

King Hall 351

Chapter 351: Are You Convinced?!

Mu Jinyu left the church, walked out of the small town, and looked toward the positions where his three subordinates stood; his pupils involuntarily contracted sharply.

He saw that his three Energy Transformation–strong subordinates were now lying on the ground limply, sitting back to back with each other, with their condition unknown, dead or alive...

Next to them stood a middle-aged man dressed like a ronin, holding two tachis. Bathed in the clear reflection of the moonlight, they were shimmering with a cold sharpness.

"The Tiance True Dragon has finally come out, has he?"

Seeing Mu Jinyu, the Dongying swordsman began to speak slowly, his voice hoarse, speaking in Chinese. Although it seemed he didn't often speak it, he appeared somewhat awkward and stilted.

"Who are you?"

Mu Jinyu gazed at the ronin swordsman's twin blades and spoke softly.

"Nangu Taichi!"

The ronin swordsman said with a tone laced with some pride.

But as soon as he had finished speaking, he realized that the new Dragon King was but a young kid who hadn't seen much of the world and naturally wouldn't know who he was.

Had it been the Old Dragon King or the Seven Stars of the Big Dipper General, they would have surely known him.

Nangu Taichi then added, "The current Dongying Sword Saint!"

"The Dongying Sword Saint?" Mu Jinyu muttered, his expression growing more serious.

To be called Sword Saint, even in an island country like Dongying, was not to be taken lightly.

Nevertheless, this man didn't seem to harbor much hostility, as the three subordinates of Star Lords of Xingxiu by his feet weren't in any mortal peril but had merely been knocked unconscious by him.

Had that not been the case, Mu Jinyu wouldn't have calmly communicated with him; instead, he would have already exchanged blows with him!

"What business do you have?" Mu Jinyu glanced at the two tachis in Nangu Taichi's hands, and though he had an idea, still he asked.

"A challenge, Dragon King!" Nangu Taichi declared gravely.

He looked into Mu Jinyu's eyes and saw a flame burning there, full of longing and anticipation.

"Hah..." Mu Jinyu watched Nangu Taichi's expression, chuckled lightly, and folding his arms behind his back, he said indifferently, "When the Dragon King strikes, it's life or permanent injury, do you..."

"Still want to challenge?!"

Nangu Taichi, hearing Mu Jinyu's words, didn't think he was joking. He had observed the battle at the church from afar and knew Mu Jinyu's power was formidable. His youth couldn't be grounds for underestimation!

Clutching the hilts of his dual tachis tightly, Nangu Taichi said firmly, "A Dongying Samurai knows not to retreat even in the face of death!"

Seeing Nangu Taichi's stubborn stance, Mu Jinyu nodded slightly, extended his right hand toward him with a light gesture, and softly said, "Very well, since you seek defeat so wholeheartedly, I shall grant you that outcome. Make your move!"

Nangu Taichi, looking at Mu Jinyu's pale hands, asked, "Do you need a weapon?"

"There's no need," Mu Jinyu replied blandly. "My hands may be empty, but the world is in my palm."

"Fine courage!"

Seeing Mu Jinyu's boldness, intending to fight his blades with bare hands, Nangu Taichi couldn't help but feel a surge of irritation and then bellowed sternly.

Having said that.

Nangu Taichi, holding the two tachis, took a step and vanished in a flash, moving like a hunting leopard as he rapidly closed the distance to within three meters around Mu Jinyu.

With a swing of his twin blades, the sword light ferociously intertwined, slicing through the air, aiming for Mu Jinyu's neck and heart!

"Ha!"

Mu Jinyu, seeing the attack, didn't counter with his hands but repeatedly retreated to dodge Nangu Taichi's deadly sharp assault.

"Is the so-called Dragon King only good at bragging with empty words?!"

Nangu Taichi saw Mu Jinyu not daring to engage him and instead continuously evading. He couldn't help but show a sneer in his eyes, mocking as he pressed the attack with crossed blades.

Mu Jinyu wasn't angered by Nangu Taichi's taunts; he remained calmly in control.

Soon, under the relentless assault of Nangu Taichi, he came to a stop under a cherry blossom tree.

"Thinking of engaging in guerrilla warfare?!"

With a sneer, Nangu Taichi's blade transformed into action, its bright gleam under the moonlight like a spilling Milky Way, instantaneously severing two cherry blossom trees.

"Bang!"

As the cherry blossom trees fell, the swiftly scattering petals added a touch of bleak beauty to the fierce combat.

"Shh!"

Unmoved by the scene of the cascading cherry blossoms, Nangu Taichi's face held a deadly seriousness. With a swing of his blade, he aimed a strike at Mu Jinyu that pulverized the cherry blossom petals within a three-foot radius into dust!

"Ha!"

Mu Jinyu dodged swiftly and then came to stand under a particularly sturdy cherry blossom tree. With a forceful shout like the Roar of the Furious Dragon, he stunned Nangu Taichi, causing his ears to ring painfully and his movements to momentarily pause.

Then, bending slightly at the waist, Mu Jinyu embraced the trunk of the cherry blossom tree and, with a fierce yell, uprooted it.

It was as if he were Lu Tixia, effortlessly uprooting a willow.

In an instant, dust billowed, and smoke filled the air, obscuring the view of the cherry blossom grove.

"Whoosh!"

Next, Mu Jinyu swung the cherry blossom tree and, catching Nangu Taichi off guard, unleashed a terrifying wave of Qi, smashing it straight into Nangu Taichi's chest!

"Spit!"

Unable to regain his senses in time, Nangu Taichi took the full force of Mu Jinyu's strike, sending him flying backward like a kite falling from the sky!

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

The pain in his chest was unimaginable, not merely the pain of being hit by a tree, but also infused with Inner Strength, resonating like a distant punch, coursing through his entire body. Thus, Nangu Taichi couldn't hold onto his two Tachi, which fell straight to the ground.

"Thump, thump, thump!"

Wielding the cherry blossom tree like a preferred weapon, Mu Jinyu continued to pursue the flying Nangu Taichi, his heavy footsteps pounding on the ground.

He left behind a trail of deep footprints.

Mu Jinyu took large strides toward Nangu Taichi, like a tiger descending the mountain, swinging the cherry blossom tree upwards before Nangu Taichi could touch the ground!

"Bang!"

Immediately, Nangu Taichi's body soared skyward like a shuttlecock.

Once he landed, Mu Jinyu swung the cherry blossom tree down on him again!

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

In this manner, Nangu Taichi, who bore the esteemed name of the Dongying Sword Saint, had become a plaything in Mu Jinyu's hands, being mercilessly beaten twenty times before finally crashing heavily to the ground!

"Boom!"

The ground trembled, the waves of Qi surged, and sand and dust swirled fiercely.

A complete mess!

Lying on the ground, Nangu Taichi struggled to stand and engage in another fight with Mu Jinyu, but after trembling a few times, he felt as if all his bones had been shattered by Mu Jinyu's relentless pounding and could no longer hold himself up, collapsing heavily to the earth.

"Bang!"

Mu Jinyu dropped the cherry blossom tree, brushed off his hands a few times to remove the dust, and spoke softly, "When you began the fight, you ridiculed me with two sentences, amounting to twenty words, so I also struck you twenty times."

"Do you concede?!"

Chapter 352: The Death of Nangu Taichi

Nangu Taichi had long been knocked unconscious by Mu Jinyu, so how could he answer his question?

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu shook his head and decided not to bother with the guy anymore.

Afterward, Mu Jinyu walked over to Zhao Yuan, Gao Yu, and a few others, calling them to wake up.

"Ugh, it hurts so much..."

As Gao Yu and the others regained consciousness, they immediately felt a sore and aching sensation in the back of their necks, as if they had been struck by something heavy.

Then they remembered their mission and how they had become unconscious, and their faces instantly changed. They sprang up from the ground, shouting, "Dragon Master..."

"I'm right here, no need to shout."

Mu Jinyu interjected to remind them.

"Uh, Dragon Master, are you alright?"

Gao Yu looked at Mu Jinyu and asked cautiously.

He had no idea when he had lost consciousness and was worried that he might have delayed Mu Jinyu's important affairs, so he was quite fearful and anxious.

"It's fine now, let's go."

Mu Jinyu didn't blame them. Their strength was indeed far less than Nangu Taichi's; it was not surprising they were knocked out without even realizing it.

Zhao Yuan did not speak but looked around vigilantly, and soon noticed the nearby traces of battle and the Nangu Taichi lying on the side.

"That person..."

Upon seeing him, Zhao Yuan could not help but ask Mu Jinyu for details.

Mu Jinyu replied casually, "Hmm, he's the one who knocked you out. Some Dongying Sword Saint, Nangu Taichi. Don't worry about him, just let him work it out on his own."

"Sword Saint Nangu Taichi?!"

Zhao Yuan and Chen Sheng heard Mu Jinyu's reply, their pupils contracting sharply, and they couldn't help exclaiming, "It's actually him?!"

"What? Is he well-known or something?" Mu Jinyu asked curiously.

"Of course!" Zhao Yuan looked at Mu Jinyu with a complex expression and explained, "Nangu Taichi started learning swordsmanship at the age of eight, became a master at fifteen, and his swordsmanship reached a state of perfection. Then he began challenging known sword masters in Dongying. Within three years, he defeated all the top practitioners from various major schools, winning seventy-six battles without a single defeat. His name shook Dongying, and afterward, he went to other countries to challenge others. When he came to Huaxia, he also defeated many martial arts grandmasters from different sects. If it were not for the Old Dragon King who finally acted, perhaps the martial reputation of Huaxia that year would have been trampled under his feet."

Hearing this, Mu Jinyu touched his chin, his eyes reflecting thought as he murmured, "Sounds pretty impressive, but why did he seem so weak when I fought him?"

Gao Yu: "..."

Chen Sheng: "..."

Zhao Yuan: "..."

The three of them were at a loss for words. Was this supposed to be weak? They were top-grade experts in Dragon King Hall, but they were knocked unconscious by Nangu Taichi without even knowing it, and this was considered weak?

It was simply because the Dragon King was too strong, okay?

Mu Jinyu said, "No wonder he came to ambush you all. It turns out it's because he was defeated by the Old Dragon King long ago, and that grudge has lasted till today. He thought he could restore his reputation by coming after me?"

As he spoke, Mu Jinyu snorted, then his gaze shifted, looking at the paralyzed Nangu Taichi and said, "Should we kill him to avoid future trouble?"

Upon hearing this, Zhao Yuan showed a tempted look, but after contemplating, he shook his head and said, "Maybe no? This guy is just a sword fanatic, not really malevolent. Otherwise, the Old Dragon King wouldn't have spared his life back then."

"And most importantly, his master behind him, the former Dongying Sword Saint, Miyamoto Musashi, although he hasn't acted for many years, who knows whether his strength has declined or not?!"

"Kill him, acquiring a formidable enemy out of nothing makes no sense."

Zhao Yuan said.

After hearing this, Gao Yu and Chen Sheng also agreed, attempting to persuade Mu Jinyu.

"Alright then." Mu Jinyu actually hadn't truly intended to kill, it was more of a careless remark, and even if Zhao Yuan and the others had agreed, he might not have really acted on it.

Afterward, Mu Jinyu left the secluded small town with Zhao Yuan and the others, then boarded a private jet, and flew to Huaxia overnight.

Not long after Mu Jinyu and his companions had departed,

within the dilapidated church littered with corpses and rivers of blood,

strands of purplish-red blood qi continuously steamed and diffused in the void, weaving into a sinister and mysterious hexagram pattern...

"Humming..."

As this purplish-red hexagram appeared, the hexagram in the pattern started flickering uncertainly, casting a demonic glow.

It was as if it connected to a series of mysterious codes; then the hexagram revolved slowly, gradually revealing a crevice! This text is hosted at [Novel_Fire\(.\)net](http://Novel_Fire(.)net)

With the opening of the hexagram, an elegant figure stepped out of it with a leisurely gait.

This was an extremely handsome young man with sharp, clear-cut facial features, as though he was a perfect creation by the Creator. Even the most popular and beautiful female stars of the era would lose their luster and feel ashamed in his presence.

He wore a fitted purple-black tailcoat and held a wine glass in his hand, gently swirling the wine within, which was as crimson as blood. Then he brought it to his lips and took a small sip.

"Hmm, the new Dragon King of Dragon King Hall? Repeatedly striking at the branches of my Fallen Splendor, do you think that after Cain's death, my Fallen Splendor no longer has anyone left?"

The handsome man murmured softly, and the thick blood on the ground immediately began to evaporate faster, turning into waves of terrifying blood qi that rushed into his body.

As these waves of blood qi infused into him, the handsome man's presence continued to climb.

Mysterious dark runes started to appear on his perfect face, finally intertwining into a pattern resembling bat wings.

"Hiss!"

The clothes on his back tore, and a pair of purple-black bat wings, exuding an intensely evil and terrifying aura, slowly stretched out.

"Hmm..."

After a while, the terrible scene in the church began to subside, and the runes on the handsome man's face disappeared, with the bat wings on his back also retracting.

He took another sip from his wine glass and then smiled faintly, whispering, "I really do have to thank this new Dragon King. If he hadn't destroyed so many of my branches, my strength wouldn't have progressed so quickly. After all, if it were up to me to kill my own people, I truly wouldn't be able to do it."

Having said that, his ears twitched slightly, as if sensing something, and his wine-red eyes revealed a smirk.

Then, the handsome man stepped out of the decrepit church, out of the town, and arrived beside the unconscious Nangu Taichi.

He crouched down, looked closely at Nangu Taichi, and said softly, "A fine human, a pity that he's already ruined and can't be my First Hug. Well, seeing you in such pain, I'll give you a send-off."

After speaking, the handsome man extended one of his fingers, and his sharp, sword-like fingernail sliced across Nangu Taichi's throat, severing his windpipe instantly.

Time slowly passed, and Nangu Taichi ultimately met a pitiful end, breathless.

The handsome man stood up, licked a drop of Blood Bead from his fingernail, revealed an intoxicated smile, then let out a light chuckle. He unfurled the bat wings on his back, flapped them with force, and shot up into the sky!

"I, Lucifer, on behalf of..."

"Fallen Splendor!"

Chapter 353: Shen Cangsheng's Doubt

Upon returning to Huaxia territory, Mu Jinyu and his group were still unaware of the changes happening in Dongying.

After a night of flight, by the time Mu Jinyu arrived back in Capital City, the sky to the east was beginning to brighten with the light of dawn.

"You all go back and report to Dragon King Hall on your own," he said.

The red flag limousine slowly made its way to the entrance of the Su Family Courtyard and came to a steady stop. Mu Jinyu opened the car door, stepped out, and instructed Zhao Yuan and the others inside the car.

"Yes, Dragon Master!" Zhao Yuan and his company respectfully answered.

Afterward, the red flag limousine started again and sped away from the street.

Mu Jinyu watched them leave, slowly stretched, and despite not having slept for a day and a night, his Cultivation Technique ensured that even seven days and nights without rest would not make him feel the slightest fatigue.

He stepped towards the courtyard inside, and the aunties who were up early sweeping the yard all respectfully greeted him with "Good morning, Young Master."

Mu Jinyu nodded to each of them in response and then headed towards the dining hall.

Su Zijin didn't know whether Mu Jinyu had returned today, but she still got up early and made a big table of breakfast.

Mu Jinyu walked into the dining hall without tiptoeing to mask his footsteps, so Su Zijin immediately heard the noise behind her and quickly turned to look.

Seeing that it was Mu Jinyu who had come in, Su Zijin's eyes also shone with surprised delight.

"You're back, hurry and wash your hands, and get ready to eat," she said with a happy smile on her face, looking at Mu Jinyu.

"Hmm," Mu Jinyu softly responded, then washed his hands and sat down at the dining table.

Although he had known Su Zijin for some time now, Mu Jinyu still wasn't quite accustomed to interacting with her, feeling that there was still a barrier between them.

Perhaps it would take time to slowly break down this barrier.

Su Zijin was aware of this, but she didn't mind. She was already very content that Mu Jinyu could return to her side and call her mother.

She didn't expect Mu Jinyu to rely on and yearn for her like a child who had grown up under his mother's care.

"Come, try this, it's been a long time since I've made it, see if you still like it," Su Zijin said, placing a piece of pastry into Mu Jinyu's bowl, then put down her chopsticks, cupped her face in her hands, and watched him expectantly.

"You eat too," Mu Jinyu said after taking a bite, feeling a bit awkward with Su Zijin just watching him eat, and instigated her to eat as well.

"Alright, mom will eat too," Su Zijin replied, picking up a triangular cake and taking a small bite, smiling as she spoke.

Mu Jinyu fell silent and continued with his breakfast.

Soon, Gu Xiyan and the other two women also got up. Seeing Mu Jinyu had returned, they shared the joy with smiles on their faces and sat down beside him to start their meal as well.

"Mom, I have to head back to River City soon. There's a pile of things at the company that I haven't dealt with yet," Gu Xiyan said apologetically to Su Zijin after finishing her meal.

There were far too many matters to attend to at Jinyu Company, and though Gu Xiyan wanted to stay in Capital City to keep Su Zijin company, Xu Qingya was overwhelmed dealing with them alone, along with the plan to open branch offices in other cities.

Despite her need to return to River City,

Wen Rou, on the other hand, didn't have many matters to attend to in the company, so she could afford to stay in Capital City a while longer.

Gu Xiyan had already decided that once she had handled those matters, she would transfer her duties to Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia. She needed to extricate herself from the constant busyness at the company, which left her no time to spend with family.

"Going back? I'm planning to go back too," Mu Jinyu said.

Mu Jinyu, upon hearing Gu Xiyan's words, gave it some thought before he likewise spoke.

"Are you heading back too?"

Gu Xiyan was a bit surprised by Mu Jinyu's response.

She had initially thought that since he had only just recognized Su Zijin as his mother, combined with the recent death of the Old Dragon King, he would stay in the Capital City to keep Su Zijin company for a while longer.

Unexpectedly, just two days after the Old Dragon King's funeral had concluded, he was also ready to leave.

"Yes, things in the Capital City have been mostly settled, so it's time to go back."

Mu Jinyu did not look at the somewhat sorrowful expression on Su Zijin's face as he spoke softly.

His reason for coming to the Capital City was originally to present the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core and the Spring of Life to the Old Dragon King to heal him and extend his life, but he arrived a step too late and ended up only sending off the Old Dragon King on his final journey and taking charge of the Dragon King Hall.

Now that the Old Dragon King's affairs had been settled and he had handed over the Dragon King Hall to Xiang Mantang to manage, and since the main hall of Fallen Splendor still hadn't been investigated thoroughly...

Staying on in the Capital City didn't hold much meaning for him.

As for spending time with Su Zijin, he found it quite awkward; it would be better if Wen Rou and the others kept her company.

Gu Xiyan felt this wasn't good and wanted to persuade Mu Jinyu, but wasn't sure how to do it. After seeing the signal from Mei Yinxue, she hesitated for a moment before reacting and asking Su Zijin, "Then, would you like to come to River City for a visit?"

At these words, the previously sad and sorrowful Su Zijin suddenly froze, gave it some thought, and seemed intrigued.

Taking care of Mu Jinyu in River City wouldn't be a bad idea.

Mu Jinyu wanted to return to River City, perhaps because he was not accustomed to living in the Capital City. If she went to River City to take care of him, he would probably accept her, right?

Mu Jinyu's reaction to these words, however, was utter confusion, "???"

He wanted to return to River City precisely because he felt uncomfortable around Su Zijin; he needed time to ponder how he should interact with her.

He also wanted Su Zijin to calm down and stop treating him with such a guilty, compensatory attitude.

But with Gu Xiyan's intervention, wouldn't he have no escape?

And he couldn't exactly tell Su Zijin that he didn't welcome her and she shouldn't return with them!

When Su Zijin first appeared, he could have resisted her with such an attitude, but now, after the death of the Old Dragon King, he simply couldn't harden his heart to do so.

Su Zijin looked at the changing expressions on Mu Jinyu's face, and even though she was inclined to go with them back to River City, she was afraid of being scorned by him and said timidly, "If Jinyu agrees, I'll go back with you."

What else could Mu Jinyu say?

He could only manage an embarrassed smile and said, "I don't mind, let's go back to River City together."

"Alright."

Upon hearing this, Su Zijin's face immediately lit up with joy.

Mei Yinxue and Gu Xiyan, however, watched Mu Jinyu's slightly dejected expression and secretly chuckled to themselves.

After that, they arranged for tickets to be booked and flew directly back to River City by midday.

...

After Mu Jinyu and the others had left the Capital City.

Shen Family Villa.

Shen Cangsheng had nothing to do today. Even if he had originally had business, it had been transferred to others by Xiang Mantang, both overtly and covertly reducing his power and influence.

Shen Cangsheng paced back and forth in his room, furrowing his brows and muttering, "Several days have passed, why hasn't there been any movement from my sect?"

His two disciples, who were still healing, overheard Shen Cangsheng's words, also furrowed their brows and said, "Could there have been a delay on the road?"

"Maybe. Big brother, summon the messenger pigeon. If the people from our sect are already on their way, they should have written to us."

Chapter 354 Shen Cangsheng's Anger!

"Hmm, I've been busy with the affairs of Dragon King Hall and indeed forgot about this matter. Let me see what the elder martial uncles have written to us."

Upon hearing the reminder from the two junior brothers, Shen Cangsheng hurriedly began to whistle.

But after whistling several times, he saw no sign of the messenger pigeon returning from outside the window.

"Impossible!"

Seeing this, Shen Cangsheng's brows furrowed even tighter, murmuring, "Considering the speed of the messenger pigeon, it only takes a day to fly from the Capital City to Kunlun, and entering Kunlun Ruins then returning to the sect should take only two days. It has been almost ten days now. Even if it was delayed a bit in the Kunlun Ruins, it should have returned to the Capital City by now!"

His two junior brothers also felt that something was quite wrong.

Logically speaking, even if the trip from Capital City to Kunlun Ruins should only take a bit over three days, and round trip including rest shouldn't exceed eight days, it should have brought back the message the day before yesterday. Even accounting for some delays, it should have returned by yesterday or today at the latest.

But there was still no movement...

This cast a shadow over their hearts, bringing with it a bad premonition.

"Senior brother, go get the life medallion to see if there has been an accident,"

one junior brother suggested.

The so-called life medallion is a special jade medallion crafted by their sect. Made from a unique material, it stores a drop of essence blood, continuously emanating a glow. If the essence blood's owner meets a mishap, the entire jade medallion will shatter directly.

Spirit birds like the messenger pigeon, being extensively used, naturally have a life medallion. This way, if the messenger pigeon vanished without sending messages in time, they could check if the medallion indicated any accidents.

"Hmm."

Shen Cangsheng agreed and then went upstairs to search for the life medallion in a storage room.

At last, he looked down at a shattered jade medallion in the drawer, his face as black as coal.

The life medallion was indeed shattered!

The two junior brothers of Shen Cangsheng entered, limping.

They had been recuperating near Shen Cangsheng for nearly ten days. Although their wounds had healed significantly, it still takes a hundred days to fully recover from bone and muscle injuries. Even with the aid of top-quality healing medicine and being martial artists themselves, they were not yet able to move as freely as before.

"Senior brother, this..."

They looked at the shattered jade in the drawer, their expressions growing grim.

Shen Cangsheng's face was clouded with uncertainty, saying, "Judging from the cracks on the jade, it must have shattered ten days ago, which means the messenger pigeon was killed just after leaving Capital City!"

Normally nobody could tell when exactly the jade shattered, but the life medallion was different. Containing spiritual energy, it slowly dissipated once broken, so Shen Cangsheng could tell when the medallion shattered just by looking.

No need to take it to advanced instruments for analysis.

"Ten days ago, who could it have been? The new Dragon King?"

A junior brother's face turned dark as he quickly thought of Mu Jinyu.

After all, their miserable condition was all thanks to Mu Jinyu's doing.

"It shouldn't be him!"

The other junior brother spoke with a grave expression, "He hadn't even entered Dragon King Hall at that time, and given his age, he wouldn't know about the affairs of the Kunlun Ruins. There must have been someone else helping him."

"Then who could it have been?"

As the junior brother asked, he began speculating, "The Old Dragon King?"

"It's possible, given that Mu Jinyu is his grandson but... if he really wanted to help, why not just kill us outright? When our sect came to investigate later, he could easily claim we died heroically. Why go through all this trouble?"

Shen Cangsheng waved his hand and said, "Given the Old Dragon King's character, he would not have tried to kill me, although it's very likely that it was his doing."

Pausing for a moment, his eyes flashed brightly, and he added, "However, besides the Old Dragon King, there is another who might also take such a risk. I believe the real culprit is him."

"Who?!"

Two junior brothers asked in unison.

Shen Cangsheng replied, "Beidou Tianshu, Xiang Mantang!"

"Him?" Upon hearing this, the two junior brothers also recalled Xiang Mantang, whom they had met once before.

Regarding this man, they had always harbored apprehension, considering him a very dangerous person.

If it were him, it wouldn't be impossible.

But doubt arose again, and they asked, "But on the engagement day, he didn't show up at all. How would he know we were humiliated by Mu Jinyu? Even if he learned the news later and wanted to come to our aid, we had already released the messenger pigeon; it couldn't be such a coincidence, could it?"

Shen Cangsheng replied, "It's precisely because he didn't show up that day that I suspect it was him; he has been monitoring us, which is why shortly after I released the messenger pigeon, it was killed."

While speaking, Shen Cangsheng's face contorted with a ferocious expression, "Whether he did it or not, since the Old Dragon King has died, I now believe the murderer is Xiang Mantang!"

"Hmph, such a Jinyu Mantang, constantly spoiling my plans. Do you think just because you've become the Tiance True Dragon and taken over Dragon King Hall, that I would no longer dare to seek revenge?!"

A murderous intent was hardly concealable in Shen Cangsheng's eyes, reaching a critical point of madness.

Originally, he had expected that a senior uncle from his sect would soon come forth to seek justice for him, which is why Shen Cangsheng had been enduring so far, even though he had been harshly humiliated by Mu Jinyu that day, he had been suppressing his fury, not making a scene at Dragon King Hall!

When Mu Jinyu became the new Tiance True Dragon, he even abased himself by kneeling on one knee and loudly hailing him as Dragon King.

All this was under the assumption that a senior uncle from his sect would seek justice for him; this was why he was willing to adopt the attitude of sitting back and watching the drama, submissively acknowledging Mu Jinyu as his superior.

But now, knowing that the messenger pigeon had failed to leave the Capital City right from the start, his plans were completely ruined, and he was furiously enraged!

He was almost driven insane!

Having learned the truth, Shen Cangsheng felt like he was just a joke in the eyes of Jinyu Mantang.

He had originally wanted to laugh at their plight, but unexpectedly, in their eyes, he had long been a joke!

Clenching his fists tightly, the violent emotions in his chest almost caused him to lose control and create a huge disturbance in Dragon King Hall!

If it weren't for the fact that he knew he was no match for Jinyu Mantang, he would have already gone there to demand justice.

"Ding!"

Just then.

Shen Cangsheng's cell phone chimed with a message alert.

Shen Cangsheng took out his phone, initially planning to smash it to vent his anger, but after a casual glance at the screen, he immediately stopped his action.

"This..."

Shen Cangsheng looked at the message, then unlocked his phone, clicked on an app with a dragon head icon, and as the screen displayed a slowly opening palace gate, Xiang Mantang's newly posted message appeared within the Dragon King Hall's internal software...

It was about looking for a girl, which was a bit challenging because Xiang Mantang provided too little information, and there was only a childhood photo of the girl.

"This guy is clearly abusing his power!"

Shen Cangsheng murmured softly, then added, "This little girl, could she possibly be Xiang Mantang's younger sister? Why does she look somewhat familiar?"

Shen Cangsheng's two junior brothers leaned over and took a glance at the photo of the little girl, murmuring, "She does look six or seven points similar to Junior Sister Li. Could it be her?"

Chapter 355 Moving

Shen Cangsheng's face darkened as he thought for a while, then said, "Go back and investigate. If Junior Sister Li really is Beidou Tianshu's younger sister, haha..."

As Shen Cangsheng spoke, he began to laugh sinisterly.

He was quite aware of how much Xiang Mantang valued his long-lost sister, perhaps the only living relative he had left, who was also Xiang Mantang's only weakness.

Shen Cangsheng had thought about capturing his sister to threaten Xiang Mantang before, but gave up since he really had no idea what she looked like.

This time, Xiang Mantang, standing in for Mu Jinyu to take control of Dragon King Hall and abusing his power for personal gain, wanted to use the might of Dragon King Hall to help him search for his sister. This made Shen Cangsheng feel like he might find her sister before Xiang Mantang did!

If Junior Sister Li truly was Xiang Mantang's sister, then things would get interesting. He knew that Junior Sister Li wasn't highly regarded in his sect and was often bullied by others...

Thus, it would be easy for him to take her away.

When the time comes...

Humph!

He would make Xiang Mantang's life worse than death!

...

Inside Dragon King Hall.

Dressed in white, Jian Ruyan carried a sheathed sword and looked at Xiang Mantang standing in front of the floor-to-ceiling window. He softly said, "You finally decided to use the power of Dragon King Hall to help you find her."

"Yes," Xiang Mantang sighed deeply and turned around to face Jian Ruyan, speaking softly, "The Old Dragon King once offered to help me, but I didn't think it was right. Now that my senior brother has become the New Dragon King and put me in charge of Dragon King Hall, plus seeing their mother and son reunite... I just couldn't hold back anymore..."

Xiang Mantang's tone carried a hint of guilt, feeling like he was using his power for personal gain. After all, searching for his missing sister was his personal matter and should not be wasting the resources of Dragon King Hall.

But he could not restrain himself any longer. After so many years of searching without any news, he often wondered if his sister was already dead.

This time, he would indulge himself. If the people from Dragon King Hall couldn't find any trace of his sister Xiang Yinxui, then he would give up completely.

"We will find her," Jian Ruyan said with a softening expression on his usually cold face, trying to console Xiang Mantang.

"Thank you."

Xiang Mantang expressed his thanks and then turned back, standing in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, staring blankly at the swing outside swaying slightly in the autumn breeze.

...

Mu Jinyu and his people returned to River City.

Back at home, looking at Gu Xiyun and the other two women with Su Zijin, and then at the small two-bedroom and one-living room apartment, he realized it was time to move.

Actually, ever since Gu Xiyun had arrived at the small apartment, Mu Jinyu had thought about moving to one of his other properties, but seeing that Gu Xiyun and Wen Rou could also live together, he had been too lazy to move.

After all, he had gotten used to living here.

Even later, when Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia had received Villas two and three in Seaview Garden from Xiang Mantang and moved overnight, Mu Jinyu, used to his place, hadn't moved into Number One Villa.

But now, with Su Zijin joining, the small apartment could no longer house everyone, and Mei Yinxue had been constantly expressing her desire to move in as well.

Previously, Mei Yinxue had been uncompetitive and content to be a little lover; Mu Jinyu had always thought it better for them to live separately, but after Mei Yinxue threw a small tantrum, Mu Jinyu felt it was better to treat everyone equally.

"This place is too small. Sister Mei, contact someone to help us move," Mu Jinyu said as he asked Su Zijin to sit down and had Wen Rou prepare some snacks and tea before talking to Mei Yinxue.

"Are we finally moving? To my villa?" Mei Yinxue asked, eyes lighting up and slightly excited at the prospect.

"Let's forget about that. We'll move to the King of the Building I won before in Seaview Garden," Mu Jinyu shook his head and said.

Though there was no need to be too calculating between them, and with his current wealth, even if he lived in Mei Yinxue's house, it wouldn't feel like living off someone else's generosity.

But Gu Xiyan and her friends might feel uncomfortable, so they just went to stay at their own King of the Building apartment.

They had owned it for quite some time, and had only visited it once with Wen Rou, and never actually lived there.

"Fine." Mei Yinxue guessed Mu Jinyu's thought and covertly rolled her eyes at him before she took out her phone and sent a few text messages.

It was now after three in the afternoon. Although they had eaten lunch on the plane, it hadn't been very satisfying, so Wen Rou fixed some snacks and also cooked some noodles.

After they had eaten, the people Mei Yinxue called had arrived at the doorway, and then they started moving.

Actually, there wasn't much for them to move, since the King of the Building apartment was naturally fully furnished. They only needed to take their clothes and some large plush toys that Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou had bought recently.

Having packed everything, Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou looked back longingly at the small apartment one last time before they closed the door and left.

Their longing wasn't just for the apartment itself, but also for the time they had spent there with Mu Jinyu.

And now, moving away, they knew that they probably wouldn't live as freely as before.

After all, Mu Jinyu was now the Tiance True Dragon of the Dragon King Hall!

Even though he had started off as a hands-off manager, delegating the trifles of the Dragon King Hall to Xiang Mantang, he couldn't avoid his duties forever.

...

They got into the car and headed to the Seaview Garden Villa District.

A few minutes later, they arrived at the gate of Number One Villa.

Opening the wrought iron gate, Mu Jinyu led the women into the villa. After some bustling about, they finally got everything settled.

In the meantime, Mei Yinxue also ran back home, brought her own clothes, and fully moved in.

This fulfilled a long-held dream of hers.

Finally, Gu Xiyan didn't have to share a room with Wen Rou anymore; it had been quite inconvenient.

When they were choosing rooms, Gu Xiyan originally planned to pick the master bedroom, declaring herself the main wife.

But she was afraid that Mei Yinxue and Wen Rou would harbor resentment.

Even though Mei Yinxue said she didn't mind those things and Wen Rou wasn't the type to care, Gu Xiyuan's interactions with Mei Yinxue during the trip to the Capital City had been quite pleasant, and she no longer wanted to be in opposition with her.

Then, seeing Su Zijin's smiling face, Gu Xiyuan decided to let Su Zijin have the master bedroom.

This way, it was fair to everyone.

After they finished setting everything up, it was already past six in the evening.

"It's time for dinner."

Mu Jinyu stretched his back and said, "Let's not cook tonight, let's eat out."

Su Zijin nodded and replied, "Okay."

Then, recalling what Xiang Mantang had told her, she added, "I heard there are two friends of yours living in the nearby buildings; let's invite them for dinner too."

Her intention was to have Mu Jinyu quickly integrate Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia into the Mu Family, to expand and add to the family.

"Hmm, they might be getting off work soon as well. I'll give them a call."

Mu Jinyu was indifferent to having a few more people join them for dinner, and took out his phone to call Yu Linglong and the others.

But...

Their phones were switched off!

Chapter 356: Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia in Trouble!

"Hmm? Why is the phone turned off? Are they in a meeting?"

Mu Jinyu muttered to herself, feeling that even if they were in a meeting, given their status, they shouldn't need to turn off their phones. She then called Xu Qingya to ask about the situation.

Xu Qingya's phone wasn't turned off, and she was quite surprised to hear Mu Jinyu's inquiry.

"Hmm? Their phones are off? Weren't they supposed to have followed Xiyan to the Capital City just a few days after her group left?"

There was a hint of sourness in Xu Qingya's tone.

After all, she was aware that Gu Xiyan and her group went to the Capital City to attend to her grandfather's funeral, and they went there as granddaughters-in-law.

While Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, and Mei Yinxue really were with Mu Jinyu, she had no real reason to feel jealous, but Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia were a different story...

She had known Mu Jinyu first, after all!

Why was she the one being left out instead?

This was something Xu Qingya had been struggling with these past few days, unable to put her mind at ease.

She felt that in terms of appearance and figure, she was no less than the others, and she was just as well-behaved as Wen Rou, so why did it end up like this?

When Mu Jinyu heard Xu Qingya's words, her brow furrowed immediately, and she said, "What? They followed them to the Capital City as well? How come I didn't see them at all?"

"What?! What's going on?!" Xu Qingya, who had been feeling somewhat self-pitying, cast aside those emotions and became anxious upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words.

"Didn't they go to the Capital City? I remember them texting me that they were going there, and then there was no further news. I thought they were at the funeral and it wasn't appropriate to keep their phones on, to avoid disturbing anyone..."

"Let's leave it at that for now; I'll go and check it out."

Mu Jinyu, knowing she wouldn't be able to get much information from Xu Qingya, offhandedly made that remark before hanging up and turning to Su Zijin and the others, who looked worried, and said, "I'll go and check it out."

"We should go and see too," Su Zijin quickly said.

"Yes." Mu Jinyu nodded and briskly walked toward the door.

He had a hunch, guessing who might be behind the disappearance of Yu Linglong and the others.

The only ones he had recently offended who possessed the capability for such retaliation were Fallen Splendor and Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

Fallen Splendor currently didn't have a branch in the country and obviously didn't have the reach to manage such a feat, so it must be Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

Withered Tree Quest for Spring, after all, is a massive organization formed by two-thirds of the world's top-grade tycoons, and although it's suppressed by Dragon King Hall in the country, clearly they couldn't eradicate it entirely.

And Mu Jinyu, having taken down the Old Nun and the Charming Daoist Nun not long before, feared they might not be able to touch him and would instead target Gu Xiyan and her group.

At that time, not yet the Dragon King of Dragon King Hall, he couldn't mobilize top experts to protect everyone around him but had Xiang Mantang ask some of his men to protect Gu Xiyan and the women.

At the time, there weren't enough people to go around, naturally, so they hadn't protected Yu Linglong and her group.

After all, in his eyes, they were not his women, and getting them wouldn't be very useful for Withered Tree Quest for Spring unless they were desperate enough to disregard any threats!

But Mu Jinyu had underestimated the desperate madness of Withered Tree Quest for Spring, or perhaps their desperation for Everlasting Life, which led them to actually abduct Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia.

As for Xu Qingya, perhaps because there were many bodyguards from the Xu Family around her, capturing her without making any noise that could be immediately noticed was unlikely, so the people from Withered Tree Quest for Spring didn't try to take her.

"It seems the birthday celebration that day was too high-profile. If not for that, maybe they wouldn't have been captured by Withered Tree Quest for Spring!"

Mu Jinyu walked toward the adjacent villa number two, his eyes flashing coldly, then thought of something and took out his phone to call Shen Shuyao.

Although he seldom contacted Shen Shuyao and their relationship wasn't as close as with Yu Linglong and the others, who knows if Withered Tree Quest for Spring was crazy enough to just snatch anyone connected to him and easy to grab?

And Shen Shuyao was the first to stand up for him when he was ostracized by Lin Pharmaceutical; he still remembered that favor. If something happened to her, he couldn't just ignore it.

"Doot doot doot..."

"Hello?!"

The call connected, and Shen Shuyao's voice came through, slightly surprised.

"Jinyu? Has the sun risen from the west? You're actually calling me? Is there something you need my help with? I'll have to think about it."

"Glad you're okay, hanging up now."

When Mu Jinyu heard Shen Shuyao's energetic voice, he felt relieved. By that time, he had reached the iron gate of Villa number two and, without wasting more words with her, ended the call abruptly.

Shen Shuyao on the other end of the phone,

Clutching her phone, she was full of questions, "???"

After being stunned for a moment, she was infuriated, "What was that? What even was that, it's so nonsensical..."

As she spoke, she came to her senses and muttered to herself, "Glad he's okay..."

Shen Shuyao's eyes lit up, wondering, "Is he showing concern for me? Did he think something happened to me, so he called to check on me?"

"Ah..." Shen Shuyao sighed softly, "Had I known it'd be like this, I would have pretended to be sick."

...

Mu Jinyu didn't bother with what was happening on Shen Shuyao's end; he walked to the entrance of Villa number two, punched through the main door, and hurried inside.

Following the same method, he punched through the villa's gate and, looking inside, saw that it was completely empty, devoid of any sign of life.

At that moment, the loud alarm triggered by Mu Jinyu breaking the door also drew the attention of the security guards.

Leaving Gu Xiyan and the others to handle the security guards who were drawn by the noise, Mu Jinyu stepped inside and saw a cell phone on the living room coffee table.

It had a strange design, unlike the ones Yu Linglong usually used.

Mu Jinyu guessed it must have been left by Withered Tree Quest for Spring for contacting him.

He walked over and reached out to touch the phone. As soon as his fingers brushed the screen, it lit up instantly.

"Chirp chirp!"

A flurry of snowflake patterns flashed by, and then a person wearing a clown mask spoke in an ambiguous tone, tauntingly said, "Dragon King, ah, you've really kept me waiting. Four days, it took you four whole days to finally contact me."

"Where are Yu Linglong and the others?!"

Mu Jinyu, not bothering with idle chat, sternly demanded.

"Chirp chirp!"

The image flickered again, likely disrupted by a special device that even if given to professionals, Mu Jinyu couldn't use to locate his position.

Soon, the image stabilized once more.

But what appeared before Mu Jinyu this time weren't the clowns, but Yu Linglong and Yu Xiuwen tied up, their faces pale, lips cracked, looking as if they hadn't had water for days, along with Lin Qiaoxia and her parents.

"Dragon King, these past days I've been worried that you really are so heartless, that you would watch them starve to death, perish away. I was just thinking about whether I should capture someone else, but you've finally gotten in touch with me, really made me wait!"

The image flashed, and the person with the clown mask appeared again, speaking in a teasing tone to Mu Jinyu.

"What do you want for their release?" Mu Jinyu suppressed the anger in his heart, feigned calm, and spoke in a deep voice.

"Simple, pack up the engraving method for the Spirit Gathering Array and the Spring of Life, and place them at a location I designate. Once I get them, I will release them."

Chapter 357:

The Clown didn't act hastily like the Old Nun and the Charming Daoist Nun in confronting Mu Jinyu. He had already thoroughly investigated the situation and knew that the production of the Beauty Pill required the coordination of a Spirit Gathering Array.

And there was a high probability that the Spring of Life had fallen into Mu Jinyu's hands.

That's why he made such a request.

As for the matter of the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, except for Mu Jinyu herself, not even Wang Zhengbiao and his people knew about it.

Therefore, the Clown did not bring up the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core.

"Fine, but let me be clear beforehand. I only have five bottles of the Spring of Life in total. After you get them, don't think that I'm hiding more," Mu Jinyu said upon hearing the Clown's demand, a flicker in her eyes.

"I know that most of the Spring of Life was destroyed by that python, leaving not much behind, but surely there should be more than this minor amount?" the Clown said, sitting up straight with eyes that were usually full of mockery but now shone with a serious and venomous light.

Mu Jinyu replied, "Originally, I could have obtained more than ten bottles, but several people with me were severely injured at the time, with their lives hanging by a thread. I took out a few bottles to save them!"

The Clown could tell from the changes in Mu Jinyu's eyes while she spoke that she wasn't lying, and suddenly, cursed in frustration, "You fool! Aren't you supposed to be a miser?! Why waste the Spring of Life on a bunch of losers, you really are stupid enough!"

Mu Jinyu kept silent.

Giving the scarce Spring of Life to Uncle Li and the other bodyguards of Lin Qingxue to save their lives was indeed a wasteful action. Originally, Mu Jinyu thought she could be indifferent to the life and death of others, but when it came down to it,

she found that she just couldn't do it. To watch others die before her eyes for a Spring of Life she might need in the future, she ultimately couldn't harden her heart.

After cursing Mu Jinyu for a while, the Clown thought that five bottles of the Spring of Life, if used sparingly, should be enough for their laboratory research. He suppressed his anger and said, "Alright, hurry up and deliver these things to the trash can in front of Zhen Xiang Milk Tea Shop in Area C of River City Yida Plaza. Someone will come to collect them..."

As he spoke, the Clown paused, his tone filled with violence and ferocity, "Don't you dare play any tricks, like having someone follow or monitor the drop-off. If you keep watching after placing the items, my Withered Tree Quest for Spring will find out. Then, don't blame me for tearing up the ticket first."

"Hahaha..."

Amid the cold laughter, the screen twisted and shook once more, finally turning into static noise, and with a bang, the whole phone was rendered useless.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu let go of her original plan to have the phone examined by pros from the Dragon King Hall.

"Not to have anyone follow? You can find out? Haha... You underestimate me, Mu Jinyu!"

Mu Jinyu threw away the broken phone in her hand, her eyes radiating a cold light, the sublimation of boiling murderous intent reaching its pinnacle.

After that, Mu Jinyu did not go to check on Lin Qiaoxia's family situation in Villa Number Three,

as the video had already shown that her whole family had been kidnapped.

Upon stepping out of Villa Number Two, Su Zijin and Mei Yinxue had already dealt with the security guards.

It was mainly thanks to Mei Yinxue's efforts. Even though Su Zijin had an extraordinary identity, she had no influence in River City, and Gu Xiyao, as the CEO of Jinyu Group, was not recognized by the people in the villa district, so naturally, she couldn't handle the situation either.

But with Mei Yinxue's status, a simple phone call to the boss behind the Seaview Garden Villa District, informing him that they were only dealing with their own property, was enough to have the boss order the security guards to stand down and not interfere further.

"How's the situation?"

Su Zijin, seeing Mu Jinyu walk out of the villa with a somber face, asked anxiously.

"It's alright, it will be resolved soon."

A forced smile appeared on Mu Jinyu's face, to put Gu Xiyan and the others at ease.

If the adversary had not been Withered Tree Quest for Spring, and if the situation did not seem extremely thorny, with both Yu Linglong falling into his hands, Mu Jinyu would not have even bothered. He would have simply ordered people from the Dragon King Hall to find and exterminate him.

But now, hesitant to risk any harm to Yu Linglong, Mu Jinyu found he could not gamble on whether the Dragon King Hall could rescue them safely and had to employ his own methods to save them.

He returned to Number One Villa.

Mu Jinyu took out paper and pen, wrote down the method for setting up the Spirit Gathering Array, and after retrieving the Spring of Life from the safe, he also took out a bottle of medicine powder. He applied it to the paper and the plastic bottle before putting both into a bag.

After doing all this, he then produced a bottle of peculiar facial cream and placed it beside the table before summoning a few subordinates from the Dragon King Hall into his room.

After instructing them, Mu Jinyu opened the bottle of cream, started to apply it to the face of one whose height was similar to his own, and then began to knead.

Swiftly, the man's face, under Mu Jinyu's manipulation, gradually changed to resemble Mu Jinyu's own.

Unless one looked closely, it would be impossible to detect that this was an impostor.

The so-called Divine Doctor, if unable even to manage a disguise, would not be worthy of the title.

Then, Mu Jinyu also applied the cream to his own face, changing his appearance to that of the subordinate.

The reason Mu Jinyu was doing this was that he strongly suspected that the surveillance systems around the nearby community had been taken over by the Clown. If he did not appear for a long time, it was likely the Clown would suspect he had slipped away.

Therefore, he purposely chose a subordinate of similar height to temporarily take his place.

Meanwhile, he would be able to head out, following the flow of the Spring of Life and the layout of the Spirit Gathering Array to trace their headquarters.

"Let's go."

Tearing his gaze away from the mirror, Mu Jinyu said softly to the two subordinates.

"Yes."

"Mu Jinyu" and a skinny man responded, following the disguised Mu Jinyu out of the room.

Gu Xiyan and the other women, seeing them emerge, first looked at the "Mu Jinyu" behind him, about to ask whether he had a good plan to rescue Yu Linglong, when something seemed amiss.

That "Mu Jinyu" had the wrong look in his eyes.

They then turned their attention to the young man at the front, familiar and stern in gaze but unremarkable in appearance, and exclaimed, "Jinyu, how did you change into this look?"

Mu Jinyu thought to himself, "Indeed, those who are too familiar are able to spot that something is off at a glance. But since I did not send 'Mu Jinyu' to meet with the Clown, and only had him stay at home

as a puppet waiting for news, the Clown, monitoring this place, should not be able to see through the ruse!"

Thus, Mu Jinyu gave them a significant look and then glanced outside the glass window, before turning to address "Mu Jinyu" with deference, "Dragon Master, we are leaving now."

The other subordinate called by Mu Jinyu also said at the same time.

Having said this, Mu Jinyu did not look back at Gu Xiyan and the others, nor did he explain, thinking they were shrewd enough to have guessed his intentions.

Chapter 358 The Dragon King is Fake

Mu Jinyu left with another subordinate.

Su Zijin and the rest almost guessed his intention, and after wishing Mu Jinyu a silent blessing for a smooth journey upon his departure, they tried to soothe the anxiously pacing "Mu Jinyu" for a while, before going to prepare dinner.

After all, no matter how anxious they were about Yu Linglong and her companions' predicament, there was nothing they could do to help at the moment, and starving themselves was meaningless.

...

After leaving Seaview Garden Villa District with that subordinate, Mu Jinyu handed him the bag containing the Spirit Gathering Array and the Spring of Life, and then they split up.

After all, if he went to Yida Plaza with this subordinate, he would attract even more attention from the Clown's men, and vanishing suddenly would only arouse more suspicion.

Now that they had separated and disappeared, the other side wouldn't suspect too much.

The subordinate took the bag, got into the car silently, and then drove toward Yida Plaza.

Mu Jinyu took a detour, finally found a blind spot in the surveillance to disguise himself once more, and then set off for Yida Plaza.

When Mu Jinyu arrived at Yida Plaza, he flared his nostrils a few times but didn't smell the medicine powder he had left on the papers and the Spring of Life. It seemed the subordinate, heeding his instructions, was indeed a bit slow and had not yet arrived at Yida Plaza.

Afterwards, Mu Jinyu went into a clothing store, bought a few outfits at random, took the bags to a crowded public area to change, and then disguised himself again before waiting in front of Zhen Xiang Milk Tea Shop.

Even if he had stayed in the same outfit and appearance, the people from Withered Tree Quest for Spring might not have recognized anything, but it was still better to be cautious.

After ordering a milk tea, Mu Jinyu waited in front of the tea shop for a while. His subordinate, carrying the bag with the documents of the Spirit Gathering Array and the Spring of Life, finally arrived.

The subordinate looked around upon arrival, didn't see Mu Jinyu but guessed that the Dragon King had probably disguised himself and was squatting nearby.

Without further action, to avoid raising suspicion from the people of Withered Tree Quest for Spring, he walked up to a trash can as instructed by Mu Jinyu.

He tossed the bag inside and then walked away without looking back.

Mu Jinyu watched this scene quietly, his expression unchanging, waiting for the Clown's men to come and retrieve the items before following them.

It was only a short while before a person wearing sunglasses, a mask, and gloves came over, located the bag that Mu Jinyu's subordinate had thrown into the trash can, and took it.

Thereafter, he didn't leave immediately but checked it first.

After making sure there were no tracking devices, he turned and left the place.

Mu Jinyu didn't follow immediately. He waited another five minutes before leisurely leaving the tea shop, going to a public restroom to change into new clothes, disguised himself again, and upon leaving the restroom, he quickly followed in the direction of the masked man.

Halfway through the pursuit, Mu Jinyu's expression shifted subtly, then he revealed a cold smile.

In his perception, that masked man had probably handed the items over to someone else by now, and once the other person received them, he quickly copied the method for setting up the Spirit Gathering Array, transferring the Spring of Life into a new sterilized bottle.

After finishing these tasks, the person burned both the newly written method for the Spirit Gathering Array and the original bottle which contained the Spring of Life.

"Do you think this is going to work?"

Mu Jinyu scoffed coldly.

The medicine powder he had applied to the paper and the bottle was a very unique drug, and as long as a person came into contact with it, even if they copied the paper or changed the bottle, the substance would still remain.

It was simply futile.

Then, based on the direction and movement of the two areas where the medicine powder scent lingered, Mu Jinyu was certain that the person quickly moving was the one from Withered Tree Quest for Spring, who, in his haste, was taking the documents and Spring of Life to the Clown.

So, he changed his direction and started to pursue it.

In an abandoned factory in the suburbs of River City.

The Clown listened to the subordinate's report, his brows slightly furrowed.

"He's been staying at home the whole time, with no action?"

"Yes, he probably cares too much about those two women, so he dares not make any rash moves, fearing that we would harm them. According to our investigation, his character is indeed like that."

A man nearly two meters tall spoke to the Clown with a voice as deep as a bell.

Thinking it over, the Clown said, "Perhaps, where has the Spring of Life and the Spirit Gathering Array reached now?"

The strong man replied, "In another ten minutes, it should arrive. The members of Dragon King Hall we have under surveillance haven't caught up, all motionless, it's just..."

"Just what?!" the Clown asked.

The strong man said, "The first member of Dragon King Hall to leave Number One Villa at Seaview Garden disappeared after going to the high-speed railway station. We have no idea where he went; we haven't been able to find him."

"Hmm?!"

Upon hearing that, the Clown's brow furrowed, adding, "You're saying he disappeared? After leaving the Dragon King's home and going to the high-speed railway station, he vanished."

"Yes, he probably followed Dragon King's orders to do something else," said the strong man.

"Bang!"

The Clown slammed his hand on the table and said in a deep voice, "Bring up the surveillance video from the Dragon King's house for me; I want to watch it again."

"Yes," the strong man's heart trembled upon hearing this, feeling that something bad might have happened, hastily calling someone to bring up the surveillance video for the Clown.

Watching Mu Jinyu on the screen, the Clown looked carefully for a long while but couldn't spot any problems. His expression was anxious and irritable, occasionally roaring in response to the persuasions directed at Gu Xiyan and the others.

'Did I guess wrong?'

Thinking thus, the Clown suddenly narrowed his eyes and rewatched the video, spotting something amiss.

It was when Su Zijin faced Mu Jinyu's roar, she seemed very frightened but didn't have that genuine sense of utter panic!!

"This Dragon King is a fake!"

The Clown suddenly realized that Mu Jinyu likely possessed a disguise technique beyond imagination, probably having changed countless faces along the way, stealthily following his own subordinate carrying the Spring of Life to this temporary base.

"Send a message to Number Two quickly, tell him to stop, not to come this way."

The Clown clenched his fists, a sense of urgency and fear filling his heart.

Despite showing disdain in the video confrontation with Mu Jinyu, the new Dragon King of Dragon King Hall, the Clown was actually very afraid of her.

After all, Mu Jinyu's strength was such that she could sweep through the Twenty-Eight Constellation Lords of Dragon King Hall. How could he, a Genetic Modifier with strength no less than that of a Martial Arts Grandmaster, withstand a punch from her?!

If Mu Jinyu showed up, he feared it would undoubtedly be his end!

"Yes!"

The strong man also sensed the dire situation, quickly taking out a specially made communicator to send a message to the cohort with the Spring of Life, instructing him to head elsewhere fast.

The strong man glanced at the communicator and saw that eight minutes had passed since he mentioned the ten-minute arrival time.

He felt there was still time.

"Bang!"

Chapter 359: Rescue

Clown shouted for the strong man to contact his subordinates and lead them away. Still feeling fearful and uneasy, he prepared to get up and hurried toward the room where Yu Linglong and the others were imprisoned, intending to take control of them ahead of time.

By then, even if Mu Jinyu came to this abandoned factory, he could control the lives of Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia, and threaten the opponent!

But as soon as he was about to move—

He heard a loud bang!

The iron door, made of special ore and capable of withstanding several charges by an elephant, was kicked out by someone with a single kick. It slammed onto the floor with a clang.

"I've finally found you!"

Mu Jinyu, with his hands behind his back, strode into the room, his body boiling with murderous intent, making the air in the entire room seem to freeze!

When he arrived near the factory in the suburbs, Mu Jinyu saw someone ahead running towards the factory. However, after checking his phone, that person changed direction and ran the other way.

Mu Jinyu guessed that their position must have been exposed, making them suspect that he was already following them. Without hesitation, he killed that person, retrieved the Spring of Life and the setup for the Spirit Gathering Array, and rushed directly into the abandoned factory.

Then, using sound to locate them, he immediately discovered there was someone talking in this room, kicked the door open without hesitation, and walked in.

Upon entering, he indeed found the person wearing that sinister clown mask.

When Clown saw Mu Jinyu breaking in, his heart sank and his face turned to panic, though it was hidden by the mask from others' sight.

After a moment of panic, seeing that Mu Jinyu hadn't immediately acted to kill him, probably due to caution, he took out a gun from his waist without hesitation and shot at Mu Jinyu!

"Whiz!" "Whiz!" "Whiz!"

This was not an ordinary pistol but a highly destructive laser gun. The icy blue laser beams pierced through the room, instantly filling it with holes.

Mu Jinyu was startled and nearly got hit. He quickly performed an exquisite movement technique, twisting his body into a strange arc to dodge the laser beams from Clown. He then rushed forward and threw a punch at him!

"Bang!"

Clown couldn't dodge in time and was struck in the chest by Mu Jinyu's punch, sending him flying backward.

He crashed heavily against the wall behind him, causing dust to shake off in a flurry, and then he slid down the wall.

"Snap!"

Clown weakly released his grip on the gun, letting the laser gun fall to the side. Bright red blood continuously spurted out, soaking his clothing.

After killing the nearly two-meter-tall strong man with one punch, Mu Jinyu stepped forward, lifted the clown mask off his face.

The face revealed was that of a woman, but it was covered with a fine layer of fuzz, seemingly a result of a genetic modification gone wrong.

She glared at Mu Jinyu with wide eyes, already voiceless.

"Clang!"

Mu Jinyu tossed aside the clown mask in his hand, no longer interested in looking at her, and then walked out of the room. Listening to the nearby sounds, he quickly found the room where Yu Linglong and the others were imprisoned.

"Bang!"

Mu Jinyu kicked the door open and stepped inside.

Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia, along with a few others, were extremely pale at this moment, their lips cracked and dry from days without a drop of water, lying weakly against the wall. As they saw Mu Jinyu enter, they barely lifted their eyelids for a brief glance.

Initially thinking it was just another clown coming to scare them, but then...

Yu Linglong blinked her eyes, thinking she might be hallucinating; how could she be seeing Mu Jinyu?

Previously, the clown had been holding a communicator, showing Mu Jinyu the miserable state of Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia, and although there had been a conversation, they, starved for days, hardly listened to what the clown was saying.

Thus, Yu Linglong never thought Mu Jinyu would appear before her so soon.

She even thought she might have to die before Mu Jinyu would learn of her demise.

"I must really be delirious from hunger to think I see Jinyu coming to rescue me,"

Yu Linglong whispered weakly.

"You're not mistaken, I'm here to save you,"

Mu Jinyu, seeing the pitiful state of Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia, his eyes filled with compassion, hurried over to cut the ropes binding them, and then carefully helped all five of them to sit comfortably on the ground.

Seeing the red marks on the tender arms of Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia, Mu Jinyu felt both heartache and anger, thinking that punching the clown to death earlier was letting her off too easily.

After ensuring they were all comfortably lying on the ground, Mu Jinyu took out a bottle of the Spring of Life, and fed it to them, before starting to administer acupuncture to treat them.

They didn't have any serious injuries, really; it was just that they had been starved for days and were extremely weak. To heal them, Mu Jinyu didn't need to use the Spring of Life; a good week's rest would have been enough for them to fully recover.

But that would take too long, and they would remain weak for a while. Mu Jinyu felt that they were suffering because of him and thus wanted to speed up their recovery.

As for the Spring of Life, for him, possessing the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, it was entirely possible to create as much as needed. There was no need to be frugal, especially not at the expense of making Yu Linglong and the others suffer.

With the administration of the Spring of Life and Mu Jinyu's acupuncture treatment, Yu Linglong and the others, initially too weak to even move a finger, quickly regained their energy and no longer felt too hungry.

"Jinyu, wuuu... I was so afraid I'd never see you again!"

Feeling somewhat restored, Yu Linglong saw that Mu Jinyu was no longer busy treating others. Realizing she wouldn't be interrupting him, she could no longer suppress her grievances and flung herself into Mu Jinyu's arms, tightly embracing him and expressing her pent-up feelings.

"It's okay, it's all over now..."

Mu Jinyu gently patted Yu Linglong's back and spoke softly to comfort her.

He felt deeply remorseful, knowing that his negligence had indirectly caused their suffering.

Yu Xiuwen stood to the side, also harboring a bellyful of fire. Initially, when he had been captured, he was inwardly cursing Mu Jinyu.

Just now, he had thought that even if Mu Jinyu came to rescue him, he would give him a good scolding.

But now that Mu Jinyu had truly arrived, he recalled how Mu Jinyu had chopped off the Card Shark's fingers that day, and almost instantly, his anger dissipated.

Seeing that he had saved everyone, he decided not to take him to task. And seeing his daughter embracing Mu Jinyu, he didn't want to spoil the mood, did he?

After a long while, Yu Linglong was finally calmed down. Having not rested well for a long time, she soon fell into a deep sleep in Mu Jinyu's arms, a look of contentment on her face.

Chapter 360 - Arrangements

Having soothed Yu Linglong, Mu Jinyu then turned his head to look at Lin Qiaoxia who was standing nearby, her pale face showing hints of aggrievement and longing.

Afterward, he wrapped one arm around Yu Linglong's slender waist, and extended his other hand towards her.

Lin Qiaoxia's slightly aggrieved face immediately broke into a smile, and she too threw herself into Mu Jinyu's warm embrace.

Before long, Lin Qiaoxia also fell asleep exhausted in Mu Jinyu's arms.

Mu Jinyu looked at the two women in his arms, his expression filled with a mix of pity and helplessness, then he picked up Yu Linglong on his back and lifted Lin Qiaoxia in his arms.

He then turned to look at the expressions of Father Lin, Mother Lin, and Yu Xiuwen, which were somewhat complicated, and said, "Uncle, Aunt, can you walk?"

"Yes, let's hurry and leave this place," Yu Xiuwen did not want to remain in this godforsaken place any longer.

Unlike their daughter whose spirits were fragile and who, after experiencing great fluctuations of emotion, fell asleep defenselessly in Mu Jinyu's arms without a sense of crisis, they were still afraid that criminals might come at any time. Therefore, even though they were exhausted and wanted to sleep, they had to suppress their drowsiness and urgently leave the place first.

"Alright, follow me," Mu Jinyu said.

After saying this, carrying one and holding the other, he led the way out of the room, and to avoid frightening the parents of the two girls, he intentionally took a detour to avoid passing by the clown's room.

After Mu Jinyu led them out of the abandoned factory,

he took out his cell phone and called his subordinates, asking them to send cars over and commence the cleanup.

If it were just Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia, Mu Jinyu could have carried them and rushed all the way back to the Seaview Garden Villa District.

But with three more people present, he couldn't rush back home with everyone, so they had to wait for the pickup.

Soon, several members of the Dragon King Hall sent over several executive cars. Mu Jinyu had someone open the rear door and gently placed Lin Qiaoxia, whom he was holding, in the back seat.

Then he closed the door, opened another car's door, and placed Yu Linglong inside.

Father Lin, Mother Lin, and Yu Xiuwen who stood to one side watched with a mix of envy and sourness.

How fortunate their daughters were! They were asleep, yet Mu Jinyu did not wake them but instead arranged a car for each to be taken home.

There they were, exhausted and beaten, without such a luxury, having to squeeze into a car with Mu Jinyu.

But, after all, these were their daughters.

They weren't truly dissatisfied.

After Mu Jinyu instructed his subordinates to deal with the clowns and the like inside the abandoned factory, he got into the passenger seat of a car and signaled the driver to leave.

After about fifteen minutes,

Mu Jinyu and his group had returned to Seaview Garden Villa District.

After getting out of the car, he again picked up Yu Linglong and Lin Qiaoxia and carried them back to their respective rooms, tucked them in, and after telling their parents to get some rest as well, he went back to his own Building King number one.

When he got back home,

it was already eleven o'clock at night.

The night was deep.

Mu Jinyu had been rushing around all day and hadn't had much for dinner, just a cup of milk tea while waiting at the milk tea shop, and by that time was feeling quite famished.

He had assumed that Su Zijin and the others would have gone to bed already.

But when Mu Jinyu arrived at his doorstep and saw the lights still on inside the house, he felt a twinge of guilt, but it was accompanied by a touch of emotion.

The feeling of having someone at home waiting for his return was rather nice.

When Mu Jinyu had been living on his own at Yinlong Mountain, where had he ever felt such sentiment?

Mu Jinyu silently vowed in his heart that he would never worry Su Zijin and the others again, and since he had become the new Dragon King of Dragon King Hall, he would also arrange for more experts to secretly protect those close to him, ensuring that occurrences like today never happened again.

He had just arranged for several experts to secretly protect Xu Qingya and Shen Shuyao as well.

"You're back, are you hungry? I'll go make you a late-night snack."

Su Zijin had been sitting on the sofa in the living room, frowning with worry. Hearing the sound of the door, she hurriedly stood up, and seeing that it was indeed Mu Jinyu who had come back, she looked relieved and asked with a smile.

Seeing the faint traces of fatigue between Su Zijin's brows, Mu Jinyu knew she was tired, so he shook his head and said with a smile, "No need, Mom, I'm not hungry. You should go and rest early."

After speaking, he turned to Gu Xiyan and the other women who also hadn't gone to rest and said, "The same goes for you all, go get some rest."

When Su Zijin heard Mu Jinyu call her "Mom" once again, her eyes and brows were filled with joy, and she hurriedly said, "It's okay, I'm not tired. You didn't eat well at lunch, and you missed dinner, too. If you don't have some late-night snack, it could harm your health. I'll just go and cook you some noodles."

Without heeding Mu Jinyu's advice, she rushed to the kitchen to prepare a late-night snack for him.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu sighed helplessly and walked over to Gu Xiyan and the others.

"How are Linglong and Qiaoxia, are they okay?" Gu Xiyan, seeing Mu Jinyu return safely, guessed that they should be alright but still wanted to hear a definite answer to feel more at ease.

"Yeah, they're fine now. They had been starved by those madmen for several days without a drop of water, and were very weak, but I've already taken care of their health. Now they're alright and have gone home to rest," Mu Jinyu said, his voice tinged with a hint of weariness.

Wen Rou saw this and silently sat beside Mu Jinyu, raising her hand to massage his temples to ease his nerves.

Mei Yinxue also sat on the other side, pounding his back and rubbing his shoulders.

Not wanting to be outdone, Gu Xiyan directed Mu Jinyu to stretch out his legs on the coffee table so she could pound his legs for him.

Mu Jinyu looked at the three women massaging him and felt both amused and bewildered for a moment.

However, he also knew they were doing this because he was really tired; otherwise, with Mei Yinxue and Gu Xiyan's personalities, how could they let go of their pride and join Wen Rou in massaging him?

Soon, Su Zijin hurriedly finished cooking a bowl of fragrant longevity noodles and brought it to Mu Jinyu on a tray.

Looking at the steaming noodles, Mu Jinyu's already growling stomach couldn't help letting out a few more rumbling noises.

Listening to this, Su Zijin chuckled to herself.

"Hurry up and eat, you must be starving," Su Zijin handed the chopsticks to Mu Jinyu and then said to Gu Xiyan and the others, "There's plenty more in the kitchen, so if you're hungry, go have something too."

"Thanks, Mom." Although Gu Xiyan and the others had eaten dinner, they hadn't eaten much due to their worry for Yu Linglong and the others. Seeing Mu Jinyu wolfing down his food now made them feel quite peckish, and they also wanted to eat a bit more.

After having their late-night snacks, everyone went back to their rooms to rest.

Instead of going straight to bed after returning to his room, Mu Jinyu made a phone call to Mu Hongchen, instructing her to arrange to wipe out Withered Tree Quest for Spring, who had disgusted him on several occasions!