

King Hall 521

Chapter 521: I love you

"Ahhhh!!"

Mu Jinyu had already led a group of people to escape to the back hall. As the last person entered, the monk who had fled first immediately closed the door with force and blocked it with his back.

At that moment, three piercing and desperate wails suddenly erupted outside.

"What is that?"

"Are those Chen Sheng and the others' screams?"

"Did something happen to them?!"

The remaining nine Star Lords of Xingxiu turned pale instantly when they heard the extremely tragic howls outside, and their faces couldn't help but change color.

Without guessing, they knew that Chen Sheng and the other two who had stayed outside to subdue the Ghost-Faced Demon most likely met with disaster, losing their lives.

From those wails, they could hear their desperation and unwillingness before their demise.

This sent chills down their spines.

If they hadn't chosen to follow Mu Jinyu into this back hall just now, they probably would have met the same fate as Chen Sheng and the others.

"Dragon Master, this..."

One Star Lord looked at Mu Jinyu with a face full of fear and unease.

He hoped Mu Jinyu could shed some light on the situation of the three people, Chen Sheng, outside.

How would Mu Jinyu know so much? He turned his head to look at the disheveled monk leaning against the door.

"No need to think about it. That ghost face is very special. It must have been enraged by now. Currently, none of our methods can harm it, and it can easily peel off our faces!"

The monk, weakly leaning against the door, spoke.

He had already exhausted much of his energy in the long struggle against the Ghost-Faced Demon and has just been rescued not long ago. After rushing to the back hall in haste, he slumped powerlessly down the door after finishing his words.

From standing blocking the door, he became slouched sitting at the doorway.

Mu Jinyu frowned deeply upon hearing his words.

"We can't suppress it? How long do we have to wait, then? And why can't the ghost face come in to trouble us when we hide here?"

Mu Jinyu asked several questions in a row.

After breathing heavily for a few moments, the monk answered, "I'm not sure how long we will have to wait. I've only encountered it once before. After two hours, it returned to a normal state and could be suppressed, but a moment of carelessness turned into what you just saw, and it almost stripped my face away."

"Or rather, it wasn't trying to take my face, but to completely cover my face and control my body!"

As he spoke, the monk raised his hand and pointed towards the door, continuing to answer the other question, "As for why the ghost face can't come in after we hide here, I'm not too clear on the specific reason either."

"Maybe it's because of the two door god paintings affixed outside on the door?"

The monk concluded with his guess.

"Is that so?!"

Mu Jinyu's brows furrowed even deeper after listening to the monk's words, feeling an increasing sense of urgency.

He speculated, "This Ghost-Faced Demon, does it grow stronger the more faces it peels off?"

"Mhm, that's right," the monk nodded.

Mu Jinyu said, "Then my three subordinates who just met with trouble outside probably had their faces taken as well. I'm afraid its strength will become even more formidable. Are we still safe staying here?"

Hearing Mu Jinyu's reminder, the monk's face changed, and he hesitantly said, "This... I don't know... maybe... we're safe?!"

"Wuu wuu wuu wuu..."

"Hee hee hee..."

"Heh heh heh..."

"Kekekeke..."

No sooner had his voice faded than a series of eerie laughter and crying sounded around them.

And it wasn't just one demon laughing; it was a group of people, sometimes crying, sometimes laughing. But whether it was laughter or crying, it made people's hair stand on end and their skin crawl.

"Hehehe..."

"Wuwu..."

At this moment, Mu Jinyu also heard a series of faint laughter and sobbing sounds in the rear hall.

He turned his head sharply to look.

He saw the nine Star Lords, their expressions incredibly creepy, their mouths unconsciously curling into smiles or their brows furrowing in sobs, seemingly manipulated by the unpredictable Gui Lian as their faces changed with the laughter and crying outside.

Mu Jinyu's chill spiked, his heartbeat quickened. The ability of this ghost-faced demon was not too bizarre, was it? Even the Gold Inlaid Jade Magical Instrument, which could shield against knocking demons, nursery rhyme girl demons, and other great demons, seemed utterly ineffective before it!

"Darn it!!"

Just as Mu Jinyu was at a loss.

The monk bellowed suddenly, like the roar of spring thunder, or the rumble of a great bell, filling one with a sense of enlightenment.

"Om om om..."

As the monk's voice rang out, the Gold Inlaid Jade Magical Instruments worn by everyone recovered instantly from their inert state, bursting forth with a brilliant blue light and enveloping them all.

"What just happened to us?"

"So terrifying, that demon could actually control us from afar?!"

At this point, the Star Lords all came to their senses, and the creepy laughing and crying faces disappeared, replaced by expressions of shock, uneasiness, and fear.

Mu Jinyu, seeing their protective artifacts finally taking effect, breathed a sigh of relief.

He felt somewhat guilty, thinking that his intention today was to train them, but he nearly cost them their lives.

Fortunately, they all came to their senses in the end and no further casualties occurred.

"Benefactor, it seems your concerns have come true. The demon outside has acquired your men's faces and grown stronger, now capable of befuddling people from a distance. I will no longer speak; you all be careful," the monk said to Mu Jinyu and then sat down cross-legged on the ground, fingering a string of Gold Inlaid Jade Buddha Beads while softly chanting a section of Buddhist scriptures.

As the monk chanted, the blue light shimmering on everyone was enhanced with another layer of the resplendent golden light of Buddha's Light...

In an instant, all the ghostly wails and foolish laughter from outside were no longer audible.

Mu Jinyu watched this scene, thinking that the monk had some real skill. The scripture he was reciting, although unintelligible, must be a core text from Buddha's Light Shines Everywhere, right?!

And as he listened to the scripture, Mu Jinyu felt the unsettling, agitated, and panicky emotions in his heart slowly dissipate, replaced by a sense of serenity and clear purity.

"Clap clap clap!"

At that moment, a strange and terrifying scene occurred!

Behind the monk, the door suddenly sprouted countless pale faces with eerie smiles and sobs. Then pale hands began to emerge, slowly reaching out from the door, stretching out their arms to grab the monk!

"Guanyin Bodhisattva..."

The monk seemed oblivious to the uncanny scene and continued his chanting.

However, Mu Jinyu could detect a slight tremble in his voice, indicating that the monk might not be totally unaware of the malevolence occurring.

Just as the hands were about to seize the monk, Mu Jinyu was preparing to use the Heavenly Thunder Method to see if it could drive the hands back.

The monk suddenly stopped chanting and bellowed, "Damn it, I can't stand it anymore!"

After the shout, he leapt to his feet, pulled a handgun from his pocket, and started firing at the ghost hands on the door!

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"Bang bang bang!"

The monk's bullets seemed specially made. They struck the door, and instantly those dozens of pale ghost hands all shrank back in unison. At the same time, the numerous ghost faces on the door, with expressions of laughter and tears, all vanished, revealing a hint of panic as they suddenly disappeared from the door.

"Huff huff..."

After firing a few shots and seeing the ghost faces disperse, the monk stopped wasting bullets and began to pant heavily.

"Wow, master, you're so impressive. But why does this whole scene seem a bit odd?"

Mu Jinyu, although happy to see the ghost-faced demons retreating, also found it quite strange.

After all, it just didn't seem right that a monk dealing with demons wasn't chanting scriptures, holding a Zen staff, a Buddhist monk's knife, or twisting Buddha beads, but instead was using a gun. It didn't fit the image of a high monk!

"What's so strange about this?" After catching his breath, the monk spun his handgun and then slid it back into his pocket, laughing at the same time, "My lord, times have changed."

"That makes sense." Mu Jinyu thought for a moment, then nodded slightly, feeling it was reasonable.

After all, if you were to attack demons with a Buddhist monk's knife, Zen Staff, or other sacred weapons, who knows if the demons might follow the weapon and latch onto your arm?

But with firearms, when you let bullets pour out, it seems this concern no longer exists.

"However..."

Mu Jinyu thought this way and looked at the small holes made by the bullets in the door, hesitatingly said, "Master, you've damaged the door. Won't the ghost-faced demons take this chance to slip in through those holes?"

"Isn't it obvious?" The monk, hearing this, looked up at Mu Jinyu with disdain and declared righteously, "Of course they will!"

Mu Jinyu: "..."

The crowd: "..."

Mu Jinyu was at a loss for words. He saw a layer of golden light starting to glow on the door. Threads of purplish-red mist seemed to be seeping into the room, prompting him to ask anxiously, "So what should we do now? Wait for the ghost-faced demons to come in and fight them to the death?!"

He felt quite distressed!

Not so long ago, the monk had said that ghost-faced demons, while reassembling their ghost faces, couldn't be forcefully subdued. Their only chance of survival was to hide in this rear hall for safety.

But now that the door had been penetrated by his bullets, with strands of demon aura seeping in, and the ghost-faced demon seeming not yet done with its reassembly, wouldn't they all be doomed if it came in?

Mu Jinyu wasn't too scared; he believed he had ways to protect himself.

But he was worried about his remaining nine Star Lords of Xingxiu. If anything happened to them, he couldn't forgive himself.

"What is there to fear?"

The monk walked toward the Ji Hall at the back, picked up a coarse cloth bag, opened it, and said, "I have a way to deal with this. Besides, those ghost-faced demons were hit by my special bullets, which sped up their reassembling. Soon when they come in, that will be our last chance to subdue them."

Saying so, he paused for a moment, then continued, "If we can't succeed, then we will all perish here, unable to leave alive. And that ghost-faced demon will grow to a terribly fearsome extent, probably causing untold catastrophe!"

Hearing this, Mu Jinyu also shuddered. He realized that if the ghost faces continuously robbed them of their faces, they could easily leave this small village. Then heading to the Capital City, and even spreading chaos across all of Huaxia, that would be terrifying indeed.

"Clang!"

"Clang!"

Mu Jinyu was contemplating that if the familiar demons also found it difficult to withstand, he would have to fight to the death to subdue the ghost-faced demon, to prevent another disaster from afflicting the world.

Then he heard the monk messing with something, making quite a loud noise.

He looked up and was momentarily taken aback, then his face showed a mix of amusement and admiration.

This monk is too badass.

He's actually piecing together a big gun, and although it's not fully assembled yet, Mu Jinyu still recognizes it—it's a Gatling gun!

And those bullets, all made of gold, upon closer inspection, you can see they're densely engraved with scriptures and the "Swastika" symbol.

"Master, aren't you a little too well-prepared?"

Mu Jinyu didn't know what else to say.

At the same time, he was somewhat puzzled. It had been just over a day since the outbreak of darkness and chaos and the world overrun by demons. Knowing the deterrent effect of gold on demons had only been half a day, how could the monk be so well-prepared?!

As the monk was assembling the gun, he said, "I wouldn't say I'm fully prepared. I just brought this gun along with the mentality of 'better safe than sorry'. I originally thought a mere Ghost-Faced Demon would be nothing much, but it turned out to be a lot more troublesome than I'd anticipated. I have no choice but to use this gun now!"

With that, he gave a wry smile and added, "Otherwise, I'm really afraid I might die here!"

Mu Jinyu didn't say anything more, not wanting to distract him.

As time passed, finally, the monk finished assembling the Gatling gun.

He hoisted it with one hand, then tried to aim the deep and deathly silent barrel of the gun toward the door.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu, who had been standing at the door on guard against any momentary invasion by the Ghost-Faced Demon, hastily dodged to the side.

Now in the Realm of God, ordinary firearms bombarding him with bullets couldn't break through his Protective Gang Qi. At a distance, even a rocket launcher could be blocked, but at this close range, being bombarded with the Gatling and the specially made bullets, Mu Jinyu didn't know if he could withstand it.

But he didn't want to try.

If he failed, that would be the end of him.

"Hmm, I finally got the gun assembled at the last minute," the monk said, weighing the Gatling gun in his hands with a smile.

Mu Jinyu glanced at the door and asked, "Master, may I know how to address you?"

He realized that, even though they had known each other for a while, he still didn't know how to address the monk.

The monk replied, "My name is Buzha. My master thought I was too violent, so he gave me this Dharma name. But I don't really like it, and my philosophy differs from my master's. They say, 'When Vajra's angry eyes are shown, even the Buddha has his fire.' In the face of a world overrun by demons, one should uphold a merciful heart while practicing thunderous methods! So..."

He paused, then gave Mu Jinyu a grin, showing a row of neat teeth, and continued, "I call myself, 'Buke'."

Mu Jinyu was startled, mumbling, "Buke... Buzha?!"

"Amitabha, this humble monk offers his greetings," Buke Buzha said with his hands together in prayer, exuding compassion as he chanted a Buddhist invocation toward Mu Jinyu.

"Buke Buzha?!"

The remaining nine Star Lords of Xingxiu, upon hearing Buke Buzha's words, looked quite perplexed.

There was such a cleric?

"Crackle and pop!!"

Just then, the door, which had been shimmering with a faint golden light, suddenly burst into intense brightness, then disappeared in an instant, blowing the door apart with a bang.

Splinters flew through the air as an enormous, grotesquely twisted face that seemed to be compiled from hundreds of human features appeared at the doorway.

The Ghost-Faced Demon had finally broken through the defenses!

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Mu Jinyu and his subordinate Star Lords, their expressions all changed, and their hearts suddenly clenched.

Buke Buzha's face lost its compassionate smile and instantly became solemn and stern as he shouted, "You all back off!"

Upon hearing this, Mu Jinyu quickly dodged to the side.

Although he had a few ideas on how to subdue the Ghost-Faced Demon, he wasn't certain of success. It seemed Buke Buzha had some confidence, so he would let him try first.

If that didn't work, he would have to try himself!

After seeing Mu Jinyu clear his line of fire, Buke Buzha fiercely lifted the Gatling gun he was holding, and with its profound, pitch-black, and icy barrel, he aimed at the Ghost-Faced Demon and curled his finger around the trigger.

"Tatatatat..."

The violent and domineering bullets burst forth in an instant, emitting an aura of death and beautiful fireworks.

As Buke Buzha pulled the trigger of the Gatling, the gleaming bald head shone with Buddha's Light, golden and splendid, revealing the majestic appearance of a high monk's law body!

At the same time, he silently chanted the scripture:

"Hail Gatling Bodhisattva, Six Roots Purifying Depleted Uranium Bullets. In one breath, thirty-six hundred rounds, great compassion, great mercy, ferrying mankind..."

"Praise Gatling Bodhisattva, during the deep prajna paramita moment, hold the six-barreled child, Turn into Supreme Sacred Artifact."

"One tube one sound, Six-Syllabled Bright Mantra, The Nonequal Curse, the mantra says: Om mani padme hum..."

"Compassionate as the ocean, universally ferrying sentient beings, far from the samsara world, eradicating the aggregations of existence, escape from the Six Paths of Reincarnation, away from the eight distresses, no suffering, extinction path, to the western paradise of ultimate bliss..."

"Six tubes in one breath, thirty-six million rounds, universally ferrying sentient beings have not ceased. How great, Gatling Bodhisattva; how vast, Gatling Bodhisattva. Gatling Bodhisattva, the great protector..."

The more Mu Jinyu and his subordinate Star Lords listened to the chanted scriptures by Buke Buzha, the stranger they felt.

What kind of Buddhist scriptures are these?

And the Ghost-Faced Demon, which had initially been prepared to attack Mu Jinyu and the others as soon as it entered, intending to peel off their faces, who could have known that as soon as it entered, it was confronted with a barrage of gunfire.

If it were ordinary firearms and bullets, it wouldn't have caused any harm to it.

But it just so happened...

Buke Buzha was prepared, with bullets made entirely of gold, specially designed to combat demons, and they were even inscribed with densely packed scriptures, further enhancing their demon-subduing powers!

Thus, the Ghost-Faced Demon hadn't even had a chance to demonstrate its terrifying power when it was instantly shattered and dispersed by Buke Buzha's gunfire, with countless faces flying off its figure and disintegrating instantly...

Soon, the giant ghost face that had occupied the entire doorway was reduced to the size of a normal human face.

Seeing this, Buke Buzha knew his plan had succeeded and turned to look at the somewhat dazed Mu Jinyu and the others, urgently shouting, "Quick, collect this ghost face into the Golden Container, or if it recovers, it will continue killing!"

"Oh, oh..."

Mu Jinyu snapped out of it and quickly took out the briefcase-sized container made of gold, then walked over, first covering his hands with True Yuan, and then carefully tried to pick up the ghost face on the ground.

This ghost face was quite eerie, with no eyeballs, but Mu Jinyu could feel that, as he approached, something malicious and venomous was watching him from those hollow eye sockets.

When Mu Jinyu reached out to grab the ghost face, he also felt as if something was gnawing at his palm, even though the ghost face had no teeth.

Fortunately, with his hands covered in True Yuan, Mu Jinyu could temporarily block the bizarre and ominous erosion.

Subsequently, Mu Jinyu dared not think further, hastily picked up the Gui Lian given salvation by the Gatling Bodhisattva, and stuffed it into the Golden Container, then sealed it off completely!

Once sealed, Mu Jinyu thought that he must have Mu Hongchen prepare him a pair of gold-crafted gloves upon returning, for if he continued to use True Yuan for isolation and encountered any Great Demons, trouble would arise sooner or later.

"Praise the Gatling Bodhisattva!"

Mu Jinyu recited a phrase and then turned around. Looking at Buke Buzha who had put down the Gatling machine gun, he exclaimed, "Master, you truly are brave!"

Buke Buzha waved his hand at Mu Jinyu, saying, "Just now the monk introduced himself, but Benefactor has not yet mentioned his own name."

"Oh," replied Mu Jinyu, "My name is Mu Jinyu, the Tiance True Dragon of the Dragon King Hall!"

"You are the Dragon King of Dragon King Hall?" Buke Buzha startled, pausing in his motion to disassemble the Gatling machine gun before looking intently at Mu Jinyu for a few moments. His eyes lit up and he exclaimed, "Amitabha, Praise the Gatling Bodhisattva. What does the Dragon King think of this Demon-Subduing Beneficial Instrument?"

"Not bad," Mu Jinyu nodded seriously, "I plan to promote it comprehensively."

"Imagine giving one to each soldier; I reckon the aggressive Demons wouldn't be many then. If I discover that the Gatling Bodhisattva can't handle it, I'll take over the combat myself!"

Buke Buzha nodded with approval, "The Dragon King is wise indeed."

Mu Jinyu: "..."

Why do I feel like he's scolding me?

Thereafter, Buke Buzha said no more, crouched down, and began dismantling the specially modified Gatling machine gun. He quickly disassembled it into various parts and packed them into a coarse cloth bag.

Mu Jinyu watched his flowing movements and thought, could this be what is called 'laying down the butcher's knife to become a Buddha'?

Truly, as befits a master, every move he makes is full of Zen!

"That settles this matter, the Demon has been imprisoned, the monk will take his leave now."

Buke Buzha, shouldering what must be a very heavy bag, nodded slightly to Mu Jinyu and then walked out of the door in his straw sandals.

"To kill is to protect life, to sever karma not people..."

From afar, one could still hear Buke Buzha's voice, filled with compassion and tinged with a hint of sorrow.

Mu Jinyu was moved and followed outside, only to see, not far away, Buke Buzha wielding a Buddhist Monk's Knife made of gold, furiously slaying creatures dressed like villagers but oddly faceless!

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu then understood the meaning behind his words.

Buke Buzha came here originally to save the villagers here. Unfortunately, the Ghost-Faced Demon was too powerful, and he himself nearly perished.

Now, although the Ghost-Faced Demon had been subdued, the villagers whose faces had been stripped could not be brought back to life and had turned into Demon minions!

To prevent these Demon minions from harming others, he had no choice but to raise his knife again, slashing at those he had initially come to protect.

"It must be tough on the master!"

Mu Jinyu felt somewhat heavy-hearted.

"Chich!"

Soon, Buke Buzha had eliminated all hundred or so villagers turned into Demon minions, flicked the blood beads off the Buddhist Monk's Knife, sheathed it, and walked out of the village without looking back.

"Amitabha, may you attain Buddhahood..."

Chapter 524:

Abroad.

In a small temple.

Le Le, who previously represented Paradise Lost at the Nine Great Organizations meeting, was now devoutly kneeling on a meditation cushion, staring at the shrine placed on the divine platform, his face full of piety and fervor.

"Great Demon God, your most devout servant has now obeyed your oracle, opened the prison, so why do you still refuse to descend upon the world, to cleanse all filth and sin, but instead show grace to these sinners?"

As Le Le's words fell,

"Whoosh..."

In the gloomy and dark temple, a mournful and eerie wind suddenly rose.

It blew the flames of the few remaining candles in front of the divine platform from a pale yellow to a ghastly green.

An appearance brimming with a ghostly aura.

At that moment, the wind intensified, blowing away the black cloth covering the shrine and revealing a complete skeleton inside.

However, this skeleton was different from the normal pale white color, instead, it was eerily black and purplish, displaying a jade-like sheen.

Then, a voice that only Le Le could hear began resonating in his mind.

"I understand, so in the end, it has still failed, and I must find Xiang Mantang and retrieve the devil's shadow attached to her to succeed? Then I must kill this person!"

Le Le suddenly raised his head, his eyes flashing with anger and a murderous intent.

Instantly, the skin on his face began to rapidly decompose and fall off; in mere moments, his whole appearance became like that of a living zombie, with scarcely a piece of good flesh on his body.

A putrid smell of decaying flesh began to emanate from him.

And his aura was climbing steadily, becoming more and more horrifying.

If Mu Jinyu and Tathagata-like powerhouses from the God Realm were here, they would definitely notice that Le Le, whose strength wasn't particularly formidable, now possessed the might of the God Realm.

It turns out that in his ordinary human state, Le Le was almost like any other person, but as a Zombie Demon, even Mu Jinyu and the others might not be his match!

"Whoosh..."

At this time, the wind blew again, lifting the black cloth up and then gently placing it back on the shrine, covering the dark skeleton within.

"Yes, your servant takes his leave!"

Le Le seemed to have heard something else and spoke with a trace of sincere fear, then rose from the meditation cushion and walked towards the door.

As he stepped out of the small temple.

"Bang!"

A dull thud of a closing door sounded as the temple doors shut on their own without any wind.

"Garden Owner, this is the newly captured Demon."

At this time, a man dressed in similar attire to Le Le, holding a gold-made safe, showed no concern for Le Le's eerie appearance, and respectfully handed the safe over to him.

"What type of Demon is it?"

Le Le took the safe passed to him by his subordinate without immediately checking it, asking first.

"Temporarily codenamed Ghost Eye, many abilities are still unexplored, and the current threat level is not significant..."

The man spoke respectfully.

"Is that so?"

Le Le did not doubt the words of his subordinate, as they were all like him, absolutely submissive to the black-boned Demon God in the shrine, they were the most loyal, the most reliable servants.

Therefore, without any hesitation, he directly opened the safe in his hand.

The gold-crafted safe was opened, and immediately, a sinister, terrifying aura, like a gas leak, pervaded the air, making one instantly feel a chilling presence spreading.

The respectfully waiting man, feeling this cold presence, couldn't help but shudder, feeling a bit chilled as if he were being watched by some inexplicable eerie entity.

And Le Le was completely unconcerned about the ghostly energy twining around him, staring directly into its source.

Inside the safe, a pair of eyeballs lay silently, covered in bloodshot veins, looking like red eyes.

And at the moment when Le Le's gaze was fixed upon it,

"Swoosh!"

the pair of eyeballs suddenly began to rotate on their own, turning their stare from the talisman inside the safe to look up and meet Le Le's gaze.

"Humming..."

The moment Le Le locked eyes with the ghostly eyeballs, it was as if he saw an endless scene of mountains of corpses and seas of blood, and the gold safe he held seemed to turn into a bloody human head.

If it had been an ordinary person, they would have been so frightened that they'd have thrown the safe away at once.

But Le Le was no longer a normal person and naturally wasn't disturbed by the hallucinations created by the Ghost Eye.

He calmly met the Ghost Eye's stare and then reached out, grabbing the pair of eyeballs within.

"Gurgle gurgle!"

As Le Le grasped the eyeballs in his hand, they started to struggle slightly.

Le Le could feel as if sharp needles were pricking his palm, as if the eyeballs were trying to bite through his skin and burrow into his body.

However, Le Le's hand was no longer that of a normal person's; it was pale, dry, and corpse-like. As the Ghost Eye tried to drill into his palm, a faint black glow suddenly burst forth from his hand, enveloping the eyeballs.

Instantly, the eyeballs that had been writhing ceaselessly in his palm quieted down.

It was as if a mouse had met a cat and dared not move.

"Indeed weaker, not the Holy Pupil I wished for most, but given the scarcity of Sacred Body fragments, I'll just make do for now,"

Le Le muttered to himself before lifting his right hand and without any hesitation, extended it toward his own eye socket.

"Ssht!"

With a gentle scoop and dig, Le Le plucked out his own eyeballs, his palm immediately turning blood-soaked.

The man standing respectfully to one side saw this scene without surprise or shock.

Le Le removed his own eyeballs one after the other without a single groan, too much of a tough guy.

Then, he picked up one of the ghostly eyeballs from his hand and tried to stuff it into his hollow, bloody eye socket.

As soon as the Ghost Eye touched the eye socket, it was like a fish in water, a tiger in the forest, instantly breaking free from Le Le's fingers and, with a slick sound, burrowed into his eye socket.

Suddenly, Le Le, who had been blind without his eyes, could see again with his left eye, though it was somewhat hazy and overlaid with a faint red grid, making everything he saw tinged with pale red, devoid of other colors.

Le Le blinked his left eye, feeling somewhat uncomfortable, and then picked up the other eyeball and stuffed it into his right eye socket.

With another slick sound, the last Ghost Eye also burrowed into his eye socket.

Trying to blink his eyes, two trails of blood began flowing down from his eye sockets.

Yet his vision became almost as clear as it had been originally.

Only that faint red grid seemed to have embedded deeply into his eyes, turning everything he saw into shades of red.

If there were people from other organizations present at this moment, they would undoubtedly wish to kill Le Le on the spot.

After exhausting their efforts and sacrificing many lives, they had barely managed to imprison a few demons, just waiting for a suitable Folded Space to seal them again in the future.

And here this guy was, claiming to cooperate with the operation, but in actuality, he was using the remains of demons to replace his body, transforming himself into something neither human nor ghost, all to enhance his strength!

Aside from those like Lucifer from Fallen Splendor who might be willing to try,

ascended beings like Sheng Rulai would absolutely not tolerate Le Le's behavior!

After all, no one could be sure whether his actions might lead to even greater chaos in the world!

Chapter 525 - Changes

At this time, Mu Jinyu, who was located in the suburbs of the city, had no idea about the various actions taken by Le Le from Paradise Lost abroad.

After the high monk Buke Buzha left, he immediately instructed the remaining nine Star Lords of the Twenty-Eight Constellations to bury the villagers on the spot.

Given the current situation, it was impossible for them to slowly investigate whether there were any other relatives of the villagers abroad and notify them to come back and manage the funerals.

Everything had to be simplified.

The value of human life had become truly insignificant now.

As for Chen Sheng and the other two Star Lords who sacrificed their lives in this battle, since they were well-known and it was known what relatives they had, it was naturally inappropriate to bury their bodies on the spot. Instead, they were carried on the back, placed in a vehicle outside, and sent back to their families.

Whether their families were still alive during this period was a matter of luck.

Otherwise, they could only help bury the entire family neatly together.

More than half an hour later.

The vehicle returned to the headquarters of Dragon King Hall.

Mu Jinyu asked Gao Yu to find someone to send the bodies of Chen Sheng and the other two back to their homes, then he went to find Gu Xiyan and the others.

Upon arriving at Mu Hongchen's office.

Mu Jinyu was too lazy to knock on the door and deal with the formalities, instead, he turned the doorknob, opened the door, and walked in.

Mu Hongchen was sitting at the computer desk, her hands continuously typing on the keyboard. The phone would ring from time to time, and then she would stop her typing to answer the call. After quickly acknowledging with a few hums, she would either hang up and dial someone else, or jot down important matters in a notebook, or continue typing on the keyboard.

She was extremely busy!

An unprecedented level of busyness.

After all, her phone wasn't something just anyone could get through to. Those who could call without being blocked were clearly people of significant status and position.

In the past, some people couldn't even have a conversation with Mu Hongchen, but in these dark and turbulent times, her status had risen considerably. After all, she controlled the Gold Inlaid Jade Magic Artifact that could resist demon erosion.

However, despite this, Mu Hongchen did not dare to become arrogant and complacent, as the people who called her were still individuals she couldn't afford to offend. If she appeared too self-important, it would be easy for them to choose mutual destruction and cut off the various supplies of Dragon King Hall.

As for Su Zijin and Gu Xiyan, they were also not idle and were working in the office.

Of course, they weren't dealing with Jinyu Group's affairs—Jinyu Group had already been pushed to the back of their mind. The most urgent priority was to ensure the safety of their relatives and friends.

They were trying to contact these people, and then send them the defective products that could only resist one or two attacks.

These Gold Inlaid Jade Magical Instruments were no longer in high demand within Dragon King Hall, even becoming somewhat dispensable, which is why they didn't need Mu Jinyu's approval and didn't trouble him, able to make decisions on their own.

Of course, they couldn't take too many either.

The five busy women, upon hearing the door open, all looked up towards the door while continuing their tasks.

Seeing Mu Jinyu return, they were all excited. Su Zijin and the other three women immediately put down what they were doing, stood up, and walked toward him.

While Mu Hongchen, after calling out "Dragon Master," didn't stop her work but continued to type on the keyboard.

"Jinyu, you're finally back? Are you alright?"

As Gu Xiyan walked towards Mu Jinyu, her eyes showed concern as she sized him up and asked caringly.

"It's fine, everything went smoothly," said Mu Jinyu, nodding his head and speaking softly.

The Ghost-Faced Demon that he had encountered on this expedition was far from simple, and the process could not be described as smooth, especially since three of the Star Lords had died. But he didn't want to worry them too much, so naturally, he wouldn't describe the situation as too serious.

After exchanging a few simple greetings with them, Mu Jinyu, carrying the golden briefcase, walked over to Mu Hongchen and watched as she input some data, saying, "Aunt Mu, I've thankfully completed the mission and brought back the disruptive Ghost-Faced Demon."

"Dragon Master, you shouldn't speak to me like that," Mu Hongchen, having just finished handling her tasks, said with a wry smile upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words.

"There are no outsiders here, we're all family, there's no need to be so formal," Mu Jinyu replied with a smile, not taking the comment seriously.

Seeing this, Mu Hongchen gave a wry smile and didn't say anything more.

She thought to herself how the Dragon King, after surviving a terrifying ordeal in the realm of life and death, had matured a lot. All the resentment and hostility he once held had dissipated.

He had become much kinder.

In the past, Mu Jinyu wouldn't even give her a second glance, let alone call her 'aunt'.

"I'll call someone to take this to the underground storage room," she said, thinking to herself.

With a wary and taboo look, Mu Hongchen took the golden briefcase that Mu Jinyu handed her, weighing it carefully before she began to talk with Mu Jinyu and took out her mobile phone to scroll through her contact list, then she called someone over.

Soon after, a member of the Dragon King Hall knocked on the door, and upon Mu Hongchen's invitation to enter, he came in.

"Dragon Master, Lord Vermilion Bird," he greeted.

Seeing Mu Jinyu there, he first called out to the Dragon Master, then greeted Mu Hongchen, asking, "Lord Vermilion Bird called me over, is there any task to be carried out?"

Mu Jinyu was taken aback.

Since when had Mu Hongchen become Lord Vermilion Bird?

Then he remembered something Mu Hongchen had told him previously: During his coma, the positions within the Dragon King Hall were reorganized, and Mu Hongchen was no longer Beidou Yuheng but had become the Southern Vermilion Suzaku.

Thinking of this, Mu Jinyu also thought about the Twenty-Eight Constellation Lords, who suffered heavy casualties. There were originally twenty-eight of them, but now only nine remained.

Among those he knew best, Chen Sheng, who had been the first to challenge him when he came to the Dragon King Hall, did not die in the dark unrest but fell at the hands of the Ghost-Faced Demon.

And of Xiang Mantang's two trusted followers, Liu Mei and Gao Yu, Liu Mei was dead, leaving only Gao Yu behind.

He suddenly felt a sense of transience and change.

It seemed unlikely that the twenty-eight Star Lords could be replenished to their full number again, and it might be time to change the way they were addressed.

Mu Hongchen didn't share the same reflections as Mu Jinyu; taking the golden briefcase that was placed aside, she instructed, "The Ghost-Faced Demon that the Dragon King just caught in the suburbs is in here. Take it to the underground storage room."

"Yes," the man replied.

After hearing what Mu Hongchen said, he glanced at the golden briefcase in her hand with a taboo look but still approached and took it.

Then he took his leave and headed towards the underground storage room.

After he left, Mu Jinyu thought about the ideas he had during the process of capturing and transferring the Ghost-Faced Demon and then said to Mu Hongchen, "Aunt Mu, later contact someone to make a few hundred sets of gloves woven from gold thread. It will be safer when dealing with demons. Also, look into getting some golden firearms..."

"Golden Gloves, golden firearms, right? Okay, I've noted it down. Anything else you'd like to suggest?" Mu Hongchen listened to Mu Jinyu's words, moved her mouse to open a folder, and began to type, recording what Mu Jinyu had said.

Chapter 526: Teaching the Cultivation Technique!

Mu Jinyu didn't really propose much, for the information about the demons they currently had was too sparse. After giving Mu Hongchen a few suggestions, he turned to Su Zijin and the others, asking, "Do you wish to cultivate?"

"Ah?"

Originally listening quietly to their conversation, Su Zijin and the other three women were startled by Mu Jinyu's sudden question, and then nodded lightly like pecking chickens.

If they were still in the peaceful era of the past, they might not have been so eager to cultivate, as making money was a bit more important.

But in this era of darkness and chaos, with demons rampant and the constant possibility of sudden death at the hands of a demon, they felt it was better to have their fate in their own hands.

Besides, they had been intending to ask Mu Jinyu about cultivation during his rest time, wondering if they could still learn at their age.

Now that Mu Jinyu had brought it up on his own, they naturally nodded and asked for guidance.

"Hmm, after I woke up this time, I received some inheritance left by my master. It contains many cultivation methods, including those suitable for women. However, I can't guarantee that each of you will be successful in cultivating,"

Mu Jinyu said softly.

"That's okay, we'll try our best. If it really doesn't work out, we'll just stay in the safe house later and try not to go out much," Gu Xiyan said with a forced smile.

Mei Yinxue said, "Hmm, I believe that even if some of us can't cultivate, others will surely be able to. As long as we can cultivate, staying together will make us much safer, and you won't have to trouble yourself over every little thing."

"Alright, then I'll start by teaching you the cultivation techniques. Try and see if you can sense the presence of spiritual energy," Mu Jinyu nodded and said.

Seeing this, Mu Hongchen immediately stood up and said, "Ah, then I'll go out."

"No need," Mu Jinyu turned to her and shook his head, "In times like these, there's no need to hide or hoard things. Besides, you are my elder, so there's no need to keep secrets from you. Oh, Aunt Mu, you might as well call Wu Shisan over. I'll teach him a cultivation method too!"

Mu Jinyu was not so polite when it came to Wu Shisan.

He vaguely remembered that Wu Shisan used to be quite ambitious. Before he came to Dragon King Hall, both Wu Shisan and Xiang Mantang were strong candidates for the new Dragon King, and they even had a fight.

"Old Wu has gone to deal with a place where demons are rampant," Mu Hongchen replied truthfully upon hearing Mu Jinyu's words.

"Then that's fine. I'll teach him when he returns. By the way, what is the level of the demons he is suppressing? Is it dangerous? Does he need support?" Mu Jinyu asked.

Although he was not very fond of Wu Shisan, Dragon King Hall was short on people now. Of the former Seven Great Hall Masters, only four were still alive, and two were missing.

It was basically down to just Mu Hongchen and Wu Shisan.

And Mu Hongchen was not really the type to engage in fighting and killing, making Wu Shisan's role in Dragon King Hall even more crucial.

Surely, as one of the world's Top Ten Organizations, Dragon King Hall couldn't just rely on him alone, right?

If any tough demons appeared, he'd have to handle them himself—wouldn't that exhaust him!

Mu Hongchen shook her head and replied, "Master, don't worry. I've provided Old Wu with a satellite phone, so there won't be any sudden loss of signal. We also have a dedicated contact person to keep in touch with him, so I'll know his situation at all times. For now, there hasn't been any issue."

"That's good,"

Mu Jinyu felt relieved upon hearing this.

Then he waved to Mu Hongchen and said, "Aunt Mu, come and sit over here. I'll show you the pathways of operating the cultivation method."

"Okay," after handling some urgent matters, Mu Hongchen quickly put down her computer, ran over to the sofa, and obediently sat next to Su Zijin.

A look of eager curiosity on a child's face, his gaze fixed intently on Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu then began to explain the Cultivation Method suited for females that he intended to teach them.

Since Gu Xiyao and Wen Rou were complete novices in cultivation, and Mei Yinxue and Su Zijin had only a partial understanding, he started from the basics, explaining in great detail.

He even went through the various positions involved in the circulation of meridians.

Although Mu Hongchen was familiar with these concepts, she did not listen impatiently, for she discovered many issues she had only partially understood before.

"Alright, once you've remembered this, you can start trying to cultivate. If you can trigger the Sense of energy and attract nature's spiritual energy and Elemental Qi towards you, you're basically on the path to cultivation. Although the speed of cultivation won't be very fast," said Mu Jinyu.

"Okay."

After listening, all the women nodded simultaneously, then sat down cross-legged to try and activate the cultivation technique given to them by Mu Jinyu, attempting to summon the so-called Sense of energy.

Mu Jinyu watched them, praying in his heart that they would succeed.

After all, given the current situation, he was doomed not to be able to stay by their side forever, to protect them. So, if they could develop the ability to defend themselves, that would be for the best.

Moreover, although demons were rampant and the darkness was disruptive, the emerging news wasn't entirely bleak; there was also the resurgence of nature's spiritual energy.

So, if Gu Xiyan and the others were talented, they might well embark on the path of cultivation at their current age.

Furthermore, the Cultivation Method that Mu Jinyu taught them wasn't traditional martial arts that required Body Refinement from Mingjin to Dark Energy and then to freely controlled Energy Transformation before reaching the God Realm by harnessing True Qi to control the Heaven and Earth Vital Energy.

From the start, their cultivation technique wasn't about Strength Training but to cultivate True Qi; you might say from the outset, it was at godly standards!

Of course, it wasn't possible that once the cultivation technique was practiced, they would possess the strength of a Terrestrial Immortal, but at most, they would be stronger than Dark Energy.

While Mu Jinyu was serving as a protector for Su Zijin and the others,

the Dragon King Hall member who had taken the golden briefcase earlier made his way to the long, dark, gloomy, and oppressive corridor of the underground storage room.

Although he was slightly frightened of this place, since everyone in Dragon King Hall was busy, he had no choice but to brave it alone, walking down this empty corridor while holding a demon captive.

"Tap, tap, tap..."

In the vast and gloomy corridor, the end of which he couldn't see, the young man's footsteps echoed louder and louder with each step, making his heart pound with increasing fear.

He could only reassure himself, telling himself it was fine, the Ghost-Faced Demon had already been suppressed in the golden container and couldn't escape.

And as he was wearing the Gold Inlaid Jade Magical Instrument, it would shield him from the demon's corruption and ensure his safety.

Finally,

After what seemed like an eternity,

The young man with the golden briefcase arrived at the heavy, specially alloyed door that was sealed shut. After pressing the passcode and undergoing facial recognition, the massive door solemnly opened.

"Ding Dong..."

As the door opened, the young man faintly heard the sound of water droplets hitting the floor.

Along with a pungent smell of decay wafting towards him.

Chapter 527:

"What's that smell? The stench of a corpse?"

The young man held a golden briefcase containing a ghost-faced demon, furrowing his brow as he warily scanned the dark scene of the storage room.

Then, he quickly remembered the zombie demon who had caused trouble at the Dragon King Hall headquarters not long ago and was subsequently imprisoned by Mu Jinyu.

"Is it that zombie demon?"

The young man's face suddenly changed at the thought of that zombie demon.

However, he remembered that the zombie demon was supposed to be suppressed with a golden coffin. How had it escaped in less than a day?

The young man felt panic rise within him, the urge to flee immediately overwhelming him.

But being part of the Dragon King Hall meant he was quite mentally strong, and he quickly thought that if the zombie demon had escaped, he should have been attacked the moment he opened the door.

The fact that nothing had happened yet meant the situation wasn't too severe.

Thus, the young man suppressed the fear in his heart and then turned on the lights, illuminating the dimly lit storage room.

With better visibility, the young man instantly saw the golden coffin placed not far from the door. The lid of the coffin now had several finger-sized holes in it.

Drops of corpse water began to seep through these holes, trickling down the side of the coffin.

The sound of dripping he had just heard was originating from this.

"Drip!"

At that moment, the young man heard another noise from inside the coffin, which made his face turn even paler.

He was unsure whether the zombie demon inside was moving or something else was happening, but he didn't dare stay there any longer.

He quickly grabbed the golden briefcase, prepared to turn around and run out, not even bothering to close the door.

"Splat!"

However, just as the young man was about to move, he slipped the moment he turned around, crashing down hard.

"Bang!"

The golden briefcase he was holding flew up into the air and then crashed down heavily!

The young man watched this scene, extremely nervous, fearing that the golden briefcase might break and release the ghost-faced demon inside.

Fortunately, gold isn't so easily shattered; the briefcase was just a bit flattened, not enough to release the demon inside.

The young man scrambled up from the floor in a panic and looked at his feet, only to realize that the liquid that had caused his fall was a pool of bright yellow rotten corpse water!

"Damn it!"

He cursed, not daring to stay there any longer.

He didn't even dare to pick up the briefcase, fearing that if he carried it, he might have another accident and break it, thus releasing the demon inside.

It might be better to just let it lie there quietly; due to the nature of gold, the demon really couldn't do anything with it.

The young man carefully avoided the pool of corpse water that seemed almost to be wriggling, and then ran out frantically.

...

In Mu Hongchen's office,

Mu Jinyu was observing the five women cultivating when she noticed that amongst them, the one with the best talent for cultivation was not Su Zijin, who possessed the Dragon King bloodline, nor was it Mu Hongchen, who had progressed to the Energy Transformation level...

It was actually Wen Rou, who had always seemed quite ordinary.

Her talent for cultivation was indeed very strong; Mu Jinyu could feel threads of nature's spiritual energy seamlessly flowing into her body through her heavenly spirit cover in less than half an hour!

Meanwhile, Su Zijin and Gu Xiyan and the other women showed no sign of activity even after half an hour.

"Strange, to think it would be Wen Rou. It seems appearances can truly be deceiving!"

Mu Jinyu stroked his chin, a surprised smile in his eyes as he watched Wen Rou, who was meditating with her eyes closed, speaking to himself internally.

Wen Rou had always given him the impression of a very ordinary girl-next-door.

Their connection was entirely because they shared similar backgrounds—both abandoned by their mothers and with fathers who had passed away, creating a sense of shared sorrow. Even more unfortunate was Wen Rou's father, who had a gambling addiction, so Mu Jinyu felt extra pity for her, taking a bit more care of her in small matters, not wanting her life to be so hard.

Once they were together, his interactions with her were always somewhat calm and flat, giving the impression of an old married couple who respected each other.

Her performance was far from the brilliance of Gu Xiyan and Mei Yinxue, not nearly as dazzling, often causing one to inadvertently overlook her a bit more than the others.

Mu Jinyu also admitted that his care for Wen Rou was indeed less compared to Gu Xiyan and Mei Yinxue.

Perhaps it was because... she never tried competing?

She neither fought nor competed, just quietly staying by his side.

Thinking about this, Mu Jinyu felt even more pity for Wen Rou in his heart.

"Dinglingling!!"

At that moment, Mu Hongchen's communicator rang.

Seeing this, Mu Jinyu grabbed her communicator and answered it.

As he answered, he glanced back at the five women. Fortunately, they were all immersed in deep cultivation and had not been disturbed.

Otherwise, it would have been a shame if Wen Rou's hard-earned cultivation state had been disrupted—it was unknown how long it would take them to reenter that state.

"Hello..."

Mu Jinyu stepped out of Mu Hongchen's office while continuing the call, lowering his voice as he spoke.

"Vermilion Bird sir... Dragon Master? Dragon Master, it's terrible, the Zombie Demon in the storage room seems to be trying to escape, you should come and see."

A young, panicked voice came through the phone.

It sounded a bit familiar.

With a slight thought, Mu Jinyu recalled that this was the young man who had just been notified by Mu Hongchen to collect the Golden Briefcase and take the Ghost-Faced Demon to the underground storage room.

Hearing him say this, could it be that there was a problem with the basement?

The Zombie Demon was trying to escape?

"Okay, I'm on my way now, don't panic!"

Mu Jinyu quickly reassured the young man, then hung up the phone, entered back inside, switched the phone to silent mode, and placed it back by Mu Hongchen.

This way, when Mu Hongchen woke up, she could promptly handle the things she hadn't managed to deal with during her cultivation.

Afterward, Mu Jinyu looked over them a few times uneasily, his eyes filled with struggle.

After all, he was originally stationed here to protect them, so even if something went wrong during their cultivation, he could quickly respond and help them channel energy for healing.

But now, with the Zombie Demon problem in the headquarters' underground storage room, if he didn't resolve it quickly, it could lead to disaster, preventing him from protecting them here!

"Sigh..."

Mu Jinyu sighed lightly, finally thinking that nothing too drastic should happen, and considering that Mu Hongchen wasn't a novice in cultivation, she should be unlikely to injure herself by changing her cultivation technique. And if something happened to Wen Rou and the others, she should be able to look after them.

After one final look at them, Mu Jinyu quickly left them a message not to worry about him when they woke up, then left the room, carefully closing the door behind him as he ran towards the storage room.

"Dragon Master, you've finally arrived!"

Just reaching the front door leading to the storage room, a young man, pale-faced and devoid of any color, excitedly called out to Mu Jinyu.

"Hmm, what exactly happened?" Mu Jinyu asked.

After all, the previous call had contained too little information, and Mu Jinyu wasn't clear about how urgent the situation was at the moment.

Chapter 528:

The young man, upon hearing Mu Jinyu's question, quickly replied, "It's like this..."

He briefly recounted what he had just encountered in the underground storage room to Mu Jinyu.

After hearing the account, Mu Jinyu's brows furrowed as he said, "You're saying that the lid of the golden coffin looked to have been punctured by a finger?"

"Yes," the young man nodded.

Mu Jinyu immediately thought of the Tide of Chaos, which, besides the ever-present disaster, had not yet revealed its terrifying power.

This demon, according to Li Yaotong, could alter people's memories without them even realizing it.

Although he had been wary of this demon's methods before, he had not personally encountered any real cases, and in truth, he hadn't been very concerned about it—or rather, he hadn't considered its harmfulness on par with the ever-present disaster.

Now, he was beginning to sense the frightening abilities of this demon.

Moreover, he was uncertain whether the person whose blood had turned black among the dozen who had emerged from the underground passage was the Demon minion who had punctured the golden coffin.

If not, finding the real Demon minion would be even more troublesome.

The one thing that Mu Jinyu was relieved about now was that this incident had been discovered early on. Otherwise, if he had just decided to deal with the multiple demons one by one, fearing any unpredictable changes, and resolved to separate the two demons,

any delay could spell disaster. Once the Zombie Demon broke free, the headquarters of Dragon King Hall would turn into a living hell!

"Let's go, we have to take a look!!"

Mu Jinyu made up his mind to go down immediately, contain the Zombie Demon that couldn't yet break free, and revise the protocol to prevent too many people from accessing the area where the golden container was stored. Those allowed near it would have to be confirmed to have memories unaltered by the Tide of Chaos.

"Hm?!"

Just as Mu Jinyu was about to act, he suddenly caught a faint whiff of corpse odor. His brow furrowed, thinking that the Zombie Demon had already broken free.

He stopped in his tracks and prepared for a possible confrontation with the Zombie Demon at any moment.

"Dragon Master? What's wrong?"

The young man, seeing Mu Jinyu run a few steps and then stop, couldn't help turning back and looking at him with confusion.

"Sniff, sniff..."

Mu Jinyu's nostrils flared as he scented the faint smell of decay in the air and then determined that it was coming from the young man before him.

"Why is there a smell of decay on you?" Mu Jinyu asked directly.

At the same time, he prepared himself in case the young man's response seemed off. He wouldn't be polite then; he would take him down first and ask questions later.

"Ah? Is there? Do I smell like decay?"

The young man, startled by Mu Jinyu's words, turned even paler. He then glanced left and right, looking at his own clothes, and after a moment of thought, hastily said, "Dragon Master, it's like this. When I was about to run away just now, I slipped on a puddle of Corpse Water. Maybe that's when it got on me?"

"Hm? Don't move; I need to check you out!"

Mu Jinyu now dared not simply take someone's word for it. He picked up the Golden Dagger, first cutting the back of the young man's hand to see the fresh crimson blood and felt slightly relieved.

Then, he extended his Divine Sense to scan the young man thoroughly.

Eventually, he discovered something abnormal on his feet.

"Hm? Take off your right shoe!" Mu Jinyu eyed the young man warily and ordered.

"Ah?"

Startled, the young man quickly took off his right shoe.

After removing the shoe, he himself was shocked!

To his surprise, his right foot had already decayed severely, looking like the foot of a dead man.

It wasn't the kind that was dry and shriveled, covered in corpse spots, but rather the kind that had been soaked in corpse water for many years.

"My foot, how could my foot become like this?"

The young man saw his own right foot and stood thunderstruck on the spot, his complexion as pale as a dead man's.

Mu Jinyu said, "It must have happened when you touched the corpse water just now, right?"

"But..." he paused, Mu Jinyu stared at the young man and said, "Your own foot has turned like this, do you not feel anything at all?"

The young man shook his head stiffly, "I don't feel anything, my foot feels fine, as if nothing is wrong."

As he spoke, he tried to move his right foot.

Mu Jinyu then saw that his five toes were still quite flexibly twisting up and down at his will.

It didn't look like they were truly rotten and necrotized.

"Hmm?"

Mu Jinyu found this scene even more bizarre.

Initially, he thought the young man's foot had turned like that due purely to the corrosion of the corpse water, completely necrotized.

But now, it seemed it wasn't just that simple.

Then, Mu Jinyu thought back to the day when they were suppressing the Zombie Demon, several people went up and got touched by the corpse water, they turned directly into a puddle of corpse water, rather than being assimilated into a highly decomposed body.

'Could it be that this young man has gained some benefits, stealing some of the Zombie Demon's demonic power?'

Mu Jinyu was uncertain in his speculation.

Thinking this, Mu Jinyu temporarily suppressed the idea of severing his right foot with a single blow and thought that perhaps he could use the young man's situation for research...

Later, Mu Jinyu shared this speculation with the young man, letting him make his own decision, but he urged him not to delay for too long.

Because he noticed that the young man's right foot, which was being eroded and assimilated into a rotten corpse, was continuing to spread, and if he waited too long, it was likely that the whole right leg, or even the entire person, would turn into a demon with the appearance of a rotten corpse.

But this would be a demon with consciousness!

Should that be called...

A Human Demon?

Hearing Mu Jinyu's words, the young man's face grew dark and his expression fluctuated. Finally, he clenched his teeth and said, "I think my situation isn't that bad, my right foot is still flexible, and I don't want to cut it off just for safety!"

"Alright," Mu Jinyu nodded, not too surprised by the response.

After all, his current situation didn't seem life-threatening, and there was even the possibility of trying to control and harness the strength of the demon. It was natural that the young man would not want to amputate his right foot and end up disabled.

And if the attempt ultimately failed, with the speed of the spread of the corrosion, he would at most go from cutting off his right foot to cutting off his right lower leg.

Being disabled one way or another, losing a little more of the leg wasn't much different.

"Fine then, let's hurry up and deal with the Zombie Demon now!"

Mu Jinyu spoke gravely.

If there wasn't the crisis of the Zombie Demon trying to break free, he would indeed be very interested in going to a laboratory, or seeing Li Yaotong, to look into this young man's condition.

But the immediate priority was to suppress the real Zombie Demon at hand.

After that, Mu Jinyu and the young man rushed into the long, deep tunnel, which grew narrower and more oxygen-deprived the deeper they went until they reached the storeroom's door.

"Thud..."

"Thud..."

"Drip-drop..."

Upon reaching the doorway, Mu Jinyu heard a series of strange knocking sounds, as well as the sound of water droplets falling.

Chapter 529 - Wen Rou's Tenderness

"Drip-drop..."

It was like the sound when a faucet wasn't closed properly, with water droplets falling every few seconds.

Mu Jinyu heard this noise, but he didn't rush in immediately. Instead, he stood in front of the open door, extending his Divine Sense inside to check the situation.

He saw, near the Golden Coffin, there was a pool of bright yellow Corpse Water which, seeming conscious, flowed toward the golden briefcase beside it and encircled it.

However, it must have been because of the properties of gold that the Corpse Water did not dare to get too close or manage to release the Ghost-Faced Demon confined inside.

"That's good, fortunately we discovered the properties of gold earlier, otherwise who knows what the situation would be like now!"

Mu Jinyu, seeing this scene, felt much more relaxed.

He thought Li Yaotong knew a lot and might consult him about the young man's right foot's transformation. Perhaps this was another astonishing discovery.

Cherishing one's own modest belongings may not be a good thing in this era.

Mu Jinyu took a step into the storeroom.

And the young man, hesitating with his expression, ultimately followed him in.

Ignoring the pool of Corpse Water, Mu Jinyu walked up to the Golden Coffin and looked at the holes forcefully punched out by fingers. Rather than leaning in to look inside with his eyes, he explored with his Divine Sense.

"Thump!"

The Zombie Demon lay silently in the Golden Coffin, now soaked in a substantial amount of Corpse Water, while the evil-suppressing talisman Mu Jinyu had previously thrown in was soaked to the point that the runes drawn in cinnabar and blood were no longer visible.

As Mu Jinyu observed, the Zombie Demon, which resembled a rotting corpse, gently nudged the Golden Coffin with its elbow.

That intermittent noise was hence produced.

The Zombie Demon was locked in the Golden Coffin, severely suppressed, unable to move freely, let alone break the Golden Coffin to escape, even though there were damages now.

But it still struggled continuously, seemingly preparing to overturn the Golden Coffin, allowing the accumulated Corpse Water to spill out entirely.

Mu Jinyu didn't know if releasing all the Corpse Water would give the demon some means to kill, but he wasn't prepared to find out.

He withdrew his Divine Sense, uncompromisingly covered his right hand with True Yuan, then pressed it against the holes pierced by fingers.

Then, with his left hand, he took out a gold bar from his pocket, melted it into a pool of Gold Liquid using Taoist True Fire, then immediately covered it over the holes and cooled it down quickly.

Suddenly, the opening was sealed by Mu Jinyu.

Of course, the repair wasn't great, and there were still some gaps.

Mu Jinyu continued to melt gold bars several times, until the Golden Coffin was completely seamless, preventing the Zombie Demon from expelling the Corpse Water.

"Hiss!"

Just then, the pool of Corpse Water that had surrounded the briefcase, planning to move toward Mu Jinyu, evaporated quickly as the Golden Coffin was sealed.

Mu Jinyu, seeing this, then turned his gaze towards the young man.

Looking at his highly decayed right foot.

He found no signs of it reverting back to its normal state.

Mu Jinyu frowned and then relaxed, saying, "It looks like it indeed requires thorough research."

The young man, a bit nervous, said, "You're not going to dissect me for research, are you, Dragon Master?"

"Of course not!" Mu Jinyu assured.

Afterward, he glanced at the golden briefcase beside him, walked over, and picked it up.

He also carefully checked it and found that it wasn't damaged and didn't need any repairs. Then he said, "Alright, the zombie demon is taken care of; let's head out first."

There were signs that the zombie demon was escaping, but because it was discovered in time, it hadn't caused greater calamity.

However, its impact was significant.

Firstly, the young man's right foot had mutated. It was unclear whether this was a good or bad thing.

Secondly, it seemed that the Tide of Chaos had tampered with the memories of the members of Dragon King Hall, which would require time to properly investigate.

This would make Mu Jinyu cautious about trusting people in the future.

As for this underground storage room, more defensive lines would need to be added to prevent easy access.

With these thoughts, Mu Jinyu first closed the door of the storage room and then walked out of the long corridor with the young man. After leaving the second basement layer,

Mu Jinyu headed toward Mu Hongchen's office to check on their current situation.

At the same time, he sent a message to the members of Dragon King Hall, asking those who were currently not on a mission to return to headquarters.

Finally, he sent a message to Li Yaotong, informing him of his situation and asking him to come to Dragon King Hall if he had the time. If that wasn't possible, he could send someone else from the Omniscient higher-ups.

"Hmm? You've found a victim of the Tide of Chaos. Can you be sure that their blood won't show abnormalities? Let me know once the Dragon King has thoroughly investigated this issue."

"As for the mutation of the right foot, I've also noticed several such cases here. I was planning to collect complete data and then inform you. But now I can notify Dragon King Hall ahead of schedule."

"It happens that I am also interested in the Gold Inlaid Jade Magical Instrument created by the Dragon King, which can block the erosion of the overwhelming disaster. I had planned to visit later, but now I can come earlier."

"I'm leaving now and expect to arrive in Capital City in about three or four hours."

Li Yaotong sent several messages, replying to Mu Jinyu.

Mu Jinyu replied that Dragon King Hall awaited his arrival.

Just then, he arrived at Mu Hongchen's office.

Using his Divine Sense, he peered inside.

He discovered that within half an hour, all five had awakened from their deep meditation state. They were looking at Wen Rou with envious eyes, speaking softly.

"Wen Rou, I had no idea your cultivation talent was so good. You've already managed to draw spiritual energy into your body,"

said Mu Hongchen, her eyes filled with envy as she looked at Wen Rou.

"Wow, Wen Rou, you're amazing! I only just sensed the existence of spiritual energy after over an hour of meditation. I had no idea how to absorb it, and here you are, already drawing it into your body and storing it in your dantian!"

The speaker was Mei Yinxue, who was also envious but slightly self-satisfied, feeling her talent wasn't too shabby either!

"Mom and Sister Mei are impressive too. I'm the slowest, only barely sensing the presence of spiritual energy just before I woke up,"

said Gu Xiyan, her tone filled with disappointment.

After speaking, she looked at Wen Rou with a bright smile, hiding her disappointment, and said, "Wen Rou, you really need to cultivate diligently from now on, so we can all ride on your coattails!"

Wen Rou was somewhat unaccustomed to everyone's enthusiasm as she had always been low-profile, almost invisible. If it weren't for her early association with Mu Jinyu, she doubted they would have accepted her.

Hearing everyone's words, she smiled shyly and said, "I'm not sure why this is happening. Sister Yan, don't tease me about riding coattails. Aren't we all family? When Jinyu wasn't around, it was you all who took care of me. It just might be my turn to take care of everyone in the future."

Chapter 530:

"You all woke up, how is it, did you all sense the sense of energy?"

Mu Jinyu walked in, looked at the women whispering softly, and asked softly.

"Yes, Wen Rou has the best talent, followed by mom..."

When Gu Xiyan saw Mu Jinyu return, she stood up from the sofa and then introduced the results of their cultivation during the past hour, practicing the cultivation method for a Grand Circulation.

As expected, Wen Rou's natural talent was the strongest; she had already managed to absorb spiritual energy into her body, storing it in her Dantian, and had successfully embarked on the path of cultivation.

If she had extraordinary courage and rich combat experience like Mei Yinxue, she would have been able to hold her ground even against a master of dark energy.

However, she had always been ordinary and never really fought much, so even though she could match a master of dark energy, she might not necessarily win against some Mingjin masters.

And Su Zijin, being the daughter of the Dragon King and rumored to carry the Dragon Clan's bloodline, naturally wouldn't lack talent; it was just that she had never been interested in cultivation before.

Now approaching forty, her talent naturally diminished somewhat, but still, she was only slightly inferior to Wen Rou. In over an hour of circulating the cultivation technique, she successfully sensed the presence of spiritual energy and attempted to absorb it several times.

However, after several failures, she still could not successfully draw spiritual energy into her body to store in the Dantian and genuinely step onto the path of cultivation.

Of course, Mu Jinyu believed that with a few more tries, she too would soon be able to draw qi into her body and be the second among the five present to successfully cultivate.

Mei Yinxue and Mu Hongchen, on the other hand, were average; they spent over an hour in meditation and only attempted to absorb spiritual energy once during the Grand Circulation of the cultivation method but woke up directly after failing.

And Gu Xiyan, compared to them, had the poorest talent; she barely sensed the spiritual energy towards the end of the cultivation session and never even got the chance to attempt absorbing it.

Gu Xiyan introduced her situation very calmly and naturally, laughing in the end, saying that it didn't matter if she couldn't cultivate; she could be lazy, and from now on, she would have to rely on Wen Rou to protect her, clinging tightly to Wen Rou's strong support.

Though Gu Xiyan appeared very calm, Mu Jinyu could still hear her disappointment.

She had always been very competitive and strived to be the best at everything she tried. If not the best, she would at least do her best. However, in this cultivation, she ended up as the worst among them, completely trailing behind!

Though Gu Xiyan claimed it didn't matter, how could she truly not care in her heart?

Mu Jinyu walked over and gave her a hug, then let go, smiling and comforting her, "Actually, you don't need to feel bad. Being able to sense the presence of spiritual energy in your first cultivation session, circulating the technique for one Zhou Tian, shows that your talent is quite good already. Don't compare yourself with Wen Rou; hers and my mom's talents are exceptions, one in a million."

"And Sister Mei and Aunt Mu, do you think their talents are better than yours? Actually, they are quite similar; it's just that they have been undergoing similar martial arts training since childhood, and you haven't..."

"That's right, Xiyan, your talent is actually quite good. I feel if I never had any cultivation experience, I would probably be far worse than you," Mu Hongchen also said.

Mei Yinxue also nodded, indicating that Mu Jinyu was not deceiving her.

"Really?" Gu Xiyan, hearing them say this, couldn't help but look up at Mu Jinyu and asked, "My cultivation talent, isn't it considered trash?"

"Of course not!" Mu Jinyu affirmed strongly, "Actually, being able to sense the presence of spiritual energy within ten days already counts as a genius. Sensing it within a month is also considered to have good talent. Sensing it within a year is ordinary, barely adequate, but still not trash. Most people can't sense spiritual energy in their entire lives."

Speaking of which, he smiled and said, "I was originally worried that some of you might not be able to cultivate, but surprisingly, not only could you cultivate, but you also sensed the spiritual energy in your first cultivation session, which really surprised me..."

"Is that so?"

When Gu Xiyan and Mei Yinxue heard Mu Jinyu say this, they immediately gained a clearer understanding of talent in cultivation.

They also felt even more terrified and amazed at Wen Rou's talent.

"Then... between you and Wen Rou, whose cultivation talent is higher?"

Gu Xiyan couldn't help but ask.

Mu Jinyu thought for a moment and answered, "I should be a bit higher, but Wen Rou had never been exposed to cultivation before. Moreover, she is a bit older now, not having started cultivating from a young age. Otherwise, her talent could have been comparable to mine, perhaps even higher."

"I see!"

It wasn't just Gu Xiyan and Mei Yinxue who were astonished; even Mu Hongchen and Su Zijin were amazed by Wen Rou's talent.

Meanwhile, Wen Rou was blushing and bowing her head, seemingly overwhelmed.

"Alright, let's not tease Wen Rou anymore. Let's put aside the cultivation matter for now. Aunt Mu and I need to discuss some things," Mu Jinyu said, seeing everyone about to tease Wen Rou, and waved her hand.

Upon hearing this, they no longer frolicked and quieted down.

Mu Jinyu didn't beat around the bush and directly said, "Aunt Mu, the reason why I went out just now and didn't protect you all was because the golden coffin in the underground storage was tampered with, and the zombie demon almost escaped."

"How could that be?" Mu Hongchen was shocked upon hearing this.

Then, she thought of something and said, "That day, so many people carried the coffin in together, yet noticed nothing amiss. Could it be... influenced by the Tide of Chaos? Was their memory tampered with?"

"Yes, I guessed the same. However, when they went to deliver the coffin that day, they weren't wearing the Gold Inlaid Jade Magical Instruments. So, it's unclear how many had their memories tampered with and if the instruments can block the erosion from the Tide of Chaos. This is a big problem... "

"What should we do? Should we call them back first and check each one?" Mu Hongchen asked.

Mu Jinyu sighed and replied, "When I just came back, I already sent a notice to the members who didn't go on the mission. They will be returning soon, but I'm afraid I might not be able to check everything myself. Plus, that young man who went to deliver the Ghost-Faced Demon container had some

problems, so I contacted some Omniscient people. They are currently rushing to our headquarters in hopes of solving this troublesome issue."

"What happened to that young man?" Mu Hongchen asked.

Mu Jinyu then explained the corrosion situation of his right foot to her.

Mu Hongchen frowned and murmured, "Suddenly, so many problems have arisen, it's really headache-inducing!"

Wen Rou couldn't help but ask, "Little Mu, you just said that someone's memory was tampered with, could we..."

She was very afraid that, unbeknownst to her, her memory might be tampered with by demons, and when sleeping with Mu Jinyu, she might take the opportunity to attack him while he was deeply asleep, without even being aware of it herself.

That would be too terrifying!