscient... You are truly audacious to provoke me like this!"

Mu Jinyu was no fool. He understood that the few photos of Xiang Mantang in their possession, and the unveiling of the connection between the dark turmoil and the Spiritual Energy Revival, could only come from Paradise Lost or Omniscient.

After all, it was them who deceived Xiang Mantang into going to the Mesopotamian ruins, thus initiating the dark turmoil.

So, if it weren't for these photos of Xiang Mantang, possibly Fallen Splendor, Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere, or Way of Nature could be the masterminds behind these posts.

But with these photos as evidence, other organizations were unlikely to be involved; only these two organizations could have provided such photos and evidence, accusing Mu Jinyu of deliberately causing the snow disaster to annihilate every nation. It's likely that only Omniscient could provide these photos!

What frustrated and angered Mu Jinyu was that, whether it was Way of Nature, Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere, Brilliant Divine Authority, or Fallen Splendor, if he truly decided to uproot these organizations, he might be able to do it.

But Omniscient was too mysterious, and although they previously interacted with Dragon King Hall, offering them various secret information and data, ever since he took charge of Dragon King Hall, they had lost all contact with Omniscient.

Finding and uprooting Omniscient wouldn't be simple!

As Mu Jinyu pondered, face clouded with indecision, on how to annihilate Paradise Lost and Omniscient, Mu Hongchen anxiously said, "Dragon Master, what should we do? These things have already spread to our side, and various forums here have started accusing you of being the mastermind..."

"Claiming you have even larger plans to annihilate all humanity!"

Hearing Mu Hongchen's last remark, Mu Jinyu rolled his eyes and said, "Idiots are beyond saving, just ignore them."

Mu Hongchen hesitated, "But... they're also badmouthing Xiang Mantang, questioning whether Xiang Mantang..."

"Questioning what?" Mu Jinyu asked, unable to hear Mu Hongchen's last words clearly.

Mu Hongchen lowered her voice, "See for yourself, I'm afraid if I say it, you'll end up hitting me..."

Mu Jinyu: "..."

Seeing Mu Hongchen unwilling to speak, Mu Jinyu opened several forums to see for himself.

Among the posts, there were fewer insulting him directly, and there were quite a few supporting him.

For every person cursing him, there were others defending him, saying no matter how foreigners criticized the Dragon King, at least he hadn't wronged Huaxia, he hadn't wronged them...

If it weren't for the Dragon King, how could so many of us still be living today?

Claims of the Dragon King's conspiracy to annihilate all humanity so he alone could evolve were considered absurd. If he truly had such a conspiracy, why would he tirelessly save us during the snow disaster?

Many of these types of comments suggested that Mu Jinyu gained quite a few supporters after the snow disaster.

However, those supporting Mu Jinyu mainly rebutted conspiracy theories in posts about the Spiritual Energy Revival and the snow disaster.

Yet, when it came to speculations about the dark turmoil, these supporters of Mu Jinyu were not as vocal and assertive, with weakening voices. Some even questioned the true essence of the dark turmoil.

Mu Jinyu understood these people.

After all, with the Spiritual Energy Revival and the snow disaster, his initial moves for nationwide martial cultivation and later making Essence Qi Pills while guiding people to seek refuge in Famous Mountains were all about helping and saving people.

But regarding the dark turmoil, the widely circulated Western narrative stated Xiang Mantang aimed to annihilate humanity with malice by releasing demons, causing the Night Parade of One Hundred Demons, which threw the world into chaos. But after solving the dark turmoil, where did Xiang Mantang go? How was he handled, if at all? The Western articles accused Mu Jinyu of shielding Xiang Mantang, the supposed ringleader.

So, while Huaxia's citizens could rally behind him during the Spiritual Energy Revival and snow disaster without question, their curiosity about the counter-narrative concerning the dark turmoil was equally as strong. What truly happened?

Was Xiang Mantang, the alleged ringleader, truly a close brother to him? After the dark turmoil, what was the fate of Xiang Mantang? Was he really released without charge?

Numerous lost loved ones to the dark turmoil, so they couldn't blindly support Mu Jinyu without demanding answers.

Mu Jinyu put away his phone, his expression deeming unfavorable.

If it were merely people insulting him and falsely accusing him, he would be more inclined to ignore these nonsensical people, but slandering Xiang Mantang as an executioner and accusing himself of harboring this mastermind, Mu Jinyu found it intolerable.

The dark turmoil was not something Xiang Mantang sincerely wished to create, after all, if it weren't for his final intervention, would the dark turmoil have ended so easily with him imprisoning himself?

Yet, these people, standing high on their moral ground, aspired to nail Xiang Mantang as an eternal disgrace to humanity? It was difficult for Mu Jinyu to contain his anger and frustration.

Mu Jinyu pondered deeply, unsure how to uproot "Paradise Lost" and "Omniscient".

Mu Hongchen anxiously asked again, "Dragon Master, what do we do now? All this news has reached here, and various forums here are also starting to accuse you of being the mastermind..."

"Saying you still have big plans ahead to wipe out all of humanity!"

Mu Jinyu rolled his eyes at Mu Hongchen's last words, "Idiots, just ignore them."

Mu Hongchen hesitated, "But... but they are also saying bad things about Xiang Mantang, saying they don't know about Xiang Mantang..."

"Saying what?" Mu Jinyu questioned, having missed Mu Hongchen's last words.

Mu Hongchen whispered, "You better see for yourself, I'm afraid to say it and then get beaten by you..."

Mu Jinyu: "..."

Seeing Mu Hongchen's reluctance to speak, Mu Jinyu checked several forums on his own.

Among the posts, there were fewer derogatory remarks against him, and surprisingly, many people supported him.

While some criticized him, there was a large segment defending him. If the Dragon King hadn't stood by Huaxia during the crises despite foreign criticism, how could so many people have survived?

Accusations that the Dragon King wanted to eradicate humanity were rebutted, and it was pointed out that without the Dragon King's efforts, the survival of such a large number of people wouldn't have been possible.

This kind of comment was plentiful, demonstrating that many had faith in Mu Jinyu, especially after the snow disaster.

However, when discussing the dark turmoil, followers hesitated. Questions arose about whether the allegations concerning Xiang Mantang and the shelter of demons that turned a town into a ghastly presence held any truth. The western narrative implies there might have been protective actions for Xiang Mantang, the supposed mastermind.

Understanding their doubts, Mu Jinyu realized that while uninhibited support was evident during the Spiritual Energy Revival and snow disaster, skeptical inquiries emerged surrounding the dark turmoil. Why didn't Xiang Mantang face any repercussions?

Or was he simply allowed to go free without consequences?

Many, who lost friends and family during the dark turmoil, understandably sought definitive answers.

Settling his phone down, Mu Jinyu looked troubled.

He could ignore baseless accusations against himself, but fabrications branding Xiang Mantang as the villain were intolerable.

Knowing that the dark turmoil was not Xiang Mantang's genuine intention and that his ultimate sacrifice ended the Night Parade of One Hundred Demons more swiftly, Mu Jinyu was infuriated by the accusations.

Amidst these turbulent thoughts, Mu Hongchen asked urgently again, "Dragon Master, what shall we do? These rumors have spread here, and forums are accusing you of being a conspirator..."

"Insinuating you're planning a major event to wipe out humanity!"

Mu Jinyu rolled his eyes at Mu Hongchen's last statement and snapped, "Idiots without hope, don't worry about them."

Mu Hongchen hesitated for a moment, then said, "But... they're also speaking ill of Xiang Mantang, saying that they aren't sure about Xiang Mantang..."

"Saying what?" Mu Jinyu asked, not having caught Mu Hongchen's last words.

Mu Hongchen spoke softly, "You should see for yourself. I'm afraid if I say it, you'll hit me..."

Mu Jinyu: "..."

Seeing Mu Hongchen's reluctance to speak, he decided to browse through a few forums on his own.

There were less posts insulting him, in fact, there were many who supported him.

For every insult against the Dragon King, there were a lot of people speaking up for him. They argued that regardless of what foreigners say about the Eastern Dragon King's wrongdoings, at least Huaxia wasn't wronged.

If it hadn't been for the Dragon King, how would it have been possible for so many people to survive?

They argued that claims about the Dragon King's conspiracy to annihilate humanity were baseless countered by many posts on the Spiritual Energy Revival and the snow disaster, demonstrating deep faith in Mu Jinyu.

But when it came to dark turmoil speculations, skepticism remained. They wanted to know what had happened to Xiang Mantang after the dark turmoil had ended. His whereabouts were questioned.

Did he get off without any penalty?

Mu Jinyu could understand their concerns, as many people lost loved ones to the dark turmoil.

Setting his phone down, looking distressed, Mu Jinyu felt unable to remain silent about the accusations surrounding Xiang Mantang.

The dark turmoil wasn't something Xiang Mantang intentionally incited. If it weren't for Xiang Mantang sacrificing himself, the Night Parade of One Hundred Demons wouldn't have ended so easily.

Seeing friends and family die in the dark turmoil, people were bound to be upset and hold Xiang Mantang accountable, branding him Huaxia's eternal enemy?

Lost in thought, it became difficult for Mu Jinyu to grasp a solution on how to eradicate Paradise Lost and Omniscient.

In such troubled contemplation, Mu Hongchen spoke urgently again, "Dragon Master, what should we do? These stories have reached us, and people on forums here have begun to claim you're the mastermind..."

.....

Chapter 1346: The Livestream Begins! Nationwide Focus! Savior vs. Destroyer of Worlds!

Mu Jinyu plans to directly address this controversy and explain it via a live stream, and the news quickly spread across the internet.

The internet instantly went into an uproar.

Discussion buzzed continuously across major forums and media outlets.

"Dragon King is finally going to explain this matter. Honestly, I personally harbor no ill feelings towards Dragon King, since if it weren't for him, I probably wouldn't have survived that blizzard recently.

"But as for that Xiang Mantang, I have no strong feelings. I didn't even know he existed before, and I've heard that he's Dragon King's good brother, which is why Dragon King would choose to cover for him after committing such a heinous mistake. I really hope Dragon King can clarify the truth about this so that the grand image of him in my heart isn't destroyed..."

"Agree, in my heart, Dragon King has always been the greatest hero. But now rumors are spreading that he's colluding with Xiang Mantang, who released demons. This has cast a shadow over his once-grand image, which I find hard to accept. I hope Dragon King can clearly explain the truth to us..."

"A couple of idiots upstairs, does Dragon King's actions or choices need you to be disappointed? Go ahead and be disappointed if you want!"

"At 2 PM, Dragon King from Dragon King Hall will be live across all media platforms, stay tuned!"

"..."

Rong City's Welfare Institute.

Cai Zhengyan read countless media promotional reports, and the online controversies and discussions about Mu Jinyu, her expression somewhat grave.

She gently sighed, looking a bit perplexed, murmuring, "Why did things turn out this way? As for Xiang Mantang, I have some impression of him as being somewhat cold and silent, but is he really that kind of person? Sigh..."

Sitting across from her, Guo Songlin, Yang Chao, and He Jingtong also looked rather troubled, unsure how they would deal with Mu Jinyu if the rumors were true.

They felt troubled not because they thought Xiang Mantang and Mu Jinyu were unforgivably evil, but because many of their friends, who grew up with them at Rong City's Welfare Institute, perished in the dark chaos...

So if Xiang Mantang truly is the culprit behind the dark chaos, they would find it hard to accept and wouldn't know how to deal with Mu Jinyu, who covered for him.

Finally, Guo Songlin's eyes turned serious as he said, "No, we should trust Jinyu. I don't think the situation is necessarily as it's being portrayed online. Even if Xiang Mantang truly caused the dark chaos, there might be unspeakable reasons..."

Hearing Guo Songlin's words, a spark of understanding gradually lit up in Cai Zhengyan's lost eyes, and she softly said, "We indeed should trust him at this moment..."

But in her heart, she quietly murmured, 'I hope there's truly an unspeakable reason behind this affair...'

Discussions similar to Cai Zhengyan's were happening among many who knew Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang.

Originally, they weren't aware that the dark chaos was instigated by Xiang Mantang and still held a sense of respect and goodwill toward Xiang Mantang and Mu Jinyu. But now, they're feeling very distressed.

Because many of their relatives and friends also died in the black chaos.

However, they didn't lose composure to the point of immediately calling Mu Jinyu to curse him, demanding he return their relatives' lives!

Especially upon learning that Mu Jinyu was going to hold a live stream to clarify and explain the matter, they restrained their complex emotions with great difficulty, deciding to watch the live stream first before reacting.

Time slowly passed.

Soon, it was 2 PM.

Mu Jinyu began the first live stream of his life under the encouraging and comforting gazes of Gu Xiyan and Su Zijin.

Given his status and the current controversy, if he was going to explain it live, of course it wouldn't just happen on some streaming website, but across all streaming websites and major television media, all broadcasting simultaneously...

You could say it was a synchronized live broadcast across the entire network!

At that moment, people who weren't paying much attention to this heated online issue were at home watching the news broadcast, cartoons, or TV dramas. They were watching intently when suddenly the TV screen flickered with static for a few moments, then switched to the image of a handsome young man seated in a chair.

"What's going on, I want to watch Pleasant Goat..."

Children watching cartoons started crying and making a fuss when the cartoons disappeared, demanding to watch cartoons.

Their parents hurried to comfort them, while also not taking their eyes off the TV.

Although they weren't really invested in today's sudden internet-breaking controversy, they'd heard about it and naturally recognized that the young man on screen was Mu Jinyu, the protagonist of the event.

They, too, were secretly amazed at Mu Jinyu's influence, thinking his live explanation would just be online, but surprisingly it was broadcast everywhere...

Because when their children were fussing, they also attempted to switch channels for more cartoons, but no matter how they changed channels, it was Mu Jinyu's face showing.

So, they gave up on searching for cartoons and decided to see how Mu Jinyu would explain the situation.

"It's starting, it's starting... the live stream is finally beginning..."

"Wow, Dragon King is so handsome..."

"Dragon King looks so young, I didn't believe he was only nineteen, but he really is that young..."

Those already waiting for the live stream became excited when they saw Mu Jinyu's image appear on screen.

Of course, many people sat in front of their computers, cursing at Mu Jinyu.

But knowing that Mu Jinyu was currently under much controversy, the live stream had no comment overlay, so they could only curse privately, unable to do so in the comment feed.

Mu Jinyu sat on the chair, gazing into the camera with no hint of nervousness or apprehension, gently speaking: "Hello everyone, I'm Mu Jinyu, also nicknamed Dragon King. I'm sure all of you sitting in front of your TVs and computers recognize me, don't you?"

"Actually, I'm a very low-key person and didn't want this much attention and understanding, but I don't know who leaked my information, which led everyone to regard me as a Savior during the recent blizzard..."

Mu Jinyu's tone carried a touch of helplessness, and those nationwide who had goodwill toward him couldn't help but smile at his words.

Judging Dragon King to be quite amusing.

In fact, Mu Jinyu was quite helpless; he never intended to be in the spotlight like a celebrity, but somehow his information was exposed to the public, making the attention on Dragon King Hall surpass that on the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow.

With a slight sigh, Mu Jinyu's expression became a bit more earnest, as he continued: "I didn't want to be a Savior, nor am I crazy enough to want to become a Destroyer of Worlds. Likewise, my good brother Xiang Mantang is the same way..."

Chapter 1347: Xiang Mantang's Medals! The Truth Behind the Dark Turmoil!

Mu Jinyu subtly mentioned Xiang Mantang in his words, his gaze froze, and he continued:

"I know that there is a lot of controversy and debate online regarding me and Xiang Mantang. Many people have labeled my good brother Xiang Mantang as the Destroyer of Worlds who wants to annihilate all of humanity..."

"And because of this, I deliberately started a live broadcast this afternoon to explain the matter, though it's not really an explanation. It's just to reveal the head and tail of the truth that has been cut out from the documents circulating online..."

As he said this, he paused, his face expressionless but speaking earnestly: "That's right, much of the information and evidence circulating online is true. The demonic turmoil and the Night Parade of One Hundred Demons were indeed released by Xiang Mantang..."

As soon as he finished that sentence, it instantly set off the entire internet.

Although comments and discussions were disabled during this live broadcast, people were still able to discuss it in chat groups and forums. As Mu Jinyu admitted that the dark turmoil was caused by Xiang Mantang, a group of people began to curse angrily.

But soon, these arguments ceased abruptly because Mu Jinyu continued speaking, making everyone focus attentively again.

Mu Jinyu's expression darkened slightly as he said, "Although the dark turmoil was caused by Xiang Mantang, his original intent was not as widely spread online—to destroy all humanity. He didn't know it would lead to such consequences. This is a distortion of the earliest documents and evidence that were maliciously cut off..."

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, everyone's hearts were moved, and they listened intently to his account, wanting to know what the original purpose of Xiang Mantang's journey to the Mesopotamian ruins was that led to the dark turmoil?

However, Mu Jinyu did not quell everyone's curiosity about what Xiang Mantang's original purpose was. Instead, he took out numerous medals and relevant documents.

Everyone watched Mu Jinyu's actions, curious about what he intended to do.

Mu Jinyu took out these medals and documents, then carefully held them in front of the camera for a while before saying: "Here, there are a total of twenty-one first-class merit medals, thirty-three second-class merit medals, and as for the third-class merit medals, they are countless..."

He paused again, then smiled happily: "People who are unclear or haven't looked closely just now would surely think these medals are mine, but actually... they aren't. I've never served in the military... so all these medals were earned by my good brother Xiang Mantang at the cost of his life!"

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, everyone watching felt an immense shock from within their hearts!

It's well-known that first-class merits are generally awarded to soldiers who have made great contributions and sacrifices.

There are very few living soldiers who have earned a first-class merit; such people are highly respected!

Indeed, it's because of their burdens that everyone else can enjoy peaceful times in the rear...

And Xiang Mantang, a single person, received twenty-one first-class merit medals!

This essentially means Xiang Mantang faced death at the Ghost Gate at least twenty-one times after joining the military...

He nearly lost his life twenty-one times!

And that's not counting the thirty-three second-class merits and the countless third-class merits he established...

Would such a man really be as the internet portrayed him, as a maniac set on destroying all humanity?

For the first time, people began to waver in their thoughts.

Of course, the world is never short of critics and fools. They continued to speak out in major forums, claiming these medals were fake and fabricated by Mu Jinyu to whitewash Xiang Mantang!

Mu Jinyu seemed to know this as well, and after casually displaying the medals and documents on camera once, he knew people might not have seen them clearly or would still doubt their authenticity. So, he picked up the medals and relevant documents once again, placing them in front of the camera for the audience to scrutinize carefully...

"I know some people will insist that I'm lying or that these medals were specially made to exonerate Xiang Mantang, but actually, these medals and related documents were awarded many years ago. If you look closely, you'll see..."

Upon hearing this, people instinctively held their breath, widened their eyes, and leaned closer to the screen to examine each medal and document carefully...

Indeed, the awarding documents for the medals state that the awardee is not Mu Jinyu but Xiang Mantang. The awards were given at various times, with some first-class merits awarded a few years ago, and the earliest ones going back ten years...

The related documents also detail the costs Xiang Mantang paid each time he received a first-class or second-class merit!

With just a few lines, one could sense the despair from the depths of one's heart, clearly understanding how dangerous the events were at the time, yet Xiang Mantang survived and received a first-class merit medal!

Those who outrightly criticized Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang were utterly dumbfounded, speechless.

And those who already had a favorable view of Mu Jinyu and speculated that any good brother of Mu Jinyu's like Xiang Mantang must be decent in character were deeply moved by genuine shock!

Mu Jinyu put away the medals, carefully setting them aside, and continued: "After enlisting, Xiang Mantang has spent ten years risking his life in various war zones, achieving countless military feats. In the following years, he joined the Dragon King Hall, and at the time, his rank was second only to the Dragon King. When Old Dragon King was preparing to retire, he had a chance to vie for the position of Dragon King, though ultimately it fell to me..."

"I say all this not to boast about myself but to point out that someone like Xiang Mantang, who earned so many first-class merits for the country, would not suddenly become insane and aim to destroy all humanity?"

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, everyone watching the live broadcast was left in silent contemplation.

They felt that if Mu Jinyu wasn't lying and Xiang Mantang indeed achieved such military accomplishments during his service, and even once contended for the Dragon King position in the Dragon King Hall, then his character should not be in question.

After all, people already know how difficult it is to join the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow and even more so to join the Dragon King Hall.

But if that's the case, then why did Xiang Mantang go to the Mesopotamian ruins and trigger the dark turmoil?

Everyone's minds suddenly revisited the topic Mu Jinyu had previously touched upon.

At this point, Mu Jinyu no longer shifted the topic. He directly pointed to the screen behind him and instructed Mu Hongchen to release the photos and footage, then continued:

"I know everyone is very curious right now. Since Xiang Mantang earned so many first-class and second-class merits, why did he go to the Mesopotamian ruins and caused the dark turmoil?"

"Don't worry, I'll now explain the beginning and the truth of the matter..."

With that, Mu Hongchen pulled up the footage to play.

The people sitting in front of their screens watched the footage with Mu Jinyu.

The footage was somewhat blurry, seemingly from surveillance footage.

In the footage, Xiang Mantang, whose face was known to the public, paced anxiously outside the emergency room.

Viewer confusion arose, unsure why Mu Jinyu showed this surveillance footage.

Then the red light of the emergency room turned off, the door opened, and a group of doctors shook their heads at Xiang Mantang. Subsequently, Xiang Mantang rushed into the emergency room.

The picture flipped to surveillance footage inside the emergency room, showing Mu Jinyu lying quietly on a hospital bed, his face pale, seemingly asleep, yet also appearing lifeless...

Everyone who saw this scene felt a jolt, vaguely realizing something.

Chapter 1348: The Truth Revealed! Don't Fight Needlessly!

Seeing Mu Jinyu lying quietly on the operating table, almost lifeless, and Xiang Mantang standing silently in front of Mu Jinyu, shedding tears, everyone who saw this scene felt a stir in their hearts.

They also realized that Mu Jinyu, who had already become the Dragon King at that time, might have encountered problems while secretly defending the country.

And the failed surgery likely means they couldn't save his life, right?

Although it's unclear how Mu Jinyu is now up and lively after dying, it probably has something to do with the truth about the dark unrest he has to explain, which has been altered by others?

At this moment, the people watching the live broadcast, who were watching this footage along with Mu Jinyu, had a complex look in their eyes.

As expected.

Soon after, in the surveillance footage, Xiang Mantang, after a moment of breakdown, finally chose to have the doctors freeze Mu Jinyu, hoping that there would be a chance to revive him in the future.

Seeing this, people understood clearly that Mu Jinyu was indeed on the verge of death at that time, but because his body was preserved by Xiang Mantang, the preparations for his subsequent resurrection were made.

At this moment, Mu Jinyu appropriately added:

"I was almost dead at that time, with only one last breath left. Xiang Mantang and I were close like brothers, so he certainly couldn't accept my death and was determined to find a way to save me!"

"And then, everyone should be quite aware of the ten global organizations now, right? At that time, the Observatory Master of the 'Omniscient', claiming to have the truth of the world in their sight, approached Ah-Xiang and told him to go to the Mesopotamian Plain to find an opportunity to save me..."

Mu Jinyu said, his eyes falling into reminiscence, with a sigh, he continued after a brief pause:

"Subsequently, Ah-Xiang went to Mesopotamia, where he encountered another organization, 'Paradise Lost', a mysterious organization whose purpose is still unknown!"

"Then, members of Paradise Lost wanted to take Ah-Xiang to find the lost 'Garden of Eden', claiming that their organization was founded to search for the lost Garden of Eden..."

"They said that another Divine Tree, the Tree of Life, in the Garden of Eden, would definitely be able to revive me. As a result, Ah-Xiang didn't want to give up any chance to save me and chose to enter and take the gamble!"

"And the final result... I suppose you can all guess?"

Mu Jinyu gave a self-mocking smile and said, "That's right, that place wasn't the Garden of Eden at all, but a sealed Demon World. For various reasons, Xiang Mantang's actions led to the release of the demons within, the Night Parade of One Hundred Demons, causing human chaos, and the world descended into dark unrest..."

As Mu Jinyu spoke, a video appeared on the screen behind him.

After playing for a few seconds, everyone clearly saw that this footage was widely circulated in the West, showing Xiang Mantang transforming into a demon, unleashing a Ghastly Presence, and turning the nearby towns on the Mesopotamian Plain into ruins...

Upon hearing and seeing this, everyone finally understood the truth was so!

Xiang Mantang was indeed not suddenly insane with a desire to destroy all humanity by intentionally causing dark unrest and unleashing endless demons!

Instead, he was also a victim, deceived into the Land of Demons to save his brother and ultimately became a demon himself!

At this moment, people faintly realized that the widespread saying that Mu Jinyu sheltered Xiang Mantang, allowing him to avoid punishment after committing great wrongs, probably had issues...

Mu Jinyu sighed deeply and continued: "So, that's why I just said, currently the data and evidence circulating online are real in themselves, not fake, but there are significant issues!"

"Because there are people with ulterior motives who deliberately decapitated the sequence of events of this matter, cutting off the most crucial information, giving people the impression that the dark unrest, beast frenzy, and Ice Age were all conspiracies deliberately pushed by our Dragon King Hall!"

"And regarding the concerned disposal outcome of Xiang Mantang, saying that I'm shielding him, allowing him to hide from punishment is laughable..."

After speaking, another video played on the screen behind him.

This video isn't very clear, seemingly recorded with a phone.

You can see Xiang Mantang in the video, looking relaxed, waving goodbye to the person recording, then walking forward step by step.

In the video, a strange shadow is still behind Xiang Mantang, looking quite eerie, possibly a ghost shadow...

Xiang Mantang walked step by step, occasionally looking back at the camera with a look of reluctance, ultimately raising his hand like tearing cloth, ripping open a spatial rift, and then rushing in.

In this scene, it's vaguely visible that countless demons seem to want to escape from the spatial rift, but they are blocked by the ghost shadow behind Xiang Mantang, unable to get out...

Finally, the open space entrance completely closed, and the camera shook violently, as if running, then Mu Jinyu's figure appeared, chasing to the original space location, attempting with great reluctance to open the just-closed space entrance...

Soon after, this footage ended.

This footage was recorded by Jian Ruyan at the time when Xiang Mantang bid farewell to Mu Jinyu and Jian Ruyan, returning to the Mesopotamian ruins to suppress the Demon World at the cost of himself for memories.

After the footage ended, Mu Jinyu sat upright again, looking solemnly at the camera and said with a gloomy gaze:

"The appearance of the dark unrest was not what Ah-Xiang and I intended, it's just that we didn't anticipate how things would develop to this extent..."

"And Ah-Xiang indeed made a big mistake in trying to save me, resulting in countless deaths during the dark unrest. The sin is heavy, and both he and I deeply regret that, but he has also paid the price, using his body to suppress the demons, likely unable to come out for the rest of his life..."

The entire nation watching the live broadcast fell silent, realizing how cruel the truth was—Xiang Mantang wasn't sheltered because of his close relationship with Mu Jinyu!

His fate was worse than death!

Alone, he entered the world of demons to suppress them, essentially being eternally exiled into the Demon World...

At this time, people whose friends or family died in the dark unrest, either felt relieved, choosing to forgive Xiang Mantang, or felt justice, believing Xiang Mantang deserved death for his crimes!

Mu Jinyu, having composed himself, spoke earnestly:

"The reason I broadcast this explanation isn't to exonerate Ah-Xiang, nor do I seek forgiveness and pardon for his actions from everyone!"

"Although he made grave mistakes, he is willing to pay for them. However, he shouldn't be labelled as an insane madman with ulterior motives, accused of trying to destroy all humanity with his actions of releasing demons!"

"His original intention was merely to save me, his brother..."

With a slight sigh, Mu Jinyu's demeanor became serious.

"And the mistakes he made should never be exploited by those with ulterior motives to cause internal conflicts among humans. Instead, we should focus on recuperating and reviving prosperity after the great snow disaster, not be manipulated into internal conflicts and making senseless sacrifices..."

His last remarks were naturally aimed at the Brilliant Divine Authority preparing for the Eastern Expedition.

He firmly believed that the people of the Brilliant Divine Authority would also witness this live broadcast.

And he held a favorable impression of Reinhardt and others who sacrificed during the dark unrest, truly unwilling to engage in meaningless conflict with the Brilliant Divine Authority because of this...

Chapter 1349 Online Controversy! No Compensation?!

"Of course..."

Mu Jinyu's solemn gaze gained a hint of rousing fighting spirit as he said, "If they insist on coming eastward for an expedition, I won't be afraid of them!"

"It's still the same old saying — as long as they want to fight, we'll fight!"

"Thank you."

After finishing, Mu Jinyu stood up, bowed in front of the camera, and expressed his gratitude, then ended the live broadcast.

Although this live broadcast ended, the impact and discussions it sparked wouldn't just stop here; instead, they grew increasingly intense online.

"My gosh, that Commander Xiang is so pitiful. To save his good brother, he was unknowingly exploited and deceived, leading to dark turmoil. In the end, he had no choice but to use his body to suppress the devils — so unfortunate..."

"Indeed, when I initially saw those online evidence, I thought Commander Xiang was truly a madman — wondered how the Dragon King would be brothers with such a person. But seeing all those medals, I finally understood why the Dragon King is connected with him — such a pity..."

"Absolutely, Twenty-one first-class merits, thirty-three second-class merits — it left me shocked! Only then did I realize that the world wasn't as peaceful as we imagined before the dark turmoil arrived..."

"I still think the Dragon King's last words are so cool — if they want to come for an eastward expedition, then fight until they submit!"

"Sigh, my parents died during the demon turmoil. Initially, hearing that the dark turmoil wasn't an accident but man-made, I really hated that murderer Xiang Mantang to death. But after watching the live broadcast, seeing Xiang Mantang's lifetime of great achievements, I think perhaps the Dragon King was right — the dark turmoil wasn't their desire, it was an inadvertent mistake. If my parents were alive, maybe they would forgive Xiang Mantang too..."

"Same..."

Of course, besides being shocked by Xiang Mantang's achievements, many online choose to forgive his mistakes. However, there are also extremely radical people.

"Heh, those few idiots upstairs — parents' revenge is irreconcilable — how could you forgive them so easily?"

"Right, my family died in the dark turmoil. Who knows our suffering? What right do you have to forgive Xiang Mantang on our behalf?!"

"Exactly, even if Xiang Mantang isn't alive now, he might still be alive, and even if he's dead, I wouldn't forgive him! You idiots, don't represent me!"

"..."

With these statements coming out, naturally, there were people who rebutted.

"Who represented you? It's really funny — without reason — I clearly said if my parents were alive, learning about Xiang Mantang's contributions and inadvertent mistakes, they probably wouldn't blame him either — how is that representing you?"

"Exactly, we're just representing our own deceased family to forgive Xiang Mantang — it doesn't concern you if you don't forgive, why criticize us?"

"These people are truly nauseating — you don't want to forgive Xiang Mantang, and we won't say anything because you indeed have reason, but you don't have the right to criticize us either!"

"..."

The two sides began to argue.

In the end, the side refusing to forgive Xiang Mantang bluntly said that Mu Jinyu's apology on behalf of Xiang Mantang lacked sincerity — what do you mean Xiang Mantang made a big mistake, but he paid the price for it?!

He killed people and didn't apologize to those who died, then just committed suicide to end it all — can everything be ignored like it never happened?

Has he ever compensated for our losses?

I know many people lost parents because of the dark turmoil, leaving only young children — if not adopted by relatives, they'd probably die too — has he compensated for the grave crimes he's committed?

With this kind of talk appearing, the other side initially arguing grew quieter.

Indeed, because they could only represent their deceased loved ones to forgive Xiang Mantang's mistakes, they couldn't represent others. Considering the situation described by the other side, they also felt unease and discomfort.

Naturally, when faced with criticism from those who called them idiots and sanctimonious, they couldn't retort strongly either, and their voices were quieted.

Even some who previously thought they could forgive Xiang Mantang, after seeing these statements, felt perhaps it's true...

Xiang Mantang made a big mistake but never apologized, nor did he give any compensation to these families — choosing to forgive him like this seems wrong!

No matter how many heroic deeds Xiang Mantang achieved, if he made a mistake in the end, does he really not need to apologize — not need to compensate the victims?

As the online sentiment began to subtly shift.

That's when a post appeared, deeply investigating those who refused to forgive Xiang Mantang and claimed their family died in the dark turmoil while describing their miserably tragic lives.

Among these hundreds of accounts, the vast majority did not lose family in the dark turmoil; their family is alive and well, completely unaligned with their claims, leaving them without the right to stand as victims crying grievance!

Nonetheless, a few accounts indeed lost family during the dark turmoil, and their choice not to forgive undeniably leaves one speechless.

However, the poster then shared some photos and information, showing these people actually received compensation and care.

After their family died during the dark turmoil, the Dragon King Hall estimated the potential lifetime income their family would've earned until retirement, accounting for inflation, and awarded them sums ranging from millions to tens of millions, treating it as undiscovered inheritance at their family's death.

In addition, the Dragon King Hall didn't merely provide them a payoff and leave them — those who were working received considerable preferential treatment, and children studying, lacking talent in joining the Great Xia Martial Pavilion, were accepted...

Next, the account posted a large pile of evidence showing not only were these speakers involved, but worldwide, all families losing loved ones during the dark turmoil were secretly compensated by the Dragon King Hall.

With evidence laid out, those who initially ranted about Xiang Mantang's evils now found themselves speechless.

Unexpectedly, that sizable inheritance they received back then was actually obtained this way — they thought their parents were secretly wealthy!

At this point, they also realized why post-dark turmoil life seemed so smooth in work, study, and living — it turns out people had been quietly compensating for their wrongdoing!

They felt a wave of remorse, having just joined others online in criticizing Xiang Mantang for having never compensated them, yet here they faced the truth...

Chapter 1350 So Filial It's Killing Me! Jian Ruyan's Reaction!

"Haha, this is killing me with laughter. These people swearing they'll never forgive Xiang Mantang, it's hilarious!"

"Right? It's so funny. Clearly their parents and family are alive and well, yet they claim their family was harmed in the dark turmoil. If their parents knew what they were posting online, they'd probably break their legs!"

"Their parents: ??? My dear child, you're killing me with your filial piety..."

"These people have been exposed, why aren't they saying anything now?"

"Speaking of which, I almost got swept up with them just now, nearly believed the Dragon King Hall was in the wrong this time, so insincere, claiming Xiang Mantang should pay the price, yet the victims seem to suffer in vain. It wasn't until the official clarification came out that I realized the truth wasn't like that. Dragon King Hall never let me down."

"Indeed, that dark turmoil, strictly speaking, can't be said to be caused by Xiang Mantang. It was a conspiracy by Paradise Lost and Omniscient. Even without Xiang Mantang's desperate gamble, betting wrong, Xiang Man Garden and Fragrant Pavilion would have been tricked into opening Pandora's Box, releasing those demons. They could have done nothing to compensate for those who died in the dark turmoil and no one would say anything, yet they chose to make amends. I have to give them a thumbs up for that."

"..."

With that post from the original poster, the online atmosphere immediately cleared away the demonic spirits, and there were no malicious comments from trolls anymore.

Then, the original poster made another post explaining:

"Regarding the current misinformation and controversy online, let me clarify..."

"It's not that Xiang Mantang is cold-hearted, indifferent to those who died in the dark turmoil, and therefore never apologized."

"He didn't apologize because he didn't have time to do a live apology to everyone."

"Because at that time, there had been a period of dark turmoil, the wandering demons were too many. Even if Xiang Mantang could later control the demons eroding him, without causing more city-destroying damage, there was no time for apologies. The immediate priority was to clear the wandering demons worldwide and restore the world to its former state!"

"He took over ten days to finally eliminate all the demons, but those who experienced that time would know that the sun was obscured by ghost mist, the world lost over twenty days of sunlight, the environment and climate became extremely harsh, almost as bad as the recent Ice Age. Only then did he have to journey to the Demon World himself to dispel the ghost mist obscuring the sunlight and restore the world..."

"And those statements from fake victim accounts, claiming they've seen many children in dire situations after their parents died are fabricated rumors..."

Then, accompanying many photos and evidence, it showed that those children who became orphans were well taken care of, with no neglected endings of a tragic demise.

Finally, the original poster continued to say:

"The internet is not a lawless place. Those who randomly stir up trouble and fabricate rumors will be dealt with legally!"

Next, the original poster posted a bunch of photos of those posing as victims who said they would never forgive Xiang Mantang, being found and given a reality check... their faces full of horror.

After reading this post, the internet was quickly filled with a joyful atmosphere.

"Haha, this is killing me. Did this group really think they could keep being keyboard warriors and slandering people at will?"

"Damn, I suddenly feel like the Dragon King shouldn't have saved their lives during the Ice Age. Let them freeze to death!"

"Exactly, scum like this, living is a waste of air!"

"Dragon King Hall handled it well, thumbs up to them. Those kids who became orphans at such a young age are getting cared for, and they even have the chance to join the Dragon King Hall. This is the best news."

"..."

Rong City's Welfare Institute.

Cai Zhengyan, Guo Songlin, and others were following this matter closely. When they learned of Xiang Mantang's great achievements in battle, they were also astonished and gradually didn't believe Xiang Mantang could be insane enough to destroy the world.

Then after hearing from Mu Jinyu, they realized the truth was that Xiang Mantang had been deceived, leading to the dark turmoil, and they understood there was really a hidden reason for the incident.

They were completely relieved and had no grudge against Mu Jinyu or Xiang Mantang anymore.

Later, after Mu Jinyu's live broadcast ended, they continued to pay attention to the online public opinion, expressing support and understanding.

Seeing the wind direction changing soon after, they weren't led on this time, instead feeling something was off, expecting explanations to come out later.

Lo and behold, not long after, someone posted reality checks on these people, looking at their previous comments almost made them sick.

Finally, regarding that poster's clarification, they didn't doubt the truth at all.

Because they were at the welfare institute and would occasionally come to volunteer, they knew the kids here weren't ones who became orphans after the dark turmoil.

So Dragon King Hall wasn't lying, those children indeed got adopted or were being trained in the Great Xia Dragon Sparrow and the Dragon King Hall.

...

Yinlong Mountain.

Mu Hongchen saw the online wind completely change, with no more pretending victims attacking them, smirked, then clapped and closed the browser tab.

"These lunatics, for no apparent reason, pretending to be victims' families to guide public opinion. We really shouldn't have saved them back then..."

Mu Hongchen looked back at Mu Jinyu, feeling a bit down as he said.

"Ignore them, as long as we feel we're true to our conscience."

Mu Jinyu, though also not quite understanding these people's mindset, didn't dwell on it and said softly.

After he finished speaking, he turned to look at Jian Ruyan, only to see her pale face, haggard expression, and vacant eyes staring out the window, lost in thought.

Was she thinking about her brother?

Mu Jinyu sighed softly in his heart, wanting to comfort Jian Ruyan but didn't know how to start.

While the entire internet was attacking and cursing Xiang Mantang, he wasn't very concerned, nor deeply touched or angry, because he was strong enough to be oblivious to all sorts of slander and curses.

But Jian Ruyan apparently didn't have such strong mental fortitude, so when Xiang Mantang was being cursed and attacked by all sides, she was furious and constantly arguing with people online, almost ready to grab something and go to confront them.

Although she barely restrained herself in the end, the cyberbullying of Xiang Mantang, and some even insulting her entire family, had still had a significant impact on Jian Ruyan.

Yet Xiang Mantang also had his faults, making Jian Ruyan even more frustrated, unable to confront them.

At this moment, she must be missing Xiang Mantang a lot...

"Dragon Master, do we have any way to enter that Demon World?!"

Jian Ruyan, after staring at the window for a moment, turned back to Mu Jinyu and asked in a low voice.

"There will be." Mu Jinyu nodded with a determined expression.

But in reality, he wasn't that confident internally.

Because shortly after returning from Kunlun Ruins, feeling he had reached Unity Realm Stage, unmatched by foes under the heaven, perhaps could restrain demons, he also wanted to help Xiang Mantang in the Demon World, but unfortunately, he still couldn't find a way in.