

King Hall 441

Chapter 441: Mu Luo's Sadness!

"I'm sorry, we did our best, but Mr. Mu's injuries are just too..."

This doctor knew the status of Xiang Mantang and feared that if they saw he couldn't save Mu Jinyu, they would take their anger out on them, so he wanted to explain carefully to them how severe Mu Jinyu's injuries were, that even Hua Tuo reincarnated would be of no use.

Gu Xiyao and Su Zijin only heard the doctor's initial phrase about doing their best and felt like their hearts had dropped into an ice cellar; their minds were buzzing, unable to take in what he was saying.

"How could this happen? How could this be?!"

Su Zijin's eyes were lost and helpless, constantly murmuring to herself.

Her mind was a mess, with fragments of memories flashing through, starting from when she first heard the news about Mu Jinyu, rushing to River City to see him, only to be turned away from his doorstep.

Then there was the time when he refused to talk to her, but finally agreed to eat her cooking, to when she went to Capital City to break up his wedding, chased away Shen Cangsheng, attended the Old Dragon King's funeral, and he finally called her mother...

And their conversation tonight.

He had clearly promised that he was about to marry them, have several chubby little boys with them, let her hold her grandsons as soon as possible, to make up for the years of neglect...

How could he just leave like this?!

With her body trembling, Su Zijin looked at the still figure lying quietly in the emergency room, unable to control her tears any longer, they surged down!

The hardest to bear was that their family reunion lasted but a few days!

"Hehe..."

Su Zijin covered her face with her hand, not daring to look, her voice choked up, sounding like a mix of laughter and crying, betraying a sense of complete collapse.

Having just lost her father not long ago, now the son she had just found had also left her!

How could Su Zijin accept this?

Gu Xiyun, Wen Rou, and Mei Yinxue heard Su Zijin's collapsing cries, but no one went to comfort her.

Because they were all collapsing themselves.

Two tear tracks slid down their lovely faces, and they didn't even realize it.

They just stared blankly at the open door of the emergency room, at that quiet figure lying still on the operating table.

Gu Xiyun couldn't accept this fact.

Mu Jinyu had just proposed to them tonight, and she had reluctantly agreed.

They had clearly discussed how to organize the wedding, where to go for the honeymoon...

But how could he cruelly leave them behind like this?!

Gu Xiyun suddenly remembered what Mei Yinxue had said to her tonight, "A flower should be picked when it blooms, why wait until there are no flowers and only bare branches to gather?"

Hehehehe...

At that time, she had only half-understood, feeling that she shouldn't agree so easily to Mu Jinyu, or he might not cherish them.

But now, she finally understood, filled with regret.

If it were possible, to go back to before tonight, she would definitely not again be discontent with Mu Jinyu for proposing to several of them at the same time, hesitating and being coy, even if Yu Linglong, Lin Qiaoxia, and the others were included, she would agree.

But now, it's all useless no matter what is said...

At that time, the romance of spring was regarded lightly; now, there's nowhere to collect the splendor of the blossoms.

Gu Xiyan suddenly burst out into a bleak laugh.

Wen Rou stared blankly at the motionless figure on the operating table, her mind filled with the last conversation she had with Mu Jinyu.

"How do I look in this wedding dress?"

"Let's take a look when I get back, I have to go out of town for something right now."

"Has something happened?"

"Yes, my junior brother is in danger abroad, I need to go help him!"

Wen Rou's mind was in chaos, only thinking about why he suddenly became so generous, generous enough to risk his own life for someone else!

She didn't want Mu Jinyu to be so generous; she'd rather have him be the miserly skinflint, who accounted for every penny with her!

Wen Rou selfishly pondered, if only she had desperately clung to Mu Jinyu at that time, begging him not to leave, could things have turned out differently?!

"Whoo...whoo...whoo..."

Wen Rou cried in regret for not having been able to hold onto Mu Jinyu then.

Mei Yinxue silently shed tears, recalling her acquaintance, knowledge, and love with Mu Jinyu.

At first, her impression of Mu Jinyu was merely that of a big boy who had not yet reached maturity, but as she got to know him better, she discovered that Mu Jinyu had extraordinary methods and divine medical skills. As she herself was getting older and would eventually have to marry, she thought who better to give herself to than Mu Jinyu, a highly suitable match.

So after Mu Jinyu helped her catch Huang Qihua, she gave herself to him completely.

Originally, her heart harbored only thoughts of using him and nothing else, but as they grew closer, she realized she truly fell in love with Mu Jinyu.

Even though between them, they never spoke a word of love.

Yet, no sooner had she persuaded Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou to marry him together, he left like this!

He had heartlessly abandoned them.

How could he be so ruthless!!

Mei Yinxue could no longer suppress the pain and unwillingness in her heart and rushed straight into the resuscitation room.

She flung the white cloth covering Mu Jinyu's body aside.

Mu Jinyu's face was pale, his eyes tightly shut, seemingly in deep sleep. Yet, even in sleep, his brows were still furrowed, as if he was encountering some nightmare.

Only, he had no breath or heartbeat.

All this signified that Mu Jinyu was not merely asleep.

"Whoo...whoo...whoo..."

At this moment, Su Zijin and the other women, because of Mei Yinxue's actions, followed and came in.

Seeing Mu Jinyu like this, they couldn't help but burst into tears.

Mei Yinxue, looking at Mu Jinyu's dead visage, did not collapse and cry like they did; instead, she became completely calm.

She suddenly turned around, grabbed the front of Xiang Mantang's garment who had followed in like a lost soul, and demanded, "Tell me, what exactly happened? I want to avenge him!!"

Xiang Mantang shook his head blankly, his hands and feet cold, unable to speak.

"Sister Mei, don't be like this, Little Mu wouldn't want to see us this way!"

Then, Wen Rou came to her senses and quickly pulled Mei Yinxue back.

She knew about the deep bond Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang shared, and now that Mu Jinyu was gone, his spirit in heaven would definitely not wish for them to blame or harass Xiang Mantang.

Pulled by Wen Rou like that, Mei Yinxue also let go of Xiang Mantang's collar.

Her face filled with despair.

She knew that Xiang Mantang certainly didn't wish for Mu Jinyu's death either and seeing his current state, she guessed it would be difficult to get any information from him.

Just then, behind them, Gu Xiyan's mournful singing quietly began:

"Who lives in Ruan's dream, residing for a lifetime within,

Fearing the sun might tear us apart, though scattered far from each other, Ruan will still recognize,

Your shadow, your shadow..."

This song, "Calling My Name," was often sung by Su Zijin to Mu Jinyu during his childhood, and it was also the song that Mu Jinyu, in a depressed mood, sang when he got drunk after seeking Gu Xiyan for drinks on the day Su Zijin found him.

At this very moment, with Gu Xiyan prostrated on Mu Jinyu's corpse, the song came to her unbidden!

"Calling My Name, Ruan will use a lifetime to cherish and listen;

In the past, as a young man unaware of your understanding, you were Ruan's life;

Calling My Name, Ruan needs you to keep company!

On the journey of life, Ruan loves having you lead the way..."

Chapter 442: Saying One Thing and Meaning Another!

Hearing Gu Xiyan's sorrowful singing, Su Zijin, who was lying on Mu Jinyu's corpse and weeping, choked up, then the tears flowed even more torrentially.

Then, she also began to sing mournfully.

Xiang Mantang stood by, listening to their songs of despair, feeling overwhelmed by despair, self-blame, guilt, and helplessness.

He truly wished he could kill himself to atone for his sins.

But if he did so, he would utterly betray Mu Jinyu's efforts.

Besides, the true mastermind behind all this had yet to be punished— he could not die at this moment! He had to drag his useful body along to avenge Mu Jinyu!

Xiang Mantang gritted his teeth, turned around, and prepared to leave.

Suddenly, his body shook, and his ears perked up.

Within the emergency room, he heard a sixth heartbeat, albeit very faint and barely detectable!

Yet, there were only five of them in the emergency room: himself, Gu Xiyan, Mei Yinxue, Wen Rou, and Su Zijin. Where had the sixth person come from?!

The despair in Xiang Mantang's eyes dissipated, filled with disbelief and joy. He abruptly turned around to look at Mu Jinyu, who lay on the operating table!

Indeed, the heartbeat that had ceased began to quiver weakly again to the rhythm of Gu Xiyan's song.

He hadn't completely died yet!

Xiang Mantang cried out as if he had gone mad, then rushed forward, pushing away Gu Xiyan and Su Zijin, who were lying on Mu Jinyu, muttering, "Move, move! He's not dead, don't crush him!"

Amidst his speech, Xiang Mantang had already pushed the dazed Gu Xiyan and Su Zijin aside, then hoisted Mu Jinyu onto his back and ran outside.

"You?!"

Gu Xiyan quickly reacted, desperate to rush forward to stop Xiang Mantang, yelling, "Have you gone mad?!"

However, Xiang Mantang didn't care at all, carrying Mu Jinyu as he dashed out of the emergency room to find the hospital director, demanding that they perform a cryogenic surgery on Mu Jinyu!

To temporarily preserve his body until he found Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures to resurrect him!

In fact, during the trip from Kunlun Mountain, Xiang Mantang also hesitated, wondering whether to immediately take Mu Jinyu for cryogenic surgery or to try resuscitation first.

In the end, he believed that Mu Jinyu wouldn't die so easily and decided to hand him over to the doctors for resuscitation—little did he know that Mu Jinyu still couldn't hold on in the end!

Xiang Mantang initially thought that Mu Jinyu had already died completely and that even if they preserved the body, there was no chance he could be revived once he found Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

That's why, after the failed resuscitation, he made no further moves, his heart full of self-reproach and regret.

But now, Mu Jinyu's heartbeat had started again, though very faint. If they froze his body now,

perhaps later, when he found something like the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, he might be able to resurrect him!

Therefore, Xiang Mantang's heart, which had died, also came back to life!

"What's wrong with him?!"

Su Zijin was also angry at first, thinking Xiang Mantang had lost his mind. Soon after detecting something amiss, she realized that wasn't his character.

Perhaps there was a turning point in the situation?

"Come on, let's follow and see!"

Su Zijin made a quick decision, leading Gu Xiyan and the other two ladies to chase after Xiang Mantang!

They finally caught up with Xiang Mantang, panting hard.

When they heard Xiang Mantang's instructions to the hospital director, they couldn't help but be startled.

They naturally understood the meaning of cryogenic surgery; it was an option when a person had not completely died and current medical treatment couldn't save them. They could temporarily freeze the body until medical methods advanced and their condition became treatable. Then, they could be thawed and treated!

Could it be... Mu Jinyu is not dead yet?

Watching as the dean led Mu Jinyu away, Su Zijin asked Xiang Mantang, "What's going on?"

Xiang Mantang breathed a sigh of relief at this point, and turned back to explain: "Didn't you hear just now? While you were singing, senior brother's heartbeat, which had stopped, started again. He's not dead!"

"I will save him! At all costs!"

Xiang Mantang clenched his fists, his gaze resolute as he watched Mu Jinyu being wheeled into the operating room.

Afterward, Xiang Mantang took out his cell phone and made a call to Mu Hongchen, asking her to have the Thousand-Year Profound Ice Stone from the Dragon King Hall forged into a stone coffin. He wanted it ready for Mu Jinyu to rest in.

Yes, as far as Xiang Mantang was concerned, Mu Jinyu was not dead; he was only sleeping.

When the time was right, he would wake him up!

Upon hearing Xiang Mantang's words, Mu Hongchen expressed her difficulties, saying that she probably couldn't carve that Thousand-Year Profound Ice Stone into an ice coffin by herself!

Xiang Mantang then roared: "Then go call Wu Shisan, Di Yin, Qin Qiaochu and the others to help!"

These individuals were also among Xiang Mantang's suspects, but he was not in a hurry to free himself up to immediately deal with them, not until Mu Jinyu was properly settled.

He would slowly deal with them later!

Upon hearing the conversation between Xiang Mantang and Mu Hongchen, Su Zijin and the other ladies exchanged glances. The cloudiness in their hearts had also dissipated quite a bit.

"There's still hope, Jinyu still has a chance!"

With this thought surfacing in their minds, they rallied once more.

Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou thought that during the time Mu Jinyu was resting, they would definitely take good care of his Jinyu Group and completely develop the few prescriptions he had left behind.

When he awoke, Jinyu Group would be the largest pharmaceutical group in the world!

Mei Yinxue, on the other hand, thought that she would put aside her Yinxue Group completely. She would strive to cultivate, wanting to have the ability to protect him the next time Mu Jinyu was in danger.

And not be like before, when Mu Jinyu had been targeted by a nameless assassin, and they became a burden, even causing Mu Jinyu to be distracted in protecting them!

She didn't want to be a burden anymore!

The group stood outside the operating room in a long wait.

"Ah, Alliance Hierarchy, I've finally found you. Where's Brother Wang? My injuries haven't healed yet, and I want him to treat me," said San Liu as he ran over, leaning on Xiang Mantang's shoulder, panting.

Xiang Mantang shuddered, shaking off San Liu's hand, then turned around with an icy look and asked San Liu, "Have you and Nameless paid back what you owe Dragon Master?!"

San Liu was momentarily stunned, then said with a forced smile, "Not yet, I'll just owe it for now, it's not like I'll default on it, I'll pay it all back next time."

"You said that last time, 'next time'!"

Xiang Mantang stared at San Liu, his eyes hostile, filled with a murderous aura.

San Liu, feeling the wrongness in Xiang Mantang's gaze, paused for a moment. What's wrong with him?

"Get lost!"

Xiang Mantang, suppressing the rage and the urge to kill San Liu, yelled furiously.

Seeing the situation, San Liu was very unhappy. Not understanding why Xiang Mantang was acting this way and not wanting to argue with him, he turned and walked away.

Xiang Mantang watched San Liu leave, filled with sorrow.

Senior Brother always talked about charging for life-saving services and how he wouldn't act without payment, but in reality, he never really cared about such matters. If people didn't pay back, at most he would just not treat them next time, but he wouldn't actually harm them.

He was always like this, saying one thing and meaning another, saying he wouldn't treat people for free and wouldn't let them run up debts, but in the end, he always acted this way...

Chapter 443: There Is a Terrestrial Immortal in the Sect!

"Crack!"

As he sealed the coffin with the lid made from the Thousand-Year Profound Ice Stone, Xiang Mantang looked at Mu Jinyu, who was lying quietly inside, his expression one of lost hope, yet there was also a glimmer of it in his gaze.

There was still a chance, he definitely could bring Mu Jinyu back.

For now, it was only a matter of letting him sleep for a while.

"Wuu wuu..."

Xiang Mantang, who had weathered many storms, managed to maintain some composure despite the immense pain in his heart.

But Su Zijin, Gu Xiyan, and a few others watched as Mu Jinyu lay in the ice coffin, and they couldn't help but lean on the coffin lid and burst into heavy sobs.

It had been three days since they placed Mu Jinyu in cryonic preservation.

Over these days, Xiang Mantang had summoned the country's top-grade doctors to perform this operation for Mu Jinyu.

Otherwise, they wouldn't have been able to complete this still not fully mastered operation so perfectly for Mu Jinyu in just a mere two days.

Xiang Mantang took one more deep look at the peacefully sleeping Mu Jinyu and chose not to stay in this chilled room any longer, turning around and walking away.

"Dragon Master!"

As soon as he stepped out of the sickroom, Mu Hongchen and Wu Shisan, among others, immediately greeted Xiang Mantang with respectful voices.

"Don't call me by that title. I am merely standing in for my senior brother; when he awakens, he will still be in charge of the Dragon King Hall!" Xiang Mantang sternly reminded them with a somber face.

"Yes." Mu Hongchen's expression tightened as he corrected himself, "Tianshu!"

"Yuheng Hall Master, come with me for a moment," Xiang Mantang waved the others away, beckoning Mu Hongchen to follow him.

"Yes." Mu Hongchen followed on Xiang Mantang's heels, heading to a secluded corner.

Wu Shisan, Qin Qiaochu, and Di Yin watched as Xiang Mantang and Mu Hongchen left, their expressions turning grim.

Qin Qiaochu looked around and cursed, "Don't you find it strange that the new Dragon King just took the throne and after going on a trip to the headquarters of 'Slaughter Redemption' with Beidou Tianshu, he suddenly dropped dead? And then Beidou Tianshu took full control of the Dragon King Hall?"

Di Yin cautiously looked around before responding in a low tone, "What are you suggesting? You suspect the incident with the new Dragon King was Beidou Tianshu's doing?!"

Wu Shisan said coldly, "Don't make wild guesses without a cause; after all, they were senior and junior brothers. How could it come to this?"

After speaking, he disdainfully left the two who had obtained their positions in the Dragon King Hall through connections and walked away from the corridor.

"Hmph!" Qin Qiaochu watched Wu Shisan leave, snorted coldly, and cursed, "What an idiot. Just because they are senior and junior brothers, it means they have a better opportunity to strike. What do you think, Kaiyang Hall Master?"

Di Yin said, "It's possible, but let's not talk rashly."

"I actually think that the incident with the new Dragon King is ninety percent Xiang Mantang's doing. Otherwise, why would he refuse to talk about what happened on Kunlun Mountain?" Qin Qiaochu said with a flicker in his eyes, sounding very certain.

Di Yin also nodded, feeling there must be something very peculiar about Kunlun Mountain.

As for whether Mu Jinyu's death was really Xiang Mantang's doing, he too harbored doubts.

But how would they know that Xiang Mantang's silence on the matter of Kunlun Mountain was solely because the girl who might have been his sister had died by his hand!

Plus, with Mu Jinyu having died in his stead, how could he possibly speak of this before others.

It would be like tearing a large wound open on a scar that had just begun to heal!

...

Let's leave aside the suspicions of Qin Qiaochu and Di Yin for now.

Xiang Mantang finally dealt with Mu Jinyu's affairs and called upon Mu Hongchen to begin preparing to settle the score with the true culprit behind the Kunlun calamity!

"Do we have a rough idea of the suspects?" Xiang Mantang stood at the window with his hands clasped behind him, overlooking the tall buildings below, and spoke in a chilling tone.

"We've lost contact with Beidou... Shen Cangsheng. If nothing unexpected has happened, this Kunlun calamity should be his doing!"

Mu Hongchen stated.

Initially, she nearly addressed Shen Cangsheng with his formal title, but knowing that Shen Cangsheng was in a precarious situation, she immediately called him by name.

Her gaze was complex as she looked at the silhouette of Xiang Mantang's back.

After all, according to the information she had gathered, the original target of Shen Cangsheng's trap was meant to be Xiang Mantang.

Unexpectedly, Mu Jinyu ended up dying in his place.

If Shen Cangsheng knew about this situation, he would probably laugh himself mad since Mu Jinyu was truly the thorn in his eye, and the reason to kill Xiang Mantang was partly due to the grudge and because Mu Jinyu was hard to assassinate, leading him to make such a decision.

Who could have guessed that, by a twist of fate, Shen Cangsheng would end up directly killing the New Dragon King!

As a result, he didn't even dare to return to Dragon King Hall now.

"Shen Cangsheng! Shen Cangsheng..."

Xiang Mantang, with his hands still clasped behind his back, kept repeating this name as a killing intent roared from his eyes, ready to destroy everything he saw!

In truth, after completing the cryonic surgery on Mu Jinyu's body, Xiang Mantang had calmed down and suspected that Shen Cangsheng was the perpetrator, but he wasn't completely sure, which is why he had sent Mu Hongchen to investigate further.

The only person who had animosity against him in Dragon King Hall was Shen Cangsheng, having brought Mu Jinyu there, ruined his engagement with Su Zijin, and shot his messenger pigeon, thus cutting off his communication with Kunlun Ruins.

Xiang Mantang now reflected that he should have been cautious when Shen Cangsheng asked for leave to visit his sect, and that period coincided exactly with his leveraging the power of Dragon King Hall to search for his sister, Xiang Yinxui.

It was very likely that Shen Cangsheng discovered Xiang Yinxui was in Kunlun Ruins and then hatched a plot to use her to set up a trap to kill him.

Unfortunately, at that time, he only considered Shen Cangsheng as a clown and didn't pay much attention, resulting in an eternal regret!

Not only did Xiang Yinxui die under his own knife, but it also led to the death of Mu Jinyu!

Xiang Mantang was filled with hatred!!

He wished he could devour Shen Cangsheng's flesh, grind his bones to dust, extract his soul, and refine his spirit so he could never find peace in the afterlife!!

They both had grudges against each other, so why didn't he come after him directly for revenge, instead targeting those close to him?!

After a long time, Xiang Mantang finally suppressed the overwhelming killing intent and said coldly to Mu Hongchen, "Have you determined the exact location of Shen Cangsheng's sect in Kunlun Ruins?"

Mu Hongchen understood the relationship between Xiang Mantang and Mu Jinyu, so she didn't mind his tone at the moment and answered, "Although Shen Cangsheng hasn't mentioned much, he's left behind quite a few traces. His sect should be called 'Tianhe Sword Sect,' quite renowned in the eastern region of Kunlun Ruins..."

Mu Hongchen continued, beginning to elaborate on the details of Tianhe Sword Sect she gathered from the secret tomes of Dragon King Hall.

"According to the records left by the Old Dragon King from his visit to Kunlun Ruins ten years ago, the Supreme Elder of the 'Tianhe Sword Sect' is a God Realm powerhouse!"

God Realm, also known as Embrace the Elixir, those who are in this realm are called Terrestrial Immortals in Taoism and Innate Path, while the Buddhist Sect refers to them as Arhats!

"A Terrestrial Immortal?" Upon hearing Mu Hongchen's briefing, Xiang Mantang's fists couldn't help but clench!

Quick to advise, Mu Hongchen said, "Tianshu, don't be rash, a God Realm powerhouse is not to be provoked lightly!"

She feared that Xiang Mantang, in a fit of rage, might head straight to Kunlun Ruins to confront the Tianhe Sword Sect alone, and Dragon King Hall would need to appoint another New Dragon King.

If it were to fall into the hands of people like Wu Shisan, it would truly be disgusting, and Dragon King Hall might be tormented into ruin.

Xiang Mantang chuckled lightly, "Don't worry, my life was given by my senior brother, I won't be so foolish as to throw it away again, but I will settle this account with them eventually!"

Chapter 444: Secure Internal Order and Repel Foreign Aggressors!

"That's good!"

Seeing Xiang Mantang so calm and restrained, Mu Hongchen breathed a sigh of relief.

At the same time, she realized that after experiencing a life-and-death situation, and surviving separation from death, Xiang Mantang had undergone a complete transformation in his temperament, becoming very somber and terrifying.

If the former Xiang Mantang was like a wild dragon emerging from the depths or an unsheathed, shining sword, then now, he had become a venomous snake lurking in the dark, a Fish Intestine Sword tucked away in its sheath!

This change turned her originally favorable impression of Xiang Mantang into a sense of fear.

She felt even more fearful than when facing the Old Dragon King.

As Mu Hongchen was somewhat stunned, Xiang Mantang's voice rang out again, "Go investigate again, where there might be any Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures!"

"Yes," Mu Hongchen responded.

Xiang Mantang then waved his hand towards her, "Nothing more, you may leave."

"Yes, this subordinate will take her leave!" Mu Hongchen bowed slightly to Xiang Mantang and then left.

Although Xiang Mantang did not claim himself to be the New Dragon King, he had previously helped Mu Jinyu to control the Dragon King Hall and naturally became the presumptive New Dragon King after Mu Jinyu's incident.

Mu Hongchen took her leave.

Xiang Mantang still gazed at the scenery outside the window, thinking about his next move.

The most urgent task was naturally to find a Heavenly Material and Earthly Treasure similar to the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core, to save Mu Jinyu.

Next was to exterminate Shen Cangsheng along with the Tianhe Sword Sect that had provided him significant manpower this time!

Thinking of the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core.

Xiang Mantang's mind stirred, and he immediately remembered that Mu Jinyu had obtained the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core thanks to information from a beautiful Taoist nun!

Withered Tree Quest for Spring!

Right, he immediately thought of this organization he had previously forgotten.

The mission of Withered Tree Quest for Spring was to find the Fountain of Youth and the Fountain of Immortality for old and wealthy individuals like withered trees, allowing them to live long and fully enjoy their hard-won wealth and power!

"After so many years of research, such a grand organization as Withered Tree Quest for Spring should have some Springs of Life, right?"

Xiang Mantang's eyes were cold as he murmured, "It's about time for you to pay the price, now that you've recently kidnapped two sisters-in-law to threaten my brother and then offered money to have assassins pursue us!"

However, the only problem was that he still couldn't find the exact location of Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

A few days ago, Xiang Mantang was at the headquarters of Slaughter Redemption, trying to follow some clues to track down the bounty poster, but because of the information from Xiang Yinxui, he had put it aside!

"Back to Slaughter Redemption first!"

Xiang Mantang made a decision, took out his phone, and had someone arrange a flight to America.

Seven hours later.

Xiang Mantang returned to the hotel where Slaughter Redemption was located.

However, since the Slaughter Feast had ended, this five-star hotel had started taking orders again as usual.

Xiang Mantang didn't have time to let people manage the hotel business and directly ordered to drive all these guest away.

"Realm Master, the hotel business is necessary. Otherwise, what will those retired assassins eat?"

No sooner had Xiang Mantang given the order than Athena spoke up.

"Hmm?!"

Hearing Athena's words, Xiang Mantang suddenly turned around, his gaze icy as he stared at her and said, "Are you defying my will?!"

"Your subordinate is not!" Athena replied evenly, "It's just that those retired assassins have no extra money or company, and can mainly only rely on this hotel to survive. If we drive all the guests away and cease doing business in the future, that would sever their means of livelihood!"

"Did I ever say that the hotel would not continue business as usual?"

Xiang Mantang looked at Athena with icy eyes and said, "Don't use your own assumptions to guess my decisions!"

"But..." Although Athena found Xiang Mantang's gaze terrifying, she still proudly held her neck, slender like a swan's, ready to retort!

"Snap!"

Xiang Mantang suddenly made a move, his figure ghostly as he appeared in front of Athena, then he grabbed her throat and gave her no chance to speak before crushing her windpipe!

"Uh..." Athena's pupils rapidly dilated as her vital energy dissipated.

She wanted to gather strength to attack Xiang Mantang, but she couldn't muster any.

She couldn't believe that just by taunting Xiang Mantang a few times, he would actually attempt to kill her?!

As a top-grade assassin like herself, shouldn't she be cherished wherever she went?

How could Xiang Mantang bear to kill her?

Hadn't he and Mu Jinyu spared them at the Twilight of the Gods competition platform just a short while ago?!

Until her death, Athena couldn't imagine that Xiang Mantang would actually kill her!

"Athena?!"

The former members of Twilight of the Gods, upon seeing Xiang Mantang kill Athena without hesitation, cried out in disbelief!

Then, the assassin code-named "Ares," a man who had loved Athena for many years, with eyes red, attacked Xiang Mantang!

"Bang!"

Xiang Mantang retaliated, and with a single strike, he pierced through Ares's chest, leaving no chance of survival!

The likes of Zeus and Poseidon, who had been restless and prepared to take advantage of Athena's death to cause trouble, saw that Xiang Mantang's strength seemed to have increased significantly, truly fitting his invincible code name.

They immediately halted any thoughts of attacking.

"Do you also wish to take action?"

Xiang Mantang, with his hands behind his back, watched coldly at Zeus and the others, his tone deeply cold.

He knew why Athena dared to challenge his words after he became the new Lord of the Killing Realm.

It was because at that time, his capabilities matched Athena's during their duel on the competition platform, and it was only with the help of Mu Jinyu that he was able to dominate the entire Slaughter Redemption.

So, in their eyes, he wasn't qualified to be the Realm Master, and his success was all attributed to Mu Jinyu!

Otherwise, if it were a previous Realm Master that he had killed, would Athena dare to retort?!

"I dare not!"

Though Zeus was deeply grieved by Athena's death, with Xiang Mantang's aura bursting forth, he dared not contradict him!

Xiang Mantang said, "My words, you only need to obey, not to question!"

After speaking, seeing the agreement from Zeus and the others, Xiang Mantang spoke again, "Pass down the order, let all members of the Assassins Guild of Slaughter Redemption come back for a meeting!"

"Yes!" Zeus replied.

He was puzzled in his heart; hadn't the banquet of slaughter just ended? Why was Xiang Mantang asking those assassins who had just left to come back?

Was something big about to happen?

Yes, Zeus guessed right!

Xiang Mantang initially only wanted to use Slaughter Redemption to investigate the Withered Tree Quest for Spring, but after seeing Athena's attitude, he knew he had to secure internal affairs before looking outward!

He planned to eliminate all those who didn't obey his commands, and finally, to let the voice of Jinyu Mantang be the only one in the entire Slaughter Redemption.

Even more, he planned to rename the Assassin Alliance from Slaughter Redemption to "Jinyu Mantang"!

Chapter 445: Thunderous Domination!

Half a day later.

After the end of the Slaughter Feast, the assassins from various countries who had been leaving America one after another.

Upon receiving the message from Xiang Mantang, they all hurried back to the headquarters of Slaughter Redemption!

Seeing that almost everyone had arrived, except for a very few from the top ten ranked assassin guilds who hadn't come, all the others were there.

Xiang Mantang checked the time and asked Nameless, "Are the 'Demon Wind', 'Silver Moon', and 'Violet' assassin guilds far from our headquarters?"

Nameless pondered for a moment and then shook his head, "They are not far. Having received your message, they should have arrived an hour ago by all reasoning."

"Then they are defying orders?" Xiang Mantang's mouth curved into a cold smile, knowing that he would have to resort to thunderous measures, make an example to warn the others!

After all, Slaughter Redemption was not the Dragon King Hall, where he had served as the Beidou Tianshu for many years. Now that he was controlling the Dragon King Hall in place of Mu Jinyu, aside from a few people who had opinions, no one else would object.

But these assassin guilds of Slaughter Redemption thought they were far inferior to Mu Jinyu and believed they had no right to be the Lord of the Killing Realm on their own merit, hence they started disobeying in various covert ways!

If he didn't properly cleanse the ranks today, when the day came that he needed to rely on this Assassin Alliance, they would probably drag their feet!

Just like that day, in the small valley in Kunlun Mountain, when the "Desolation" assassin guild betrayed him at the very last moment, leading to a sneak attack!

"I want to see just how long they dare to keep this up!"

Xiang Mantang stood in front of the hall, his hands clasped behind his back, his gaze as deep as the abyss, cold and indifferent!

Time passed slowly.

Another two hours went by.

The expressions of the numerous assassins standing in the banquet hall gradually became impatient and dissatisfied with Xiang Mantang.

Xiang Mantang did not pay them any attention!

At this moment, the last of the assassin guild, "Silver Moon," finally arrived.

"Have you finally arrived?"

Xiang Mantang watched the president of Silver Moon Guild with a profound gaze, arms crossed over his chest, and spoke indifferently.

The president of Silver Moon Guild, a woman with a head full of silver hair, had just walked into the banquet hall and heard Xiang Mantang's words, slightly startled; she had not expected they would wait for her this long.

She gave an unconcerned smile and perfunctorily explained, "Sorry, there was a traffic jam on the way!"

"Oh!"

Xiang Mantang responded, picked up a Silver Needle, and flicked his wrist!

"Whoosh!"

The Silver Needle was instantly infused with abundant Inner Strength by Xiang Mantang and shot straight at Silver Moon!

The president of Silver Moon Guild, upon seeing that Xiang Mantang was striking her without a word of disagreement, had her expression drastically change!

"You..."

She was just about to dodge the piercing Silver Needle and then question Xiang Mantang why he dared such lawlessness!

"Shriek!"

She then despairingly realized that with her strength, she could not avoid Xiang Mantang's assault at all!

Thus, she could only watch helplessly as the Silver Needle pierced through her heart!

"You..."

The president of Silver Moon Guild, her mouth brimming with blood, fell to the ground with a thump, in absolute despair!

With the death of the president of Silver Moon Guild!

The presidents of the numerous assassin guilds who had become very impatient because Xiang Mantang had been dragging his feet without speaking were now struck with horror and shock!

Aside from the former members of the "Twilight of the Gods," no one else had expected Xiang Mantang to take such reckless actions!

The president of Silver Moon Guild was just two hours late, yet he had executed her so ruthlessly. The former Lord of the Killing Realm had never been so excessive!

"Titter titter!"

Amidst the shock and anger of the crowd, Xiang Mantang struck again, directly assassinating the guild presidents of "Demon Wind" and "Violet" with one lethal needle!

"You you you you..."

The presidents of the less influential assassin guilds were so shocked by Xiang Mantang's brutal actions that they were rendered speechless.

"Defying my orders and secretly resisting can only lead to one's death!"

Xiang Mantang clasped his hands behind his back, his gaze icily surveying the crowd as he said, "Does anyone have any objections?"

"You are too barbaric!"

Immediately, someone protested, intending to rally all the assassins present to attack Xiang Mantang!

"Whoosh!"

Xiang Mantang flicked his hand, and a Silver Needle shot out, piercing directly through the protester's forehead.

It was as though a watermelon had exploded!

The onlookers were horrified; they, too, could crush a man's skull with one punch, but to do so with a single Silver Needle was beyond their ability.

This guy seemed to have grown much stronger.

Could it be that he had not used his full strength last time?!

"Does anyone else have objections now?"

Xiang Mantang asked coldly.

After so many deaths in quick succession and witnessing Xiang Mantang's phenomenal leap in strength, which assassin would dare object?

There was silence for a while before people gently shook their heads, "Your subordinate has no objections!"

"Good, I now have several announcements to make!"

Seeing that they had no more objections, Xiang Mantang spoke directly, "First, from now on, Slaughter Redemption will no longer exist in the form of an assassin guild. We won't need so many guilds internally; one will suffice, and that will be my 'Jinyu Mantang'!"

"How can this be?!"

No sooner had Xiang Mantang spoken than someone couldn't help but vocally challenge him.

The numerous guilds had been unavoidable in the past, forged into an Assassin Alliance by the iron-fisted methods of the first Lord of the Killing Realm. They had later acknowledged the alliance upon realizing its benefits.

But now, Xiang Mantang was trying to absorb all of their hundreds of assassin guilds into one, leaving only "Jinyu Mantang," which meant they would all lose their previous status and honor.

How could a group of them accept this?!

"Really?" This time, Xiang Mantang did not kill anyone outright but instead said, "Then let's restart the Slaughter Feast!"

"Zeus, go challenge this guy's guild and absorb it!"

"You!!" The man, seeing that Xiang Mantang was actually forcing them into compliance with such tactics, was both shocked and enraged!

"Yes!" Zeus naturally had no objections and, with Thunder Light flashing all over his body, took great strides towards the man!

His own painstakingly created "Twilight of the Gods" had been absorbed by Jinyu Mantang which was naturally uncomfortable for him. Now that all the assassin guilds were to be absorbed, he felt a bit of schadenfreude.

The guild president, seeing Zeus approaching, trembled in his heart and bowed his head in humiliation, "Your subordinate has no objections!"

By calling himself a subordinate, he was completely submitting.

Zeus, seeing this, retracted the Thunder Light flashing around him and turned to walk back towards Xiang Mantang.

"Very well! He who knows the times is a wise man!"

Xiang Mantang praised in a stern tone before looking at the others, "Any more objections?"

"None!"

Everyone shook their heads in unison, their hearts fraught with fear and unease.

Seeing this, Xiang Mantang sneered and inwardly cursed them as a bunch of cowards; they wouldn't submit without a beating!

"Good, the second announcement is to start a full-scale search for news of 'Withered Tree Quest for Spring'!"

"The third matter is to find natural spiritual objects similar to this..."

Chapter 446: Terrestrial Immortal?!

Five days later.

Slaughter Redemption, oh no... it should be Jinyu Mantang now.

At the headquarters of Jinyu Mantang, Xiang Mantang gazed at the data collected by Zeus and the others with an icy gleam in his eyes.

Indeed, after five days of relentless searching and investigation, Xiang Mantang had finally traced the clues and found the high-level executive from Withered Tree Quest for Spring who had spent billions to have Mu Jinyu killed.

It was on a certain private island.

Furthermore, that person's identity was that of a world-renowned billionaire, with a fortune of over one hundred billion dollars.

"Make the arrangements, I'm going to settle accounts with him now!"

Xiang Mantang spoke to Nameless without even turning his head.

"Yes."

Nameless nodded gently and then went to arrange the procedures for Xiang Mantang.

Three o'clock in the afternoon.

Xiang Mantang had already arrived at the private island with Zeus, Poseidon, Nameless, San Liu, and other top-grade assassins from Jinyu Mantang.

As soon as they jumped down from the helicopter, they immediately heard the piercing sound of alarms blaring intensely throughout the entire island.

"Heh, you're only discovering us now? Too late!"

Xiang Mantang propped himself up with one hand in the sandy soil, climbing out of the crater with an unhurried demeanor, lifting his feet and ascending step by step in mid-air as if climbing stone stairs.

Seeing Xiang Mantang's eerie movement technique, Zeus and the others also climbed out of the deep pits they had created from their descent and looked at him in astonishment, their wariness growing stronger.

These past few days, whether it was because he had absorbed the entire Ten Thousand Year Wood Core or because of the great shock of Mu Jinyu's incident, Xiang Mantang's cultivation had advanced at an unbelievable pace.

Originally, with Mu Jinyu's help, he had escaped death and his strength had already progressed from the Peak Energy Transformation to the threshold of the Divine Realm. With the cultivation over these days, he was now only one step away from the Divine Realm, a horrifying state where very few people in the entire world had ever reached!

"Chi-chi-chi!!"

At that moment, a group of Mech Armored Warriors dressed in futuristic armor burst from the enormous mansion on the island and charged towards the small forest where they were.

"Zap!"

They held a metal sword hilt in their hands, and upon pressing a switch, a fierce deep blue laser beam shot out from the sword fiercely.

As these people approached Xiang Mantang and his allies, without a second word, they prepared to eliminate them as illegal invaders!

"Everyone, take action!"

Xiang Mantang glanced once and knew these fully armed individuals had strength ranging from Great Achievement in Dark Energy to Peak, not even reaching the level of Master of Energy Transformation, not worth his effort.

Zeus, Poseidon, San Liu, Nameless, and Snake, hearing Xiang Mantang's order, exchanged glances and then collectively made their move.

"Whoosh!"

San Liu and Nameless raised their hands to draw out a sharp dagger made of special metal from their waist. Their speed was as swift as the wind and as fast as lightning, instantly leaving several afterimages where they stood, rushing towards the Mech Armored Warriors!

Zeus and Poseidon, meanwhile, unleashed their special abilities. In an instant, thunder surged wildly and waves roared, bombarding the Mech Armored Warriors who came to kill them!

"Chi-chi-chi!"

The daggers in San Liu and Nameless's hands were exceptionally sharp. With a single slice, they cut through the high-tech suits the Mech Armored Warriors were wearing and then slashed their throats.

In a few moments, they had killed seven or eight men.

Zeus and Poseidon, with their Natural System Special Abilities, might not match San Liu and Nameless in single combat, but in large-scale killings of those weaker than them, their efficiency was even higher!

"Zzzt-zzzt!!!"

"Boom-boom-boom!!!"

Thunder raged and lightning flashed. The Mech Armored Warriors in their high-tech suits were perfect conductors. In just an instant, Zeus had electrocuted more than a dozen to death.

They fell to the ground, their protective shields powerless and dropped, revealing faces blackened and charred like overcooked meat, still emitting a burnt stench as if they had been roasted.

Poseidon, on the other hand, summoned a huge tidal wave that swept away dozens of people within it; they instantly became drowning victims, eventually crushed to death by the immense water pressure!

In the blink of an eye, the mech armored warriors who had charged out of that grand estate were all slaughtered without exception.

Xiang Mantang stood to the side with his hands behind his back, looking very satisfied.

If he had come alone to find one of the creators of "Withered Tree Quest for Spring," it might have taken him several dozens of minutes just to deal with these subordinates.

And in that time, it would have been enough for that creator to board a helicopter and escape from his private island!

"Let's go!"

Having Zeus and Poseidon withdraw their special abilities, Xiang Mantang, with his hands behind his back, began walking step by step toward the manor.

"Boom!!"

At that moment, a roaring sound erupted.

From a high tower inside the manor, the windows on the topmost floor suddenly opened, followed by the setup of several Gatling guns, rocket launchers, and other heavy artillery, which began bombarding toward Xiang Mantang and his companions!

"Boom boom boom!!"

Xiang Mantang, with his hands behind his back, watched as rockets and bullets poured down on them. The faces of Zeus and others beside him drastically changed, and they hurriedly scattered to both sides.

He knew their thought was to first avoid this wave of bombardment, and then continue to press toward the manor, destroying the heavy artillery on top of the towers!

But Xiang Mantang remained indifferent, not at all fleeing like a street rat as they were!

"Realm Master, take cover first!"

Seeing that several of them were running to the other side, while Xiang Mantang remained standing in place, San Liu couldn't help but shout urgently.

Even as martial arts grandmasters, whose Protective Energy Mastery, when fully stimulated, could prevent bullets from killing them,

That was only for ordinary handgun bullets, and at most for stronger weapons, able to withstand rifles and submachine guns, but not including Gatling guns and rocket launchers!

Such heavy artillery, when fully unloaded, was difficult for even armored vehicles to withstand, let alone their mere flesh and blood bodies?

"No need!"

Xiang Mantang's expression was cold, and he still stood in place, unmoved.

And with their brief exchange, the terrifying firepower finally poured down near Xiang Mantang.

San Liu watched anxiously, thinking that Xiang Mantang was surely going to die right before his eyes.

However, the next scene made his jaw drop, as he began to question the reality before him!

"Ha!"

With a light shout from Xiang Mantang, just at the critical moment, he raised his arms in front of his chest, and instantly, a vast and boundless Heaven and Earth Vital Energy was drawn over with the movement of his hands.

Interweaving into a massive Elemental Qi Net, it caught all the terrifying firepower that was pouring down!

"This, this, this..."

San Liu and Nameless nearly had their eyes pop out. Weren't Xiang Mantang's tactics similar to the moves Lord of the Killing Realm used against them that day?

This was...

The power of a God Realm? Communicating with heaven and earth, with the wave of a hand, drawing upon the vast Heaven and Earth Vital Energy, able to kill within a hundred paces?!

He could be called a Terrestrial Immortal!!

When had Xiang Mantang also stepped into the God Realm?!

While San Liu and Nameless were astounded, Xiang Mantang once again shouted lightly, pushing his hands forward forcefully, and suddenly, the bullets and rockets that had been frozen in midair all reversed direction, reflecting back toward the manor miles away!

Chapter 447: Divine Sense!

"Boom boom boom boom!!"

An extremely terrifying amount of firepower simultaneously swiveled direction, pouring towards the estate's tower hundreds of miles away.

The gunmen operating Gatling guns and rocket launchers atop the tower, who were already stupefied that their full-open fire couldn't touch Xiang Mantang, were now horrified to see their own firepower charging towards them.

In utter despair, they let out a scream, with nowhere to run! They could only slump desperately at the top of the tower, watching helplessly as the barrage devastated the structure.

"Roar!!"

The tower, tall enough for seven stories, was reduced to flat ground in an instant under such a horrendous barrage of firepower!

And the surrounding buildings also suffered severe damage as a result.

Black smoke billowed into the sky!

Next to the ruins, a frail old man sat collapsed beside a helicopter, watching in horror as the nearby tower was bombed into oblivion, his heart filled with immense dread.

Luckily, he hadn't personally gone to shoot; he forwent the pleasure of revenge, or he would have been buried in the ruins along with those gunmen.

"Quick, quick, quick, help me up, we need to escape immediately!"

The old man knew this must be retaliation from Dragon King Hall, but he hadn't expected it to come so swiftly; he urgently shouted for his bodyguards, who were already standing up, to help him into the helicopter, preparing to flee the island.

His bodyguards were top-grade genetically modified persons from Withered Tree Quest for Spring, no less capable than a Master of Energy Transformation, and quickly steadied themselves from the quaking earth to lift him up.

"Tap tap tap!"

At that moment, a series of leisurely footsteps began to resonate.

The old man was just halfway into the helicopter when he heard the footsteps, and for some reason, his heart tightened violently!

"Quick, quick, quick!"

He didn't know if it was Xiang Mantang chasing after him, or his own men coming to protect him, or planning to flee the island with him; anyway, he was too terrified to care about these details, only wanting to flee this place as fast as possible!

"Bang!"

Just then, a dazzlingly bright white light flashed by, nearly blinding everyone.

The helicopter the old man was about to board was split in two with a swift strike!

"Boom!!"

With a loud explosion, the helicopter collapsed, and the old man watched his means of escape become scrap, frozen in shock on the spot!

"Think you can escape?"

At that moment, a voice full of mockery and murderous intent arose behind them.

The old man whirled around in despair.

Indeed, the person who had arrived was Xiang Mantang.

Xiang Mantang stood with one hand behind his back, the other hanging at his side, still with strands of white light twinkling around him.

Indicating that the move which had destroyed the helicopter had come from him!

Following him was a large group of assassins from Jinyu Mantang.

They all watched the old man, now collapsed on the ground with eyes full of despair, their gazes filled with murderous intent.

Although they submitted to Xiang Mantang, in their hearts they deeply hated this old man who had brought the Slaughter Redemption upon Mu Jinyu and Xiang Mantang.

If it weren't for his pursuit, how could their Guild have been dissolved, how could they have become subordinates to Xiang Mantang?

"Kill!"

The genetically modified person by the old man's side, all of whom were orphans adopted and nurtured by him from a young age, were absolutely loyal to the old man, ready to sacrifice their lives without hesitation.

So, upon seeing the old man in peril, they rushed toward Xiang Mantang without a moment's hesitation.

They were prepared to use their bodies to fight for a path of survival for the old man!

"Ants trying to shake a tree!"

Watching them make a move, Xiang Mantang flicked his right hand, completely shaking off the white light and then gathered it behind him, with no intention of taking action.

Zeus and Poseidon, meanwhile, shifted their gaze slightly and used their terrifying special abilities!

"Crackle!"

"Boom!"

Lightning flashed, tides surged; with the sea's power supplementing the lightning's might, they instantly turned these top-grade genetically modified persons into charred figures as black as cinders!

"No, no, no!!"

The old man watched his subordinates die one by one, initially thinking that the thunder and tides would sweep over him as well and strike him dead, letting out a cry of desperation and helplessness!

However, after a long wait, he felt no attack coming his way, just a heaviness at the collar of his clothing as his entire body was lifted up like a chick.

"Take him with us for now, we'll deal with him later!"

"Snake" carried the old man by the collar, licked his lips like a venomous snake flicking its tongue, heard Xiang Mantang's words, shrugged his shoulders, and refrained from striking the old man.

Xiang Mantang then turned and led his people toward the large villa he had deliberately spared from destruction.

Inside, there should be various important bases of Withered Tree Quest for Spring and their research findings over the years.

As the data had suggested, the old man was now over one hundred and ten years old. Normally, he should not have lived to this age, or if he did, he would not be as strong and sprightly as he was, but rather, should be paralyzed in bed!

"What exactly... are you assassins going to do to me?"

The old man did not recognize Xiang Mantang at first, but he did recognize the identities of Zeus and San Liu; after all, he had recently paid them to kill Mu Jinyu, so naturally, he had done his research and remembered them.

"What are we going to do? Of course, we're here to settle the score with you!"

Xiang Mantang moved at a deceptively brisk pace, covering dozens of meters with each step. The group behind him, including Zeus, could barely keep up with his pace by running.

"Tell me, how did you live to this age? You must have the Spring of Life, right? Hand over the Origin of Life, and I can grant you an easy death, sparing you from torture!"

As Xiang Mantang approached the front door of the villa, the heavy wooden door, made of superior timber, was blasted into sawdust without him even lifting a finger, compressing and scattering inside the house!

Zeus, Poseidon, and the others felt a wave of despair as they watched Xiang Mantang's terrifying action.

"I don't know what you're talking about!"

Upon hearing Xiang Mantang's words, the old man's pupils contracted, and he quickly retorted.

Xiang Mantang no longer paid attention to the old man but stood at the entrance of the villa, spreading his arms in an embrace of nature and closing his eyes.

Although Xiang Mantang had closed his eyes, he could still "see" the entire environment inside the villa.

This was a special soul technique that had emerged after he had recently entered the God Realm, where his Essence, Qi, and Spirit unified, and his spiritual power highly condensed, named "Divine Sense!"

With Divine Sense, a Martial Artist could use it to scan the surroundings and even perform other more unfathomable acts such as transmitting Spiritual Thought, conducting Soul Travel, and more.

It is for this reason that those who have reached the realm of Embrace the Elixir, God Realm, and Innate, such mighty individuals, are called Terrestrial Immortals!

Xiang Mantang's Divine Sense spread out for hundreds of meters, taking in the entire villa.

Through his Divine Sense, he could clearly feel a terrifying green light emitting from a room on the second floor. That green light radiated endless vitality!

Chapter 448:

"Found it."

Xiang Mantang suddenly opened his eyes and then strode toward the room on the second floor.

He moved swiftly, with the people behind him worrying about a possible accident; they all followed him.

The old man was naturally being carried by the "snake," following behind Xiang Mantang.

Being carried, and feeling an extremely uncomfortable swaying after moving ten meters with each step, the old man realized that the room containing the Spring of Life, which he had sealed away, had been opened by Xiang Mantang.

"How is this possible?!"

The old man felt extremely shocked.

If Xiang Mantang had searched room by room and finally found the Spring of Life, he would have nothing to say and would admit defeat.

But Xiang Mantang hadn't searched room by room; he had purposefully gone straight to this room.

As if he was able to foresee the future.

Or perhaps, there was a traitor among his subordinates who sold him out to Xiang Mantang?

Xiang Mantang didn't care about the old man's thoughts. After opening the door, he stared at a cultivation vessel in the room, containing a full volume of pale green liquid.

It was this liquid that gave off an extremely intense aura of life.

"I wonder if these Springs of Life can awaken my senior fellow disciple?"

Xiang Mantang muttered in his heart.

Mu Jinyu had shown Xiang Mantang the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core and over ten bottles of the Spring of Life when he obtained them.

Therefore, Xiang Mantang, after a quick comparison, realized that the Spring of Life before him was a bit more potent than the ones Mu Jinyu had previously obtained.

"If these Springs of Life don't work, maybe finding out where the old man got his Spring of Life will lead us to treasures similar to the Ten Thousand Year Wood Core?"

Xiang Mantang speculated.

Then, he said to San Liu, "Take this vessel down and bring it back with us later."

"Yes."

San Liu had been somewhat rebellious, but as Xiang Mantang's power soared, reaching the God Realm, he began to submit to him, obeying his commands.

Then, San Liu went over and took the cultivation vessel, causing the Spring of Life inside to shake a bit.

Luckily, San Liu was also a Martial Arts Grandmaster, proficient in controlling his strength; otherwise, if it were an ordinary strongman who clumsily removed it, the vessel might have been crushed entirely.

San Liu carried the vessel and was about to walk outside to place it on the helicopter for transport back.

Watching San Liu take away the Spring of Life, Xiang Mantang turned back to the old man and said,

"Now, tell me all the information about the members of your Withered Tree Quest for Spring, as well as where this Spring of Life came from."

Xiang Mantang's voice wasn't loud, but it carried an undeniable force.

It was as if those who heard it, if they did not obey, would face severe consequences!

The old man's face was ashen, knowing that the Spring of Life allocated to him within the organization had been completely taken by Xiang Mantang, completely losing his chance to extend his life.

When he heard Xiang Mantang's words, he humphed disdainfully, choosing not to answer very stubbornly.

After all, in his view, he would not live many more years anyway, so why obey Xiang Mantang?

And by not betraying the Withered Tree Quest for Spring, there was a chance he could still obtain more Spring of Life if he survived.

However, that was what he thought, but his body did not cooperate.

Ten minutes later.

After the "Snake" meticulously "cared" for the old man, the old man obediently told everything to Xiang Mantang.

"Snap!"

Having obtained the necessary information and confirming that the old man had not lied, Xiang Mantang personally took action and snapped the old man's throat.

The old man's eyes widened, not with resentment, fear, or despair, but with relief and joy.

This showed how frightened he had been by the "Snake's" care, to the point that death had become a release.

"Let's go."

After Xiang Mantang had Nameless and the others take away all the money they could from the old man, he set the entire magnificent manor ablaze with a single fire!

Amidst the soaring black smoke, they boarded a helicopter and flew towards Huaxia.

Half a day later, they returned to the Sanatorium at Capital City's Dragon King Hall, where Xiang Mantang personally carried a jar of the Spring of Life to where Mu Jinyu was in deep slumber.

As they opened the door, the room was now empty.

Whether it was Su Zijin or Gu Xiyan, the three women, knowing that Mu Jinyu would awaken, had not given up hope completely, so they rallied. Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou continued to manage the Jinyu Group, while Mei Yinxue followed the members of the Dragon King Hall in participating in special training to become stronger, so that one day, she could protect Mu Jinyu.

As for Su Zijin, she would come over every day since she had nothing else to do.

However, Xiang Mantang specifically chose a time when she had gone back to visit Mu Jinyu.

Seeing Su Zijin stirred feelings of guilt in him, making him unsure of how to speak to her.

Xiang Mantang, through the Mysterious Ice Coffin Lid, looked at the peacefully sleeping Mu Jinyu inside, holding the jar of the Spring of Life, his eyes filled with guilt, "Senior brother, I will soon find the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures to save you!"

Xiang Mantang whispered to himself, a promise to Mu Jinyu, and also a vow for his lifelong pursuit.

Then, he pushed open the coffin lid, and a terrifying chill spread out. Xiang Mantang, undeterred by the cold, gently poured the Spring of Life into the coffin, allowing Mu Jinyu's body to soak in it.

When about half of it was used, and just as the Spring of Life was about to submerge Mu Jinyu's mouth and nose, Xiang Mantang stopped.

Then, he opened Mu Jinyu's mouth and fed him a bit of the Spring of Life as well.

"Thud!"

Having completely used up the Spring of Life, he placed the glass container aside and watched Mu Jinyu's complexion.

His originally pale face, after having taken the Spring of Life and being soaked in it, receiving a vast amount of Life Source Energy, looked much rosier.

Now, he truly seemed like he was merely asleep.

"It really works!"

Xiang Mantang murmured to himself, then with a determined look, he turned and walked away.

The room was quickly locked, not allowing outsiders to enter.

Not long after Xiang Mantang left, a jade pendant hanging around Mu Jinyu's neck suddenly flickered with a brilliant light under the soak of the Spring of Life, then quickly subdued.

If Xiang Mantang were still here, he would have recognized that this jade pendant was the very one given to Mu Jinyu by their master, Mu Shao'ai, when he left Yinlong Mountain.

...

After leaving the sanatorium,

he immediately got into a red flag sedan and drove to a courtyard house.

That place was the residence of the former Big Dipper Tianshu of the Dragon King Hall.

The old man had also been eligible to compete for the position of Tiance True Dragon of the Dragon King Hall but ultimately lost to the Old Dragon King. Had he remained in the Dragon King Hall until the Old Dragon King passed away, he could have had the chance to become the New Dragon King. However, a few years ago, he was severely injured in a battle and early passed the position of Big Dipper Tianshu to Xiang Mantang.

Afterward, he had been living in this courtyard house, enjoying his years peacefully.

According to the old man's story, this former Tianshu had joined Withered Tree Quest for Spring very early on, and the Spring of Life was also provided by him.

Chapter 449: Talking Behind Someone's Back!

Xiang Mantang reflected on the information obtained.

His feelings were somewhat complex.

Of course, he had not come to find the former Tianshu to settle accounts about Withered Tree Quest for Spring, nor did he intend to snatch the Spring of Life from him. Mu Jinyu now had enough Spring of Life for his purposes. What he wanted to know was how the former Tianshu had acquired the Spring of Life.

And most importantly, whether the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures that gave birth to the Spring of Life had been obtained by him.

If not, Xiang Mantang would go and search for it himself.

But if it was already in the hands of this former Tianshu...

Although he and Xiang Mantang had some favors between them, there was no choice; to save Mu Jinyu, Xiang Mantang would stop at nothing!

About ten minutes later.

Xiang Mantang arrived at the entrance of the courtyard where the former Tianshu resided.

The several security guards at the entrance, seeing Xiang Mantang alight from a red flag sedan, initially wondered which important figure had come to visit the old leader, but upon seeing Xiang Mantang, they recognized his identity.

After all, as the security responsible for the safety of the former Tianshu, they naturally knew the major figures of Dragon King Hall.

"Greetings, Tianshu!"

"The old leader is in the yard playing chess with an old friend. I'll go in and inform the leader right away."

The security guards saluted Xiang Mantang respectfully, and then planned to go inside to notify the former Tianshu.

"There's no need for such formality; I'll go in myself."

Xiang Mantang waved his hand to them and then walked towards the courtyard of the former Tianshu, under their stiff expressions.

Xiang Mantang was not visiting for the first time and naturally knew where the courtyard of the former Tianshu was.

The security guards watched Xiang Mantang enter, his presence emitting a sharp edge that made them dare not stop him!

Once Xiang Mantang disappeared from their sight.

The security guards then looked at each other and said, "Don't you feel that Tianshu's aura has changed a lot, becoming somewhat more aggressive?!"

"Yes, indeed, it has changed. I've been a security guard here for several years. When Tianshu visited the old leader previously, he would not behave like this. He was very polite and would always wait at the entrance until the old leader was free to meet him!"

After all, Xiang Mantang was not a closely related student of the former Tianshu.

Yet, when he came over this time, without the former Tianshu's permission, he instead walked in directly, and they wouldn't blame him.

He could only say it was like he was once a subordinate of the former Tianshu; even though he had now become the Beidou Tianshu, he should not enter directly without waiting for them to inform him and the old leader's permission when visiting a former leader.

So, seeing that he was so impolite to just walk in directly today, they felt very surprised.

"Based on what you both are saying, why didn't you stop him from going in? Why did you let him go? Aren't you afraid the old leader will scold you later?"

At this point, a new junior security guard, hearing the words of the two older security guards, asked in surprise.

"Stop him? We wouldn't dare!"

They exchanged glances, showing a wry smile, and shook their heads.

"He is the current Beidou Tianshu, an important figure in Dragon King Hall second only to the Dragon King; how could we dare to stop him when he wants to enter?"

"Besides, I recently heard some rumors that the new Dragon King also met with an accident, and it was caused by this Tianshu. Although he does not claim to be the Dragon King, he has seized control of the Dragon King Hall and can now be called the true king without a crown! Who among us would dare provoke him?!"

They shook their heads and sighed, allowing the old chief to complain. At most, they would lose their jobs, but if they angered Xiang Mantang, a man ruthless enough to kill a brother-like mentor, they feared they might lose their lives!

...

Xiang Mantang was unaware of the security guards' gossip and the rumors spread by Di Yin and Qin Qiaochu, which had altered others' impressions of him.

As he entered the courtyard where the former Tianshu lived, he saw an elderly man dressed in a Zhongshan suit leisurely sitting in a bamboo rocking chair, watching two younger men playing chess, occasionally offering them advice.

Those two were the Sub-hall Masters of the Dragon King Hall, Qin Qiaochu and Di Yin.

Xiang Mantang's steps were soft; they did not hear a sound as they continued playing chess and talking.

"Old Yang, now that the new Dragon King is dead again, and with Xiang Mantang ambitiously assuming the role at the Dragon King Hall, we still think that you, once again taking over the leadership of the Dragon King Hall and becoming the new Dragon King, would be better than him!"

"Indeed, I heard some internal news that the new Dragon King was about to get married. He was planning to formally take charge of the Dragon King Hall and retrieve all his powers from Xiang Mantang, but then he received a message—a distress signal from Xiang Mantang. He went to Kunlun immediately, but the new Dragon King never returned, and yet Xiang Mantang came back alive and well. If there's no foul play involved, I could chop off my head and let you use it as a soccer ball!"

"Yes, and what's more, he has taken back some of our positions and is acting completely like the True Dragon King!"

Qin Qiaochu and Di Yin complained bitterly.

It seemed there was much resentment within the Dragon King Hall!

The elderly man was the former Tianshu, named Yang Guowei, now over eighty years old.

Upon hearing their words, a gleam flashed through his cloudy eyes, and then he shook his head, saying, "You guys should not believe in everything you hear. I have watched Xiaotang grow up, and he is not the kind of person to commit such acts, stop your baseless speculations!"

"Besides, I'm over eighty years old and retired due to injuries. Why would I still want to be the Dragon King?"

Yang Guowei shook his head.

"Being eighty years old is not really old. The Old Dragon King was still ruling at one hundred and twenty. And besides, being the Dragon King doesn't necessarily mean going to the battlefield!"

Qin Qiaochu persuaded.

They had come to Yang Guowei's that day partly to catch up with the old man, but partly because they were unhappy about Xiang Mantang becoming the new Dragon King!

If Xiang Mantang taking over the Dragon King Hall was one thing, him becoming the new Dragon King and taking away their powers and positions was something they could not tolerate.

So, they came specifically to persuade the former Tianshu, Yang Guowei, to fight for the position of the Tiance True Dragon!

After all, Xiang Mantang's position as the Dragon King was controversial and unconvincing, whereas Yang Guowei, whether by identity or status, was a more credible candidate for the position of Tiance True Dragon!

"Oh, if there's nothing suspicious, are you ready to have your head chopped off to kick around as a ball?"

At that moment, Xiang Mantang's voice, cold as a breeze from Hell, suddenly resonated throughout the courtyard.

Upon hearing this familiar voice, whether it was Qin Qiaochu, Di Yin, or Yang Guowei, their faces drastically changed.

It was one thing for Xiang Mantang to discover they had been speaking ill of him behind his back; what truly terrified them was how Xiang Mantang's power had reached such a level that he could arrive beside them unnoticed.

Xiang Mantang, with his hands behind his back, walked slowly from the doorway towards them.

Yang Guowei's pupils tightened instantly as he saw Xiang Mantang's approach.

Xiang Mantang appeared to be walking on the ground, but under his gaze, he was not actually touching the ground at all; he was literally walking on air.

It was just that the air he was stepping on was so low that it gave the illusion of a silent, seamless walk.

Chapter 450: The Younger Generation is to be Feared!

"Beidou Tianshu, how did you... come over?!"

Qin Qiaochu and Di Yin's faces greatly changed when they saw Xiang Mantang appear, and they screamed in panic.

"What? Only dare to smear my name behind my back?"

Xiang Mantang walked towards them slowly, his gaze cold as a knife, making them feel as if their flesh was being scraped off inch by inch.

Hearing this, they quickly tried to regain composure from their panic, forcing themselves to calm down and said, "We did not smear your name, it was all just speculation, quite reasonable speculation!"

"Oh, is that so?" Xiang Mantang didn't bother wasting words with them and raised his hand to grab at their necks!

Neither Qin Qiaochu nor Di Yin expected Xiang Mantang to dare make a move against them in front of Yang Guowei, let alone a lethal one. Their faces turned pale, and they tried to react and resist.

"Crack!"

Xiang Mantang easily crushed their throats with one hand each!

"You..."

They couldn't respond in time, feeling that Xiang Mantang's hand moved rather slowly, and yet in a blink of an eye, he had already locked onto their necks and crushed their throats.

"Gurgling..."

Blood spilled from the corners of their mouths, their eyes widened in disbelief, and then their heads tilted, and they breathed their last.

"You?!"

At this moment, Yang Guowei finally reacted, abruptly standing up from his seat, trembling hands pointed at Xiang Mantang.

Although they were killed by Xiang Mantang, it happened in his residence, and if this caused a stir, he would be implicated as well!

After all, the Qin Family and Di Yin's master were not forces to be trifled with!

Xiang Mantang withdrew his hands, pulled out a clean white towel, and casually wiped his hands, saying, "I'm sorry for the inconvenience, Old Yang, for dirtying your place and startling you by getting rid of the traitors."

"You killed them without any reason, this... the people behind them, I'm afraid they will not let this go easily!"

Yang Guowei calmed down and spoke with a slight reproach to Xiang Mantang.

Xiang Mantang didn't respond to his remark, instead taking out his phone and sending out a message.

Soon, Dragon King Hall members came in and carried away the bodies of the two Sub-hall Masters.

Upon seeing the bodies of Qin Qiaochu and Di Yin, they didn't change their expressions, but their pupils contracted slightly.

After all, these were the Sub-hall Masters!

However, they were all loyally devoted to Xiang Mantang, so they quickly calmed down and, following Xiang Mantang's orders, took the bodies away.

After the two bodies were carried away and the ground was cleaned.

Yang Guowei had also completely calmed down, he asked, "What do you want with me? Are you also asking me to come out of retirement?"

He thought that Xiang Mantang probably felt his position was not stable and wanted him to step forward to help consolidate his position.

However, he didn't like Xiang Mantang's action of bursting in without his permission, especially since his current status in Dragon King Hall was that of a disabled, old man enjoying his remaining years.

Xiang Mantang shook his head, replying, "Although Dragon King Hall is now facing many troubles both from within and without, after clearing out these few traitors born with bones of rebellion, the Hall's situation should improve. So, there is no need for you to come out of retirement."

"Then, what is your business with me?" asked Yang Guowei.

Xiang Mantang said, "I'm here to ask you about the Spring of Life."

Hearing Xiang Mantang's words, Yang Guowei's face changed slightly, and he quickly said, "Spring of Life? What Spring of Life, I've never heard of such a thing!"

Xiang Mantang said indifferently, "No need to pretend, I know you've already joined Withered Tree Quest for Spring. However, everyone wants to live a few more years, and I can understand that, so my visit this time isn't about settling scores with you!"

"After all, you didn't participate much in the assassination attempts on my senior brother by Withered Tree Quest for Spring recently!"

Yang Guowei, hearing Xiang Mantang speak in this manner, realized that his involvement with Withered Tree Quest for Spring had indeed been discovered by Xiang Mantang.

However, he was indifferent about it. After all, within Withered Tree Quest for Spring, not only had he successfully found the Spring of Life through mutual exchange of information, but he had also healed his internal injuries. His current strength had reached Half-Step Divine Realm, so he was not afraid of Xiang Mantang!

"So you're saying, if I had taken part in plotting for the Beauty Pill back then, you would have come to kill me today?" Yang Guowei said frankly.

"Yes, if you had taken part in it and were the one who leaked all my senior brother's information to Withered Tree Quest for Spring, I would have killed you today," Xiang Mantang replied in a very cold tone. "But you didn't, so I won't kill you. I still have a lot of respect for you. I came to find you for information about the Spring of Life, to save my senior brother!"

Yang Guowei laughed, "So should I thank you for your mercy of not killing me?"

As he spoke, his expression suddenly became stern, and he said, "However, regarding the Spring of Life, I indeed have some left, but I won't give it to you. If you want it, you'll have to prove your ability!"

"Ha!"

As soon as he finished speaking.

Yang Guowei suddenly let out a furious shout. His aura burst forth like a tide, instantly causing the flowers and grass in the courtyard to break and the leaves to fly about!

With Yang Guowei's stooped body accompanied by the crisp popping sound of his bones, his spine straightened in an instant!

He threw a punch that carried an unstoppable force, like a cannonball being fired, aimed directly at Xiang Mantang's abdomen.

"Tap!"

Xiang Mantang watched with a calm gaze as Yang Guowei showed his might. As Yang Guowei's punch was about to hit him, Xiang Mantang lifted his hand slightly, in a motion that was both slow and fast, blocking it in front of his chest, and then caught Yang Guowei's punch in his hand!

"How is that possible?!"

Yang Guowei, seeing Xiang Mantang effortlessly catch his punch, his turbid old eyes suddenly filled with intense shock.

His punch wasn't just an old man playing Tai Chi, it was a true punch that could split gold and jade, and kill tigers and elephants!

Even a building would be toppled by such a punch.

Yet Xiang Mantang had caught his overwhelming punch without even using Inner Strength!

Then, Yang Guowei came to his senses, his eyes nearly popping out of their sockets in astonishment, "You... you've already stepped into the Divine Realm?!"

"Thanks to those traitors, I have indeed entered the Divine Realm!" Xiang Mantang said in an indifferent tone.

He didn't find it the least bit unbelievable that he could catch Yang Guowei's punch.

Such was the terror of a Divine Realm powerhouse!

Remember the time he, along with Mu Jinyu and Third-Rate Unknown, and the Four Great Transformative Power Peak Masters, surrounded and attacked a Lord of the Killing Realm, only to be defeated with ease?

Had it not been for the fact that he and Mu Jinyu risked their lives to perform the Forbidden Secret Technique, they might not have survived!

So, Yang Guowei was just a Half-Step Divine Realm individual. No matter how strong he was, his strength was limited. Compared to the combined attack of those four, it was far inferior. How could he pose any threat to him?

Hearing Xiang Mantang's confirmation, Yang Guowei sighed resignedly and said, "I concede, old man. Indeed, every generation produces new talents who surpass the old!"