

King Hall 491

Chapter 491 - Ren Xiaoyao!

"Amitabha, this benefactor seems unfamiliar, please forgive this humble monk's poor sight; I cannot recognize which Honorable Master you might be."

Sheng Rulai approached Jian Ruyan, stopped in front of her, brought his hands together in a gesture of respect, chanted a Buddhist invocation, and said softly.

His intonation was quite peculiar; not only did Jian Ruyan understand the meaning in Chinese, but it also contained Japanese, Korean, English, and other languages—it seemed as if she would understand him no matter her nationality.

Originally, Jian Ruyan was already on alert around this Buddha of the Buddha's Light, and upon hearing his words, she felt even more wary of his extraordinary methods, subtly increasing the distance between them as she said, "Dragon King Hall, Hall Master of White Tiger Hall, Jian Ruyan."

"Dragon King Hall?" Sheng Rulai's expression shifted slightly upon hearing Jian Ruyan's words because he remembered that Dragon King Hall didn't seem to have a White Tiger Hall.

Besides the Hall Master Tiance True Dragon, the other positions were designated by the Big Dipper Seven Stars and the Twenty-Eight Constellations.

With Jian Ruyan's strength, she would be at least a Seven Stars of the Big Dipper General; her position could not be any lower, so what about White Tiger Hall?

However, Sheng Rulai didn't ponder any further; after all, Jian Ruyan's position in Dragon King Hall was of no significance to him.

He asked, "Sword Donor, having arrived earlier than this monk, have you discovered anything?"

"Nothing," Jian Ruyan said, controlling her expression, and shook her head slightly.

The satellite surveillance footage she had obtained would likely not only be available to Dragon King Hall but to America and other countries as well; however, she wouldn't reveal the matters concerning Xiang Mantang to them until the last moment.

Call her selfish or say she doesn't prioritize the bigger picture; in the end, Jian Ruyan has only cared for one person, Xiang Mantang, from the very beginning.

"Is that so? What a pity," Sheng Rulai responded to Jian Ruyan's answer, sensing her reservation, yet he did not press further.

After that, Sheng Rulai no longer engaged in conversation with Jian Ruyan, for he had initially thought that since she came early, she might have some clues. However, since Jian Ruyan was not inclined to say more, he would not force others, and thus he lost the desire to converse further.

Sheng Rulai walked into a relatively intact part of the ruins, which was originally a row of houses that now, eroded by darkness, left behind only mud, sand, and some broken bricks and tiles.

Sheng Rulai squatted down and started to sift through a half wall.

"Boom!"

The damaged wall crumbled like tofu dregs at the touch of Sheng Rulai, turning into a pile of sand and stone.

The exposed steel rebar was also broken in pieces, covered with rust.

Upon seeing this, Sheng Rulai's pupils flickered, and the radiant Buddha's Light behind his head suddenly shone even more brilliantly, changing from seven colors to nine, rotating ceaselessly.

He then carefully picked up a piece of relatively intact rebar, expanded his Divine Sense, and gingerly attached it to the metal, sensing the residual dark power on it.

"Hiss!"

In an instant, Sheng Rulai's face turned as pale as paper, and he threw away the piece of rebar, stumbling back several steps. Since he had been squatting down, he nearly fell in a disgraceful heap.

"Such a terrifying power; if such demons appear in the world, it bodes ill for all! Amitabha..."

Sheng Rulai's face was ashen, his expression full of shock and uncertainty, and at the end, he closed his eyes again, intoning a Buddhist chant.

As the Master of the Buddha's Light and the Head of Ten Thousand Buddhas, was Sheng Rulai someone to be trifled with? It could be said that on Earth at this time, there were no more than a handful who could match him in battle.

Yet this Buddha-level figure, upon contacting just a trace of the dark power left by Xiang Mantang, was overwhelmed and nearly lost his life, having to hastily sever his Divine Sense to escape the danger. This showed how terrifying the demon possessing Xiang Mantang was!

Therefore, Sheng Rulai uttered the grave pronouncement of imminent danger to the world.

"Old baldy, after so many years, you've actually become this weak!"

At this moment, an aged voice carrying a hint of amusement rang out leisurely.

Jian Ruyan and Sheng Rulai, hearing this voice, turned their heads towards the northwest at the same time.

Then, they saw an elderly man wearing a Taoist robe, with white hair and beard, walking towards them with hands clasped behind his back.

But strangely, with each step he took, it was as if he teleported, reappearing a hundred meters away.

With just a few steps, the old man was already near them.

Though he did not introduce himself, Jian Ruyan guessed that this elder must be the Taoist Master of the Way of Nature, Ren Xiaoyao.

"Amitabha, Cultivator Ren, it's been years since we've last met; I hope you've been well."

As the Buddha Head of Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere, Sheng Rulai naturally recognized the Taoist Master of the Way of Nature. Although he heard Ren Xiaoyao call him an old baldy, he didn't get angry and instead greeted him amiably.

Ren Xiaoyao snorted and then looked suspiciously at Jian Ruyan, "Whose kid is this little girl? With just Energy Transformation strength, she dares to come here for reconnaissance. Is she tired of living?"

"She's from the Dragon King Hall," Sheng Rulai explained.

Jian Ruyan nodded expressionlessly as well.

Upon hearing Sheng Rulai's words, Ren Xiaoyao showed a disdainful and scornful expression, muttering, "With such a big incident happening, Dragon King Hall actually sent only a little girl at the Energy Transformation level. Do they not take the situation seriously, or is Dragon King Hall out of people?!"

Jian Ruyan's grip tightens around the sword hilt, her knuckles turning somewhat white.

But unfortunately, Ren Xiaoyao was not wrong; with the death of the Old Dragon King and the continuous problems in Jinyu Mantang, Dragon King Hall indeed suffered a significant decline in talented individuals, with no one else to send.

If it hadn't been for her desperate breakthrough to the Peak Energy Transformation stage recently, the Dragon King Hall would probably have had to send a Martial Artist at the Complete Energy Transformation Stage, which surely would have invited ridicule from other powers.

After muttering to himself, Ren Xiaoyao stopped paying attention to Jian Ruyan.

He had no ill will towards the Dragon King Hall or Jian Ruyan; he was just a man who spoke his mind, often saying things that offended others.

If he didn't possess the strength of the God Realm, he likely would have been beaten to death already.

"Alright, stop your inspection here; it's useless. I've come to inform you that the Nine Great Organizations around the globe are now convening to discuss this incident. The meeting is taking place at a small town nearby that's unaffected. Representatives of other organizations have already arrived; you're the only ones still missing. Let's go!"

After saying this, Ren Xiaoyao turned and started walking back in the direction he came from.

Jian Ruyan and Sheng Rulai immediately followed Ren Xiaoyao's steps.

However, Ren Xiaoyao was using Shrinking Ground into Inches, a divine skill that God Realm powerhouses can master, thus Jian Ruyan had a hard time catching up.

Seeing this, Sheng Rulai slightly paused his pace, walking while intermittently stopping to allow Jian Ruyan to keep up with him.

Jian Ruyan felt much relieved and was quite grateful to the Buddha Head of Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere.

Soon, one after another, they arrived at a deserted town, and following Ren Xiaoyao, they entered a little house.

Upon entering the house, Jian Ruyan felt the lighting was somewhat dim and couldn't see the people inside very clearly.

"Is everyone here now? Then let's begin this meeting against the dark unrest."

Chapter 492: The Nine Great Organizations Meet!

As the sound faded, the room, which was originally slightly dim, suddenly brightened as someone turned on the lights.

Jian Ruyan stood at the doorway, sizing up everyone inside the room.

Indeed, there were already a few familiar faces there.

San Liu and Nameless from Slaughter Redemption, the old priest from Brilliant Divine Authority, Reinhardt.

And also Lucifer, the new leader of Fallen Splendor, whom she had only seen in photos and had never met in person!

The person who had just risen to his feet and spoken was a young man whom Jian Ruyan did not recognize.

He must be from one of the other organizations.

The young man glanced at Sheng Rulai and Jian Ruyan and said, "Of course, before the meeting starts, I think it's necessary for us to introduce ourselves, since some of us have never met before. So... let me start. My name is Le Le, representing Paradise Lost."

San Liu stood up with a grin, saying, "I am San Liu, representing Jinyu Mantang."

"Jinyu Mantang? What organization is that?" someone asked in surprise and confusion. "Weren't you an assassin from Slaughter Redemption?"

San Liu explained, "Oh, that was in the past. Later, we were taken over, and now our organization has changed its name."

"How shameful," Ren Xiaoyao commented with a curl of his lip, his gaze full of disdain.

San Liu, however, was indifferent to the disdain of others but silently noted Ren Xiaoyao in his blacklist. If the opportunity arose to strike, he wouldn't mind taking the old man's life.

After San Liu sat down, a middle-aged man wearing sunglasses stood up and introduced himself, "My name is Li Yaotong, representing Omniscient."

At this announcement, everyone gave him a few more looks.

After all, those from Omniscient were always elusive, and it was quite rare to see one in person.

Li Yaotong didn't say much, just introduced his identity and then sat down immediately.

Next was a muscular middle-aged man. His muscles were knotted, and he was a towering two meters twenty tall. Sitting here, he exuded an immense sense of oppression.

The man got up and simply introduced himself, "Dante, Withered Tree Quest for Spring."

Upon hearing this, the crowd also gave him a few more glances, and then looked at Jian Ruyan again. Not only because of his extraordinary physique but also because Withered Tree Quest for Spring was recently being furiously hunted by Dragon King Hall.

However, this Dante, based merely on the aura he exuded, was undeniably of Half-Step Divine Realm strength. Since he had never revealed his power in public, no one knew whether he had indeed become a man-made god under the transformation of Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

Jian Ruyan, noticing everyone looking at her, realized what they were thinking, but as Dragon King Hall was in a weaker position, she kept silent and said nothing.

Then, a handsome man with pale skin and crimson lips, wearing a tailcoat and sitting with crossed legs while tapping on the table, said with a faint smile, "I, Lucifer, represent Fallen Splendor."

An old man in a white clerical robe stood up and said, "Reinhardt, Brilliant Divine Authority."

Sheng Rulai followed, "Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere, Sheng Rulai."

With a shrug, Ren Xiaoyao found it all rather boring, but since everyone else had introduced themselves, he felt it wouldn't be right to be the exception. So he said, "Way of Nature, Ren Xiaoyao."

Jian Ruyan saw that everyone had finished introducing themselves and then she also spoke, "Dragon King Hall, Jian Ruyan."

Hearing Jian Ruyan's words, Dante from Withered Tree Quest for Spring let out a cold laugh and said, "Hmm? Why has your Dragon King Hall only sent a little girl who has reached Energy Transformation? Where did the New Dragon King, who was chasing our main culprit, go not long ago?"

Jian Ruyan replied indifferently, "He was unable to come due to some issues."

"He couldn't come, so you only sent an Energy Transformation Warrior?" Dante said disdainfully, "Look at Jinyu Mantang, although they have fallen, they still sent two Energy Transformation..."

"Alright, no need for such nonsense," Le Le from Paradise Lost interrupted Dante, "Put your personal grievances aside for now. The urgent matter is how to resolve the current dark chaos."

Dante huffed when Le Le spoke and didn't pursue the matter further.

It seemed that he held a certain level of wariness toward this Le Le, perhaps having been at a disadvantage against her in the past.

San Liu spoke up, "We have only nine organizations here now, isn't there also Heavenly Palace? Shouldn't we wait for them to come?"

Le Le explained, "Heavenly Palace operates in another space folded away from Earth; they won't handle our affairs, so there's no need to wait for them. They won't come."

"Fine," San Liu shrugged his shoulders.

Seeing no further objections from the crowd, Le Le turned to the man wearing sunglasses, Li Yaotong, and said, "The terrifying darkness that recently devoured many towns, we have little to no information about it. Omniscient is claimed to be aware of all the world's secrets, can you tell us what that darkness is?"

Li Yaotong nodded upon hearing this and said, "Regarding the source of that darkness, because it is too horrifying, our Heavenly Eye couldn't gather much information. We only know that it was originally confined in a sealed world, until the balance was recently disrupted, allowing it to be released."

"Beyond that, I'm not sure," Li Yaotong shook his head.

Jian Ruyan's heart tightened at his words.

The others also wanted to ask who exactly broke the balance and released such a terrifying demon?

However, the words that Li Yaotong immediately followed with made them momentarily forget their question.

"At present, the demon that controls great terror has established some sort of strange balance with the person it's possessing; just like the video shows, the dark mass shrinking. So for the time being, the demon won't pose a threat to humanity. Our immediate concern is not to find the demon, whose threat is minimal at the moment, but to deal with the uncontrollable demons that have escaped into the world following the darkness!"

"What, there are demons that have escaped?!"

The crowd couldn't help exclaiming upon hearing Li Yaotong's words.

The demon that caused desolation for thousands of miles, leaving no grass growing, its danger had been witnessed by everyone. Hearing that there were several completely out-of-control demons, how could they not be shocked?

The demon was already contentious with humans, and the situation was dire. The effects of completely out-of-control demons were utterly imaginable.

The world might be beyond saving.

Li Yaotong said calmly, "Don't be too worried, the demon that is bound is the strongest. These uncontrollable ones vary in danger, but none are even a tenth as powerful as the primary demon. We still have hope of confining the demons..."

"Only after we manage to confine the demons wreaking havoc on humanity, can we then possibly spare the effort to confront the primary demon."

"Next, I will mention the demons I currently know of that pose a significant threat..."

"The first one, codenamed: Impending Disaster!"

Chapter 493: Terrifying Demon!

"The impending disaster..."

The crowd listened intently to Li Yaotong's words, murmuring the phrase after her.

At this time, they were still unaware of just how terrifying the meaning represented by these simple four characters was.

It was a dark swallowing force, second only to the first Great Demon.

Li Yaotong explained, "The impending disaster is a formless demon, which you could also consider a ghost. It possesses living beings, planting a Demon Seed within them. On the surface, these beings still appear as ordinary people, but their minds have been completely controlled by the demon. They could attack those close to them at any time, and after killing their target, they would return to normal, showing no signs of irregularities, and move on to the next target..."

"What's so scary about that?" San Liu muttered with a frown after hearing this.

The others immediately gave him a look as if he were an idiot.

Le Le said, "Isn't that terrifying? Just now, Li Yaotong said that this is only the Demon Seed planted by the impending disaster inside living beings, not the impending disaster itself possessing a body and controlling it to kill."

"That means, the impending disaster could create countless demon minions around the world, and you wouldn't know when someone close to you has become a demon minion. Even worse, you might become one yourself and not even know it..."

Upon hearing Le Le's explanation, San Liu's expression stiffened too.

He also understood the danger of the impending disaster.

Its existence would plunge people into a state of mutual suspicion, for no one could tell when the person by their side would stop being human. In such times, people would live in constant anxiety, wary of interacting with anyone, not even daring to keep animals. That's why it was called the impending disaster.

Sometimes, ghosts don't scare people to death or kill them, but people themselves can end up killing each other!

If the situation became uncontrollable, people, devoid of any sense of security, might resort to killing at the first sight of another person.

Seeing that the crowd had understood the terrifying nature of the impending disaster, Li Yaotong went on to say, "The second demon, codenamed, Tide of Chaos..."

"This demon's abilities are similar to those of the impending disaster and they complement each other. It can alter people's memories. That is, if someone becomes a demon minion and kills a relative, then

encounters the Tide of Chaos and has their memory altered, they would forget that they killed their relative and believe that someone else did it, prompting them to seek revenge."

"If an ordinary person encounters it, their memory could be altered randomly, and no one knows what actions those whose memories have been changed might take. They could commit murder and then suicide, or may even carry out a terrorist attack..."

"The reason its threat level is lower than the impending disaster is because it can only alter memories and cannot bestow strength, whereas the impending disaster can transform people into demon minions, hence being more frenzied."

Hearing this, everyone felt a chill down their spine.

If such things were released and not dealt with promptly, the end of humanity and doomsday would not be a joke.

San Liu couldn't help but ask, "So, would these demons have any effect on us?!"

At San Liu's question, everyone turned their gaze to Li Yaotong, wanting to know the answer.

Li Yaotong shook her head and said, "I don't have the answer. After all, I haven't experienced it firsthand. So, it's possible that they might affect us, meaning, among us, some might have already been possessed by the impending disaster or had their memory altered by the Tide of Chaos..."

Upon hearing this, everyone immediately distanced themselves from those beside them, with a hint of wariness and vigilance in their eyes. A sense of panic slowly spread throughout the small room.

Because no one knew whether the person next to them had their memory altered or had been implanted with a Demon Seed, ready to strike at you at any moment.

Even Li Yaotong's words can no longer be taken seriously.

Who knows if these words were deliberately spread by demons?

However, there is no choice at present, they have no idea what the situation with the green and black haze outside is, only those who are Omniscient have a vague idea.

So, they can only listen for now, but they must not fully trust and should maintain some vigilance and suspicion.

Li Yaotong did not take the wariness of the people to heart and continued to speak on his own accord, "These two demons are the ones you need to take down immediately!"

"Next are some that require caution, but are not the primary targets. If encountered, just take care of them along the way."

"Codename, Nursery Rhyme. It should look not much different from a five or six-year-old girl and will sing nursery rhymes with a crying tone. Those who hear it will drop dead!"

"Codename, Midnight Knock. At night, when you hear a knock at the door, you must not open it, otherwise, you will also drop dead!"

"Codename, Urgent Calls from Relatives and Friends. When a call comes, the caller ID shows a relative or friend. As soon as you answer, you will drop dead!"

"..."

As everyone listened to Li Yaotong describe these demons' abilities, they got goosebumps, and a chill rushed from their spine to the Heavenly Spirit Cover.

The abilities of these demons seemed not much less frightening than the pervasive dangers of the Tide of Chaos. However, those two Great Demons launched indiscriminate attacks worldwide, while these listed for convenience attacked only one person at a time, making them much less harmful.

But if they were to confront those entities like Nursery Rhyme or Urgent Calls from Relatives and Friends directly, they might not be able to save their own lives.

Li Yaotong spoke for half an hour, sharing all the information he knew about the demons with the people before saying, "Alright, I've told you all the secrets we Omniscient know. How you manage this world-ending crisis is up to you now."

If it had been half an hour earlier, when they had just started the emergency meeting, they might have thought that Li Yaotong was making a mountain out of a molehill. With the first demon restrained, as long as they found a way to re-imprison it, how could it be a world-ending crisis?

But now, knowing the abilities of the Little Demons that had emerged with the first Great Demon, they all understood that if Li Yaotong was not lying, this was far from being alarmist.

The people began to discuss seriously.

After discussing for most of the day, they were still undecided.

At this moment, Dante glanced at the silent Jian Ruyan and frowned, "Why hasn't anyone from Dragon King Hall said a word today?!"

Hearing Dante's words, everyone also turned to look at Jian Ruyan.

San Liu hurriedly tried to smooth things over, "Sister Jian is just like this, cold by nature and not fond of talking."

Dante frowned, "No, I am somewhat suspicious of this woman. She may have been planted with a Demon Seed by the pervasive danger or had her memory altered by the Tide of Chaos!"

"Hmm?" Le Le spoke up, "Dante, you better not let the recent grudge with Dragon King Hall influence you to seek personal revenge at a time like this!"

Dante said, "I am not that kind of person. It's just that most of us here are of God Realm strength, the slightly weaker ones are of the Half-Step Divine Realm, but only this woman and San Liu are merely of Energy Transformation strength. And considering we are near the site of the horrifying outbreak, I am very suspicious that several of us, especially her, have had our memories altered."

Chapter 494: The Powerful Dante!

Jian Ruyan's eyelashes trembled slightly, and she looked up at Dante, her voice calm, "You can try and see for yourself if there's anything wrong with me!"

Although she was reluctant to make enemies with these people, since the people from Withered Tree Quest for Spring repeatedly provoked her and aimed to target her, she couldn't possibly endure this forever.

Jian Ruyan wasn't completely without contingency plans, if she really gave it her all, fighting a Divine Realm Warrior wouldn't be impossible, although it would come at a great cost.

"Hmph!" Upon hearing this, Dante sneered, looked around at everyone, and said coldly, "Look at her, an Energy Transformation Warrior daring to talk to me like this, and you say there's nothing wrong with her! Since you're so intent on seeking death, I won't mind sending you on your way!"

The crowd's gazes flickered when they heard Dante's words.

Lucifer, Reinhardt, Ren Xiaoyao, and Le Le were all in a wait-and-see state.

Sheng Rulai, Li Yaotong, San Liu, and others frowned and tried to advise Dante to calm down.

"It's a critical moment right now, and you're still causing internal strife, are you really in such a hurry to die?"

Li Yaotong said with a frown.

Dante let out a sinister laugh and shattered a wooden table with a palm, "It's just an Energy Transformation Warrior; what's there to worry about if she gets killed? Could it be that you really expect her to be useful in a situation like this?"

"Even if it's an accidental injury, it won't be a big loss if she's not controlled by the panic of disaster or the Tide of Chaos!"

Having said that, he rose to his full height, his towering frame creating a tremendous sense of oppression, and he walked towards Jian Ruyan, who was seated on her chair.

Actually, Jian Ruyan was quite tall herself, at 1.72 meters, but under the pressure of Dante's over two-meter frame, she appeared very delicate and petite.

Seeing this, San Liu showed an anxious look, wanting to help Jian Ruyan.

After all, he was now a member of the Jinyu Mantang, and since Jian Ruyan was a subordinate of Xiang Mantang, he would be in trouble if he didn't lend a hand now and Xiang Mantang came asking later.

But just as he thought to act, Nameless held him back.

Nameless shook his head at him and whispered, "Are you sure you can handle it?"

San Liu shook his head.

What surety could he have?

Dante's strength was clearly more than just the peak of Energy Transformation; at the very least, he was at Half-Step Divine Realm and it was also possible that he was the only man-made Divine Realm Warrior created by Withered Tree Quest for Spring using all their resources.

Such a person might not compare to someone like Xiang Mantang, who broke through to the Divine Realm on his own and lacked various Divine Skills such as Divine Sense.

But he was still terrifying and probably more than a match for over ten Peak Energy Transformation Warriors—if they banded together, they wouldn't be his opponent!

"If you're not sure, then sit down. Don't rush to your death!" Nameless whispered.

San Liu's eyes flickered, wondering whether Nameless wasn't afraid of Xiang Mantang returning to hold them accountable for standing by passively.

Before San Liu could ask further,

There, Dante had already taken big strides to get right in front of Jian Ruyan, grinned sinisterly, and swung a punch at her face!

"Crackle!!"

As he swung his fist, dazzling Thunder Light burst forth, and the jumping Thunder Arcs made everybody present feel a slight numbness in their bodies.

His Thunder Power was in no way inferior to Zeus, if not even more formidable!

San Liu's face changed color; he realized that even if he wanted to join forces with Jian Ruyan to confront Dante, it was now impossible.

At the same time, he understood why Nameless had held him back, not letting him approach.

She must have sensed the danger from Dante and known that even if the three of them teamed up, they would not be Dante's match—it was simply an act of seeking death.

Instead of that, it was better to watch the changes and inform Dragon King Hall about Jian Ruyan being killed by the people from Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

She was such a calm and rational assassin!

San Liu didn't dare to open his eyes to look at Jian Ruyan anymore.

He feared that the next second, he would see her beautiful face burst open like a bloody watermelon.

"Clang!"

However, the expected explosion sound did not occur.

Instead, the sound of a sword being unsheathed rang out.

"This is..."

Faint exclamations of surprise could be heard by the ear.

San Liu couldn't help but open his eyes and look in the direction of Jian Ruyan.

He saw that the sharp sword Jian Ruyan had been holding was now unsheathed, and at the same time, the sword emanated an aura of cold frost, extremely majestic, while at the tip of the sword, an ice shield had formed, successfully blocking Dante's punch.

Does Jian Ruyan also possess a special ability? An Ice Ability?

San Liu found it somewhat unbelievable.

That's not right...

He soon realized something was amiss; this wasn't an Ice Ability, but rather some kind of True Qi operation that caused the transformation.

Ice is not a conductor of electricity, but that's only relatively speaking. After all, Jian Ruyan was less powerful than Dante. Even if she could barely block Dante's punch, which was filled with Thunder Power, his unstoppable punch, powered merely by physical strength, would have been enough to shatter the ice shield.

However, at the moment, the ice shield at the tip of Jian Ruyan's sword dissipated all the electricity and didn't even show a single crack under Dante's punch.

Does that mean Jian Ruyan is now a Divine Realm Warrior?

That's not right...

It's impossible for her to have broken through again so quickly.

San Liu looked at the several light blue Curse Marks that appeared on Jian Ruyan's forehead, intertwining to form the silhouette of a phoenix, almost identical to the technique used by Xiang Mantang in the previous assassination attempt on the Lord of the Killing Realm!

'Is this a forbidden secret technique of Dragon King Hall that allows a brief breakthrough to the Divine Realm? But why isn't it a Dragon Pattern?'

San Liu whispered to himself, guessing, somewhat puzzled.

Because he was not familiar with Dragon King Hall, he thought the Phoenix Curse Marks that appeared on the faces of Jian Ruyan and Xiang Mantang were secret techniques of the Dragon King Hall that every high-ranking member knew!

As San Liu speculated,

Dante, seeing his punch that should have blown up Jian Ruyan's head being blocked by her, was momentarily stunned, then sneered with a grin and roared, "Haha, quite the trick you have there, an Energy Transformation Warrior who can actually block my attack. You still say you have no issues!"

With that said,

the fist he had slammed onto the ice shield suddenly burst into a blazing inferno.

The fire was vast, appearing almost like a small sun.

Instantly, the ice shield in front of Jian Ruyan began to show signs of melting and disintegrating.

"This guy actually possesses more than one special ability."

As everyone saw Dante using another Fire-type Psychic Power, they became even more convinced that he was the ace that Withered Tree Quest for Spring had been hiding, a Super Gene Modifier.

And it wasn't just the Fire Ability; as Dante forcefully activated it, his body hair began to grow rapidly, and he let out several wolf howls.

Is this guy also a werewolf?

Lucifer, who was casually watching the fight with his legs crossed, narrowed his eyes slightly. Those with werewolf or vampire bloodlines were all members of his Fallen Splendor; when did Withered Tree Quest for Spring steal their werewolf bloodline?

"Hyah!"

Jian Ruyan was not one to just wait for death; seeing that the ice shield was somewhat failing to stop Dante's attack, she immediately wanted to urge her True Yuan fiercely, continuing to fight desperately against Dante!

Just then,

"Bam!"

The previously closed door suddenly burst open.

Chapter 495: Dragon King Hall, Mu Jinyu!

The tightly closed door suddenly swung open, gusts of chilly ghostly wind blowing incessantly inside.

Dante and Jian Ruyan, who were about to engage in combat, both stopped their movements in an instant.

Everyone quickly turned their heads toward the door, their expressions calm as usual, but their slightly trembling hands and eyes that betrayed a hint of panic revealed their inner unrest.

How could they possibly be calm.

The small town they were in had experienced a dark erosion incident not long ago, causing the residents to fear its recurrence and flee early.

Ordinary people certainly wouldn't dare to come here.

And they had just listened to Li Yaotong speak of so many demon details, so upon hearing the sound of the door opening suddenly, their first thought was whether some demon had entered?

After all, this place was near the source of the dark turmoil!

As everyone looked toward the door, they saw a tall and slender silhouette quietly standing at the entrance, the intense and brilliant sunlight outside compelling them to squint their eyes, unable to look directly.

Was this a human or a ghost?

"Quite a number of people here. Hmm, Ruyan, San Liu, Nameless, you're all here, long time no see," said a clear voice.

At that sound, San Liu, Nameless, and Jian Ruyan all shook violently.

By now, the people had adjusted to the sudden brilliance of the sunlight and could clearly see the figure standing at the door.

It was a young man around seventeen or eighteen years old, with handsome features and dressed plainly.

It was none other than Mu Jinyu, who had just undergone the thawing surgery and fully awakened.

"Who are you, coming here to frighten me with tricks and supernatural nonsense!" Dante shouted angrily upon seeing Mu Jinyu's face, realizing he was probably not a demon, feeling a mix of annoyance and embarrassment.

"Hmm?" Mu Jinyu glanced at Dante. Judging by his actions, this guy was just fighting Jian Ruyan, right?

"Were you just bullying someone from my Dragon King Hall?" Mu Jinyu asked directly, "Yaoguang Hall Master, is this mad dog trying to bully you?"

Before Jian Ruyan could respond,

Dante roared, "Dragon King Hall? So you're from Dragon King Hall too? Spare the gibberish, die!"

With those words,

Dante turned on his heel, abandoning his attack on Jian Ruyan and instead dashed towards Mu Jinyu, while his fist shot out like a cannonball, electric flames erupting, thunder and fire colliding, the force unparalleled!

"Watch out," San Liu yelled.

Jian Ruyan didn't speak, gripping his sword to strike at Dante, determined not to let him harm Mu Jinyu.

After all, Mu Jinyu only had the strength of a Peak Energy Transformation master, had died once, and although he'd narrowly survived death, his strength had undoubtedly declined and he was far from being Dante's match.

At this moment, while others sat aside as spectators, the only one who could save him was himself.

"Yo, a psychic, by the looks of it. You must be from Withered Tree Quest for Spring, right?" Mu Jinyu stood still, not showing the fright that would have frozen others in terror, instead he found time to tease Dante.

Then, as Dante lunged towards him, Mu Jinyu extended his leg and delivered a powerful kick to Dante's waist!

"Ugh!"

The force of Mu Jinyu's kick sent Dante howling in agony, and the next moment, he was shot backward like a cannonball.

"Clang!"

As he flew backward and collided with Jian Ruyan's sword, flesh and steel met, producing the sound of gold-iron clashing, and he continued to fly back with unabated momentum.

Jian Ruyan, shocked by Mu Jinyu's current strength, dared not clash head-on with Dante and hurriedly dodged to the side to avoid being hit by him.

"Bang!!"

In the end, Dante continued to fly backward, smashing through the wall and out of the building.

"Boom boom boom..."

Amidst the uncertain and astonished crowd, another strange noise was heard, and they quickly surmised that the house must be collapsing. They hurriedly left the building.

No sooner had everyone left the house,

than a rumbling and boom followed, and the house collapsed with a thunderous crash.

"You..."

Jian Ruyan sheathed her sword and walked over to Mu Jinyu, her gaze curious and complex as she looked at him.

She remembered Mu Jinyu's strength had only been at the peak of Energy Transformation before the incident. How was it that upon awakening, he had actually broken through to the God Realm?

However, when she thought about how Xiang Mantang had made consecutive breakthroughs to the Half-Step Divine Realm and the Divine Realm after Mu Jinyu's incident, it seemed not so difficult to accept that Mu Jinyu had advanced to the God Realm.

But, how did Mu Jinyu awaken?

After all, Xiang Mantang hadn't brought back any Treasure Medicine that could revive him, had he?

So, did he wake up on his own?

Doesn't that mean that the predictions given to Xiang Mantang by that Omniscient old man were actually not wrong?

Mu Jinyu was going to awaken by himself!

So then...

What exactly was Xiang Mantang's sacrifice for, if in the end he met a tragic fate being possessed by a demon?!

Jian Ruyan felt a pang of frustration.

"How... did you wake up?!"

Jian Ruyan stared at Mu Jinyu with many questions she wanted to ask him, but in the end, she simply asked how he had awakened.

"I'm not sure either."

Mu Jinyu, upon hearing Jian Ruyan's question, gently shook his head and said, "Perhaps it was the Jade Pendant my master left me?"

With that, Mu Jinyu pulled open his collar to reveal a red cord around his neck.

There was nothing hanging on the red cord.

But, listening to Mu Jinyu, it seemed that originally there should have been a Jade Pendant.

Mu Jinyu, fearing Jian Ruyan wouldn't understand, explained, "There used to be a Jade Pendant hanging on my neck, but when I woke up, I found it shattered. So, I conjecture that I survived because of this Jade Pendant my master left for me."

If it were just the awakening accompanied by the shattering of the Jade Pendant, Mu Jinyu certainly wouldn't dare to be sure that his revival and the pendant were related.

But, as the pendant broke, he also received a set of memories containing much information, such as Alchemy Technique, Formation Technique, Refining Technique, and so on...

And his strength had broken through to the God Realm in one fell swoop.

Therefore, Mu Jinyu boldly speculated that the Jade Pendant that Mu Shao'ai, his master, urged him to wear before leaving, definitely contained his last resort.

However, these matters, Mu Jinyu did not disclose to Jian Ruyan.

It wasn't that he didn't trust her; there were simply too many people around, and it was not wise to let others overhear.

"Boom!!"

At this moment, from the ruins of the collapsed house, a loud bang erupted, bricks flew in all directions, and dust filled the air, as a burly figure stood up once again.

"Who exactly are you? Dragon King Hall shouldn't have anyone with power like yours!"

Dante steadied his figure, rubbing his waist, his gaze fiery as he stared at Mu Jinyu and loudly demanded an answer.

"Bang!"

Mu Jinyu took a step forward, his figure suddenly appearing close to Dante, and then he kicked out again.

"Boom boom boom!"

This time, Dante was sent flying like a cannonball, but the outcome was even more miserable than before. Initially, he had only collapsed one building, but now, he crashed through more than a dozen buildings in a row.

Mu Jinyu watched Dante fly away, leisurely retracting his foot. Turning back and seeing everyone looking at him with peculiar expressions, he thought that they must be curious about Dante's question too.

Smiling, he introduced himself:

"Dragon King Hall, Tiance True Dragon, Mu Jinyu!"

Chapter 496: Dante Dies!

"Tiance True Dragon, Mu Jinyu?"

Among the crowd, some like San Liu, Nameless, Lucifer, and Li Yaotong knew Mu Jinyu, the Dragon King from Dragon King Hall.

However, there were others like Ren Xiaoyao and Sheng Rulai, who had long been reclusive and unfamiliar with the leadership of Dragon King Hall; hence they were unaware of Mu Jinyu's identity.

"Amitabha, so the benefactor is the new Dragon King, I am honored,"

Sheng Rulai chanted a Buddhist phrase and greeted Mu Jinyu.

People like Ren Xiaoyao, sanctioned by Mu Jinyu's previously demonstrated strength, dared not mock them from Dragon King Hall anymore and nodded slightly at Mu Jinyu as a form of greeting.

Mu Jinyu also nodded at them, his gaze lingering a bit longer on Lucifer, Reinhardt, Le Le, and Li Yaotong.

Seeing they had no intention of starting a fight, he then turned to Jian Ruyan and asked, "By the way, I am here to find Ah-Xiang. Do you know where he is now?"

Upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words, Jian Ruyan's pupils involuntarily shrank slightly, and she desperately wanted to tell him about Xiang Mantang's plight and have Mu Jinyu rescue him.

But considering the crowd around, she suppressed the urge and shook her head at Mu Jinyu, "I'm not sure, he might have gone to do something."

"Oh," Mu Jinyu nodded slightly, his eyebrows faintly furrowing.

After awakening, Su Zijin and the others wanted him to spend more time with them and didn't mention Xiang Mantang's condition. However, he vaguely sensed something was amiss. After inquiring with Mu Hongchen, he learned that Xiang Mantang might be in danger, so he hurried over here.

But upon arrival, he only saw Jian Ruyan and a group of people holding a meeting; he was even bullied and didn't see Xiang Mantang. And just now, Jian Ruyan's expression was somewhat strange; he always felt that something might have truly happened to Xiang Mantang.

Could it be...

His awakening was related to the trouble at Xiang Mantang?

But if something truly happened to Xiang Mantang, he had no reason to feel a sudden impulse.

Maybe he was overthinking?

"By the way, what are you doing here?" Mu Jinyu suppressed his inquiry towards Jian Ruyan and asked what she was doing here.

Jian Ruyan said, "It's about the reasons for the changes in weather, and specific information about the chaos-causing demons."

As she spoke, she briefly relayed to Mu Jinyu the information about the demons that Li Yaotong had mentioned.

Of course, she did not omit any important details because, should anything happen to Mu Jinyu as a result, she would have been troubled by guilt.

"Such a thing has happened!"

Listening to Jian Ruyan's account, Mu Jinyu looked up at the dark mist swirling in the sky. Earlier, when the sun was shining brightly, he hadn't noticed these strange changes and thought the local weather was just harsh.

After hearing Jian Ruyan's overview, he vaguely felt that his awakening might not only be due to the effects of the jade pendant left by his mentor, but also related to these resurgent demons.

Upon awakening, Mu Jinyu discovered that the spiritual energy between heaven and earth was much denser than before.

He initially thought it was a memory disorder due to his long slumber and mistook his sensation.

But as time passed, he realized his senses were not mistaken. As he approached the source of the dark chaos, he felt even more distinct changes in the richness of the spiritual energy.

"Uh..."

At that moment, bursts of excruciating cries emerged, and everyone saw the burly Dante, clutching his waist, limping towards them.

Since it was unclear to Mu Jinyu that Dante had originally planned to assassinate Jian Ruyan, Mu Jinyu had not struck lethally during their encounters, merely teaching him a lesson.

As Dante limped closer to the crowd, his gaze filled with wariness towards Mu Jinyu, then he stopped in his tracks.

It wasn't that he was sincerely weak and utterly vanquished by Mu Jinyu; rather, after acquiring the werewolf bloodline, he naturally had its multitude of weaknesses.

As the saying goes, hard-headed with a tofu waist, this means the wolf's head is very hard, but its waist is like tofu dregs; once hit, it must kneel.

And Mu Jinyu struck him twice directly in his waist, coupled with the fact that he is not a true Divine Realm Warrior, which led to his embarrassing predicament.

Jian Ruyan turned to glance at Dante and sneered, "Now that our Dragon King is here, do you still dare to continue claiming that my memory has been tampered with by demons?"

"Oh?" Upon hearing Jian Ruyan's words, Mu Jinyu immediately understood why they had started fighting.

Initially, he thought Dante was just bullying Jian Ruyan, but now, knowing about the demons and the severity of the Tumult and the Tide of Chaos, he realized that Dante was not just bullying Jian Ruyan—he was truly preparing to kill her!

Saying outright that Jian Ruyan's memory had been altered by a demon was nothing but an act of revenge on the Dragon King Hall, seeing it was unguarded!

Mu Jinyu's gaze turned to Dante, filled with fury and intent to kill, he said deliberately:

"Originally, I was quite displeased with your Withered Tree Quest for Spring, trying to steal my Beauty Pill prescription under the guise of researching your Elixir of Immortality. Just now, I didn't kill you because I didn't want to completely break off relations with your Withered Tree Quest for Spring...but since you have decided to burn bridges, let me take you down a notch!"

"Dragon King, please calm down, do not strike!"

"Now, the overall situation must be a priority—we should avoid internal strife!"

Seeing that Mu Jinyu was about to seriously strike Dante down, someone stepped in to mediate.

Startled, Mu Jinyu turned around and, with a cold gaze, stared at Le Le from Paradise Lost and Li Yaotong from Omniscient and others, sneering, "What? When this guy was trying to kill my people, none of you stopped him, but now that I am about to retaliate, you come to mediate? Do you really think Dragon King Hall is easy to bully?"

He understood why everyone had such a fickle attitude—it wasn't because they were on good terms with Withered Tree Quest for Spring.

It was because Dante's strength was of the Pseudo Divine Realm, far more valuable than a Peak Energy Transformation Martial Artist like Jian Ruyan, and knowing the decline of Dragon King Hall, they did nothing previously when Dante attacked Jian Ruyan!

But now that he was about to kill Dante, a high-valued Warrior of the Pseudo Divine Realm might play an important role given the current situation...

So they preferred to risk offending Dragon King Hall just to save Dante!

In truth, this was simply because they looked down on Dragon King Hall. Otherwise, if Old Dragon King, Xiang Mantang, and other three Divine Realm Warriors were present, which one of them would dare to target Dragon King Hall openly?

Meanwhile, Mu Jinyu was confronting them.

On the other side, seeing that the situation was not in his favor, Dante immediately turned around and staggered, ready to flee the scene.

He knew that if he stayed any longer, he would probably die!

"Think you can escape?"

Mu Jinyu abruptly turned his head, staring at Dante, and started to chuckle coldly.

Although he had just been in a confrontation, that didn't mean he was not keeping an eye on Dante.

The moment Dante ran, he immediately ignored everyone else and chased after him!

"Dragon King, please, calm down!"

Someone tried to persuade Mu Jinyu to stop.

"Clang!"

Jian Ruyan drew her sword and the Curse Ice Phoenix Mark appeared on her brow again, ready to intervene.

With the Curse Ice Phoenix Mark activated, her strength reached the Divine Realm momentarily. Although she couldn't kill Dante, she could delay the others just long enough for Mu Jinyu to finish him off!

In an instant, Jian Ruyan was confronting Le Le and the others.

"Ahh!!"

And just as they were about to clash, Dante, who was trying to escape, had already been caught up to by Mu Jinyu, and his life was taken!

Chapter 497: Demon Appears!

"Dante is dead?"

The crowd listened to the screams coming from ahead and looked at Dante, who lay motionless on the ground, finding it hard to believe.

They had not expected that Dante, being in the Pseudo Divine Realm, would be knocked down by Mu Jinyu after just one encounter.

This caught them off guard as they confronted Jian Ruyan.

"Amitabha, all is well..."

Seeing this, Sheng Rulai pressed his palms together, closed his eyes, and started chanting, apparently performing rites for Dante's passage to the afterlife.

"Eh, why is this guy's blood black?"

At this moment, Mu Jinyu's voice rang out, somewhat surprised.

"Hm?"

Hearing Mu Jinyu's comment, Li Yaotong's expression changed dramatically, and he hurriedly shouted, "Danger, get away!"

"Boom!!"

However, his warning was a bit late.

Suddenly, Dante's corpse, with its exploded head oozing dark blood and purple brain matter, opened its tightly shut eyes, emitting a sinister red glow flickering unstably.

"Roar!!"

Dante suddenly let out a roar like that of a wild beast or an evil ghost, his body drastically transforming. His already thick and abundant hair due to his Werewolf Bloodline became even longer and denser, sweeping towards Mu Jinyu like tendrils!

"Wow, what the heck?!"

Mu Jinyu, taken aback by this bizarre transformation, jumped back in surprise, then hastily retreated.

However, those dense, vine-like black strands of hair continuously extended, quickly reaching two to three meters in length—taller than Dante himself—terrifyingly.

As Mu Jinyu continued to retreat, the sinister, glistening strands of hair kept assaulting him.

Seeing the demonic hair about to touch his body, Mu Jinyu dared not let it come any closer, and without hesitation, he quickly formed a spell with his left hand and then swung his right hand down fiercely.

"Boom!"

Instantly, a three-meter-long sword made of flames collided with those stretching, entangling demonic strands of hair.

"Sizzle, sizzle!"

The flames cast by Mu Jinyu were no ordinary flames but Taoist True Fire, which naturally had formidable power. It immediately began burning the hair upon contact and continued burning back towards the not yet fallen demonized Dante!

"Boom!!"

As the flames scorched Dante's body, a huge blast of fire streaked upwards, with flames soaring into the sky. Sheng Rulai and others standing a hundred meters away felt an intense heat that made their skin feel hot.

The air began to fill with a burnt, offensive odor, making it unpleasant and nauseating.

Mu Jinyu was unsure if his Taoist True Fire could kill the demonized corpse, but seeing the over two-meter high flaming figure shaking but not falling, he sensed the situation might not be so simple to resolve.

Thus, he did not hesitate, turning around and running towards the group.

Mu Jinyu was not one to play the hero—back in the Hundred Thousand Great Mountains when he encountered that Great Python, he would not have fought desperately had there not been anyone else capable around.

And now, with some of the strongest people of their time around him, and facing what seemed to be demonic beings, he certainly wouldn't foolishly tackle the situation alone.

"Roar!"

As Mu Jinyu ran towards the group, the demon behind him suddenly let out another roar, and the flames engulfing it abruptly extinguished.

Jian Ruyan and the others saw that after the flames extinguished, there appeared a nearly three-meter-tall, tremendously burly creature covered in sinister black hair.

The hair shimmered with a dark luster, indicating that the recent flames might not have caused any substantial damage, or perhaps any damage had been obscured by the hair, making it impossible to see whether the skin underneath was scorched or decomposed.

"What the hell is this thing?!"

Mu Jinyu stood beside Jian Ruyan, keeping a certain distance from the others, then asked somewhat angrily.

He didn't believe that Dante, whose head had been blown up by him, could still be alive and even more fierce than before.

That guy was definitely dead just now, but something unpredictable had happened after his death.

"This is a Demon. Dante has been planted with a Demon Seed by the disaster, which is why he turned into this after dying."

Li Yaotong spoke with an ugly expression, not only answering Mu Jinyu's question but also explaining to everyone to raise their alertness!

"Swoosh swoosh swoosh!!"

While they were talking, the demonized Dante launched another attack, his eerie hair once again swept toward everyone.

This time, the attack targeted not only Mu Jinyu but everyone present.

"Amitabha."

As a monk who had attained enlightenment, Sheng Rulai naturally would not allow such a demon to wreak havoc among humans. He chanted a Buddhist mantra and the Buddha's Light behind his head shone brightly, with nine colors turning ceaselessly.

Then, he stepped forward and lifted his Zen Staff, striking it hard on the hair, then moved continuously, wrapping the hair with the staff as though using chopsticks to roll noodles, intercepting all the evil hair attacking the crowd.

"Thud!"

Sheng Rulai moved quickly, instantly appearing in front of the demon. With the hair wrapped around, he swung the staff and directly tapped on the demon's forehead.

Instantly, a "Swastika" rune appeared on top of the demon's head, flickering uncertainly, exuding an aura of sanctity, purity, dignity, and compassion.

In an instant, the numerous evil hairs that were still wriggling and preparing to attack Sheng Rulai again all fell straight to the ground.

"Is it resolved?"

Mu Jinyu couldn't help but ask in amazement as he watched the scene.

He thought to himself that the Victorious Buddha, with his Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere, was truly powerful. He easily subdued the demon that even he found troublesome and hard to handle.

"Amitabha!"

Sheng Rulai might have been thinking the same, as after the "Swastika" rune stabilized the demon, he softly chanted a mantra and was about to retract his staff.

"It's not over yet, don't let down your guard!"

At that moment, Li Yaotong's urgent voice rang out again.

However, his reminder was slightly too late.

As soon as Sheng Rulai retracted his staff, the hairs, which had just been as still as a dead person's, revived once more, wrapping around Sheng Rulai like lightning!

"What?" Mu Jinyu and the others changed their expressions upon hearing this.

If even a high monk from the Buddhist Sect couldn't resolve this demon, what were they supposed to do?

And hearing Li Yaotong's earlier explanation, this was just a Demon Seed created by the disaster, not a purebred demon. If a real demon appeared, would they have no choice but to wait to die?

"Thud!"

Sheng Rulai's expression also changed, then he quickly recited a few scriptures, and a golden Buddha's Light flickered on his body, protecting him from the hair attack.

Then, he hurriedly swung his staff again, tapping it on the demon's head, making the "Swastika" glow once more.

Finally, he restrained the unruly demon again.

But the expressions of Mu Jinyu and the others were still quite grim.

After all, the current demon was just a Demon Seed, a Demon Slave, not a true purebred demon. It took someone of Buddha Level like Sheng Rulai to restrain it. If they were to face a real demon, how could they possibly survive?

Chapter 498 - The Truth Behind the Demon!

Li Yaotong seemed to sense everyone's worries and despair and began to reassure, "Don't worry, there is nothing in this world without a solution."

"Hmm? What do you mean?"

San Liu turned his head to look at Li Yaotong and asked.

Li Yaotong said, "The demon slave Dante has transformed into isn't your ordinary demon slave; in fact, it's not much different from a regular demon. After all, he was originally at the Pseudo Divine Realm, so

it's natural for the transformed demon to be stronger. Don't worry that ordinary people would turn into something this terrible!"

"I see."

Upon hearing Li Yaotong's explanation, everyone felt much more relaxed. The feeling of despair about the future wasn't as intense anymore.

After all, if just any ordinary person were transformed into a demon slave by the Tide of Chaos and possessed such formidable abilities, then the world could practically be declared beyond saving.

But since Dante was an exception and ordinary people wouldn't be as strong, there was still hope.

"Alright, now everyone cut your fingers and look at your blood to see if there's any abnormality, turning black, turning purple, or other colors..."

Before people could fully relax, Li Yaotong spoke up again.

"Hmm?"

Upon hearing Li Yaotong's words, the crowd guessed that he probably wanted to test whether there were any other demon slaves among those present.

After all, when Dante transformed into a demon earlier, Mu Jinyu had said something about his blood turning black.

The situation was urgent at the time, and people didn't have time to think more about it. Now that Li Yaotong brought it up, everyone understood that after becoming a demon slave, one's blood might undergo a mutation, turning black or purple, or some other color, but certainly not the red of a normal human.

Although everyone felt they hadn't been planted with a Demon Seed, who could be sure that was true? After all, there was still the Tide of Chaos, which could tamper with memories.

Thus, after some thought, everyone, without hesitation, cut their fingers to check whether there was anything wrong with their blood.

This included Mu Jinyu, who had just arrived not long before.

"No, my blood is red."

"Mine is red too..."

After checking, the crowd found that their blood was indeed red, and they all breathed a sigh of relief.

Ren Xiaoyao said, "The baldy's blood is red too, no issues."

"Amitabha," Sheng Rulai replied with a touch of helplessness.

After all, he was busy spinning his Zen Staff on the demon's head and couldn't check for himself, which is why he had Ren Xiaoyao help him.

Seeing that no one had any issues, San Liu complained to Li Yaotong, "If such a method of detection exists, why didn't you bring it up during the meeting? Why didn't you check everyone then? Really!"

Li Yaotong, with a touch of helplessness in his voice, explained, "Because I didn't know about the demon slave until it appeared. My Heavenly Eye can only glimpse parts of the truth; it's not truly omniscient."

Upon hearing Li Yaotong's explanation, everyone's heart was struck with a chill.

So the detailed information Li Yaotong knew was not from any records but what he saw with his own eyes?

Omniscient, truly enigmatic and unpredictable!

San Liu said, "If that's the case, then this ominous disaster you speak of isn't really that terrifying. After all, we have detection methods and can easily root it out!"

"It's not as simple as you think," Li Yaotong sighed. "Now that we have checked and everything is fine, none of us is controlled by the ominous disaster, but can you be certain that you, who were fine a second ago, will still be fine the next?"

Upon hearing this, everyone couldn't help but feel a shiver down their spine.

Li Yaotong continued, "So, as long as the ominous disaster is not successfully contained, we must live in constant unrest, on guard at every moment against anyone—family, friends, even ourselves."

The crowd fell silent, then someone asked, "It's strange, among us, there are many Energy Transformation Warriors who have not been controlled by the ominous disaster, but Dante, who is considered in the Pseudo Divine Realm, how could he be controlled by it?"

Everyone was curious about this question, all looking toward Li Yaotong.

Waiting for his explanation.

With a furrowed brow, Li Yaotong pondered for a while before he slowly spoke:

"Indeed, if the ominous disaster had to erode someone among us, it should have chosen San Liu, Nameless, Jian Ruyan first—after all, they are weaker. But now, it's Dante, who is in the Pseudo Divine Realm, that's been controlled. This suggests that the ominous disaster doesn't control people based on their cultivation..."

"If not based on cultivation, then based on what?" asked San Liu.

His face didn't look too good, but he also felt somewhat relieved. After all, Dante, who was supposed to be stronger than him, was the one who fell victim, while he, being the weaker, was spared, a fact that he couldn't help but find frightening.

Li Yaotong replied with some uncertainty, "It's possibly based on willpower, or spiritual power."

Upon hearing Li Yaotong's words, Mu Jinyu instantly felt enlightened and said:

"Oh, I understand now. The ominous disaster and the Tide of Chaos are both intangible, bodiless demons, which suggests they are very likely the residual Spiritual Thoughts, Divine Sense left behind by some ancient Demon Cultivator after passing away.

As they are only Spiritual Thoughts, they constantly seek physical bodies, aiming to seize souls for rebirth.

If the ominous disaster wants to seize a soul, it must necessarily leave some of its Demon Yuan with the host, just to assure if that host can be seized. If the seizing fails, then it abandons the host.

The body abandoned by it, due to the residual Demon Yuan and disturbance of Spiritual Thoughts, would be completely unaware that something has gone wrong."

As she said this, Mu Jinyu looked at the somewhat enlightened crowd and added:

"And since we have cultivated to the God Realm, we have also birthed our own Divine Sense and Spiritual Thoughts, naturally we are not afraid of being eroded by the ominous disaster. As for people like San Liu, even though they're just at the peak of Energy Transformation, their spiritual power is highly concentrated from the journey of cultivation. They're only a step away from breaking through to the God Realm, so they won't be easily eroded by the ominous disaster either!"

"What you're saying makes sense!" Li Yaotong and a few others, hearing Mu Jinyu's explanation, their eyes flickered a few times before they nodded in agreement.

The so-called Divine Sense and Spiritual Thoughts are special soul techniques born only when Martial Artists reach the peak of their cultivation — when Essence, Qi, and Spirit unite and spiritual power highly condenses.

Divine Sense can be projected outward to survey the surroundings, while also allowing the casting of Spiritual Thoughts transmission, Soul Projection, and other unforeseeable techniques.

Warriors of the God Realm are called Terrestrial Immortals precisely because they possess such abilities, which can tap into the forces of heaven and earth, perceive the nearby through Divine Sense. And those who mainly practice Taoist Law can even summon wind and rain; how could they be considered mere mortals?

Ren Xiaoyao glanced at Dante, who had been immobilized by Sheng Rulai with his Zen Staff, and said: "So, does it mean that because Dante, created through Withered Tree Quest for Spring, is a man-made Pseudo Divine Realm being, lacking Divine Sense, and different from us who have tempered through step-by-step cultivation, his insufficient spiritual power cultivation is the reason why, when we all were close to the source of the dark turmoil, only he was eroded by the ominous disaster?"

"Although the explanation is somewhat forced, at least we have a direction, not blindly flailing like a headless fly, clueless," Le Le said.

Chapter 499: Similar Places!

Everyone felt they could understand Mu Jinyu's explanation, and the fear of the imminent catastrophe in their hearts was somewhat alleviated.

At the same time, they also understood why Dante had inexplicably sought trouble with Jian Ruyan earlier, eventually escalating to a fierce fight after a brief disagreement.

Clearly, it was not just the grudge between Withered Tree Quest for Spring and Dragon King Hall. Normally, under the circumstances of a world-ending disaster, they could have set aside their grievances.

Since Dante was the representative sent by Withered Tree Quest for Spring, it was unlikely he would act so irrationally unless he had been suddenly controlled by the disaster, leading him to falsely accuse Jian Ruyan of being controlled by the disaster and about to attack.

Li Yaotong, seeing the pleased crowd, spoke, "Don't think you're safe and disregard this matter. Dragon King's speculation makes some sense, but we can't be sure it's true. Therefore, everyone should not take it as the truth. Otherwise, if we encounter the catastrophe and regard it as the truth, we might not even know how we died."

The crowd nodded, indicating their understanding.

Mu Jinyu also found this reasonable and didn't feel that Li Yaotong was targeting him.

After all, it was just speculation, and without confirmation, nothing could be taken for granted.

"Of course..." After advising everyone not to be complacent, Li Yaotong continued to encourage them: "If Dragon King's guess proves true, perhaps our burden might not be so heavy..."

"Because if the so-called catastrophe and Tide of Chaos are just the malice from a Demon Cultivator or Demon God after their fall, then as time passes, without Demon Yuan to nourish them, they will gradually weaken."

"Of course, there's also another possibility that as time goes on, if they can't find a suitable host, they will devour the host's energy to grow, or rather, to regain their original strength..."

As he spoke, Li Yaotong glanced around at the crowd, his expression solemn, and he said in a deep voice, "At that time, even if we maintain our current mental state, it might be difficult to resist their corruption."

The crowd, hearing this, felt a chill and an urgency.

Whether or not this conjecture was true, the catastrophe and the Tide of Chaos needed to be contained quickly.

Otherwise, it would truly lead to perpetual dread among the people, mutual suspicion, and even fighting, brewing a massive disaster!

"Amitabha..."

At that moment, Sheng Rulai, who was pinning the demonized Dante with his Zen Staff, chanted a Buddhist mantra helplessly and spoke, "Fellow cultivators, could you first help little monk figure out a way to imprison or resolve this? Do you expect little monk to keep standing here?"

"Sorry, my oversight," Li Yaotong said apologetically to Sheng Rulai upon hearing him.

He was initially also about to deal with the demonized Dante, but because he feared that there were still Demon Slaves among the crowd, he did not dare to tackle Dante immediately, preferring first to check if there were any Demon Slaves among those present.

He then explained the situation to the crowd, coupled with Mu Jinyu's conjecture, which caused him to forget that Sheng Rulai was still restraining Dante.

Ren Xiaoyao laughed heartily, "Old baldy, what are you afraid of? With your strength, restraining this demon with your Zen Staff for seven days and nights should be no issue. Why the complaint about being tired?"

Sheng Rulai sighed, "Ultimately, things need to be resolved. If little monk could be free to resolve more demons, wouldn't it be much better than just guarding one?"

Just then, Lucifer from Fallen Splendor came over with a lazy expression and said, "Let me give it a try."

As soon as the words fell,

Lucifer raised both hands, and suddenly, from the void, clumps of crimson blood appeared, twisting and leaping before surging toward the immobilized demon.

The boiling blood enveloped Dante, soon devouring his thick fur and revealing the scorched skin underneath, with not a single intact spot to be seen.

The crowd all watched intently, not daring to be careless.

Seeing this, Sheng Rulai also waited for Lucifer's eerie blood to completely envelop Dante's body before he tentatively withdrew his Zen Staff.

"Roar!"

However...

As soon as Tathagata Sheng Rulai made a move, barely pulling the Zen Staff above Dante's head, the demon Dante suddenly let out a fierce roar, as if his boiling blood was about to be devoured.

Seeing this, Tathagata Sheng Rulai's expression slightly changed, and he had no choice but to continue holding the Zen Staff to immobilize the demon.

"It won't work..."

Lucifer concluded that he could devour all those with lower strength but could not deal with the demonized Dante.

"Let me try."

Ren Xiaoyao's expression also became more serious; he then took out a few talismans from his collection, affixed them to the demon's head, and then signaled Tathagata Sheng Rulai to try moving the Zen Staff away.

"Ao hou!"

The moment the Zen Staff was tentatively removed, the demon immediately became mobile.

Unconvinced, Ren Xiaoyao then employed the Taoist Law, summoning thunder from the sky above, striking the demon with divine majesty, but still to no avail.

"I can't do it either!"

Ren Xiaoyao sighed in dejection.

He was still not convinced; why could the Buddhist sect subdue this demon when the Taoist sect couldn't?

Then, everyone turned their heads towards Reinhardt from Brilliant Divine Authority.

Since Ren Xiaoyao and Lucifer had failed, there was no need for those from Dragon King Hall, Paradise Lost, and Jinyu Mantang to try; after all, they mostly practiced martial arts and lacked such peculiar methods.

"Let me give it a try."

Seeing everyone looking at him, Reinhardt spoke softly and then took out a gleaming golden cross from around his neck.

Reinhardt, holding the cross, slowly walked over to Tathagata Sheng Rulai, then fixed the cross on the demon's forehead, his expression solemn, and started reciting scriptures softly.

"Om!"

Suddenly, his cross began to emit a bright and gentle white light.

Standing beside him, Tathagata Sheng Rulai felt relieved and completely relaxed as if his spirit had expanded immensely.

Thus, he also tentatively withdrew the Zen Staff.

Everyone was not very hopeful about Reinhardt's intervention, yet, contrary to their expectations, once Tathagata Sheng Rulai withdrew the Zen Staff, the ferocious demon remained still.

Could Reinhardt also immobilize the demon?

Seeing this scene, neither Lucifer nor Ren Xiaoyao showed much change in their expressions, yet their hearts sank slightly.

Even though the underlying principle wasn't clear, if this scenario were true, under the chaos plaguing the world, the forces of Brilliant Divine Authority, and Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere would likely develop explosively!

"What's going on here? Why can they immobilize the demon, and others can't?"

San Liu asked, somewhat puzzled.

He had no intention of stepping forward to try, as after all, he was merely an assassin, skilled in killing rather than subduing demons and dispelling devils!

Li Yaotong also frowned, deep in thought about the principle.

Then, he glanced at the Zen Staff in Tathagata Sheng Rulai's hand and the cross in Reinhardt's hand, trying to discern any commonalities.

Chapter 500: Absolute Gold Separation

Li Yaotong looked for a long time, but couldn't discern any similarities, except...

They were all golden!

Golden?

Gold?!

Li Yaotong said uncertainly, "The reason they can restrain the demons, could it be gold?!"

"Gold?"

Upon hearing Li Yaotong's words, everyone immediately turned their attention to Sheng Rulai's Zen Staff and the Cross in Reinhardt's hands.

Indeed, from the material it was clear, both Sheng Rulai's Zen Staff and Reinhardt's Cross were made of gold.

Could the reason they suppress demons be gold?

The crowd was unsure if this was the truth, but felt the possibility was significant.

"Too bad I didn't bring any gold with me, otherwise I could give it a try."

San Liu couldn't help but mutter.

Li Yaotong, no longer paying attention to the others, now had a definite direction. He immediately took out his phone and called the local person in charge, instructing them to urgently make a three-meter-long Golden Coffin, and warned them not to cut corners, otherwise they would bear the consequences.

"We can't be certain that gold is what isolated the demon's revival strength, but I've already asked someone to make a Golden Coffin. If it works, the situation might not be as complicated."

After hanging up the phone, Li Yaotong spoke softly, "Before the local person in charge delivers the Golden Coffin, I'm going to trouble the two of you."

Naturally, the last remark was addressed to Sheng Rulai and Reinhardt.

After all, among those present, only they had the ability to temporarily suppress the demonized Dante.

"Of course," Sheng Rulai didn't refuse.

Reinhardt did not speak; he was still reciting Scriptures and suppressing the demons, but he turned his back to the crowd and nodded slightly.

A few hours later.

The local person in charge then sent a team escorted by a vehicle carrying a pure gold-built coffin.

The darkness and chaos, the resurrection of the demons, had occurred on their territory. With someone coming to resolve this, they naturally took it very seriously and dared not disregard Li Yaotong's words.

Using several tons of gold to construct a coffin, even if it cost billions, they absolutely wouldn't hesitate.

They were also hoping that everyone could save them, or at least resolve this dark turmoil soon.

"Master Li, the Golden Coffin has been delivered. We truly appreciate that despite your busy schedule, you could come to assist us..."

A responsible person got out of the car, directed workers to carry the Golden Coffin down, and then with a face full of ingratiating smiles, approached Li Yaotong, greeting him in not-so-fluent Chinese.

"Set it down, and you all may leave," Li Yaotong said indifferently.

He had no interest in dealing with these officials; having them place down the item and leave was enough to prevent any disturbances.

Upon hearing Li Yaotong's words, the ingratiating smile on the face of the responsible person stiffened, but he did not fly into a rage. After all, the lives of everyone in their entire nation depended on the few people present.

"Yes, yes, yes, we will leave right away." The responsible person quickly recovered, nodding and bowing in agreement.

Then, he instructed people to place the Golden Coffin on the ground and hurried back into the vehicle, speeding away.

As Li Yaotong watched the group depart, he withdrew his gaze, looked at the others, and said solemnly, "Now, it's time to test our hypothesis."

"How should we do it?" Le Le asked.

Li Yaotong said, "Together, let's put that demon into the coffin, seal it, and see if we can completely suppress it!"

The crowd, upon hearing this, fell silent and did not immediately respond.

After all, the demon was too sinister and terrifying. With their strength, they couldn't destroy it completely. Who knew if touching it by hand might bring misfortune?

"Why the hesitation? The darkness is stirring, and if we don't resolve this soon and establish the correct suppression method, the situation will only get worse, and sooner or later it will spread a disaster across the world. Do you want to see that happen?"

Li Yaotong, seeing everyone's worries, spoke in a deep voice.

"Yes."

The crowd thought about it and indeed there was no other way. By delaying, they might currently be able to save themselves, but who could guarantee that as they continued to delay, they wouldn't end up harming themselves?

They still had to resolve this incident as soon as possible, and determine a resolution plan early; that way, it would be good for everyone!

With a long sigh, everyone walked over, surrounding the demon's body, preparing for Li Yaotong's next command.

"Reinhardt, just maintain this state. Sheng Rulai, you too, take out the Zen Staff and press it on the demon, just in case."

Li Yaotong began to give commands.

"Amitābha."

Sheng Rulai chanted a Buddhist invocation, then lifted the Golden Zen Staff in his hands and pressed it onto the demon's body.

Li Yaotong continued to give instructions, "Alright, everyone together now, lift the demon, and carry it into the coffin."

"Yes!"

The crowd responded in unison and then all lifted their hands, some grabbing the demon's legs, others its arms, and some its waist.

Even Li Yaotong personally went up and held onto the demon's body.

"I'll count to three, and everyone lifts together."

"One."

"Two..."

"Three!"

Li Yaotong counted to three, and everyone immediately exerted their strength to lift the demon.

"Ergh!"

San Liu was lifting the demon's thigh and could be said to be using all his might; his legs were trembling slightly, and veins bulged on his forehead, barely managing to lift it.

The others were the same; just lifting this demonized Dante was proving to be extremely strenuous and somewhat awkward.

The body of this demon was extraordinarily heavy, almost as if it were a mountain.

It should be noted, as individuals who had reached the God Realm, one among them could carry several large trucks, but now, with more than ten people working together, they were barely able to lift the demon, indicating just how heavy Dante had become after the demonization.

Li Yaotong was so out of breath that he couldn't even speak. He gestured for everyone to hurry and carry the demon into the nearby Golden Coffin.

Fortunately, they had suspected this situation earlier, so they had placed the Golden Coffin nearby in advance, saving them from carrying the demon a long distance.

"Boom!"

Soon, the crowd hoisted the demon into the Golden Coffin nearby, the impact quite violent, as if a mountain had collapsed.

Strangely, though the coffin, made of Gold, could easily be bent out of shape by hand, when the heavily lying demon was placed inside, it caused no change at all.

Evidently, Li Yaotong's guess was correct.

Gold could indeed block the power of the demon's revival!

"Can we let go?"

Sheng Rulai asked Li Yaotong.

He and Reinhardt had not let go of the Cross and Zen Staff pressing down on the demon during the process of lifting it into the Golden Coffin.

Thus, as the demon lay in the Golden Coffin, without the lid being fully sealed, it still hadn't moved.

"Mm, let's try that, but don't hurry to close the coffin," Li Yaotong said softly.

He still wanted to observe for a while longer.