

King Hall 321

Chapter 321 Nobility

"There are such magical pills?"

Wang Zhengbiao heard this and felt very surprised.

He had originally thought that accompanying Mu Jinyu to the Miao Zombie region meant they were bound to suffer greatly. Not to mention encountering danger, ferocious beasts, and birds of prey, just the poisonous snakes and insects in the jungle were enough to cause endless annoyance.

As a result, Mu Jinyu actually had such insect repellent pills, which would make their trip much easier.

Afterward, the group shouldered their backpacks and followed Mu Jinyu into the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains.

A few days later.

Nighttime.

The bright moon hung high in the sky, sprinkled with stars.

Mu Jinyu and the others sat by a campfire, with their tents pitched beside them.

They were sitting by the campfire, roasting a black-haired wild boar skewered on bamboo they had sharpened.

Light smoke curled up, and the aroma wafted far and wide.

This wild boar had blundered into their camp not long after they pitched their tents, providing them with dinner.

Initially, Mu Jinyu had planned to eat some frozen meat and then rest for the night, but luck seemed to be on their side, allowing them to have fresh meat they hadn't had in days.

"Is it ready? I'm starving."

Mu Jinyu rubbed his stomach, his nostrils flaring as he sniffed the wafting aroma of roasted pork, drooling with desire.

"It's almost ready, Young Master Mu, please wait a bit longer."

Wang Zhengbiao turned back and smiled at Mu Jinyu.

"Mmm," Mu Jinyu nodded slightly, just about to say something when his gaze suddenly sharpened.

Then, his ears twitched a few times, and he said, "Someone's coming, get ready."

From the sound of the footsteps, these people approaching them were probably not from Withered Tree Quest for Spring but ordinary travelers passing by.

But it was still best to be cautious.

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Wang Zhengbiao and the others also became alert, watching the southeast direction through the bushes with wary eyes.

Soon, accompanied by a rustling sound, the bushes were brushed aside, and then a group of about a dozen people came out.

The person at the front was a middle-aged man dressed in camouflage, with a crew cut, pronounced temporal muscles, and a sharp glint in his eyes as he surveyed his surroundings. Looking at his slightly clenched fists with even knuckles, it was clear that he was a highly skilled martial artist.

Of course, that was only relative to ordinary people.

In Mu Jinyu's view, this was just a martial artist who had barely stepped into the realm of Mingjin.

Presumably, he was the captain of the bodyguard hired by this group.

And in the center of this dozen people, protected by them, was a woman who looked to be about twenty-three or twenty-four years old. She had a lovely face, and although she couldn't compare to Gu Xiyan and others, she was still a pretty young woman.

Without much thought, it was apparent that she must be the employer.

"Wow, that smells amazing. It's so rare to meet living people in these Hundred Thousand Great Mountains, hehe, hello there," said the young woman as she stepped out of the bushes, glancing at Mu Jinyu and his companions before shifting her gaze. She didn't mind their guarded stance and instead looked gleefully at the roasting pig they were tending to, saying in a familiar tone:

"Did you catch this wild boar? That's pretty impressive. I see there's a lot of meat on it, and it looks like you won't be able to finish it all. Could you spare some for us? I'll pay for it!"

Mu Jinyu glanced at the group and realized they were indeed just ordinary travelers, so she didn't pay much attention and said indifferently, "Sure, one thousand yuan per jin of meat. If you can accept that, sit down and eat; if not, just leave."

Pork prices are currently rising, and even ordinary pork costs more than fifty yuan per jin. Wild boar meat is naturally more expensive but not to the extent of one thousand yuan per jin.

However, considering they were in the wilderness, one thousand yuan per jin of meat was still acceptable, especially since the group didn't seem to be short on money.

So Mu Jinyu set that price, indifferent to whether they accepted it or not.

"Sure, sure," the young woman said, without a frown upon hearing Mu Jinyu's price and immediately agreed to it.

After that, she prepared to move closer to where Mu Jinyu was.

"Miss," the middle-aged man said, frowning and tugging at her when he saw this, and then whispered, "In the wilderness, when you come across strangers, don't get too close."

"It's fine, he's so handsome, he can't be a bad guy."

The young woman didn't care, shook off the middle-aged man's hand, and just boldly sat next to Mu Jinyu.

After that, they started to share and eat, and the young woman instructed her subordinates to pitch their tents near Mu Jinyu's.

Naturally, Mu Jinyu refused.

Joking aside, even though he didn't take this group seriously, as he could deal with them with one hand, why should he let them stay close to him?

The young woman, rejected by Mu Jinyu, didn't show any awkwardness and instructed her subordinates to set up camp on another side.

Then, she started to ask Mu Jinyu for his name, trying to get acquainted, and then introduced herself.

From that, Mu Jinyu learned her name was Lin Qingxue.

After that, Lin Qingxue started to chatter away to Mu Jinyu about the purpose of her trip to the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains, as if she'd been holding these troubles in her heart for a long time without anyone to talk to.

After all, those subordinates were just that—subordinates. There were some things that were not easy to confide in them.

Mu Jinyu listened to Lin Qingxue's incessant talk, responding half-heartedly.

In his mind, he thought, "I didn't expect they were also looking for the Spring of Life. That Feng Shui Master must have some real skills."

According to Lin Qingxue, the reason she came to the Miao Zombie's Hundred Thousand Great Mountains was that her grandfather was gravely ill. Her family had spent a few billion to buy a five-hundred-year-old Changbai Mountain Wild Ginseng, which barely kept her grandfather alive.

Then, a Feng Shui Master pointed them towards the Miao Zombie's Hundred Thousand Great Mountains, saying they would meet a noble person, and then they would soar like a dragon taking flight, reversing their decline.

It could even bring their family out of their slump, and possibly, Elder Lin could turn danger into safety.

The People of Lin Family didn't take it seriously, assuming the Feng Shui Master was spouting nonsense. They politely sent him away and didn't think much of it afterward.

Then they tried to figure out how to keep Elder Lin's life hanging by a thread.

Seeing that there was nothing for her to do, and thinking that maybe what the Feng Shui Master said was true, Lin Qingxue brought a few bodyguards under the pretense of going on a trip to relax and headed to the Miao Zombie area.

However, they had been there for nearly half a month without encountering anyone, let alone any noble person.

Originally, Lin Qingxue was planning to search for a few more days before going back, but that night they happened to meet Mu Jinyu and his group, which was why she was so excited and agitated.

Mu Jinyu thought that Elder Lin was gravely ill and meeting a noble person could turn a bad situation around—wasn't that exactly him?!

So he began to think that the Feng Shui Master indeed had some level of expertise, and hence, his resistance to Lin Qingxue and her group decreased a bit.

Soon, everyone had finished off the entire wild boar.

Lin Qingxue's group of over a dozen people ate more than ten jins in total, and in the end, they paid Mu Jinyu over ten thousand yuan.

Although Mu Jinyu didn't care much about the money now, money can often test human nature, so whether treating illnesses or helping others, he insisted on charging a fee.

Chapter 322: Found

After the meal, everyone returned to their respective tents to rest.

One person stayed beside the campfire to stand guard, ready to switch shifts when the time came.

This was the routine for Mu Jinyu's side, and naturally, it was the same for Lin Qingxue's side.

The night passed without incident.

The next day.

Dawn just broke.

Mu Jinyu emerged from his tent, groggy-eyed, then went over to the campfire to prepare some hot food for breakfast, while Wang Zhengbiao and the others packed up the tent.

After they had packed up, they joined Mu Jinyu for breakfast.

It was the same on Lin Qingxue's side; after everyone finished breakfast and put out the campfire.

Mu Jinyu did not bother greeting Lin Qingxue or ask if she wanted to follow him to collect some of the Spring of Life for her grandfather's treatment. Google search Novel_Fire(.)net

If she chose not to follow, it would mean they were not destined, and her grandfather's fate was sealed.

As soon as Mu Jinyu left, Lin Qingxue quickly beckoned her people to follow them.

"Miss, you are..."

The captain of the bodyguard, upon hearing Lin Qingxue's command, wore a bitter smile and tried to persuade her not to follow Mu Jinyu.

Being a Mingjin Warrior himself, he could sense that Wang Zhengbiao and his group were extraordinary and probably not ordinary people. Entering the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains likely had a purpose.

Following them recklessly could cause resentment and lead to conflicts.

Lin Qingxue said, "It's fine, Jinyu is not a bad person. Although he didn't say he wanted us to follow, he also didn't forbade it. If he didn't want us to follow, he would have said not to follow them earlier."

She did not have as many concerns as the captain of the bodyguard; she was determined that Mu Jinyu was a benefactor for the Lin family, a rare find, and losing him was not an option.

"Miss, do you really think he is the benefactor the Fengshui Master mentioned?"

Seeing her stance, the captain of the bodyguard sighed in resignation and gave one final attempt at persuasion.

"Whether he is or isn't, let's just follow for now. If he doesn't allow us, we'll leave."

Lin Qingxue was very resolute.

Then, as Mu Jinyu's figure was about to disappear from view, they could not afford to delay any further and hurried after them.

After catching up, they maintained a cautious distance.

The captain of the bodyguard still worried that even this might offend Mu Jinyu and his group.

To their surprise, although Mu Jinyu's group was aware of their presence, they did not mind and allowed them to follow.

Mu Jinyu led the way, chopping through the thorns with a machete, carving out a path while he recalled the Route Observation Map obtained from an elderly villager in a small village.

If his directions were accurate, he estimated they would arrive in another half a day.

"I just wonder if people from the 'Withered Tree Quest for Spring' have succeeded in these past few days!"

Mu Jinyu was fraught with worry and urgency, eagerly hoping to find the pond.

Thus, thinking about the mere half-day journey left, he quickened his pace, hurrying towards the destination.

This was also why he hadn't invited Lin Qingxue to join them.

If he had brought them along, he would not only have to persuade them, spending quite some time, but also, with more people around, any mishap could slow them down and waste time.

And if they weren't teammates, he naturally wouldn't need to worry about them.

"Miss, they've sped up, are they trying to shake us off?"

The captain of the bodyguard, worried, glanced back at Lin Qingxue and said.

"Probably not..." Lin Qingxue was not very sure but then bit her lip and said, "Let's keep following."

"But Miss, can your feet endure it?" The captain of the bodyguard frowned, concerned.

They had been wandering around the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains for nearly half a month, aimlessly like headless flies. How could Lin Qingxue, a delicately raised lady, endure it?!

Her feet had long since blistered, and every day she forced herself to keep walking with them.

If it were any other wealthy young lady, how could she possibly continue like Lin Qingxue, persevering through these wild mountains and valleys just because of a Fengshui Practitioner's groundless claims?

She would have cried and demanded to leave long ago.

Therefore, they greatly admired Lin Qingxue.

"It's okay, let's hurry up and catch up with them,"

Lin Qingxue gritted her teeth and quickened her pace, catching up with Mu Jinyu and the others.

Half a day later.

It was almost twelve o'clock.

Mu Jinyu and the others still showed no signs of stopping and continued to move forward.

"It's time for lunch, aren't they stopping yet? Looking at the situation, it seems like they set out with a purpose. Could the young lady's premonition be true?"

The Captain of the bodyguard watched Mu Jinyu and others, calculating the time and secretly making guesses.

He turned back and saw that Lin Qingxue could no longer keep going; her feet were extremely painful, so she let a female bodyguard carry her to keep up with the majority.

The Captain of the bodyguard turned back around and continued following Mu Jinyu's footsteps.

He didn't know if his guess was correct, but he truly hoped that Mu Jinyu was the benefactor for the young lady, so Lin Qingxue's persistence would not be meaningless.

...

At one o'clock in the afternoon.

Mu Jinyu finally stopped and began clearing the thorns and bushes in front of him with his knife.

Suddenly,

a flat clearing was revealed.

And at the center of the clearing, there was a pond that stretched over fifty meters.

The water in the pond was very clear and clean, looking from afar like a jewel embedded in the ground.

Standing there, Mu Jinyu could even feel a faint trace of Spiritual Energy, which was refreshing to breathe and felt very soothing.

"It really is the Spring of Life. Even if you don't drink this water, just living here long-term can make one live to a ripe old age!"

Mu Jinyu exclaimed.

"Whoosh!"

At that moment, a shadow suddenly darted nearby.

A man wielding a machete moved as swiftly as a cheetah, his gaze cold and ruthless, his motions mercilessly aimed directly at Mu Jinyu's neck!

"Hmph!"

Mu Jinyu had long been aware of the Withered Tree Quest for Spring people being around, so he was not unguarded and dazzled by the Spring of Life. He kicked out fiercely, sending the man flying!

How could that man, even as a Genetic Modifier with the speed of a cheetah, compete with a Martial Arts Grandmaster?

Trying to ambush him was completely a joke.

With that kick, Mu Jinyu not only sent the man flying but also burst his spleen and other internal organs, killing him on the spot!

"Ah!"

Lin Qingxue, who had just caught up, originally absorbed and amazed by the transformed pond of the Spring of Life, saw a man rush out and slash at Mu Jinyu with a knife, then get kicked flying by Mu Jinyu. The man then fell to the ground, twitching and bleeding from his orifices. He was clearly not going to survive, which made her involuntarily let out a sharp scream.

"Whoosh!" "Whoosh!"

At that moment, more Genetic Modifiers, capable of easily killing a Master of Dark Energy, attacked Mu Jinyu and the others.

They possessed the speed of a cheetah, the claws of a wolf, the hearing of a bat, and the eyesight of a hawk. An ordinary person would stand no chance against them!

At this time, Wang Zhengbiao and the others had already thrown down the items they carried on their backs, extracted firearms, and with a fierce grin, they raised submachine guns, rifles, and shotguns, and opened fire together upon them!

"Bang!" "Bang!"

Chapter 323 The Snake Appears

These Genetic Modifiers, no matter how much they enhanced their bodies, no matter how tough they made their skin, when faced with modern firearms, they were still flesh and blood!

As Wang Zhengbiao and his men fired several shots, blood blossoms splattered in the air, blooming with a tragic beauty!

Afterward, they let out a few groans, and their bodies were swept away by the gunfire, collapsing on the ground, convulsing continuously, their flesh blurred so that their specific features could no longer be discerned.

However, from the color of their skin, they appeared to be a mix of black and white people.

Mu Jinyu didn't even bother to pay attention to these Genetically Modified Humans, for he knew they were no match for Wang Zhengbiao and his men. With a slight frown, he scanned the area ahead.

But he didn't find any other Genetically Modified Humans more formidable than these few, not even a single shadow.

"Could Withered Tree Quest for Spring have only sent so few people?!"

Mu Jinyu felt uneasy in his heart.

Even if the Spring of Life wasn't the Fountain of Youth, it was still a precious commodity. They were eager to steal the formula for his Beauty Pill; it was illogical for them not to bring people to carry away this pool of water!

But why were there only so few people guarding the edge of the Water of Life?

Mu Jinyu felt something was seriously off, his brow furrowed even tighter as he heard Lin Qingxue's shrill scream. He turned around, visibly irritated, and scolded, "Shut up!"

"Ah... hm..."

Lin Qingxue, who had been screaming nonstop, instantly fell silent upon being reprimanded by Mu Jinyu, sobbing a few times in response.

She was extremely frightened and aggrieved inside.

Initially thinking Mu Jinyu and his people weren't bad, she was shocked to find they carried firearms and had killed several people in just such a short time.

Would he... possibly... also kill her afterwards?

Lin Qingxue somewhat regretted not heeding the advice of the Captain of the bodyguards, stubbornly insisting on following Mu Jinyu.

Not only was she in danger now, but she had also dragged them into this deadly situation.

The Captain of the bodyguards wasn't as preoccupied as Lin Qingxue.

When he first saw Mu Jinyu and his men draw their guns and kill several people, he too felt alert and apprehensive, fearing they were now in great danger.

To his surprise, after killing those people, Mu Jinyu and his crew did not pursue them further; instead, they looked around, apparently searching for something.

He mulled this over, casting another glance at the corpses on the ground. Noticing that their skin color did not match, he guessed that these men were illegal entrants like mercenaries or poachers!

With that thought, he assumed that Mu Jinyu and his men were probably looking for their accomplices to continue the slaughter.

Since they hadn't threatened Mu Jinyu, he shouldn't have a reason to kill them, right?

It was hard to say, though, having witnessed their willingness to kill, who knew if they would choose to silence them permanently?

The Captain of the bodyguards remained vigilant, carefully pondering the situation, not daring to follow Mu Jinyu any further, nor daring to attempt an escape with the others, lest he provoke Mu Jinyu and his men to turn their weapons on them, which would spell the end for all of them.

Once Lin Qingxue stopped her pandemonium, Mu Jinyu ignored them and focused on surveying his surroundings, but ultimately he found no other members of Withered Tree Quest for Spring. Latest content published on novel-fire.net

"Could they all have left?"

Mu Jinyu speculated to himself, then turned his gaze to the center of the clearing, where the pool was embedded in the earth like a gemstone.

"Is it because of the python inside?"

Thinking this, a look of vigilance deepened in Mu Jinyu's eyes. He then started taking slow steps toward the pool.

"Young Master Mu, be careful."

Wang Zhengbiao and the Four Heavenly Kings under Mei Yinxue saw Mu Jinyu's action, their hearts also lifted with apprehension. They first glared at Lin Qingxue and her group to prevent them from running around and causing a commotion, then stepped forward to follow Mu Jinyu.

"Is their target that water pond?"

Lin Qingxue, having seen their actions, discarded her original sense of grievance and fear upon realizing they hadn't killed her immediately.

"Perhaps, judging by their cautious demeanor, there could be something dangerous inside. However, they're not paying attention to us now, Miss, should we hurry and leave?"

The Captain of the bodyguard said to Lin Qingxue, his tone laced with urgency.

Although Mu Jinyu and his group hadn't attacked them at this moment, who could say that, once they achieved their goal and saw that Lin Qingxue and the others hadn't left, they wouldn't be tempted to kill them to silence them?!

Therefore, the Captain of the bodyguard felt that this was the best opportunity for them to escape; to delay might be dangerous.

"No, let's watch a bit longer, I don't think they will kill us."

Lin Qingxue regained her composure and analyzed, "If there is something dangerous in that pond, wouldn't it be safer for them to kill us now and then look for the thing in the pond? There wouldn't be the added threat of us behind them. They haven't killed us now, so I expect after they succeed later, they won't make a move, as long as we keep silent, they won't do anything to us!"

Having said that, she paused, then added, "Moreover, I feel he might truly be my benefactor. What's inside that pond might just be the treasure that can cure my grandfather. If we retreat now, wouldn't all our efforts be in vain?"

Afterwards, Lin Qingxue turned her head towards the Captain of the bodyguard and the others and said, "I'm taking a gamble, willing to risk my own life, but you don't have to gamble with me. You can leave now, please just go!"

Lin Qingxue knew she was gambling, but her kind heart was willing to risk her own life, not wanting to involve the innocents in her gamble.

Had it been anyone else, even if they wanted to take a gamble at this moment, they would definitely have kept the bodyguards. If Mu Jinyu truly decided to act and kill them, having bodyguards as a shield would give her a chance to escape.

Upon hearing Lin Qingxue say this, the Captain of the bodyguard let out an internal sigh and shook his head, "I'm not leaving. What about you all?"

"Me neither!"

The others similarly shook their heads.

Lin Qingxue had treated them well. She came to the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains in Miao Zombie, knowing the dangers, she had already paid a large sum for their families' settlement.

Even if they died here, their families would live comfortably.

Lin Qingxue furrowed her brows, attempting to persuade them further...

Suddenly!

"Bang!"

From the water pond, there came an explosive boom, like the blast of a primer charge or dynamite detonating within.

The noise was enormous, water splashed sky-high, and even at a distance of over a hundred meters away, they were drenched.

"Wow, what is that?!"

"This... this..."

"..."

The few bodyguards beside Lin Qingxue suddenly cried out, their voices trembling with a hint of fear.

At their words, curiosity surged in Lin Qingxue's heart. While rubbing her eyes to clear the water from her head and face, she widened her eyes to look towards the direction of the water pond!

"Ah!!"

She let out an involuntary shriek.

She saw, rising abruptly from the pond, a great python that was twenty meters long, requiring three or four people just to encircle it.

This was only the portion of its body that had emerged from the pond; how much longer its body was underneath remained unknown to anyone!

Its scales appeared menacing, and under the direct sunlight of midday, they shimmered with a cold color. A pair of terrifying snake eyes emitted a cold and ruthless light as they stared at Mu Jinyu and his group standing before it!

Chapter 324: Kill

"Hiss, hiss!"

The Great Python spat out its tongue, its eyes filled with murderous intent as it glared at Mu Jinyu and his companions, seemingly furious that they had disturbed its deep slumber!

Mu Jinyu stood below it, feeling an immense pressure bearing down on him.

What a massive snake indeed, no, it was no longer appropriate to even call it a snake.

From the two small bulges protruding slightly on top of its head, it seemed that it was about to grow horns.

The Charming Daoist Nun had indeed not lied to him, this was a thousand-year-old Great Python that was about to transform into a Flood Dragon.

At this moment, Mu Jinyu began to understand why the people from Withered Tree Quest for Spring hadn't been able to take the Spring of Life for so many days, and had left only a few minor guards behind.

This monster had practically become a demon incarnate, clearly not something an ordinary Martial Arts Grandmaster could deal with.

If the people from Withered Tree Quest for Spring wanted to deal with this Great Python, they would need to use heavy firearms like rocket launchers or even atomic bombs.

But how could they dare to use such weapons in the territory of Huaxia? They would likely be blown apart on the spot!

Thus, likely after a few of them had died, realizing the difficulty of the situation, they had all retreated, leaving a few people behind to guard, to see if there was a chance that the Great Python might leave to hunt, so they could then grab some of the Spring of Life.

Mu Jinyu thought rapidly, daring not make any rash moves, fearing that it might provoke the Great Python into attacking them.

However, although he was quite reluctant to provoke it, the Great Python was not willing to let them go, as they had awakened it from its deep sleep!

"Hiss!"

After a standoff of a short while.

The Great Python suddenly let out a fierce hiss, then opened its mouth wide, saliva dripping everywhere, with a disgusting stench assaulting them.

"Bang!" "Bang!" "Bang!"

Wang Zhengbiao and his companions, holding their guns, trembled with fear but seeing the Great Python launching an attack, immediately started firing their triggers, unleashing a barrage of bullets toward it!

However, their barrage hit the Great Python's terrifying scales, only sparking a series of sparks, and unable to even break its scales, let alone injure it.

"Everyone, fall back!"

Mu Jinyu, though somewhat frightened as well, did not show it, but instead shouted to Wang Zhengbiao and the others in a deep voice.

Then, without waiting to see if Wang Zhengbiao and the others had retreated, he gripped the long rifle in his hands. As the Great Python leaned down to bite at him, he raised his hand and nailed the rifle under its jaw, then quickly let go and jumped backwards.

"Roar!!"

The Great Python, pinned by Mu Jinyu's rifle, immediately let out an extremely angry roar, blood splashing everywhere, and then attempted to chase after Mu Jinyu!

But Mu Jinyu's shot, which had gathered all his cultivation, not only pierced through its lower jaw but also penetrated its scales and firmly nailed it to the ground.

As the Great Python struggled, it was unable to break free, its head pinned to the ground, unable to lift itself to pounce!

"Hiss!!"

The Great Python began to curl up its body, instantly raising the rest of its body from the pool, splashing water everywhere, dancing wildly into a misty vapor.

Mu Jinyu watched in distress as the Spring of Life was being disturbed!

Nevertheless, as they fixed their gaze on the Great Python's body, they discovered it was over fifty meters long, a sight that made people's hearts tremble with fear, wondering how it had even fit into the pool.

Could it be that there was another realm inside it?

Mu Jinyu wondered.

"Bang bang bang!"

As the great python struggled to rise from the ground, the water in the pond erupted once again into a misty spray.

In this mist, the python's movements made it seem almost like a True Dragon soaring through the clouds.

Mu Jinyu's heart was pounding at this moment, terrified by the close encounter with death!

This snake was incredibly fierce!

Fortunately, he was agile, otherwise he would have been stuck between its teeth.

At this time, Wang Zhengbiao and the others also regained their composure, their hearts pounding so hard they felt they might jump out of their throats.

They had just heard Mu Jinyu's command, and although they were extremely afraid, he was their brother-in-law, so how could they just abandon him? Therefore, they didn't run away; although their legs were somewhat weak, they regained their senses and without hesitation fired their guns again at the dreadful snake eyes!

"Bang bang bang!"

Sparks flew, some bullets only hitting the scales beside the snake eyes, causing no damage to the great python, while others hit the snake eyes squarely!

Instantly...

"Roar!!"

The great python let out a fierce, anguished roar, and blood trickled from its eye sockets—it was wounded, though perhaps not seriously.

Injured, the great python began to struggle powerfully, continuously shaking its body, trying to rise from the ground to devour those audacious enough to hurt it!

Mu Jinyu, seeing this, was a bit scared, but knew this was an opportunity. If he waited for the spear pinning it down to be flung away and it regained its freedom of movement, even if he could escape safely, Wang Zhengbiao and the others would undoubtedly die.

So, without hesitation, Mu Jinyu yelled for Wang Zhengbiao and the others to leave with him, then ran back to where he had dropped his pack, picked up two Fine Steel Forged Longswords, and charged toward the great python's position again!

Wang Zhengbiao was stunned to see this.

He thought Mu Jinyu was ready to forsake the Spring of Life and flee while the great python was trapped. Instead, he had come back to grab weapons and fight the python!

Was the water in that pond really so important to him?

Was it worth risking his life for?

Wang Zhengbiao was baffled!

"Roar!"

Just as Mu Jinyu approached the great python, he saw it violently shake its massive body, raising its head forcefully, and the spear stuck through its lower jaw broke free from the muddy ground!

It was free to move!

Mu Jinyu was so frightened he almost ran, but remembering the importance of the Spring of Life, and that Wang Zhengbiao and the others wouldn't be able to outrun it and would surely die, he stomped the ground fiercely, leaping into the air in an instant.

Then, stepping on the great python's head, he raised the dual swords, gathered his Inner Strength into the blades, and stabbed at the giant snake's eyes, larger than his own!

"Pff-cht!"

The two Fine Steel Longswords immediately pierced through the snake eyes, and under Mu Jinyu's exertion of Inner Strength, kept drilling forward until they disappeared outside the eye sockets, into the snake's brain!

After a successful strike, Mu Jinyu didn't pause. He swiftly somersaulted backwards to land, and then sprinted towards where Wang Zhengbiao and the others were!

"Aoow!!"

Behind him, a furious roar erupted from the great python, followed by the earth-shattering sounds of its body thrashing against the ground and pond.

"Bang bang bang!!"

It was like a massive earthquake, shaking the ground to the extent that the bodyguards, who had tried to forcibly take Lin Qingxue away, couldn't even move their legs and fell straight to the ground!

Chapter 325 Rescue

After a while, the noises behind him gradually ceased.

Mu Jinyu climbed up from the ground, looked back, and saw that the great python, more than fifty meters long, was now lying by the almost dry pond, no longer moving, only twitching faintly a few times.

Mu Jinyu knew it must be dead, after all, his recent strike, driven by anger, made Piercing Stone and Splitting Gold seem trivial—he could have blown up a building without a problem, and with two swords piercing through, it was enough to turn the snake's brain to mush!

The fact that it could still twitch was purely because the central nervous system in its body hadn't died yet.

He then looked at the pond behind him, which had barely any water left, and felt a pang of pain in his heart.

This was the Spring of Life, and it had been wasted by this beast—such a tragic waste!

Fortunately, there was still a small layer of water left, which should be enough.

"Ow, it hurts so much!"

At this moment, Wang Zhengbiao and the others also climbed up from the ground, letting out painful whimpers.

When Mu Jinyu had run over, they had been ready to take him and run outside together, and if there was danger, they would stay behind to cover his retreat and buy Mu Jinyu time.

But who would have thought that the great python would roll and slap the ground, creating a scene like an earthquake, and they were knocked down, then shaken as if they had just crawled out of a car accident, with their bodies in severe pain and numerous abrasions from the pebbles...

Fortunately, when the surrounding trees toppled over, they didn't hit them; otherwise, they might not have died but would have been seriously maimed!

However, on Lin Qingxue's side, there were too many people and they had already dived into the jungle, so many were struck and injured by the falling trees.

One person even had their chest cavity collapsed, their breathing weak, expelling more air than they took in, and it seemed like they were not going to make it.

Lin Qingxue herself was unharmed, not even a scratch.

That was because before everyone else was knocked down, someone had already fallen to the ground becoming her human shield, and then she fell on top of that person; seeing the situation go awry, several bodyguards rushed to protect Lin Qingxue, shielding her with their bodies from the disaster.

That's why she had come out of that dangerous situation without a scratch.

"Whimper, Uncle Li, please don't die!"

"It's all my fault, I should have never followed you, Uncle Li wake up!"

Mu Jinyu was about to go and collect the water from the Spring of Life in the pond when he heard Lin Qingxue's sorrowful cries behind him. He stopped in his tracks, his chest heaved a few times, and after a long sigh, turned around to walk towards the group.

"Hm?!"

The group of bodyguards watching Mu Jinyu approach became alert.

However, they were all nearly incapacitated now and couldn't do anything to Mu Jinyu.

Moreover, the scene of Mu Jinyu leaping onto the snake's head and piercing through its eye with his sword was still replaying in their minds; even at their peak, they wouldn't necessarily dare to make a move on Mu Jinyu.

"Step aside, I can save him!"

Mu Jinyu said softly to the bodyguards who were trying to block his way.

The crowd was skeptical, hesitating to move aside.

Mu Jinyu said softly, "Given his condition now, death is almost certain. Let me try, what's the harm?"

At this moment, Lin Qingxue heard Mu Jinyu's words and abruptly looked up, then turned her head to look at him.

If it had been a somewhat capricious woman, she might have told Mu Jinyu to get lost at this time, blaming him for Uncle Li's condition.

But Lin Qingxue didn't think so, because her tearful eyes were staring at Mu Jinyu as she said, "Young Master Mu, can you save Uncle Li? Then I beg you to save him, please? Any amount of money is fine!"

This Uncle Li had just sustained injuries while protecting Lin Qingxue, having his chest and shoulders crushed by several large trees. The fact that he still had a breath left in him was already a great fortune.

If he could be saved, Lin Qingxue was willing to pay any amount, as long as she could afford it.

Mu Jinyu didn't mention money. Seeing that everyone had stepped aside, he walked over to Uncle Li, who was lying on the ground, and carefully examined his injuries, furrowing his brow.

The injuries were very serious. If it were any other situation, Mu Jinyu estimated he wouldn't be able to save him, especially since he didn't bring many medicinal supplies on his trip to Miao Zombie. However, currently nearby, there was a small amount of the Spring of Life, which might be able to save him.

"Go to that pool of water over there and fetch some water in a few bottles."

Mu Jinyu turned and instructed Wang Zhengbiao.

The reason he didn't ask Lin Qingxue's men to go was that Mu Jinyu was somewhat distrustful of them, fearing they would squander all of the Spring of Life.

Wang Zhengbiao and the others knew that their goal was for that spring water. Now that there was only a little water left in the pool, they would definitely treat it as precious.

While Wang Zhengbiao and the others went to fetch the Spring of Life, Mu Jinyu took out the Silver Needle and swiftly pierced it into several of Uncle Li's acupoints.

After a series of rapid punctures, he barely managed to keep Uncle Li's life hanging by a thread.

Then, Wang Zhengbiao finally managed to fetch a few bottles of water and bring them over.

Wang Zhengbiao's face showed a bit of reluctance as he handed the Spring of Life to Mu Jinyu.

His reluctance didn't stem from knowing the efficacy of the Spring of Life, but rather from feeling that they had gone through great trials and tribulations to come to the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains in Miao Zombie just for this water, and now there wasn't much left in the pool.

They were able to obtain it solely through the desperate efforts of Mu Jinyu, and now they had to waste several bottles of it for someone unrelated, which seemed unworthy!

Mu Jinyu took a bottle of water, pried open Uncle Li's mouth, and poured it in. Then he applied needles, stimulated Uncle Li's life force, and used his Inner Strength to mend the broken bones in his chest.

Afterward, seeing Uncle Li's injuries stabilize and the faint sound of his heartbeat gradually returning to normal, he let go of his worries. Turning to Wang Zhengbiao, he asked, "How much water is left?"

"Not much, just enough to fill about a dozen bottles."

Wang Zhengbiao pursed his lips, his tone somewhat reluctant as he spoke.

"I see."

Mu Jinyu responded, then gave Uncle Li another bottle of water and treated his internal injury completely before leaving it at that.

As for the external injuries, he would let time slowly heal them.

Then he took out another bottle of the Spring of Life and gave it to the several people on Lin Qingxue's side who also had sustained serious injuries, and treated them with acupuncture.

These people were initially ungrateful, thinking the water was fetched from a place where the Great Python had stayed, and felt disgusted, not wanting to drink it. Eventually, they were forced by Mu Jinyu to gulp it down.

Because without the Spring of Life, with their internal injuries, they might be fine now, but in half a day, one would die from a ruptured blood vessel in the brain, and the other would suffer from liver damage, which would also lead to death if left untreated!

Ultimately, Mu Jinyu couldn't bring himself to watch them die!

After forcing the water down their throats, Mu Jinyu then took out another bottle and gave it to Wang Zhengbiao and the others to drink, and also used his skills to treat their injuries.

Wang Zhengbiao and his companions didn't hesitate to drink it down.

Not to mention that they had learned from the old man's story that the water was precious, even if the water wasn't precious, as long as Mu Jinyu offered it to them, even if it were poison, they would still drink it without hesitation.

Chapter 326 Ten Thousand Year Wood Core

After Wang Zhengbiao and the others drank from the Spring of Life and received treatment from Mu Jinyu,

they felt completely relieved, without a hint of pain.

Mu Jinyu breathed a sigh of relief when he saw that they were all essentially fine, and he let go of his worries.

Although the Spring of Life was extremely precious, and its quantity had become even scarcer due to the great python's death throes,

to let Mu Jinyu ignore these people's life and death over just a bit of the Spring of Life was ultimately something he found difficult to do.

Anyway, the remaining Spring of Life, which was intended for the Old Dragon King, was already enough, so it wasn't really a waste.

Otherwise, Mu Jinyu wouldn't have been sure if he would have shared the Spring of Life originally intended for the Old Dragon King with them.

Seeing that they were unharmed, Mu Jinyu advised them to sit and rest for a while, and he also gave himself a few acupuncture needles to stabilize his injuries, then walked towards the location of the original pond.

That original clearing was now distorted with a fifty-meter-long great python lying there, and the previously smooth ground was cratered and uneven due to the python's desperate struggles, making it difficult to traverse.

It looked as if it was the epicenter of an earthquake or a field battered by a meteor shower.

After walking for a few minutes, Mu Jinyu finally reached the pond's edge, navigating through the pitted and cracked ground.

This original pond had clear water, but not clear enough to see to the bottom. Its depth of over twenty meters and width of over fifty meters meant that the great python could coil up its body and hide beneath, making it difficult to notice such a demon that had become a spirit!

Now, the pond was shattered by the great python's thrashing, with the Spring of Life either spilling into the air, turning into mist, or flowing along the channels.

And the little Spring of Life that was left, collected in over ten bottles by Wang Zhengbiao and the others, left only muddy sand at the bottom of the pond.

Mu Jinyu stood at the edge, looking down and pondering why the Spring of Life was here. Was it because of the spiritual demon beast or was there heavenly materials and earthly treasures internally?

Did these cause the water to mutate and allow the great python to cultivate in it, gradually becoming spirit?

Mu Jinyu looked carefully for a while and didn't see anything, but unconvinced, he furrowed his brow and jumped directly into the mud pond.

Since Wang Zhengbiao and the others needed to rest and eat, and couldn't move anyway, he could endure the pain and search thoroughly under the mud pond.

Jumping into the mud pond, Mu Jinyu steadied himself on the silt and circulated his Inner Strength, preventing himself from sinking into the mud.

Then, he bent down like a farmer harvesting lotus roots, beginning to search through the mud.

"What are you looking for? Let me help you,"

At this time, Qingxue, having seen that Uncle Li and the others were all safe and secretly astounded by Mu Jinyu's abilities, increasingly believed he was the noble person the Feng Shui Master spoke of, ran over and shouted to Mu Jinyu from the edge of the mud pond.

After shouting, she was about to roll up her trouser legs and follow Mu Jinyu into the mud to help him search.

Mu Jinyu, without looking up, said, "Don't come in and make trouble."

"Oh," Qingxue, upon hearing this, replied with a hint of disappointment, paused her hand rolling up the trouser legs, and no longer thought to jump in.

Mu Jinyu naturally wouldn't let her jump in to help. The mud in the pond was deep, and Wang Zhengbiao and the others had already struggled enough just to collect water. Her, a young girl with no martial arts skills, jumping in would only cause trouble, and he would have to save her.

Qingxue watching Mu Jinyu dig in the mud for a while asked again, "Is there anything I can help with?"

"Hmm," Mu Jinyu, shifting his steps, casually replied, "You could actually be of a little help to me."

Upon hearing this, Qingxue suddenly became excited and eagerly asked, "What help?"

"Quiet," Mu Jinyu said indifferently.

"Oh," Lin Qingxue reacted to his words, her excited expression momentarily stilled, and then she obediently sat by the mud pool, hugging her legs and watching Mu Jinyu's movements, no longer speaking.

Seeing that Lin Qingxue was no longer noisy, Mu Jinyu felt much better and continued to search for things in the mud on his own.

"Young Master Mu, lunch is almost ready, you see..."

At this point, Wang Zhengbiao and others, who were idle, had already started a fire nearby and were cooking. Seeing that the meat was almost roasted, they called out to Mu Jinyu.

Since they had eaten breakfast in the morning, they had been making their way here, and by a little past noon, they had not stopped for lunch. After the fierce battle with the great python and barely escaping with their lives, everyone was exhausted and unable to travel any further. So, seeing their condition, Mu Jinyu asked them to cook first, while he went to the mud pool to look for things.

"Hmm, just call me when the food is ready," replied Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu called out and then said to Lin Qingxue, "You go and cook as well, don't just stare at me."

"Oh."

Lin Qingxue could only respond with 'oh' now, not daring to say much else for fear of annoying Mu Jinyu, as her grandfather's illness might then remain completely hopeless.

As soon as Lin Qingxue left, Mu Jinyu dug into the mud a few more times.

"Hm?!"

Mu Jinyu raised his eyebrows, then withdrew his hand from the mud, flicked it a few times to shake off the mud, and then spread his hand to take a look.

It was a piece of green amber-like material—not exactly jade, not wood, and not fat.

Initially, Mu Jinyu thought it was just a rock and had planned to throw it away after grabbing it in the mud, but feeling a faint Spiritual Energy, he took it out and found it to be such an unusual thing.

"This is...?"

Mu Jinyu frowned and looked at it several times, his mind searching through the information about Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures that his master had once taught him, and his eyes began to brighten more and more.

"Could this be, the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core?!"

The so-called Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, as the name implies, naturally refers to the core of a tree with ten thousand years of age that also absorbed a sufficient amount of Spiritual Energy to come into existence.

A tree that lives for ten thousand years and absorbs nature's spiritual energy, regardless of its species, is considered an essence-evolved entity.

This wood core, like the inner core of a demon beast that has turned into a demon, is extremely precious.

The Ten Thousand Year Wood Core contains a massive amount of Wood Spirit Qi and the Origin of Life. If an ordinary person were to obtain it and keep it close to their body, they could live for several hundred more years.

For Martial Artists and Cultivators, it could make their cultivation twice as effective with half the effort, and with good Aptitude, reaching Grandmaster of Pill Cultivation or Master of Techniques by the age of thirty is not an issue!

"No wonder this pond turned into the Spring of Life, no wonder there was this spirit-possessed great python, it turns out it was all because of this Ten Thousand Year Wood Core!"

Mu Jinyu looked at the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core in his palm, his eyes filled with both shock and joy, not expecting such a significant gain from this trip to Miao Zombie.

If he had just run away out of fear of that great python, he would have truly come here for nothing.

And with this Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, if given to the Old Dragon King, it could not only extend his life for several decades, but considering the Old Dragon King's strong aptitude, with the assistance of the Wood Core, he might even break through his current limitations and live a second life!

It's truly like the revival of dead wood in spring!

Chapter 327:

Mu Jinyu was clutching the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, and for a moment, he considered not giving it to the Old Dragon King and keeping it to enhance his own cultivation.

Upon reflection, he realized that he didn't care much about cultivation anyway, and it would be better to give it to the Old Dragon King. By doing so, he would help increase the latter's strength, which in turn would better ensure the protection of Shenzhou!

"Young Master Mu, lunch is ready."

Just then, as Mu Jinyu was lost in thought, Wang Zhengbiao came over and called out to him.

"Oh, okay."

Since he had already found what he was looking for, Mu Jinyu decided not to waste any more time and, with a tap of his toe on the mud, he soared into the air and then landed firmly on the ground.

Afterwards, Mu Jinyu followed Wang Zhengbiao to a cleared area nearby, where several racks with different meats were being grilled.

After a quick lunch, everyone rested for a while, and then Mu Jinyu prepared to begin his journey back to River City.

En route, Lin Qingxue and her group naturally followed behind them, and seeing that Mu Jinyu was not overly fierce, she bravely stayed close to his side.

After hesitating for a long time, Lin Qingxue finally gathered the courage to ask softly, "Young Master Mu, could you accompany me back to Jinling to treat my grandfather? I am willing to pay whatever the consultation fee is!"

Mu Jinyu had already noticed her troubled expression throughout the journey, and upon hearing Lin Qingxue speak, he shook his head and said, "I don't have time to go there recently."

"Oh." Lin Qingxue's eyes dimmed as she responded quietly.

She knew it would be difficult to enlist someone like Mu Jinyu to treat her grandfather since he obviously wasn't sitting idle.

However, thinking about her grandfather's condition and recalling the Feng Shui Master's instructions, hope rose within her, and she couldn't help but inquire, thinking perhaps Mu Jinyu might be compassionate enough to return with her to Jinling.

Indeed... she was rejected again!

"However, you can tell me about your grandfather's condition. I'll see if I can simply prepare a prescription to treat him," Mu Jinyu added.

"Ah? Can you do that?" Lin Qingxue was taken aback.

Mu Jinyu said, "Of course, I am the Divine Doctor, effective in treating a myriad of ailments and saving countless lives."

Lin Qingxue hastily explained her grandfather's condition to Mu Jinyu, "Oh, so it's like this... and like this... "

After she finished describing the general situation, she also mentioned the diagnosis given by several reputable doctors hired by the Lin Family.

Mu Jinyu listened and then frowned slightly, nodding his head slightly, "Oh, I see. This disease is indeed very tricky. A single prescription without my acupuncture will probably not suffice."

Lin Qingxue grew anxious upon hearing this and quickly asked, "What should we do then? Young Master Mu, when will you be available to come over?"

Mu Jinyu said, "I probably won't be available anytime soon. I am not even sure if your grandfather can hold on for another half month..."

"Is that so..." Lin Qingxue's fledgling hopes were dashed upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words.

Seeing her pitiful expression, Mu Jinyu hesitated for a moment and then said, "Here's what we'll do. I'll give you this bottle of water. Boil it into several doses of medicine for your grandfather and massage him for a few days like this. He should be cured!"

With that, Mu Jinyu called Wang Zhengbiao to bring pen and paper, copied down the prescription, and instructed Lin Qingxue on how to prepare it. He also demonstrated the massage techniques to one of her bodyguards.

After they memorized the details and demonstrated the techniques several times without issue, Mu Jinyu said, "That should do it. There shouldn't be any problems. Even if something goes slightly wrong, your grandfather should still make it for half a year. Contact me then, and I'll come to Jinling to treat him."

Lin Qingxue nodded, then asked, "So Young Master Mu, how much will this all cost?"

She had just heard Mu Jinyu mention that saving a life would cost ten million yuan; given her grandfather's condition, ordinary people couldn't treat it, and he was nearing death. Therefore, it should be considered a life-saving situation, and at least ten million yuan would be required.

However, seeing Mu Jinyu's expression, he clearly didn't want to part with the water in the pool, guessing that the water must be strange and very valuable. Uncle Li had been saved just now, partly due to this water.

Thus, how exactly to calculate the fee, she wasn't sure, and could only ask Mu Jinyu.

"How much money does your family have?" Mu Jinyu asked instead of answering.

"The total assets are several billion, I guess?" Lin Qingxue wasn't too sure. She didn't care much about money and had never paid attention to how much her family had.

"Then this bottle of water will cost one billion, a total of one billion one hundred million," Mu Jinyu stated lazily without bothering to haggle.

If the Spring of Life were to be auctioned, wouldn't one bottle of water fetch more than a billion? There would be plenty of people willing to pay even ten billion!

However, Mu Jinyu, considering that Lin Qingxue indeed had a fate with him and curious about the Feng Shui Master who had advised her, was willing to establish a good connection, otherwise, he wouldn't have bothered at all.

"One billion?!"

The many bodyguards following Lin Qingxue gasped quietly when they heard the conversation between Mu Jinyu and Lin Qiaoxia.

However, they didn't feel that it wasn't worth the money, having personally sensed Mu Jinyu's appreciation for the Spring of Life and his miraculous revival and lifesaving skills during Uncle Li's treatment.

They all knew that the Spring of Life was absolutely worth the money.

Even to those wealthy individuals who had no means to buy life, it was worth much more than that amount.

Their astonishment was just in admiration of how easily Mu Jinyu could make money and their respect for the Feng Shui Master.

Regrettably, that Feng Shui Master had been invited by the Lin Family and had left, his whereabouts unknown; otherwise, they would definitely seek him out for advice when they returned!

When Lin Qingxue heard Mu Jinyu's quote, she thought it over and felt it was quite reasonable, so she said, "One billion one hundred million is indeed reasonable. However, you didn't just give me one bottle of water, there was Uncle Li and the others, using a total of three bottles, that should be four billion five hundred million actually!"

If it were any regular wealthy person or nouveau riche facing Lin Qingxue's current situation, they would definitely ignore this detail.

After all, Uncle Li and the others were just ordinary bodyguards; spending over three billion to save them didn't make financial sense. It would have been cheaper to let them die from the start, just paying a little for their family's resettlement and funeral expenses.

Hence Mu Jinyu didn't bring it up, certainly expecting to overlook this issue, or to let the bodyguards compensate the amount themselves!

However, Lin Qingxue didn't think that way. She truly wanted to build a connection with someone as unique as Mu Jinyu, so she wouldn't dare to take advantage of him. Even if he had forgotten, she felt obliged to bring it up herself.

Moreover, in her heart, Uncle Li and the others were nearly dead because they had tried to save her; the over three billion spent was essentially for herself, so she certainly didn't feel it was a loss.

When Mu Jinyu heard Lin Qingxue's words, he glanced at her in surprise, not expecting her to willingly return the money he hadn't bothered to calculate, but since he had initiated the rescue and they hadn't paid him to do so, he certainly wouldn't let them pay.

"No need," Mu Jinyu said languidly.

"We must," Lin Qingxue insisted, looking stubbornly at Mu Jinyu.

"Suit yourself then, just charge it to that card when the time comes!" Mu Jinyu remarked, glancing at Lin Qingxue again, then said nonchalantly.

"Alright," Lin Qingxue sighed in relief.

A few days later, the group finally emerged from the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains.

After parting ways with Lin Qingxue, Mu Jinyu returned to the small village, handed a bottle of water to an excited centenarian, and then took his leave.

Chapter 328 Dragon King's Demise

"Young Master Mu, do you think they will take the initiative to transfer the money?"

On the plane, Wang Zhengbiao's brows and eyes carried a trace of worry as he asked Mu Jinyu, "Should we make a trip to Jinling ourselves and keep an eye on them?"

Normally, Mu Jinyu would receive payment before carrying out a task and seldom provided his services first and then waited for payment afterward.

Even when he did, it was only with the backing and guarantee of families like the Xu Family and the Jiang Family, so if there were any issues, they could hold them accountable.

Or they could send their brothers to collect the debt, demanding ten times the compensation!

But Jinling was a bit far from them, and if the Lin Family decided to default, it wouldn't be so easy for them to collect the debt.

Therefore, on their way, Wang Zhengbiao kept thinking that they should have accompanied Lin Qingxue back to Jinling and kept the Spring of Life in their custody. After receiving full payment, he could then hand over the Spring of Life to save Elder Lin's life.

However, seeing that Mu Jinyu was having a pleasant conversation with Lin Qingxue, Wang Zhengbiao didn't dare to interrupt, only raising the question to Mu Jinyu once they were about to return to River City.

"No need, it's just a bit of money."

Mu Jinyu had long since become indifferent to money; he only continued to demand payment as a way to test people's nature.

Although one shouldn't readily test human nature with money, as it's easy to miscalculate, Mu Jinyu didn't care. Better to have a fallout with those recently met than to be disappointed later on when he might need them, right?

"It's just a bit of money, whether they give it or not, I don't really care, but in the future, they will be the ones to regret it."

Mu Jinyu looked out of the window at the cloudscape, withdrew his gaze, and said indifferently.

...

Eastern Sea.

One small unmarked island on the map.

The Old Dragon King, holding an Azure Dragon Crescent Blade, strode across the waves, with water splashing around him, creating a thunderous noise as he pursued a shadow in front of him!

On closer inspection, the shadow was a middle-aged man in a well-tailored tailcoat, pale-faced with dark circles under his eyes as if he often stayed up all night.

But judging by the two sharp fangs just barely visible at the corners of his mouth, this fellow didn't seem like a normal person.

After all, if he were normal, the Old Dragon King wouldn't have personally taken action to chase him and kill him!

"Cain, do you think dispersing the forces of the Dragon King Hall and attempting to test and kill me personally will be of any use?"

The Old Dragon King spoke and then let out a cold laugh, swinging his blade vehemently forward, immediately causing waves to splash everywhere and the tide to surge apart. A terrifying three-meter-high Sword Qi shot out from the Azure Dragon Crescent Blade!

"Even if my body is greatly declined, it doesn't mean a little Bat like you can pry into it!"

"Boom!"

The middle-aged man, running urgently across the waves ahead, tensed his body upon hearing the sound behind him, and suddenly a pair of gigantic Bat Wings flared from his back. Then with a powerful thrust, he soared up four or five meters high, barely dodging the Old Dragon King's strike!

"Bang!!"

The sea surface in front of him exploded with the cleave of the blade, and towering pillars of water shot up into the sky.

Following that, the Old Dragon King too leapt high, soaring five meters, and swung his blade horizontally. The blade's light swept across the sky, enveloping the middle-aged man and forcing him to retreat back to the sea's surface and continue rushing towards the small island ahead!

This man was none other than the lord of Fallen Splendor, the Blood Prince, Cain!

In the past several days, Fallen Splendor had been making frequent moves, threatening the borders of Shenzhou and causing the Hall Masters of the Seven Sub-Halls to head out to quell disturbances in various locations.

This had led to the dispersion of the high-level combat power of the Dragon King Hall!

At that time, Ruoxiang Man Hall had said to the Old Dragon King that it might be a ploy to lure the tiger away from the mountain. He had wanted to stay with the Old Dragon King to protect him.

But the Old Dragon King had refused. He knew that if Ruoxiang Man Hall or Jian Ruyan stayed by his side for protection, Cain would certainly not come in person.

He was aware of his own condition; though his body was in decline, he was still capable of wielding his sword. If Cain dared to come, he would capture this little Bat.

In doing so, he could use his battered old body to eliminate a great enemy for the Dragon King Hall!

Anyway, he didn't have many days left to live!

He had prepared all the follow-up arrangements for Dragon King Hall, waiting only for Mu Jinyu to return from Miao Zombie region!

After waiting for several days, Cain finally tested his strength and couldn't resist making a move against him!

Chased by him all the way from Capital City, he was now near the Eastern Sea Deserted Island!

At present, Old Dragon King began to feel his bodily functions rapidly declining, knowing he could not delay any longer. Since there was no one else nearby, he wouldn't force Cain, that little bat, into a corner to harm the innocent civilians!

"Ha!"

With a light shout, Old Dragon King gripped the hilt of the Azure Dragon Crescent Blade tightly, gathering a lifetime of cultivation into the tip of the blade, then suddenly cleaved forward!

"Boom!"

Instantly, a nearly thirty-foot-long terrifying blade aura, slashed out from the edge of the Azure Dragon Crescent Blade, tearing through the air towards Cain!

The fierce winds along the way, and the waves kicked up by Cain's stamping, were instantly calmed as the unrivaled blade aura swept through them!

Cain, who was running ahead, sensed the blade aura from Old Dragon King's furious strike and was so scared that his soul scattered. Desperately flapping his bat wings, he tried to escape the range of the blade's reach!

But to his despair, he found that the blade aura was extremely terrifying, reaching more than thirty feet high, and within those few seconds, he simply couldn't fly out that high!

With no escape, his body was enveloped by the blade aura. In his despair, Cain decided not to let Old Dragon King have the last laugh.

He spun around violently, his body flashing with blood light, then threw a punch towards the blade aura, piercing through it and striking towards Old Dragon King, who was weakened after unleashing the slash!

"Boom!!!"

When blade and fist collided, the resulting explosion sounded like ceaseless waves crashing, with water soaring into the sky. Within a ten-mile radius of the sea area, it seemed as though hundreds of torpedoes had exploded at the same time!

Time passed, unknowingly.

Old Dragon King, ragged and disheveled, emerged from the water with great difficulty and crawled step by step onto a nearby deserted island.

"Uh... uh..."

Lying on a large rock, Old Dragon King let out a few weak breaths.

Cain's final retaliatory strike, although most of its power had been swept away by his blade aura, hit him as he was in a weakened state and unable to dodge, thus still damaging his heart meridian...

Now, his time had come; he only had a last gasp of life left, a mere flicker before the end.

The old man's pupils dilated as he looked up at the azure sky, reflecting on his life.

In those years, with armor and horses, his Qi dominated thousands of miles like a raging tiger.

Who could ask if Lian Po was old, whether he could still eat?

...

Then, the old man thought of his deceased wife, daughter, and grandchildren.

In his life as the Tiance True Dragon of Dragon King Hall, he never failed to meet the expectations of his leaders, nor did he disappoint the common people, but he had failed his own family...

He was a qualified general but not a qualified husband, father, or grandfather!

Lying on the rock, the old man murmured to himself: "As the Dragon King, representing Dragon King Hall, as a king, I was destined to give and take, emotion and freedom, all were destined to be sacrificed..."

"Hehe..."

The old man suddenly let out a few tragic laughs and with his last bit of strength, slowly stood up from the rock.

"Clang!"

The old man, tottering, swung the Azure Dragon Crescent Blade, piercing fiercely through the rock, allowing his body to lean against the blade's shaft and finally stand firm.

"To live as a hero, and to die as a mighty ghost, may the spirits of Heaven bless my Huaxia, to never falter for a thousand autumns, all nations pay homage..."

As his words fell, the old man quietly passed away!

The figure standing with the blade, like a statue, would never move again.

Chapter 329: Bad News

Mu Jinyu returned to River City and, feeling somewhat dizzy from the overnight travel, decided to go home and sleep first.

The next day.

Mu Jinyu got up, had a simple breakfast, said goodbye to Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou, and then boarded a plane to Capital City once more.

Originally, upon returning from Gui Province, he had deliberated whether to fly directly to Capital City or to return to River City first.

Eventually, he thought it better to sleep in River City for a night, report his safety to Gu Xiyan and the others, and then head to Capital City.

After all, it was only a matter of one day, and it wouldn't delay anything.

When Mu Jinyu, holding several bottles of the Spring of Life and the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, slowly approached the courtyard that he had visited not long ago, pondering how to find an excuse to give the items to the Old Dragon King,

he saw white funeral banners hanging at the entrance of the courtyard!

"What is this..."

Seeing this scene, Mu Jinyu's heart suddenly sank, with a very bad premonition surging within him!

"This shouldn't be..."

Mu Jinyu's face turned pale, he clenched his fists, murmured, and with heavy steps, moved toward the inside of the courtyard.

His mind was in a daze, a total mess, feeling that this should not be the case. According to what he had observed that day, the Old Dragon King should have had at least half a month of good life left. He shouldn't have passed away so soon!

Could it be Uncle Fu?

Or another elder?!

Mu Jinyu walked into the courtyard with a pale face, and several servants of the Su Family, upon seeing him, slightly changed their expressions but did not speak up to drive him away.

The Old Dragon King's funeral was naturally not something that just anyone could attend, and if they were unaware of Mu Jinyu's specific identity, based on the incident where Mu Jinyu caused a commotion at the engagement ceremony the other day, they would have never allowed Mu Jinyu to enter.

However, Mu Jinyu was the Old Dragon King's grandson-in-law; they had no right to criticize him!

Mu Jinyu disregarded these people and walked toward the main hall in a daze.

Thereafter, he saw Su Zijin in a small black suit, her complexion pale but enduring the grief, instructing everyone in an organized manner in the hall that had been converted into a mourning hall.

Occasionally, servants approached her with items for her direction.

Behind Su Zijin, a black nanmu coffin was positioned.

Mu Jinyu stood frozen in place, the bottles of the Spring of Life and the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core slipping from his hands and falling to the ground.

"Clatter!"

Hearing the sound, Su Zijin looked up toward the entrance. Upon seeing that the visitor was Mu Jinyu, she too was stunned, her eyes reddening further.

Su Zijin didn't bother with the servants reporting to her at her side and walked towards Mu Jinyu. Bending down, she picked up the bottles and the wood core and handed them to Mu Jinyu, her voice hoarse, "Your grandpa-in-law is gone."

"Why so suddenly?" Mu Jinyu looked up at Su Zijin and asked. His own voice was so hoarse he could scarcely recognize it as his.

Su Zijin shook her head slightly, unsure, "Maybe he wanted to exert his last bit of light and warmth before passing away..."

Mu Jinyu fell silent again, staring wordlessly at the nanmu coffin in the mourning hall.

The old man's body lay inside.

He thought about going over and lifting the lid to see the old man's face one more time.

But he did not have the courage; his legs felt as if filled with lead and he couldn't move.

When we said goodbye the day before yesterday, who would have thought it would be forever?

Mu Jinyu recalled the memories he shared with the Old Dragon King and realized that their only recent interaction had been at Su Zijin and Shen Cangsheng's engagement ceremony.

Their first meeting and their last gaze were that chaotic engagement scene, silently sizing each other up...

"Haha..."

Mu Jinyu laughed a few desolate times, then took the Spring of Life and the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core that Su Zijin had been holding out, stuffed them into his pocket, and turned to leave.

"Jinyu... Jinyu..."

Seeing this, Su Zijin anxiously called out after him a few times, but Mu Jinyu didn't stop. He quickly walked out of the courtyard and disappeared around the corner, vanishing from Su Zijin's line of sight.

"Jinyu..."

Su Zijin called out sorrowfully once more, leaning powerlessly against the doorway.

"Apprentice sister."

Just then, an old man who had just reached the doorway looked puzzledly in the direction Mu Jinyu had left, then called out to Su Zijin, who was acting strangely.

Su Zijin heard the voice and originally didn't want to pay attention.

Because the news of Old Dragon King's death had just come out, and since early this morning, many people had rushed over upon hearing the news, while others were hurrying to the Capital City from other places.

She knew without thinking that the person greeting her must be someone who had come to offer condolences.

For ordinary people, with her identity as the Old Dragon King's only daughter, her seniority, and her now even worse mood, she rather willfully wanted to ignore them for the moment.

She would adjust her mood later, then go and apologize to everyone!

But Su Zijin turned her head to glance, and upon seeing the old man standing to the side, dressed in a neat and crisp military uniform, recognized his identity.

She quickly suppressed the irritation in her heart and greeted the old man, "Chief Lu, you've come..."

Although this old man was once a student of the Old Dragon King, he was also a high-ranking official, naturally not someone Su Zijin could afford to slight.

Not that she couldn't afford to slight him—given her status as the Old Dragon King's only daughter in Shenzhou, there were few people who would be dissatisfied with her for neglecting them during the Old Dragon King's funeral.

It was just that she respected the old man, didn't want to slight him, and also didn't want to fail in the Su family's courtesy!

Chief Lu did not ask further about Mu Jinyu's identity, nor why he had caused Su Zijin to lose her composure. His weathered face showed a hint of sorrow as he said, "Apprentice sister, please restrain your grief and accept the change..."

...

Mu Jinyu didn't know with what feelings he numbly walked out of the Su Family Old House, nor what exactly he was thinking.

After wandering for who knows how long, he didn't even know where he had ended up.

He stood in a dead-end alley, staring at the wall in front of him, feeling so uncomfortable that even breathing felt difficult.

Why did it turn out like this?!

He shouldn't have returned to River City first; if he had flown straight back to the Capital City yesterday, would things have been different?!

Or if he hadn't bothered with Lin Qingxue and the others, he could have come out of the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains a day or two earlier, wouldn't everything have been in time?!

"Ah!!"

Mu Jinyu let out a roar of fury, followed by a forceful punch towards the wall in front of him.

This punch was without Inner Strength, so his fist struck the wall heavily, and immediately, a smear of fresh blood flowed slowly down from the point of impact.

"Tap tap tap..."

At that moment, a series of footsteps slowly approached from behind.

Mu Jinyu pulled back his fist, wiped his face, then turned around to look at the newcomer.

Chapter 330: Top Ten Organizations

Mu Jinyu looked up and saw Xiang Mantang approaching slowly with a sorrowful expression.

"Mourn and move on."

Xiang Mantang walked over and patted Mu Jinyu on the shoulder, his voice choked with emotion.

The body of the Old Dragon King had been found by Xiang Mantang the night before, who then had it sent back to the Su Family in Capital City and had called Mu Jinyu several times.

But he couldn't reach him.

In fact, when Fallen Splendor frequently made moves, Xiang Mantang sensed something was wrong. While proceeding alone to quell disturbances outside the city, he had called Mu Jinyu several times.

However, he simply couldn't reach him because Mu Jinyu had already ventured deep into the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains, where there was no cell signal.

And even if there had been a signal, his phone's battery had long been dead by then. Not to mention, during the final fight with the great python, the phone and other items had been destroyed.

When Mu Jinyu returned to River City that night, exhausted, he went to sleep early and hurried to Capital City the next day without bothering to get a new phone or SIM card. Thus, it was only after arriving at Capital City that he learned of the Old Dragon King's death.

"Why did this happen? It wasn't supposed to be like this,"

Mu Jinyu said in a bewildered tone, murmuring, "I had already retrieved the Spring of Life and the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core from the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains, which could have revitalized him and given him a second life! Why was I just one day late... just one day..."

Mu Jinyu's voice was filled with frustration!

Then, with red eyes, he looked at Xiang Mantang and asked, "Who did it? Are they still alive?"

If the killer of the Old Dragon King was still alive, even though Mu Jinyu had no blood relation with the Old Dragon King, considering the countless efforts the old man had made for Huaxia, Mu Jinyu would still stand up to seek revenge!

"It was someone from Fallen Splendor, but their Demon Lord 'Cain' has also died at the hands of the Dragon Master,"

Xiang Mantang said softly, informing Mu Jinyu of the previous night's battle.

After finding the body of the Old Dragon King, Xiang Mantang had deduced from various clues nearby that Cain had died at the hands of the Old Dragon King, his body obliterated, not that the Old Dragon King had been ambushed and killed by Cain before he could escape!

Thus, they did not immediately seek wild revenge against Fallen Splendor but planned to first handle the Old Dragon King's funeral rites before settling scores with Fallen Splendor.

Although in this probe, Fallen Splendor lost far more top-tier fighters than did Dragon King Hall...

But since they dared to probe, they had to be ready for Dragon King Hall's revenge!

And Dragon King Hall's new Tiance True Dragon and other related succession procedures had already been arranged by the Old Dragon King for Mu Jinyu. However, Mu Jinyu was emotionally distressed and once again permanently lost a loved one, so he might not accept this for a while.

Therefore, Xiang Mantang did not tell him about these.

"Fallen Splendor? What kind of shitty organization is that?!"

Mu Jinyu frowned upon hearing Xiang Mantang's words and asked about it.

Xiang Mantang then informed Mu Jinyu that, besides Withered Tree Quest for Spring, there were several other organizations on Earth nearly as powerful as Dragon King Hall, and Fallen Splendor was one of them.

Along with this, there was also Brilliant Divine Authority!

"How many such organizations exist?" Mu Jinyu asked frowningly.

"Not many, just nine, and with Dragon King Hall, that makes ten," Xiang Mantang explained, "These nine great organizations are: Heavenly Palace, Dragon King Hall, Paradise Lost, Withered Tree Quest for Spring, Fallen Splendor, Brilliant Divine Authority, Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere, Way of Nature, Slaughter Redemption, Omniscient!"

"Introduce them one by one," Mu Jinyu said.

If it had been before, Mu Jinyu wouldn't have bothered to care about how many organizations there were in the world. What did it matter to him?

But after the Old Dragon King's death, he seemed to have grown, and he began to realize the heavy responsibility he would have to take on. Thus, he forced himself to understand these matters.

Xiang Mantang also realized this point and was very pleased to introduce, "Heavenly Palace is a powerful organization active in Kunlun Ruins, not active on Earth. Its power is very terrifying. It can be said that the combined forces of the other nine organizations are needed to contend with it!"

"The sect of Shen Cangsheng, for instance, is a small sect under the jurisdiction of Heavenly Palace."

As Xiang Mantang spoke, his tone became more solemn, and a hint of apprehension appeared in his eyes. "However, we will not be in conflict with them for the time being, so there's no need to focus all our forces on Heavenly Palace."

"As for Withered Tree Quest for Spring, Fallen Splendor, Brilliant Divine Authority, and others, I have already told you about them, no need to mention them again;

Paradise Lost is an organization formed by a group of madmen and geniuses. Its purpose is still unclear, but for now, it doesn't conflict with Dragon King Hall, so let's set that aside as well."

"As for 'Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere,' just from the name, you can tell what kind of organization it is.

It is a Buddhist organization, not merely a single temple or monastery, but involves monks from around the world, including our Huaxia, those from Dongying, and even demon monks from Southeast Asia..."

"'Way of Nature' is a similar organization, an alliance built by all Cultivators across the world."

"And 'Slaughter Redemption' can be termed the Assassin Alliance. It contains various assassin organizations from different countries, very cumbersome and large.

Originally, this organization did not exist, but decades ago, a super assassin upon hearing of 'Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere' and 'Way of Nature,' single-handedly defeated all assassin organizations in the world, forcing the leaders of various assassin organizations to join the alliance he created, 'Slaughter Redemption,' thus it emerged out of nowhere.

Born amidst slaughter and redeemed through death, that's the motto of Slaughter Redemption!"

"And 'Omniscient,' is an intelligence organization, spread across the globe, trading all kinds of information. It is said they possess the Heavenly Eye, nothing in this world can be hidden from them."

"Our Dragon King Hall often cooperates with them as well."

After saying all this in one breath, Xiang Mantang let Mu Jinyu digest the information slowly.

"Omniscient..." Mu Jinyu muttered the name of the last organization, then he thought of Lin Qingxue and the others.

It seemed... they had received guidance from a Fengshui Practitioner, and then they headed to Miao Zombie in the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains.

Without the guidance of that Feng Shui Master, it's likely they wouldn't have gone to Miao Zombie, and perhaps when he hurried back, he would not have been just one day late, forever separated by heaven and man...

Was that Feng Shui Master, possibly acting specifically on behalf of 'Omniscient' to prevent him from saving the Old Dragon King?!

Mu Jinyu speculated in his heart but wasn't quite sure.

Then, Mu Jinyu didn't keep it to himself but chose to ask Xiang Mantang directly.

After listening, Xiang Mantang furrowed his brows, murmuring, "There's that too?!"

After thinking for a long time, Xiang Mantang slowly shook his head and said, "I can't be sure if it definitely involves 'Omniscient', might just be a coincidence. I will investigate in a few days."

"Okay," Mu Jinyu nodded.