

King Hall 461

Chapter 461 - Lu Yuan!

"Clang!"

Xiang Mantang's attack, like a giant hammer striking a bell, emitted a series of deafening, resonant sounds.

The golden, bowl-shaped protective shield before them visibly trembled, rippling with waves that surged in all directions!

"Boom!"

With just one attack from Xiang Mantang, the Tianhe Sword Sect's Mountain Protection Array had not yet been breached. Suddenly, a magnificent palace atop the majestic mountains emitted a loud noise, followed by a surge of momentum that rose like billowing smoke!

"Ha!"

A sound like thunder, long-lasting and endless, erupted.

Then, San Liu and Jian Ruyan, among others, watched with intense gazes as a middle-aged man, dressed in ancient clothes, his solemn face filled with anger, slowly walked out from the palace and then leaped from the cliffside.

To everyone's amazement, the man did not plummet straight down from the edge of the cliff as if he were weightless. Instead, it was as though there were solid ground beneath his feet, allowing him to step through the air toward them!

"Is he a God Realm master?!"

"To induce Heaven and Earth Vital Energy to tread through the air, this is a true God Realm master!"

San Liu and Zeus, among others, became even more solemn as they saw the middle-aged man approaching, speaking in a deep voice.

Although Xiang Mantang also had a serious expression, he did not cease his attacks, continuing to form Fist Seals with his hands and throwing a punch into the void in front of him!

"Boom!"

An intangible yet perceptible shocking punch struck directly onto the protective shield, where golden ripples continuously spread. Suddenly, the shield, which seemed as solid as a fortress, began to crack all over with a series of crackling sounds!

"Crack, crack, crack..."

"Bang!"

As Xiang Mantang launched another punch, the golden protective shield finally could no longer bear the burden and burst open with a loud explosion!

However, it did not shatter into countless fragments that would scatter and hurt others like glass.

The shield exploded, and the golden, bowl-shaped protection that had covered the entire mountain range disappeared completely!

"Who dares to cause trouble at my Tianhe Sword Sect?!"

The middle-aged man advanced step by step through the air toward everyone, but he could not stop Xiang Mantang from breaking the Mountain Protection Array of his Tianhe Sword Sect in time.

Thus, after shouting angrily, he halted his steps, standing firmly upon the void, his eyes wary and angry as he stared at Xiang Mantang.

Although he could not discern Xiang Mantang's exact strength, anyone capable of breaking the Tianhe Sword Sect's Mountain Protection Array with three punches was undoubtedly at the level of the God Realm!

Hence, he did not act rashly.

"Are you the Tianhe Sword Sect's ancestor?" Xiang Mantang asked, after displaying his strength by breaking the Mountain Protection Array, not immediately engaging the opponent.

The middle-aged man nodded and said, "Yes, I am Lu Yuan, the Supreme Elder of the Tianhe Sword Sect."

After speaking, Lu Yuan suppressed his anger and questioned, "And you, sir, who are you, and why do you lead people to cause trouble at my Tianhe Sword Sect?"

Xiang Mantang replied gravely, "Tiance True Dragon of the Dragon King Hall, Xiang Mantang!"

Although he considered himself just managing the Dragon King Hall and the true Tiance True Dragon was still Mu Jinyu, at this critical moment of confrontation, if he only introduced himself with the title of Beidou Tianshu, it would seem too modest. Therefore, he claimed the title of Tiance True Dragon for the time being.

"The new Dragon King of the Dragon King Hall?!"

Although Lu Yuan had always resided within the Kunlun Ruins, he was not cut off from the outside world and was well aware of the reputation of the Dragon King Hall and the identity of Xiang Mantang.

"Our wells do not interfere with your river, what business does the Dragon King have with me?"

Lu Yuan, having heard Xiang Mantang's self-introduction, swept his gaze across the figures of Jian Ruyan, Zeus, San Liu, and Nameless, all masters at the peak of Energy Transformation behind him, eyes revealing traces of apprehension as he spoke up to inquire.

Xiang Mantang, hands clasped behind his back, looked coldly at Lu Yuan, saying, "A disciple from your sect, Shen Cangsheng, was once the Tianquan Hall Master of Dragon King Hall, but out of jealousy, he killed my predecessor, the Dragon King. I am here for you to hand over this traitor and the accomplices who accompanied him in ambushing the Dragon King that day!"

"Hmm?! Is that so?!"

Upon hearing Xiang Mantang's words, Lu Yuan's eyes narrowed, and he suddenly felt that things were difficult.

Regarding the fact that someone from his sect held a significant position within Dragon King Hall, he had heard about it, but hadn't paid attention to who it was.

Therefore, he was not clear whether it was as Xiang Mantang had said.

"Dragon King, please wait here for a moment! I will return shortly!"

Lu Yuan knew that if Xiang Mantang was not lying, then Dragon King Hall coming over today to settle scores would undoubtedly lead to a fierce battle if he couldn't provide a reasonable explanation!

Accordingly, after speaking with Xiang Mantang, he rapidly turned, stepped on air, and made his way back to the palace on the peak!

And this time, he was much faster than before.

Soon, Lu Yuan returned to his Supreme Elder's palace and then issued an order for the Sect Leader of the Tianhe Sword Sect to come to him quickly.

"Great Elder, when did you summon your junior?"

The Sect Leader of the Tianhe Sword Sect, a middle-aged man with a goatee, entered the grand hall, immediately knelt on one knee, and respectfully called out to Lu Yuan, who was seated on a grand master's chair.

"I ask you, is there a disciple named Shen Cangsheng in our sect?"

Lu Yuan looked down at the Sect Leader, his tone deep as he asked.

The Sect Leader, startled by Lu Yuan's question, hurriedly responded, "Yes, he is my disciple, with considerable talent, and has already reached the Completion Stage of Energy Transformation..."

"Really?" Lu Yuan's gaze deepened as he continued, "Is he a Sub-hall Master in Dragon King Hall?"

"Yes!" The Sect Leader, not understanding why the Supreme Elder would ask such a question, still nodded affirmatively.

"Summon Shen Cangsheng and the disciples who followed him out of the Kunlun Ruins recently. Come with me!"

Lu Yuan abruptly stood up, said no more, clasped his hands behind his back, and walked to the window of the grand hall, looking out at the scenery outside, his expression inscrutable, lost in thought.

While the Sect Leader was about to inquire whether the enemy who had breached the Mountain Protection Array had been dealt with, he heard Lu Yuan summoning him to find Shen Cangsheng. His heart sank, knowing that Shen must have caused great trouble.

Not daring to ask more, he hurriedly left to find Shen Cangsheng and the Outer Sect Disciples and Miscellaneous Disciples who had been called out by Shen a short time ago.

He remembered those disciples somewhat—some had died, and some had returned alive. At that time, he had even blamed Shen Cangsheng!

Soon, within about the time it takes to finish a cup of tea, the Sect Leader brought Shen Cangsheng and a group of people to the Elders' Hall.

"Come with me."

Lu Yuan glanced at Shen Cangsheng and, without speaking further, walked outside with his hands behind his back.

Shen Cangsheng felt very nervous because he noticed that all the people summoned by the Sect Leader were those he had gathered last time to ambush Xiang Mantang.

'What's happening? Could it be that they have traced us to the Kunlun Ruins?'

'It shouldn't be!'

'Mu Jinyu, that fellow, is at most at the Peak of Energy Transformation. Having just caused trouble here, the Great Elder would surely have slapped him dead!'

As Shen Cangsheng's thoughts raced, his mood grew heavier.

Chapter 462: Shen Cangsheng's Despair!

Lu Yuan had walked out of the great hall, not taking to the air directly this time.

After all, aside from himself, the others, at most, had the strength of Energy Transformation, and those Miscellaneous Disciples and Outer Sect Disciples were even more vulnerable, possessing only the power of Mingjin and Dark energy.

He couldn't protect so many people flying through the air together, that would send them crashing into meat paste!

Thus, he chose to take the mountain path, leading them to find Xiang Mantang and other masters from the Dragon King Hall.

After the journey of more than ten minutes, they finally reached the mountain gate.

Shen Cangsheng followed behind Lu Yuan, and from a distance, he spotted the figures of Xiang Mantang and Jian Ruyan standing ahead, which scared him to his core.

What the hell, wasn't Xiang Mantang killed by Chen Qianqian? How was he still alive?

Could it be that Chen Qianqian was so incompetent that she failed to kill Xiang Mantang, and he was actually revived by Mu Jinyu?

That day, when Shen Cangsheng planned the ambush to kill Xiang Mantang, he had been extremely careful and cautious, never showing his face, thus he was unaware of the specific details. He had assumed that Xiang Mantang was definitely dead, but now seeing Xiang Mantang coming to settle scores, he couldn't fathom what might have gone wrong.

All he knew was that if he didn't flee now, he would definitely die!

Shen Cangsheng's complexion changed unpredictably, then suddenly, he turned around, intending to escape down the mountain path!

"Huh?!"

Lu Yuan noticed Shen Cangsheng's movement and immediately expressed his displeasure with a disapproving snort.

Lu Yuan had not taken any action yet, but Shen Cangsheng, who had just turned to escape, felt an immense pressure, like a huge mountain pressing on his shoulders, making it extremely difficult for him to move even an inch.

Shen Cangsheng let out several muffled groans, his face turning deathly pale, then took on a bizarre flush of red, with even blood beginning to seep from the corners of his mouth.

"Come with me!"

Lu Yuan spoke in an annoyed tone, carrying an undeniable command.

As soon as he spoke, Shen Cangsheng found himself involuntarily following Lu Yuan and continued walking forward.

Shen Cangsheng was terrified beyond belief; he really wanted to run, for following Lu Yuan ahead meant certain death.

But his legs simply would not obey him, leading him step by step toward Xiang Mantang, plunging into an endless abyss!

The group of Miscellaneous Disciples and Outer Sect Disciples, initially unclear about why Shen Cangsheng behaved this way, immediately became terrified when they recognized Xiang Mantang's appearance clearly after walking some distance.

This, this, this, wasn't that the fearsome deity they had surrounded and attempted to kill on Kunlun Mountain that day?

He had actually come looking for the Tianhe Sword Sect?

They instantly understood why Shen Cangsheng had tried to escape earlier.

This group of people also, without hesitation, turned around, wanting to flee!

"Hmph!"

Lu Yuan noticed their movements, and again let out a cold snort, so these disciples, too, shook in their boots, following their Supreme Elder and continued moving forward.

Lu Yuan, a hint of a smirk on his lips, found these people naively foolish, thinking they could escape from his clutch?

If it had been a group of Martial Artists at the peak of Energy Transformation, he might not have been able to restrain these dozens of people, but dealing with just Mingjin or Dark energy Martial Artists, it was truly effortless for him to dominate them.

It didn't take long.

Lu Yuan "brought" Shen Cangsheng and those Miscellaneous and Outer Sect Disciples in front of Xiang Mantang.

"Dragon King, sorry for the wait, here are the disciples you were looking for," Lu Yuan said as he stopped ten meters away from Xiang Mantang, his tone light.

"Hmm."

Xiang Mantang looked over the group and let out a low hum.

He actually had forgotten how many people he had let go in a rush to get Mu Jinyu out.

However, these expendable minions weren't his main target, the person he most wanted to kill was still Shen Cangsheng.

As long as Shen Cangsheng appeared, even if there were a few less people, he didn't really care!

"Shen Cangsheng, it's been a long time."

Xiang Mantang's eyes were fixed tightly on Shen Cangsheng as he curled his lips into a hideous sneer.

Then, he took a step forward and slowly walked toward Shen Cangsheng.

Shen Cangsheng's eyes were filled with fear; he watched helplessly as Xiang Mantang approached him, wanting to speak, but he found himself utterly incapable of doing so.

"Huh..."

Suddenly, he felt he could speak again.

Shen Cangsheng did not know why Lu Yuan had released his constraints at that moment, but he did not hesitate; he turned around and fled!

"Uh..."

However, just as he was about to move, he felt unable to lift his legs and fell flat on his face right where he stood!

Terror filled Shen Cangsheng's heart once more.

He knew this was not Lu Yuan playing with him, but rather the overwhelming aura of Xiang Mantang.

He had suspected that Xiang Mantang might have entered the God Realm, which was why Lu Yuan, in a bid to keep the peace, had chosen to bring him and those disciples out and hand them over to Xiang Mantang for disposal.

Now feeling this immense aura, he was certain; he was truly finished.

The plan that day had not only failed to kill Xiang Mantang, but it had also allowed him to break through in a desperate situation!

He had gained a fortune from a misfortune; his own design to kill him had completely turned into him aiding him!

"Shen Cangsheng, how does it feel!"

Xiang Mantang slowly walked up to Shen Cangsheng, his tone icy.

At that moment, he lifted the immense aura, allowing Shen Cangsheng to speak, though he could not move.

"Y-you-you..." Shen Cangsheng noticed this change and immediately stammered, "How did you break through to the God Realm, damn it!!"

"Hmph, you think I wanted to enter the God Realm?!" Xiang Mantang said coldly.

"Tch!"

As he spoke, he took out a small dagger and directly gouged out Shen Cangsheng's nose.

"If I could, I would rather never enter the God Realm my whole life!"

With each cold word from Xiang Mantang, threads of pain were evident, and then the dagger pierced Shen Cangsheng's eye socket and with a scoop, he flicked his eyeball out.

"Ahhh!!!"

Having his nose sliced off was painful for Shen Cangsheng, but before he could even react, the true agony came when his eyeball was gouged out, making him roar uncontrollably!

"Tch!"

Xiang Mantang stabbed and scooped once more, removing Shen Cangsheng's other eyeball.

He wanted to slowly, methodically carry out Shen Cangsheng's Ling Chi.

With his nose sliced off and both eyeballs gouged out, the immense pain and despair had all vanished.

Suddenly, he grimly smiled, shouted loudly, "Hahaha, Xiang Mantang, would you really rather stay in Energy Transformation than enter the God Realm? Haha, seeing your pain, is it because you killed your own sister?!"

"Hahaha... Go ahead and kill me; at least it would mean you personally killed your sister. That's a fitting end for me, hahaha..."

Shen Cangsheng had guessed the meaning behind Xiang Mantang's words, especially since from that day on, Chen Qianqian never returned.

It was very likely that she had died by Xiang Mantang's hand.

Initially, he had speculated that she died at Mu Jinyu's hand when she came rushing over, but seeing Xiang Mantang today, speaking with such suppressed endless agony, made it clear to him, Chen Qianqian must have died by Xiang Mantang's hand!

This revelation transformed the despair and unwillingness within Shen Cangsheng into elation, feeling a mad sense of revenge against Xiang Mantang!

Chapter 463: More Than Just Crushing Bones and Scattering Ashes!

"Hey!"

Upon hearing Shen Cangsheng's wanton and arrogant words, Xiang Mantang's eyes narrowed sharply, and his right hand, holding the dagger, couldn't help but tremble slightly as veins bulged violently.

His lips quivered, and he desperately wanted to roar and then kill Shen Cangsheng with one strike!

But in the end, Xiang Mantang did not do that.

He restrained himself.

Because if he had burst into a rage because of Shen Cangsheng's words, Shen Cangsheng would have been absolutely delighted, not feeling the slightest fear of death.

He would not let Shen Cangsheng feel a trace of pleasure before dying.

However...

Xiang Mantang then stabbed Shen Cangsheng's dantian with a knife, identified his mute acupoint, and pressed it, silencing him completely!

"Wuu wuu wuu..."

Shen Cangsheng had been preparing to mock Xiang Mantang, but suddenly, he could no longer speak.

And because he no longer had eyeballs, he couldn't mock or sneer at Xiang Mantang with his gaze, seeing him enraged and embarrassed.

"What a lot of nonsense!"

Xiang Mantang suppressed his rage, and his trembling right hand steadied and strengthened once more.

"Whoosh, whoosh!"

With two more strikes, he cut off both of Shen Cangsheng's ears.

"Heh heh heh..."

Shen Cangsheng felt the pain and wanted to curse Xiang Mantang to vent the pain of being dismembered, but because his mute acupoint had been pressed, he could not utter a sound.

Thus, the satisfaction in his heart gradually faded, leaving only unwillingness, anger, despair, fear...and other emotions!

Xiang Mantang dismembered Shen Cangsheng cut by cut, and soon, Shen Cangsheng had become unrecognizable.

"Tat tat tat..."

At that time, Mei Yinxue, under the protection of Jian Ruyan and Zhu Yeqing, killed all the Tianhe Sword Sect disciples who had acted as accomplices to Shen Cangsheng that day and walked over.

"Let me do it!"

Mei Yinxue, holding her still blood-dripping Blood-Drinking Sword, stared at the paralyzed Shen Cangsheng on the ground, her beautiful eyes filled with resentment and anger.

Had it not been for this man, she would have married Mu Jinyu by now, and they should be honeymooning in various countries instead of training hard every day, suppressing the pain and despair in her heart!

"Alright."

After cutting over a hundred pieces of flesh from Shen Cangsheng, Xiang Mantang had vented much of his anger. Hearing Mei Yinxue's words, he suddenly remembered that he originally planned to let Mei Yinxue slowly deal with Shen Cangsheng.

However, upon seeing Shen Cangsheng, he had not been able to restrain himself and had started on him first, almost killing him with one cheap strike!

"Sister-in-law, go ahead."

Xiang Mantang calmed himself down, holding the blood-stained dagger, and stood up to step aside, allowing Mei Yinxue better access to deal with Shen Cangsheng.

Mei Yinxue nodded at Xiang Mantang, then with a look of poisonous hatred, she gripped the Blood-Drinking Sword and began to dismember Shen Cangsheng.

One sword stroke after another, piece by piece, Shen Cangsheng soon turned into a bloody mess.

A large pool of blood flowed out from where he lay.

The sight of a dismembered Shen Cangsheng was so gruesome that it made one's hair stand on end and sweat run cold!

Xiang Mantang, fearing that Shen Cangsheng would soon die from excessive blood loss, specially used the hemostatic medicine that Mu Jinyu had once given him, applying it to Shen Cangsheng.

He also added some medicine powder that intensified the senses tenfold.

Immediately, Shen Cangsheng, who had been barely breathing and unable to whimper, began to groan intensely and agitatedly.

"Heh heh heh, wuu wuu wuu..."

Although the onlookers could not make out what Shen Cangsheng was shouting, they knew that he must be in severe pain.

And his groaning, the onlookers guessed, was probably: "Kill me! If you dare, give me a quick death!"

And various other unsavory expressions.

San Liu felt a chill.

He suddenly felt fortunate that when he had sought out Mu Jinyu for healing, he was only cursed and kicked out by Xiang Mantang instead of being completely dealt with.

Over these days, although no one explicitly mentioned it, San Liu understood that something had happened to Mu Jinyu, and on that day, having not repaid him and planning to seek further treatment from Mu Jinyu, it was fitting that he ended up being cursed by Xiang Mantang.

In his situation, being able to preserve his life was truly a blessing.

After realizing the situation, San Liu immediately gathered money and paid the several hundred million he owed Mu Jinyu to Su Zijin and the others, fearing that one day Xiang Mantang might use this excuse to deal with him if he were in a bad mood!

"Hiss, hiss, hiss!!"

Mei Yinxue, expressionless, sliced Shen Cangsheng's flesh with her sword; flesh flew and blood sprayed everywhere, leaving almost only Shen Cangsheng's skeleton.

If this were a normal person, he would have died long ago.

But Shen Cangsheng had Xiang Mantang by his side, adding medicine and treating him, hence he had not died yet, though he was close to it.

He had only a last breath remaining.

"Ha!!"

Mei Yinxue, having killed many before, knew that no matter how much Xiang Mantang medicated him, it would not allow Shen Cangsheng to persist much longer and suddenly roared angrily, thrusting her sword.

A flash of the sword, and Shen Cangsheng's head was severed from his neck.

"Gurgle!"

The head, barely having any good flesh left, rolled around like a tattered ball and then ceased moving.

However, those dark eye sockets, though lacking eyeballs, emitted a towering resentment, meeting right with Xiang Mantang's eyes.

"Hmph!"

Xiang Mantang snorted coldly, walked over, and crushed Shen Cangsheng's head underfoot.

"Crack!"

Instantly, under Xiang Mantang's step, a mess of red and white fluids splattered.

"Come, help gather up his corpse!"

Xiang Mantang, having crushed Shen Cangsheng's head, turned and called out to Zeus standing behind him.

"Mm."

Zeus, watching how they had tortured Shen Cangsheng for nearly half an hour before he died, was also scared. Hearing Xiang Mantang's words, he promptly stepped forward.

At the same time, he fiercely gathered his True Yuan, and suddenly, a crackling sound erupted, followed by dazzling electric arcs that fiercely surged toward Shen Cangsheng's corpse.

"Zap, zap!!"

Shen Cangsheng's bloody, muddled corpse was quickly electrocuted into charred remains, with even an intense burnt flesh odor wafting through the air!

Lu Yuan and the Sect Leader, silently watching, had their brows furrowing in distress.

This was not just a matter of Ling Chi execution; this was further desecration of the corpse!

If Shen Cangsheng had done wrong, they needed to give the Dragon King Hall an explanation, to hand over Shen Cangsheng and resolve the grievance, but to execute and desecrate the corpse right in front of their sect's gate was simply a direct slap to the Tianhe Sword Sect's face!

However, with Xiang Mantang and his group still angry, rashly speaking out to stop them would likely escalate things to a deadly feud, rendering the act of handing over Shen Cangsheng meaningless.

Soon, Shen Cangsheng's corpse was burned down to ash by Xiang Mantang.

Afterward, Xiang Mantang ordered his men to release a captured wild wolf and threw Shen Cangsheng's remains mixed with his blood into the ash, feeding it to the starving wolf.

"Howl, howl!"

The wolf, eyes glowing green, devoured rapidly, quickly swallowing all of Shen Cangsheng's flesh and ash.

San Liu and others watched with twitching eyebrows.

Xiang Mantang wasn't just crushing Shen Cangsheng's bones to dust; he wasn't even leaving his ashes behind!

They believed that if Xiang Mantang had the ability to extract Shen Cangsheng's soul, he would definitely continue to torment Shen Cangsheng's soul, ensuring he would never find peace!!

Lu Yuan's face twitched for a moment before he finally spoke, "Is the Dragon King satisfied now?"

"Satisfied," Xiang Mantang was dabbing his hands with a clean towel, answered Lu Yuan indifferently.

Lu Yuan calmly said, "Then, the grievance between you and the renegade from my sect is settled. Now, we need to discuss the matter of you destroying our Mountain Protection Array!"

Chapter 464: The Pact of a Single Palm Strike!

"So, now that the grudge between you and the traitor from my sect has been settled, it's time... we settled the matter of you destroying our Mountain Protection Array!"

Lu Yuan stood at the foot of the mountain, under an ancient pine tree, gazing at Xiang Mantang with profound eyes that flickered with a cold light, speaking softly and quietly.

He had handed over Shen Cangsheng for Xiang Mantang to deal with because the Tianhe Sword Sect was indeed at fault, and he did not wish to escalate the conflict with Dragon King Hall.

But if he let Xiang Mantang destroy their Tianhe Sword Sect's Mountain Protection Array and execute Shen Cangsheng by Ling Chi in front of him, turn his ashes into wolf feed, and stand by doing nothing to allow them to strut away proudly, what would become of the Tianhe Sword Sect's face and reputation?

"Naturally."

Xiang Mantang stopped wiping his hands and nodded slightly towards Lu Yuan.

If he had known Lu Yuan was so reasonable earlier, he definitely would not have resorted to force as soon as he arrived, but since the deed was done, he would not regret it. Whatever moves Lu Yuan had, he was ready to take them on.

"Fine, the Dragon King can take a single palm strike from me, and we will consider this matter settled."

Lu Yuan's eyes flashed as he laughed out loud.

Xiang Mantang's expression changed subtly upon hearing this, his eyes carrying a strange look.

He had originally thought that Lu Yuan would demand compensation for the materials used to construct the Mountain Protection Array, a significant expense, but one he could afford. Yet to his surprise, Lu Yuan's condition was simply to take a palm strike from him!

"Dragon King, you mustn't agree to this!"

Before Xiang Mantang could say anything, Zeus and the others changed expressions upon hearing this and immediately began to dissuade him.

On the surface, taking a single palm strike from Lu Yuan seemed like a trivial matter, much more affordable than compensating for the materials of the Mountain Protection Array; however, both were God Realm powerhouses, and Lu Yuan was an old Earth Immortal, likely stronger than Xiang Mantang.

If Xiang Mantang were unprepared and took the strike head-on, he was very likely to be severely injured.

Should their only God Realm powerhouse be grievously injured, if Lu Yuan were to turn on them at that moment, they, being just Peak Energy Transformation Martial Artists, would stand no chance against him. They might all be left behind.

So, considering their own safety, Zeus and the others, despite not being entirely aligned with Xiang Mantang, still vehemently urged him not to agree to Lu Yuan's demands.

Even Jian Ruyan was gripping the hilt of her sword tightly, her cool and beautiful eyes fixed on Xiang Mantang, with a hint of concern.

In her view, receiving a strike from Lu Yuan was unwise. It would be better to engage the entire Tianhe Sword Sect in battle directly.

They had nearly ten Peak Energy Transformation Martial Artists on their side, which might not necessarily be inferior to the Tianhe Sword Sect!

"Good, I agree."

Xiang Mantang ignored the pleas of everyone and agreed to Lu Yuan's unreasonable demand.

Since Lu Yuan had given up Shen Cangsheng for him to dispose of, it was only right for him to give an explanation for maliciously destroying the other's Mountain Protection Array.

One palm strike, that wasn't too excessive.

Xiang Mantang could accept that.

Three palm strikes, however, he would not have accepted.

"Dragon King, what bravery!"

Lu Yuan had thought that Xiang Mantang would not agree, and upon hearing his response, he was momentarily stunned, then looked at Xiang Mantang with an amused look and started to laugh.

"So then..." After a few chuckles, Lu Yuan's smile faded, and he looked at Xiang Mantang with a profound gaze, saying, "I am making my move!"

"Please!"

Xiang Mantang raised his hand with a composed face and a steady demeanor, and spoke calmly.

"Ha!"

Lu Yuan sneered inwardly, and suddenly let out a loud shout, furiously urging his True Yuan, with Qi Force swirling around him that sent dust and dirt flying back ten meters away.

Above his right palm shone a bright red light, like a blazing sun, causing pain in the onlookers' eyes, tears streaming down, and risking blindness.

The Sect Leader of Tianhe Sword Sect stood to the side, watching Lu Yuan vigorously summon True Yuan and unleash his move, knowing that he was serious and that Xiang Mantang would likely find it difficult to withstand this attack!

He was pleased to see this and even wished Xiang Mantang would die on the spot.

After all, Shen Cangsheng was a disciple he held in high regard, yet before his very eyes, Shen Cangsheng was slowly and brutally killed by Xiang Mantang, and even his ashes were fed to wolves, an utterly humiliating end!

If it weren't for the fact that he was no match for Xiang Mantang, he would have immediately issued an order for the Elders of Tianhe Sword Sect to set up the Killing Formation and cut down Xiang Mantang and his gang right then and there!

Jian Ruyan, Mei Yinxue, San Liu, Zeus and others watched as Lu Yuan's aura became increasingly frenzied, and their concern deepened as they looked at Xiang Mantang's retreating figure.

"Die!"

Lu Yuan furiously stimulated his Extreme Origin, drawing on the abundant Elemental Qi of heaven and earth, and feeling unable to contain this ferocious killing move any further, he bellowed angrily once more and, with swift strides, rushed up to Xiang Mantang, slamming his palm directly towards his chest!

As the saying goes, pull one hair and move the whole body, when Lu Yuan unleashed his killing move, the vast Elemental Qi he had drawn in crashed towards Xiang Mantang with his movements!

"Boom! Boom! Boom!!"

In an instant, the ground beneath Xiang Mantang's feet cracked and rapidly spread outwards like a spider's web!

This showed the terrifying might of Lu Yuan's killing move!

However, Xiang Mantang, standing at the center, still honored his promise; even as he felt the crushing pressure like Mount Tai bearing down on him, causing all his bones to tremble slightly, he did not step back!

"Thud!"

Finally...

Lu Yuan's palm struck Xiang Mantang's chest without holding back!

"Humming..."

At that moment, a layer of dazzling golden light suddenly appeared on Xiang Mantang's body, forming a protective shield as impregnable as a Golden Bell Cover.

The fearsome force of Extreme Origin in Lu Yuan's palm hit the shield, like oil poured into churning river waters, and was washed away in no time.

"How is this possible?!"

Seeing this, Lu Yuan was taken aback, his tongue clicking in astonishment, and he hastily gathered True Yuan for another move.

"Ding!"

Xiang Mantang remained composed as he raised his hand and grabbed Lu Yuan's wrist.

"Elder Lu, we agreed to only one move, didn't we?"

Xiang Mantang spoke softly while holding Lu Yuan's wrist, his tone calm and unhurried, without any other action, but Lu Yuan understood that if he didn't stop now, Xiang Mantang would strike him at once.

Although Xiang Mantang had stood still without retaliating just a moment ago, it didn't mean he hadn't been secretly accumulating True Yuan. If the truce were broken and he was prepared to fight back, a lightning-quick, absolute killing move would be unleashed, and Lu Yuan himself, so close at hand, would likely fall victim to Xiang Mantang's lethal power!

"Hehe... I forgot..."

Lu Yuan let out a laugh and immediately ceased channeling True Yuan.

Instantly, his billowing clothes and wildly dancing hair all came to a sudden halt.

Seeing this, Xiang Mantang also released Lu Yuan's unmoving wrist.

"Pop!"

Simultaneously, the protective shield that had been guarding Xiang Mantang like a Golden Bell Cover, shattered into pieces as if made of glass.

However, as it was formed from Spiritual Energy, it didn't harm Xiang Mantang or Lu Yuan.

Lu Yuan looked deeply at Xiang Mantang, realizing that this protective shield was likely the defensive capability of a Magic Artifact.

No wonder Xiang Mantang had readily agreed to his challenge of a single blow!

He had miscalculated.

Lu Yuan felt a twinge of regret internally.

Xiang Mantang was silent, his expression unreadable.

His ability to emerge unscathed from a blow delivered in anger by Lu Yuan, a powerful God Realm Martial Artist, was not due to his own strength, but rather thanks to the Order of Slaughter he had acquired from the Lord of the Killing Realm.

Chapter 465 - Leaving!

Of course, the original Order of Slaughter could only block a full-force strike from a Peak Energy Transformation Martial Artist, and it required a month to accumulate Spiritual Energy.

Logically speaking, it should have been impossible for Xiang Mantang to use the Order of Slaughter, a Magic Artifact, to block Lu Yuan's angry strike.

And since he had obtained the Order of Slaughter, less than a month had passed, so there shouldn't have been enough time for the accumulated Spiritual Energy to form a defensive light shield...

The reason for this was that after Mu Jinyu had handed over the Order of Slaughter to Xiang Mantang, he thought that given the extraordinary material of the Order of Slaughter, it couldn't possibly have just that little ability. So, he disassembled it and indeed found that parts of the defensive formation inside were damaged; the Inscriptions were no longer visible.

Afterward, Mu Jinyu relied on the formation knowledge that their master had taught him and carved countless Runes following the example, enabling the Order of Slaughter to withstand a strike from a Divine Realm powerhouse.

And the time required to accumulate Spiritual Energy was no longer a month but just about ten days.

Xiang Mantang wasn't so arrogant that he would have agreed to Lu Yuan's demands without the Order of Slaughter at his side.

After all, it was one thing for himself to seek death, but behind him were people like Jian Ruyan, Mei Yinxue, and others who were very important to him!

Thinking about the modification of the Order of Slaughter, Xiang Mantang felt a pang of distress.

At that time, if he hadn't taken the Order of Slaughter and had handed it to Mu Jinyu, would Chen Qianqian's desperate assassination attempt to save him have been unsuccessful?

Of course, that was just a thought.

After all, if the Order of Slaughter had been fully charged with Spiritual Energy back then, he wouldn't have been successfully ambushed by Chen Qianqian so easily.

So even if Mu Jinyu had the Order of Slaughter at that time, it wouldn't have protected the other person!

Regaining his composure, Xiang Mantang shook his head slightly and said to Lu Yuan, who had an ever-changing expression, "Elder Lu, I have taken your palm strike, may I leave now?"

"Of course."

Lu Yuan's mind was filled with doubt, wondering how many times more Xiang Mantang could use his protective light shield and whether he should continue to make a move. But upon hearing Xiang

Mantang speak, after hesitating for a bit, he decided not to risk keeping Xiang Mantang there and simply let them leave with a grave face.

"Then... I will take my leave."

Xiang Mantang nodded slightly to Lu Yuan and then turned around to say to everyone, "Let's go."

"Yes!"

Assassins like Zeus and San Liu from Jinyu Mantang vaguely guessed what the light shield that blocked Lu Yuan's angry strike might be, but... why could the Order of Slaughter block an attack from a Divine Realm powerhouse?

This was something they did not understand.

Once Xiang Mantang led everyone away,

the Sect Leader of Tianhe Sword Sect looked displeased as he said to Lu Yuan, "Great Elder, they destroyed our Mountain Protection Array, why should we still hand over Shen Cangsheng and the others? If this gets out, our Tianhe Sword Sect's reputation will be completely tarnished!"

Continuing on, he said, "Moreover, they only have about a dozen Peak Energy Transformation Martial Artists, and our Tianhe Sword Sect's Elders and Core Disciples include more than a dozen at the Peak Energy Transformation level. Why should we fear their Dragon King Hall?"

Lu Yuan gave the Sect Leader a cold look and reprimanded, "Indeed, we are evenly matched in strength, even with a slight advantage over Dragon King Hall, but what about after a great battle? Even if we could annihilate them completely, we would inevitably suffer heavy casualties. What about the covetous rival sects around us? How will we protect our sect then?"

"Now we're just sacrificing these disciples who acted on their own and brought great trouble upon us. What's there to be unwilling about?!"

Lu Yuan snorted coldly and said, "These fools acted rashly on their own, launching an assault on the Dragon King of Dragon King Hall and bringing disaster upon us. Why should I block the sword for them and save them for a bit of face?!"

If Shen Cangsheng had been a Divine Realm Martial Artist, he certainly would have done whatever it took to keep him safe.

But Shen Cangsheng was just an ordinary warrior at the Complete Energy Transformation Stage, and the Tianhe Sword Sect wouldn't call him a dime a dozen, but it also wouldn't go so far as to start a war with Dragon King Hall over him!

Upon hearing Lu Yuan's reminder, cold sweat instantly broke out on the Sect Leader's forehead, his judgment clouded by the overwhelming humiliation of watching his disciple executed by Ling Chi before his eyes, his blood boiling with the desire for vengeance.

He had forgotten that if Tianhe Sword Sect truly acted on this impulse, even if they succeeded in leaving Xiang Mantang and their party behind, their own destruction wouldn't be far off.

It seemed that today's anger was destined to be swallowed silently.

As the Sect Leader's expression flickered between shades of hope and despair, Lu Yuan sighed and said, "Dragon King Hall is developing rather rapidly, I recall they initially had only one Divine Realm Dragon King and seven Energy Transformation Warriors, among them only two or three at the Peak level. Now they actually have more than a dozen, it's truly unbelievable!"

The Sect Leader, hearing this, could only nod in agreement, puzzled by the thought.

He remembered Shen Cangsheng mentioning not long ago that Dragon King Hall was at a low ebb in talent, even considering seizing the Dragon King position for himself. How was it that today Dragon King Hall seemed to be abounding in talent?

...

Xiang Mantang and his party, after smoothly dealing with Shen Cangsheng, made their way back to the entrance of the Kunlun Ruins without incident.

After a bit of tinkering by Xiang Mantang, a vortex of light appeared, and everyone exited the ruins one by one.

"Phew..."

Having just stepped out of the Kunlun Ruins, everyone frowned and covered their mouths, feeling somewhat unaccustomed to the outside environment.

The Kunlun Ruins, to be honest, had a much stronger concentration of Spiritual Energy than the outside world. If it weren't for their various commitments on Earth and their status as Peak Energy Transformation warriors, which might not even suffice for a good living in the ruins, they would probably have opted to stay inside.

"You all can go back now," Xiang Mantang said to Zeus, San Liu, Nameless, and the other guild leaders in a soft voice.

"Yes."

"Your subordinate takes his leave!"

Seeing that Xiang Mantang no longer required their company, Zeus and the others cast a lingering glance at the still-spinning vortex behind them and then briskly walked away from the place.

As for Zhu Yeqing, she had been ready to leave as well.

But she was stopped by Mei Yinxue.

"I'm a bit old, and the harsh training at the Dragon King Hall doesn't mean much to me anymore. Since you've become an assassin and seem to be doing well, you must be proficient in various killing

techniques, right? Could I trouble you to teach me these methods during this time?" Mei Yinxue earnestly said to Zhu Yeqing.

"I can," Zhu Yeqing thought about it and found she had no pressing matters to attend to, and since the former elder sister had come to her, she couldn't simply refuse and leave, so she agreed.

Mei Yinxue had been slightly worried that Zhu Yeqing might refuse, as these were the other's livelihood skills, but seeing her agreement, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Subsequently, she sincerely and gratefully said to Zhu Yeqing, "Thank you."

Mei Yinxue's decision was based on the thought that if Zhu Yeqing was capable of this, she might as well learn some killing techniques from her first, which would improve her skills far faster than through tough training.

If she didn't make any progress in the training at the Dragon King Hall, having learned Zhu Yeqing's various killing techniques would allow her to be of help to Mu Jinyu once he awoke.

Chapter 466:

Xiang Mantang furrowed his brows slightly as he listened to their conversation.

To be honest, he was really somewhat uneasy about Zhu Yeqing following Mei Yinxue, because after all these years, they held grudges against each other. Even though they had agreed to let bygones be bygones today, he couldn't be sure if Zhu Yeqing had truly let go of that resentment, or if she was merely feigning compliance.

Jian Ruyan understood Xiang Mantang's concern, so she spoke up, "Is that so? I just felt that the straightforward killing method isn't quite efficient. Zhu Yeqing, teaching one is teaching, and teaching two is also teaching, why not teach me as well?"

Her tone was cool, and she spoke rather bluntly, showing no hint of asking for a favor.

Upon hearing this, Zhu Yeqing knew Jian Ruyan's thought—she wanted to keep an eye on her, to prevent Mei Yinxue from being alone with her and falling victim to her potentially lethal hand.

If it were someone else being doubted over and over again, they would surely be extremely annoyed.

Damn it, I'm offering to teach out of the goodness of my heart, yet I'm met with suspicion? To hell with teaching then!

However, Zhu Yeqing was no ordinary person; as a qualified assassin, her patience was far greater than that of the average person.

Moreover, their suspicions were indeed reasonable, because among the four sisters, Huang Qiuhua and Gu Youlan, even after many years had passed, still hadn't given up on targeting Mei Yinxue.

She had chosen to let go, in just one day, so it was indeed a bit difficult to dispel Xiang Mantang's suspicions.

She could only rely on time to gradually influence them.

As for Zhu Yeqing, would she simply stop teaching Mei Yinxue out of anger due to the suspicions of Xiang Mantang and Jian Ruyan?

That was completely unnecessary. After all, how could their sisterly relationship be affected by the doubts and suspicions of outsiders?

"Alright, if you want to learn, I'll teach you too."

Zhu Yeqing wasn't angry and nodded in agreement to Jian Ruyan's request.

Mei Yinxue felt a bit unhappy when she heard Jian Ruyan's words, but the other party was concerned for her safety, so how could she blame her?

Seeing that they had made their decision, Xiang Mantang didn't say much more. He just gave Zhu Yeqing a deep look and then led them out of the land and onto a private plane to return to the Capital City.

Having arrived back in the Capital City, it was already late. Exhausted from a whole day, Xiang Mantang told them to rest first, suggesting that they could learn the killing technique the next day.

Since making a breakthrough to the God Realm, Xiang Mantang had seen significant improvements in both physical strength and spirit, so he didn't feel tired.

Seeing that there was nothing pressing at hand and temporarily unable to find the Withered Tree Quest for Spring's sought-after Fountain of Youth and Fountain of Immortality, and with Shen Cangsheng, who had made Mu Jinyu suffer, already executed, Xiang Mantang went to the sanatorium to visit Mu Jinyu.

Standing in front of the Ice Coffin, through the transparent lid, Xiang Mantang looked at Mu Jinyu, whose complexion was healthy and rosy, as if in a deep sleep. He was silent for a long time before he let out a soft sigh, pulled up a chair, and sat down in front of the coffin. He began to share with Mu Jinyu that he had killed Shen Cangsheng and that he was searching for the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures that could revive his senior brother...

As he talked, he went on to their childhood stories, and once he started, it lasted the whole night.

The next day, it was clear skies.

Xiang Mantang muttered to himself, "Alright, let's stop here for today. Senior brother, I'll come to visit you another day. I hope that the next time I come, I'll be able to bring something powerful enough to awaken you."

Having said that, Xiang Mantang stood up, set the chair aside, and took one last deep look at Mu Jinyu before striding out of the sanatorium.

Shortly after he left, the jade pendant on Mu Jinyu's neck flashed a faint light, and then Mu Jinyu's right little finger trembled slightly.

After that, there was no more movement.

Unaware of the movement inside the Ice Coffin, Xiang Mantang left the sanatorium, got into the car, and headed straight for the Su Family Courtyard.

Arriving at the Su Family Courtyard, he was familiar enough to enter without any need for the servants to announce him. He went straight inside, heading towards their dining hall.

It was now just after seven in the morning.

Su Zijin had already prepared breakfast, but since Mu Jinyu would no longer eat the breakfast she made, she simply lay her head on the table, staring blankly at the steaming meal as it gradually cooled down.

"Dada..."

Upon hearing the sound of someone entering, Su Zijin instinctively looked up towards the door. At first, when she saw it was Xiang Mantang, the hope and surprise that had sparked in her eyes dimmed once again.

Then, regaining her composure, she smiled and greeted him, "It's Little Xiang, you're free to visit today? Mom just made breakfast, have you eaten? If not, come and eat with me."

"Hmm, thank you, godmother."

A warm current mixed with guilt rose in Xiang Mantang's heart, making him feel very uncomfortable.

He took a seat, picked up a piece of oyster pancake and began to eat it slowly and carefully. Even though it had cooled down a bit, he still found it very delicious.

Watching Xiang Mantang eat, Su Zijin smiled and began to feel a bit of an appetite herself, so she also ate a little.

Soon, Xiang Mantang had finished the entire table of breakfast. He pulled out a tissue and wiped the grease from the corners of his mouth.

Su Zijin cheerfully said, "Little Xiang, if you have time in the future, come to godmother's place more often. Otherwise, sitting alone in this empty dining hall, I hardly have any appetite."

"Mm, I will, godmother," replied Xiang Mantang as he threw the tissue into the wastebasket. Then he said to Su Zijin, "Shen Cangsheng has been killed by me and Sister-in-law Mei..."

"Hmm..."

Listening to Xiang Mantang, Su Zijin didn't take it seriously at first but then she realized, "Hmm?!"

She looked towards Xiang Mantang with a mind as if a bomb had exploded in it—there was satisfaction, relief, confusion, ease...

"Shen Cangsheng is dead?"

After asking, Su Zijin impatiently added, "Why didn't you call me?!"

Initially, Su Zijin did feel a bit guilty towards Shen Cangsheng, after all, she had been engaged to him, and without formally canceling the engagement, she had married Mu Jinyu's father and given birth to Mu Jinyu.

However, as she left Mu Jinyu and his father, returning to the Capital City that year, she was forcibly confined there, not daring to contact Mu Jinyu and his father for fear of attracting Shen Cangsheng's vengeance. By the time the engagement was dissolved, and she returned to Rong City, she found Father Yu had passed away, and her son was missing. She almost went mad.

Of course, she was aware that this could not all be blamed on Shen Cangsheng, so at that time, she didn't go mad and ask the Old Dragon King to kill Shen Cangsheng!

Still, in her heart, she ultimately harbored resentment toward the Old Dragon King for thrusting upon her that absurd marriage, as well as toward Shen Cangsheng.

And when she found Mu Jinyu again, the subsequent series of actions taken by Shen Cangsheng, ultimately leading to Mu Jinyu's death, filled her with hatred for Shen Cangsheng!

She truly wished she could have killed Shen Cangsheng with her own hands.

Therefore, when she heard from Xiang Mantang that Shen Cangsheng was dead, she was extremely excited!

Xiang Mantang lowered his head, not daring to make eye contact with Su Zijin, and explained softly, "Because Shen Cangsheng was hiding in the Kunlun Ruins, and the Kunlun Ruins were too dangerous. Godmother and the other two sisters-in-law are just ordinary people; I was worried that an accident might happen. If we didn't have enough people to protect everyone, I only took Sister-in-law Mei with me."

Hearing Xiang Mantang's explanation, Su Zijin let out a long sigh of relief. Then she sat back down, breathing slightly heavily, "How did he die?"

Xiang Mantang's expression remained calm as he recounted to Yinxue the scene of how he and Mei Yinxue had executed Shen Cangsheng through the slow and excruciating punishment of Ling Chi.

His vivid storytelling made Su Zijin feel as if she were right there, witnessing the painful screams and agony of Shen Cangsheng.

If the victim of their execution had been anyone else, listening to Xiang Mantang's depiction would surely have made Su Zijin feel uncomfortable, even nauseated, but because it was Shen Cangsheng, she genuinely felt too much satisfaction.

If not for Shen Cangsheng, Mu Jinyu would not have been separated from her all those years ago. If not for Shen Cangsheng, her son—whom she had finally found after great difficulty—would not have reunited with her for merely a dozen days before falling into a deep slumber.

And moreover, it was still uncertain whether there was any chance of him waking up!

Chapter 467: Defaulting on Debts?

"Very good, very good..."

Su Zijin couldn't help but applaud when she heard that Xiang Mantang had mixed Shen Cangsheng's ashes with his flesh and blood and fed them to wild wolves.

Feeling a sense of satisfaction, Su Zijin's long-suppressed frustration was released, followed by a wave of melancholy.

Shen Cangsheng's death certainly made her happy, but Mu Jinyu—he...

He wouldn't wake up because of this!

Compared to the news of Shen Cangsheng's dreadful death, what she wanted to hear more was that Mu Jinyu had awoken.

Seeing Su Zijin's sorrowful expression, Xiang Mantang shared the same feelings in his heart.

In his mind, the top priority was to save Mu Jinyu; seeking revenge and reducing Shen Cangsheng to ashes was only something he did along the way because he currently couldn't find any Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

Otherwise, if he had found something like the Spring of Life, he wouldn't have been wandering aimlessly after returning from Kunlun Mountain with Mu Jinyu. He would have headed straight to the Kunlun Ruins alone.

Unfortunately, he had yet to find any lead on Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures that could revive Mu Jinyu.

Xiang Mantang thought to himself, wondering if inside those Great Sects of Kunlun Ruins, there might be a Heaven Cave Blessed land with a Fountain of Immortality...

Maybe there would be, maybe not.

Xiang Mantang had considered turning every sect in Kunlun Ruins upside down, no matter the cost, to see if their Treasure Pavilion contained any Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures.

But the idea that had sprung to his mind was incredibly difficult to execute, as those Sects would not let him have his way.

Now, as a Divine Realm Warrior and a Terrestrial Immortal, he was virtually invincible on Earth and hardly met any match. Yet in Kunlun Ruins, those capable of crushing him were likely a dime a dozen!

This mad idea could be conceived, but definitely should not be acted upon rashly. At least, Xiang Mantang would wait until he'd completely exhausted all options on Earth for finding a treasure that could awaken Mu Jinyu before reaching into Kunlun Ruins.

After a moment of silence between them, Xiang Mantang shook off that crazy thought and asked Su Zijin, "Godmother, have those four families from the Capital City repaid the hundred billion they owed to my brother recently?"

Those four families were the Li Family, Wang Family, Zhou Family, and the Wang Family. They owed Mu Jinyu a hundred billion because during the funeral of the Old Dragon King, they spoke ill of Su Zijin behind her back. Mu Jinyu overheard, taught them a lesson, and despite that, they persisted, causing a big commotion and ending up with a hundred billion in debt.

Xiang Mantang was now thinking that since he still hadn't found any clues about the Heavenly Materials and Earthly Treasures, and Shen Cangsheng's vengeance was claimed, it was time to deal with those grudges Mu Jinyu didn't care to bother with. Unlike his tolerant brother, Xiang Mantang wouldn't let them off easily and would settle each account clearly.

If San Liu were present and heard what Xiang Mantang said, he would have felt a wave of relief, thankful he had sensed something wrong in time and had already given the one billion he owed Mu Jinyu for medical fees to Su Zijin and the others.

Otherwise, if he had thought that Mu Jinyu's death meant they could default on the debt, he would have faced consequences he couldn't escape.

Hearing his question, Su Zijin came back to her senses, furrowed her brows slightly, and shook her head, saying, "No, each one only repaid a little over ten billion, and said they would pay the rest slowly..."

"Pay slowly..." Xiang Mantang heard Su Zijin's words, and a cold light flashed in his eyes as he said, "Did they mention any interest?"

Su Zijin shook her head softly and replied in a low voice, "No, they said if they were to take out a hundred billion at once, it would severely affect their families, so they negotiated with me to repay the debt slowly..."

"Did they say how often they would make a payment?" Xiang Mantang asked further.

"Yes, one billion per month," Su Zijin replied, somewhat ashamed.

"One billion a month? Twelve billion a year? And no interest?" Upon hearing Su Zijin's words, Xiang Mantang laughed angrily, saying, "Godmother, how could you agree to such a demand?"

Su Zijin said somewhat embarrassedly, "At that time, I thought, 'to spare someone when you can is a virtue.' Besides, it seemed like Jinyu did not really want to take their ten billion, but rather to teach them a lesson..."

Xiang Mantang reined in the cold glint in her eyes and nodded slightly, "It seems a month has passed since then, hasn't it? The one billion they were supposed to pay in installments, have they paid it?!"

"Let me check..." Su Zijin hurriedly responded.

Xiang Mantang was somewhat speechless, but then she thought it was actually quite normal.

With Mu Jinyu having gone through such an ordeal recently, how could Su Zijin have the spare energy to think about those funds?

It was the same with her; if she hadn't run out of clues about treasure medicines recently, she would not have bothered to settle these trivial matters.

Soon, Su Zijin finished checking the account, her expression turning somewhat ugly as she shook her head at Xiang Mantang, "They haven't paid me back yet, I'll go and remind them in person in a moment."

Yes, that's right, when they paid back the money, it was transferred to Su Zijin's account, not Mu Jinyu's.

Mu Jinyu had demanded the four families compensate ten billion as a way to vent Su Zijin's anger, not to leverage the situation for personal gain, so naturally, she would not pocket the compensation money.

The cold gleam hidden in Xiang Mantang's eyes surged up once again upon hearing this.

If they had really transferred the money to Su Zijin's account on time each month to repay the debt, she might have refrained from chasing them up for not paying interest, as it was Su Zijin who had agreed to it.

But now that they dared to play tricks, they could not blame her for what was coming!

Xiang Mantang shook her head, "There's no need for you to go, why should godmother trouble herself with such minor issues? I'll head over there later."

"That works," Su Zijin nodded, "then I'll leave it to you."

"Godmother, please don't say such things, it's really too much for me," Xiang Mantang hurriedly pleaded.

How could she shoulder the burden of being called a nuisance by Su Zijin?

If it weren't for her, why would Su Zijin have to suffer the double grief of losing her father and son?

All she could do was, during the time Mu Jinyu could not accompany Su Zijin, to try her best to fulfill a child's duty and take good care of her.

To prevent Su Zijin from sinking into sorrow and accumulating sadness in her heart day after day.

Su Zijin looked at Xiang Mantang who was quite pale and had a very serious gaze, and internally sighed.

Although she didn't blame Xiang Mantang for the incident involving Mu Jinyu, the guilt and self-blame in Xiang Mantang's heart would not diminish with her consoling words, so she really did not know how to persuade Xiang Mantang otherwise.

Xiang Mantang and Su Zijin talked all morning, deliberately avoiding any topic related to Mu Jinyu. After lunch, Xiang Mantang stood up to take her leave.

After leaving the Su Family Courtyard.

Xiang Mantang got into the car and commanded Gao Yu in a calm voice, "Let's go to the Wang Family first."

"Yes," Gao Yu didn't ask any questions, but Xiang Mantang's mention of the Wang Family reminded him of the incident from last month when the Old Dragon King passed away, and the farce that ensued after Mu Jinyu overheard the younger generation of a few families speaking ill of Su Zijin behind her back.

Gao Yu speculated that probably those families had become restless again, and Xiang Mantang was preparing to make an example out of them!

Chapter 468 I'll Give You the Evidence!

At Xiang Mantang, they went to settle accounts with the Wang Family, who had owed them money without repayment.

In River City, Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou, along with several other women, were still busily engaged with matters concerning the Jinyu Group.

It had been nearly ten days since Mu Jinyu went into deep slumber.

Initially, both Gu Xiyan and Wen Rou were deeply grieved and had no heart for work, but they knew Mu Jinyu would never want to see them in such a state. Knowing that Mu Jinyu wasn't truly dead and that Xiang Mantang was making efforts to revive him, they gradually suppressed their yearning and sadness. They returned to River City and resumed work.

After all, Jinyu Group was currently in a phase of development, and because of the threat from the Nameless assassin, the senior management had taken refuge in Capital City, leaving most of the work to their subordinates. Although they could work remotely, their efficiency had greatly suffered.

Now that the crisis posed by the Nameless assassin had been resolved, they naturally could not afford further delays.

But when it rains, it pours.

During Mu Jinyu's absence, they had planned to launch new products like the Jianti Pill and Minghui Pill, which were no less effective than the Beauty Pill.

Unfortunately, without Mu Jinyu to inscribe the so-called "Spirit Attraction Formation" runes, the production line equipment was not able to manufacture the true Jianti Pill and Minghui Pill, despite their knowledge of the prescriptions.

The finished products were no different from the health supplements sold on the market, nowhere near the immediate worldwide sensation they would have created upon launch.

According to the genuine effects demonstrated by Mu Jinyu, the Jianti Pill could enable elderly people suffering from muscle atrophy and paralysis to jump and bound after taking several courses of treatment, climbing up five flights of stairs without running out of breath.

As for the Minghui Pill, it was meant to enhance the brain development of children, making it faster and more efficient.

Following Mu Jinyu's original plan, the easiest money to earn in this world was from women, followed by the elderly and children, then pets, and lastly, men...

Therefore, after establishing the Jinyu Group, he first launched the Beauty Pill to tap into women's wallets, then planned the Jianti Pill and Minghui Pill to target the elderly and children.

Once successful, he could become the Richest Man in Huaxia, and even the wealthiest man in Asia was not an impossibility!

However, due to the unexpected incident with Mu Jinyu, the production lines for the Jianti Pill and Minghui Pill lacked the Spirit Attraction Formation and were unable to produce truly effective Spiritual Medicine.

This plan naturally had to be temporarily shelved by Gu Xiyan and her colleagues.

Unable to launch new products, Gu Xiyan could only continue to expand the market for the Beauty Pill. They had already started preparing to set up branches and sales points in major cities across the country.

At the same time, they were also breaking into the overseas market!

However, just as they were frantically busy dealing with these affairs, a troubling issue had recently emerged causing them headaches.

Some people had taken the Beauty Pill and ended up disfigured!

And, there was more than one case.

With this news breaking out, the online situation has been escalating, and the business of the Beauty Pill has suffered greatly as a result.

It was only because Xiang Mantang had been traveling around and not paying attention to online matters during this time that they were unaware of the recent troubles at Jinyu Group.

Gu Xiyan and her team wouldn't bother asking Xiang Mantang for help over such a trivial matter, there was simply no need.

They could just go directly to Mu Hongchen.

Therefore, for them, this was just a slightly vexing nuisance.

The reason it was vexing was that dealing with this matter would be a bit of a waste of their time.

"General Gu, it's almost noon, the press conference is about to start,"

Sitting in her office dealing with paperwork, Gu Xiyan heard her secretary's voice at the door. She looked at her wristwatch and replied, "Hmm, I'll tidy up and be right there."

"Okay," the secretary acknowledged and then left.

Afterward, Gu Xiyan sorted through the paperwork briefly and left the office. She took the elevator down to the first floor of Jinyu Tower, where the press conference venue had already been set up.

After all, with such an incident occurring, even though they knew it was a setup, the whole country was watching. If Jinyu Group didn't provide a valid explanation upfront, there might be few women daring to buy the Beauty Pill henceforth.

For those unaware of the capabilities of Jinyu Group, this incident could almost shake its foundations.

But for Gu Xiyan, Wen Rou, Xu Qingya, and Lin Qiaoxia, it was merely a minor inconvenience, not something to be overly concerned about.

They hadn't even returned to River City and were still inspecting new company locations in various major cities.

Dressed in a black business suit, Gu Xiyan, with her beautiful appearance, looked somewhat haggard and her brows furrowed with a hint of unresolved gloom. As she entered the venue, the journalists' eyes lit up, and they quickly grabbed their cameras to start taking pictures.

These reporters believed that Gu Xiyan's haggard and gloomy appearance must be due to the major issue Jinyu Group was facing, leaving her burnt out and unable to sleep.

Gu Xiyan paid them no mind and walked straight to the podium, took the microphone, tested it a few times, and then, with a calmly composed expression, said, "I've been very busy lately. I'll only give you fifteen minutes to ask questions at this press conference. If you have any questions, go ahead and ask them now."

No sooner had her voice fallen than a short-haired female reporter, holding a microphone, asked, "General Gu, the latest expose online alleges that Jinyu Group used substandard ingredients to produce the Beauty Pill, causing the disfigurement of more than a dozen people. Is this true?"

Gu Xiyan glanced at the female reporter, scoffed, and said, "It's true!"

The room instantly erupted into commotion.

The female reporter hadn't expected Gu Xiyan to admit it so openly and, looking excited, she quickly asked another question, "General Gu, your candid admission of the truth implies there has been a serious oversight within Jinyu Group. Will you be conducting a thorough investigation into this incident, recalling the Beauty Pill, giving the public an explanation, and what about compensation measures for the several victims involved?"

Gu Xiyan didn't answer the woman's question and simply stated, "Why are you so agitated? I haven't even finished talking yet..."

Seeing the woman turn red with embarrassment, she continued, "As I was saying, the disfigurement is real. However... those dozen or so people did not become disfigured from using our Jinyu Group's Beauty Pill, but rather, they purchased counterfeit pills which led to their disfigurement. Now, to seek compensation, they're deliberately framing and defaming our Jinyu Group!"

These words caused an immediate uproar among the audience.

The female reporter's eyes flickered and she continued to press, "General Gu claims that this incident with the Beauty Pill is a setup against Jinyu Group. Can you then provide conclusive evidence to prove your innocence? Or is it that General Gu is just trying to shift the blame to the counterfeit pills to avoid trouble?"

"You want evidence?" Gu Xiyuan looked coldly at the female reporter and sneered, "I'll give you evidence!"

Chapter 469: Blacklist!

Gu Xiyuan finished speaking and then turned to point at the large screen behind her, snapping her fingers immediately.

Suddenly, a video appeared on the screen behind her, which was a video of the Jinyu Group's pharmaceutical factory in River City's Suburb, producing the Beauty Pill.

The crowd watched with some confusion.

Gu Xiyuan opened her mouth to explain at the same time, "As everyone knows, our Jinyu Group's Beauty Pill is in such high demand that we sell out every day. This isn't us playing at hunger marketing, but because the production standards for the Beauty Pill are incredibly stringent. Aside from the issues with instruments and medicinal materials, there is also the problem with the local water and soil. In other cities, we can't yet produce qualified Beauty Pills, which is why there is only such a limited quantity available every day..."

Upon hearing Gu Xiyuan's words, the audience vaguely guessed what she meant.

At that moment, Gu Xiyuan turned back around and stared at the female reporter, saying, "The Beauty Pills we are currently selling globally are produced twenty-four hours a day on just these few assembly line machines. Tell me, if it were due to poor quality herbs, resulting in disfiguring Beauty Pills, why would so many people take them together, and in the end, only around a dozen suffered disfigurement?"

The female reporter had no idea how dire the situation was at Jinyu Group, with only these few production lines, and she turned red with embarrassment as she forced an explanation, "Perhaps, it is because of individual differences in people's constitutions that some people suffer no ill effects while others are disfigured after taking the pills. Or maybe disfigurement is a process that takes time, you can't prove that there's nothing wrong with your Beauty Pills."

Gu Xiyuan did not rush to present more evidence, but watched the female reporter with a playful look, suddenly asking, "You make a good point, so let me ask you, do you think you would suffer disfigurement if you took a Beauty Pill?"

"I'm not sure," the female reporter shook her head, "Right now, everyone is concerned for their safety, afraid that taking the Beauty Pill will cause disfigurement, how could I dare to take that risk?"

"Oh, then why did you take a Beauty Pill before attending our Jinyu Group's press conference?" Gu Xiyuan said with a smirk.

No sooner had Gu Xiyuan's voice fallen,

Than the female reporter's complexion changed drastically.

The other reporters also cried out in disbelief.

"What?!"

"She still dared to take a Beauty Pill?"

"Why do I feel that something's not quite right?"

The crowd started murmuring amongst themselves.

Gu Xiyao shouted, "Quiet!"

The venue gradually grew quiet.

Seeing everyone's eyes on her, the female reporter's face turned even redder as she struggled to speak, "I don't know what General Gu is talking about. Under these circumstances, how would I dare to just take a Beauty Pill?!"

"Whether you took a Beauty Pill or not isn't something that can be determined by your words alone."

Gu Xiyao didn't argue with her but snapped her fingers after speaking.

Immediately, ten female employees of Jinyu Group stepped onto the stage.

Then, in unison, they each took out a Beauty Pill, without hesitation, and swallowed it down.

The reporters below the stage, unaware of the truth, clicked their tongues, thinking to themselves how desperate these employees must be to earn money.

They also wondered how much money Gu Xiyao had promised them for them to still dare to take a Beauty Pill during such a crisis!

During the silence, a close-up shot of these female employees' faces was taken, and the big silver screen behind them immediately showed clearly; after taking the Beauty Pill, their cheeks gradually flushed with a rosy hue, as did their eyelids and the areas under their eyes, all suffused with a special complexion.

The female employees with lower facial aesthetics did not mention the issue of their skin becoming fairer and smoother; just in terms of looks and temperament alone, they all rose several levels under the effect of this complexion enhancement.

Among them, those with higher beauty scores appeared even more ethereal and otherworldly under the glow of the enhanced complexion, their beauty beyond description.

All the reporters below turned their gaze uniformly towards that female reporter and also noticed her cheeks, eyelids, and the glint in her eyes that were touched by the same radiant complexion.

At this moment, another video appeared on the screen onstage.

The video showed the female reporter arriving without this particular complexion glow, with her looks and temperament clearly on a lower tier. After she got out of the car, her face manifested this distinct complexion enhancement.

The female reporter, seeing everyone's gaze and the video being played on the stage above her, turned pale, completely unable to fathom how Gu Xiyan could have obtained a video of her appearance before she left the house.

Even if she had reacted quickly, realizing that she was deliberately targeting her and that she needed to counterattack, where could she have gotten the execution force from, and how could Jinyu Group possibly have such capability?

After all, who could have anticipated who would create trouble during a press conference?

Therefore, it was certain that Gu Xiyan had pulled up surveillance video from near her home within the few short minutes after she made trouble and captured the footage that revealed what she looked like before leaving.

This instilled such fear in her heart. Coupled with the fact that she was already at a loss for words and under the pressure of guilt, she ended up completely unable to defend herself.

Gu Xiyan explained with a slight smile, "Many people don't realize that our Beauty Pill, after being ingested by customers, will cause a very special complexion glow to appear on their faces within four hours, enhancing their beauty, temperament, and complexion by a level. The reporter just now said she didn't take a Beauty Pill; how would you explain this video, then?"

The female reporter's face reddened, unable to utter a word, nor could she explain the complexion glow on her face!

Seeing the female reporter at a loss for words, Gu Xiyan couldn't help but feel triumphant inside.

In fact, the first generation of the Beauty Pill didn't have this effect.

It was all thanks to herself. Not long ago, she felt that merely consummating women's skin to perfection with the Beauty Pill might not sustain continuous sales—once a woman's skin became flawless, she was likely to curtail further purchases, acquiring only a small amount for maintenance purposes.

Thus, she thought that if taking the Beauty Pill could, within a short period of time, improve complexion and add to beauty and temperament, it could potentially make the Beauty Pill sell even better.

Upon hearing her suggestion, Mu Jinyu made some enhancements to the Beauty Pill.

As expected, while the initial Beauty Pill used to sell out within half an hour, the sales slowed down as customers' skins reached a point beyond improvement, and it began taking three to four hours to sell out.

Once this new effect was introduced, the Beauty Pill reverted to selling out within half an hour, with demand so high that sometimes stocks were gone within ten minutes.

At that time, Gu Xiyan had even taken the opportunity to claim credit with Mu Jinyu...

Reflecting on this, Gu Xiyan's mood turned very sour again. She suppressed the irritation in her heart and continued calmly, "You can't explain it, can you? Because you know the Beauty Pill will not cause

disfigurement, which is why you dared to take it casually. The reason you have been constantly slandering our Beauty Pill is that you've been paid by others to stir up trouble!"

"I didn't..." The female reporter, panic-stricken, hurriedly tried to argue in her defense.

Gu Xiyan continued, "From now on, this reporter Miss will be blacklisted by Jinyu Group and will never be allowed to purchase any products from Jinyu Group. If any relatives purchase on her behalf and are discovered, they will be blacklisted as well!"

Upon hearing Gu Xiyan's verdict, the female reporter's face turned ashen!

Not being able to consume Beauty Pill anymore and with others too scared to purchase for her was truly worse than death for her!

After finishing, Gu Xiyan looked at her watch, then added, "We've wasted some time. I won't entertain you anymore. Now, I shall explain why I said earlier that this disfigurement incident involving the Beauty Pill is a setup, a frame-up!"

Chapter 470 The Dragon King is Coming!

As Gu Xiyan finished speaking,

the large screen behind her started to play a series of videos sequentially.

All of these videos were essentially similar, featuring women who were after a bargain. They couldn't get Beauty Pills at the official stores, so they turned to scalpers and bought so-called "discounted surplus" Beauty Pills instead.

As the screen shifted, after consuming the pills, their facial skin showed none of the immediate, significant effects characteristic of authentic Beauty Pills, and they realized they'd been duped.

Unfortunately, the scalpers had already fled.

In the following days, red spots and ulcerations began to appear on their cheeks...

After panicking, these women discussed with their families what to do and ultimately decided to sling mud at Jinyu Group, seeking hefty compensation.

The incidents were largely similar, with variations being that some discussed it with family, others with best friends, and some didn't initially intend to do so but made the decision after news broke of people suffering disfigurement from Beauty Pills.

The videos released by Gu Xiyan completely shattered the entire "Beauty Pill disfigurement incident" and the "Jinyu Group selling fake medicine" scandal.

"So that's how it is, no wonder!"

"I knew there was something fishy going on."

"But how was Jinyu Group able to obtain these surveillance videos?"

"Jinyu Group has always had extensive connections—enormous influence. Otherwise, if it were any other company that had developed a Miraculous Elixir like the Beauty Pill, they would have been devoured by the big sharks without even a trace left!"

The multitude of journalists began to buzz with discussion upon seeing the videos released by Gu Xiyan.

Basically, no one believed that Gu Xiyan would present fake videos. On such a sensitive issue, to dare to deceive the public with counterfeit footage would be suicidal!

As for the existence of fake Beauty Pills, that was indeed a reality, as in Huaxia Country, the issue of counterfeit goods was all too common.

However, previously, if someone bought fake medicine, at most it simply wouldn't work. Now, the fake medicine was actually causing disfiguration.

This was an outrageous development!

Or perhaps, there was a rival company deliberately targeting Jinyu Group?

Amidst the journalists' speculations, the screen behind Gu Xiyan changed yet again, showing the scalpers and criminal gangs had been arrested.

They also confessed that the masterminds behind the scenes were from a certain company, deliberately framing Jinyu Group with these fake pills.

The executives of these certain companies were subsequently invited by the authorities for a 'discussion over tea.'

Now, those who originally harbored some skepticism about the authenticity of the earlier disfigurement videos were left without a trace of doubt.

The police had made arrests, and Jinyu Group was confident enough to release the video, which meant that the upcoming news broadcast would certainly cover this event as well.

With that, the video truly ended.

Gu Xiyan lifted her wrist, glanced at her watch, and raised the topic, "Well, with the matter basically clarified, I'll take my leave now."

Having said that, she stepped down from the stage and, under the respectful gazes of the crowd, walked toward the exit.

It wasn't until Gu Xiyan's piercing clicks from her high heels faded away,

that everyone finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Following her departure, they too stood up, ready to go back and report today's news!

As for the female reporter who had been blacklisted by Gu Xiyan, she was ashen-faced, on the verge of tears.

...

Gu Xiyan had never taken the Beauty Pill disfigurement incident seriously, as resolving it was truly a breeze for them.

After all, behind them stood Dragon King Hall, and it would take less than half an hour to root out those schemers.

The person who orchestrated this incident was a nobody who had no idea about the background of Jinyu Group; otherwise, if they knew where Jinyu Group came from, who would dare to play dirty tricks on them?!

Just as a reporter mentioned earlier, without massive influence and powerful backing to reach the sky, if any other company launched a cash cow like the Beauty Pill, it would either be devoured by major asset sharks—or most of its shares would be taken away to build connections.

Otherwise, they wouldn't even have a place to sell the product, let alone sweep the nation.

From the beginning, Jinyu Group had never paid to grease palms when selling the Beauty Pill, yet no bigwig dared to reach out to them, either to claim a share of the pie or to obtain the prescription of the Beauty Pill.

Until now, only the desperate Withered Tree Quest for Spring had attempted to steal the prescription from them.

However, today's Withered Tree Quest for Spring, under the relentless pressure from Dragon King Hall, is not in a good situation either.

...

As the reporters left and released the footage of the press conference online, suddenly, the various online attacks on Jinyu Group and calls for Gu Xiyan and her team to provide explanations and compensate the losses were silenced.

Capital City.

Wang Family Mansion.

After over a month of convalescence, Young Master Wang's face barely showed any signs of the beating he'd taken from Mu Jinyu.

Watching the shifts in public opinion online, he slammed down his newly purchased phone in frustration, smashing it to bits!

"These good-for-nothings!"

Young Master Wang cursed.

After being dealt with by Mu Jinyu, Young Master Wang had become much more honest, truth be told, and didn't dare to make any covert moves against Jinyu Group.

But that did not hinder his enjoyment of watching Jinyu Group's drama and failures unfold in the Capital City.

Unfortunately, the person responsible for creating the Beauty Pill counterfeit scandal targeting Jinyu Group proved to be utterly incompetent.

It hadn't been many days before Gu Xiyan casually resolved the matter.

Of course, Young Master Wang was also aware that with the backing of Dragon King Hall, they were not easy to contend with; even if he had stepped in himself, he might at best have added to their troubles, but would eventually have been dealt with.

"However, it took them a full three or four days to resolve this, which means that idiot Mu Jinyu has really run into trouble, and Xiang Mantang taking over the reins of Dragon King Hall is too preoccupied to even care about his fellow disciples' widows..."

Young Master Wang immediately suppressed his anger, a playful smile curling at the corners of his mouth.

"Su Zijin hasn't come to press for the debt, probably because that idiot died and she was overwhelmed with grief, completely forgetting about the money. Xiang Mantang, that guy, just took over as Dragon King and has his hands full with power struggles all day; he doesn't have the time to deal with these matters, so it seems I still can buy some time."

"It's a pity, why didn't that bastard's father just die together with his son? Why didn't they just die together?"

Young Master Wang shook his head and sighed with pretend regret, "If Su Zijin had died of grief as well, then my Wang Family wouldn't have to repay that ten billion she's owed. What a pity..."

Because of Su Zijin, the Wang Family was forced to write a debt note for ten billion, for which he had been scolded by his father countless times. Had it not been for the lack of young talents in his generation of the Wang Family, he might have even lost his position as the heir.

Aside from hating Young Masters Zhou, Wang, and Li, Young Master Wang naturally loathed Su Zijin as well.

At this moment, an underling rushed in hurriedly, nearly tripping over the threshold.

"What's the matter with you? So clumsy!" Young Master Wang frowned upon seeing this and chided.

The underling hurriedly explained, "It's bad news, young master, the Dragon King is here."

Young Master Wang: "..."