

## Martial Arts 581

Chapter 581: Won at Mahjong

Elder Wang's eyes suddenly widened, his eyeballs fixed as if frozen, showing an out-of-control expression in front of Chen Fan for the first time, because what the latter said was truly shocking.

He could not believe it. Even when he broke through the Celestial Human Realm back then, he was only in the Third Realm of True Essence, condensing a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill.

Such performance, in his era, was not considered top-tier, but also not weak; it was considered first-class.

But now, a thousand years later, when the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi is still not thick, reaching the Third Realm of True Essence and condensing a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill is rare.

Yet Chen Fan claimed that he was a martial artist of the Fourth Realm of True Essence?

Chen Fan's eyes met Elder Wang's, without the slightest hint of guilt.

Because, in a sense, he was not lying.

Firstly, he was indeed not a Celestial Human Realm martial artist. Secondly, although he had only broken through once and was a martial artist in the Second Realm of True Essence, the quantity of True Essence in his body surely exceeded that of martial artists in the same realm, with a 95% probability of condensing a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill. Calling him a martial artist of the Fourth Realm of True Essence would not be an exaggeration.

"Elder Wang finds it incredible, which is understandable."

The next second, he asked, "Elder Wang should know that besides being a martial artist, I have another identity, right?"

Elder Wang's pupils widened further upon hearing this, and he exclaimed, "An alchemist?"

"Correct."

Chen Fan smiled slightly, saying, "During my cultivation, the elixirs I consumed, whether Qi Blood Pills or True Qi Pills, were all made by myself."

During the day, I went out to hunt Fierce Beasts to exchange for herbs, and at night, I refined pills in the alchemy room, absorbing the refined True Qi Pills and converting them into True Qi in my body.

During this process, I repeatedly improved the pill formula, increasing the number of top-grade True Qi Pills and occasionally creating higher quality Heaven-grade True Qi Pills."

"Heaven-grade True Qi Pills!"

Elder Wang's breath became rapid.

Even in his era, Heaven-grade True Qi Pills were extremely precious. Not to mention ordinary people, even some noble families couldn't afford them.

The refining method was top-secret.

Yet this young man actually figured it out himself during refining?

If what he said is true, his alchemy talent would be extraordinarily amazing.

"Yes, Heaven-grade True Qi Pills."

Chen Fan nodded, "It is because I consumed a large amount of True Qi Pills that my realm reached the Fourth Realm of True Essence."

Elder Wang slowly exhaled, saying, "If that is the case, then it can be explained."

After all, for an alchemist, the last thing he lacks is elixirs.

If this person also had decent martial arts talent, his progress would be much faster than normal, even far surpassing geniuses.

"Unexpectedly, this trip to Anshan City has yielded such a great harvest."

He thought silently.

Not to mention anything else, just this monstrous level of alchemy talent must be protected at all costs.

Besides, the Fourth Realm of True Essence...

If someday he breaks through to the Celestial Human Realm, the Martial Arts True Pill he condenses might not be first-grade, but celestial grade.

Celestial grade, even a thousand years ago, would have been unrivaled.

"It seems Elder Wang is quite satisfied with my explanation." Chen Fan saw this and internally breathed a sigh of relief.

He was not a Celestial Human Realm martial artist. If he admitted it, and if flaws were seen, it would be hard to explain.

And if he told the truth, that he cultivated a large amount of Inner Power Heart Method, it would be even harder to explain.

For example, the Longevity Technique involves the Qin family.

It's not that he doesn't trust Elder Wang, but the fewer people who know about these matters, the better.

"Seems I underestimated you before."

With his doubts resolved, Elder Wang showed a kindly smile, saying, "Moreover, I didn't expect that besides your identity with the Martial Arts Association, you have another identity."

After speaking, he blinked, evidently referring to Chen Fan's position as the president of the Awakened Association.

Chen Fan smiled and replied, "Elder Wang, that was necessary, after all, it's more convenient to get things done with that identity."

"That's true."

Elder Wang nodded.

Undeniably, in general cities, the influence of the Awakeners is indeed greater than that of martial artists.

Using the identity of the president of the Awakened Association solves many problems.

"Chen Fan, your performance this time is truly commendable. Even if it were me, I might not be able to do as well as you did. However,"

Switching his tone, Elder Wang sighed lightly and said, "it's still not optimistic. This beast tide outbreak is extraordinary. Although you successfully repelled the first wave, the second wave will likely arrive soon. Those Fierce Beasts commanding from the background are intelligent. Next time, they might not attack during the day but at night.

Moreover, there were no flying Fierce Beasts in this beast tide attack, nor did any appear inside the city. If in the next wave, these Fierce Beasts show up, the battle to defend the city will be even tougher."

"Elder Wang is right."

Chen Fan nodded repeatedly, and he began to worry internally.

Because he handled relations with two batches of Fierce Beasts in advance, this wave of the beast tide had no flying or burrowing Fierce Beasts.

But that doesn't mean there won't be any in the second wave.

And logically, after suffering a loss, the Fierce Beasts would only send more next time, possibly including flying and burrowing Fierce Beasts. It could even potentially bring more than the first wave was supposed to!

Chapter 582: Won at Mahjong\_2

At that time, even if Elder Wang is here, it may be like a cup of water on a burning cart.

"I still need to ask Meng Xue."

Chen Fan sighed softly in his heart.

Elder Wang saw this and didn't know what to say.

In fact, the best way is to leave directly.

If he leaves, the people in the city will probably die, but what else can be done?

He knew better that this suggestion would definitely be unacceptable to Chen Fan's character, it was better not to say it at all.

"Chen Fan, don't give yourself too much pressure."

Elder Wang consoled, "No matter the outcome, as long as you have a clear conscience, that's enough."

Everyone desires a good result, but how many things in life actually turn out the way we wish? Unsatisfactory things are commonplace; this is the true essence of life.

"What Elder Wang says is true."

Chen Fan replied.

This was also his principle in dealing with the world.

But, he will continue to strive.

"Elder Wang, this is a pill formula capable of refining a Heaven-grade True Qi Pill. Previously, you gifted me a supreme martial art, and I have nothing to return, so I offer this as a token of my gratitude, please don't mind."

As he spoke, a pill formula appeared in Chen Fan's hand.

When he obtained the Flying Star Nine Revolutions Technique, he had this thought in mind, so after returning, he wrote down the pill formula, which was the final version he currently mastered, with no reservations left.

"This..."

Elder Wang was taken aback and hurriedly said, "How could I mind?"

He glanced at the pill formula on the table and pushed it towards Chen Fan, smiling wryly, "Chen Fan, you are still underestimating the value of this pill formula. The complete Flying Star Nine Revolutions Technique, though precious, is not so rare as a sole copy.

Many noble families in Yan Country preserve this martial art, but this pill formula is genuinely a unique copy not found elsewhere. You should take it back."

"Elder Wang, you're too kind."

Chen Fan smiled, "A gentleman's word is as good as a promise; since I have said I will give this pill formula, there's no reason to take it back. Furthermore, if I'm not mistaken, Elder Wang, you would definitely hand this pill formula to the headquarters, and in reality, you wouldn't gain any personal benefit; it's clearly the junior who took advantage."

Elder Wang couldn't help but laugh.

Chen Fan was right.

As a Mid-stage Celestial Realm Martial Artist, absorbing the elixir power of a True Qi Pill was far inferior to directly absorbing the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

Even a Heaven-grade True Qi Pill was like that.

But in any case, he owed Chen Fan a favor.

"Alright, then I'll take advantage this time and accept this pill formula."

He agreed and looked at Chen Fan with even more approval.

This junior was very sensible, too sensible.

Chen Fan's face was still beaming with a smile.

Listening to Elder Wang's words, he seemed to have suffered a loss, but in fact, he gained a lot.

First, returning favor for favor earned Elder Wang's great goodwill. When their relationship deepened, would he fear not obtaining the complete Sacred Heart Technique? Perhaps this person might even have other complete supreme martial arts?

Secondly, keeping the pill formula with himself was useless; revealing it earlier could contribute to the Human Race?

Thirdly, it also repaid the care of the President. If not for him, Elder Wang wouldn't have traveled thousands of miles from Jiangnan City to come here.

Gaining multiple benefits in one go, if this wasn't considered profitable, then he truly didn't know what could be.

"By the way, are you injured this time? If you are, you must tell me, I will heal you." Elder Wang asked with concern.

The Sacred Heart Technique he cultivated not only greatly extended his own life but also had a far superior healing effect compared to ordinary supreme-level martial arts.

"Not really."

Chen Fan smiled, "It was just some low-level fierce beasts. If it were a Beast King-level fierce beast, perhaps there would be some risk of injury."

"That's good. If you need any other help, just say the word." Elder Wang was very courteous.

"Just as before," Chen Fan smiled wryly, "If powerful fierce beasts appear during the next beast tide, I'll be greatly grateful if Elder Wang can assist in dealing with them."

He didn't ask for more cultivation techniques.

After all, some things cannot be rushed.

If he mentioned it, Elder Wang certainly wouldn't refuse, but the image he had built up with much effort would be damaged.

Hastening things won't lead to success.

"So that's it, rest assured, when the time comes, I won't stand aside, but just as previously stated, I can't interfere too much."

Elder Wang sighed.

"It's enough with Elder Wang's assurance."

Chen Fan stood up and respectfully saluted.

They had said all that needed to be said, and given the current urgent situation, it wasn't long before Chen Fan bid farewell.

Besides having to inform Meng Xue, he also needed to hurry and absorb the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi to replenish the True Qi in his Elixir Field and Sea of Qi.

Over twenty million points of True Qi were still insufficient.

Of course, it was also possible to cultivate the Flying Star Nine Revolutions Technique to Perfection Realm.

This beast tide brought his experience points to a terrifying level.

Maxing out the Flying Star Nine Revolutions Technique was like a breeze.

Even the Observing the Universe Technique should be no problem to max out.

Watching Chen Fan leave, Elder Wang was filled with emotion.

"Since ancient times, heroes come from the young, the ancients did not deceive me."

He murmured.

He had once thought Shi Tao was the most exceptional in terms of disposition, talent, and intelligence among the people he met.

Now it seemed, this conclusion was a bit hasty.

This young fellow Chen Fan was not inferior to Shi Tao at all, and in alchemy, he was far superior.

"Why didn't I encounter this young man earlier."

Elder Wang sighed with regret, feeling a sense of meeting too late.

If he had met him a few years earlier, this young man might already be a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, and defending Anshan City wouldn't be such a struggle as it is now?

"Buzz, buzz, buzz."

Suddenly, a vibrating sound came from his clothes pocket.

Elder Wang was startled and then smiled.

It was the vibration from his phone, and the only one who knew his number was Shi Tao.

He was just about to find him to discuss the matter here and to quickly hand over the pill formula for refining the Heaven-grade True Qi Pill.

Jiangnan City, City Lord's Mansion.

A day and a half of meetings had finally ended.

The few people in the room simultaneously breathed a sigh of relief but also felt the pressure coming in waves.

Because after going back to make some preparations, they would have to form a team to hunt high-level fierce beasts, at the lowest being commander level, or even beast king level.

In a massive beast horde of tens or hundreds of thousands, killing commander level or beast king level beasts and retreating safely was an extremely daunting task.

To put it bluntly, even they faced the possibility of dying, but they had no choice. If they just waited and did nothing, the fierce beasts gathering at the gates of Jiangnan City would grow to terrifying numbers.

Given this, it was better to weaken the beast tide's power in advance for the sake of the people of Jiangnan City and themselves.

"I'll head out first."

Shi Tao stood up, greeted them, and walked out of the door. Shortly after, he took out his phone and called Elder Wang.

In a while, he would be executing a mission, and should anything go wrong, he might face danger. Hence, he wouldn't have the time and energy to worry about Anshan City.

"I wonder if Anshan City is under beast tide attack now. Even if it isn't, it probably will be soon."

He sighed in his heart.

He could understand Chen Fan's decision, even if he didn't have much optimism about it.

After all, how could a True Essence Realm Martial Artist withstand a beast tide of tens or hundreds of thousands? Even he wasn't too confident.

Chapter 583: If He Wishes, He Can Also Be of the Celestial Human Realm

Just as he was lost in thought, the phone call connected.

"Elder Wang."

Shi Tao pulled his thoughts back and asked, "How is the situation in Anshan City? Has it been attacked by the beast tide?"

"The beast tide just came through."

"What!"

Shi Tao's mouth slightly opened.

But he detected some underlying meaning in the statement.

First, Elder Wang's tone wasn't tense; it was as calm as usual. Second, the beast tide had already passed, meaning it was a thing of the past. So, Anshan City was still standing?

With this thought, he let out a slight sigh of relief and asked, "Elder Wang, what exactly happened? Is Chen Fan alright?"

"Hehe, don't worry, Chen Fan is fine. In fact, in this city defense battle, he played a crucial role. One could say that without him, Anshan City would most likely have been breached by the fierce beasts by now."

Elder Wang let out a hearty laugh and continued, "Shi Tao, you and I both underestimated his strength."

"Underestimated his strength?"

Shi Tao was stunned, then a bold idea sprang up in his mind.

Could it be that Elder Wang meant Chen Fan had already become a Celestial Realm Martial Artist?

Thinking about it carefully, it seemed possible. Otherwise, why would he insist on staying in Anshan City?

"Chen Fan is not yet a Celestial Realm Martial Artist."

Elder Wang guessed what he was thinking and said slowly.

"Not, not a Celestial Realm Martial Artist?"

Shi Tao felt a sense of relief.

It wasn't that he didn't want Chen Fan to be a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, but the speed would be too fast, so fast that a trace of jealousy would inevitably arise in his heart.

"Then what is his strength?"

"Fourth Realm of True Essence."

"Fourth Realm of True Essence? What, Fourth Realm of True Essence?"

At first, Shi Tao felt nothing, but then the significance hit him.

Fourth Realm of True Essence?

When he was in the True Essence Realm, he was only in the Third Realm.

In other words, if Chen Fan wanted to, he could already be a Celestial Realm Martial Artist now, and the condensed Martial Arts True Pill would most likely be a First Grade!

"Elder Wang, are you sure he is in the Fourth Realm of True Essence?"

"I saw it with my own eyes."

Elder Wang said, "Back on the city wall, I saw with my own eyes that he used the True Qi within his body to conjure thousands of Sword Qi, slaughtering more than two hundred thousand fierce beasts without leaving a single one alive. Such strength, even a novice Celestial Realm Martial Artist, may not accomplish this. You can imagine how vast his True Essence within must be."

Shi Tao took a deep breath.

So he really was in the Fourth Realm of True Essence?

But how did he achieve it?

One must know, to advance every minor realm within the True Essence Realm, the amount of True Qi needed increased by dozens or even hundreds of times.

For example, upon reaching the Second Realm of True Essence, the capacity in the Elixir Field and Sea of Qi is twenty times that of the First Realm.

Upon reaching the Third Realm of True Essence, the Sea of Qi's capacity is fifty times that of before.

And in reaching the Fourth Realm of True Essence, the Sea of Qi's capacity is a hundred times that of before!

It was precisely because of this that he chose to break through at the Third Realm.

After all, even if external conditions allowed, gathering the amount of True Qi equivalent to a hundred times the Third Realm of True Essence is nearly impossible.

"You must be curious about how he did it, right? I was too until I heard his explanation and suddenly understood."

Elder Wang smiled warmly, "This is also something I need to tell you, so be mentally prepared."

Upon hearing this, Shi Tao's expression turned serious and he hurriedly said, "Please go ahead, Elder Wang."

"Chen Fan has managed to refine the legendary Heaven-grade True Qi Pill."

"What? Heaven-grade True Qi Pill?"

Even though Shi Tao was somewhat prepared, he was still amazed.

It is said that a single Heaven-grade True Qi Pill contains more True Qi than ten Top-grade True Qi Pills!

However, this elixir only existed in ancient texts, and even the Awakened Association had no method for refining it. Its value was evident.

"So,"

Shi Tao's voice trembled slightly, "Chen Fan was able to break through to the Fourth Realm of True Essence so quickly because of the Heaven-grade True Qi Pill?"

"You could say that."

Elder Wang sighed, "It's mainly because he consumed a massive amount of True Qi Pills, including several Heaven-grade True Qi Pills."

"I see."

A wry smile appeared on Shi Tao's face; he finally understood everything.

Chen Fan's expertise in refining True Qi Pills far surpassed that of the headquarters, and the number of Top-grade True Qi Pills he produced was several times greater than that of the headquarters.

Yet, he hadn't thought that Chen Fan could even refine Heaven-grade True Qi Pills...

No wonder he could reach the Fourth Realm of True Essence.

No, wait.

Suddenly, Shi Tao's smile froze.

Could it be that Chen Fan didn't choose to break through at the Third Realm because he wanted to condense a Heaven-grade Martial Arts True Pill?

"Chen Fan, he wants to condense a Heaven-grade Martial Arts True Pill."

Elder Wang's voice echoed right at that moment, filled with anticipation, "And there's more good news—Chen Fan has already given the pill formula for the Heaven-grade True Qi Pill to me. I will bring it to you later."

"Pill, pill formula?"

Shi Tao's breath choked.

"What else?"

Elder Wang chuckled.

"This pill formula will be useful to you. The effects of the Heaven-grade True Qi Pill far exceed those of the Top-grade True Qi Pill. It can also be used to nurture others. Perhaps one day, the headquarters will see another person condensing a Heaven-grade Martial Arts True Pill."

"Indeed."

A smile spread across Shi Tao's face as he thought of his disciple.

Xiaoyu's talent was no less than his own; given time, it was almost certain he would condense a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill.

Chapter 584: If He Wishes, He Can Also Be of the Celestial Human Realm\_2

Now, with this pill formula, it's possible to create Celestial Grade pills.

The only concern is...

Shi Tao frowned slightly.

Chen Fan's strength indeed exceeded his expectations. If one day he comes to the headquarters looking to settle accounts with Ling Yu, would he still be able to stop him?

"I should still be able to stop him."

He thought to himself.

True Essence Realm Fourth Realm, although his True Essence is extremely profound, it is ultimately still the True Essence Realm, not the Celestial Human Realm, he can't command the Power of Heaven and Earth.

To take a step back, even if Chen Fan broke through to the Celestial Human Realm one day, I won't be standing still. It doesn't mean I won't be a match.

"Xiaoyu needs to work harder. I can protect him for a while, but not for a lifetime."

Thinking of this, Shi Tao felt a bit helpless.

If only Xiaoyu hadn't been so foolish and made such a mistake. However, he did do it with good intentions for himself.

"Elder Wang, actually it's not that troublesome. You can just take a photo of the pill formula and send it over."

"That's right, I almost forgot."

Elder Wang chuckled.

After exchanging a few more words, they ended the call.

Shi Tao put away his phone, feeling a mix of emotions.

But soon, a smile appeared on his face as he strode towards the headquarters.

Not long after he returned, Chang Fei, Shen Si, and others arrived.

Shi Tao nodded to them but didn't see Ling Yu.

"He's probably still in secluded cultivation."

He thought to himself, feeling somewhat comforted, then he spoke, "You came at the right time. There are a few things I need to discuss with you. By the way, Chang Fei."

"I'm listening, President."

Chang Fei nodded quickly.

"Go find Elder Tang and the others as well. I have something good to give them."

"Understood."

Without thinking, Chang Fei quickly left.

Soon, Elder Tang and the others entered the meeting room with Chang Fei leading the way.

"Shi Tao, you called us over in such a hurry; what good thing do you want to give us?" Elder Tang muttered as he sat down, "If it's nothing special, don't blame me for not saying anything beforehand."

"Old Tang!"

Elder Qin gave him a look.

Though they were all quite old, the person before them was the President; they had to give him some respect.

"Hehehe."

Shi Tao didn't mind, and asked, "Elder Tang, regarding the pill formula that Chang Fei gave you last time, how far along are you in your research?"

The few elders exchanged glances, somewhat surprised.

"About seventy to eighty percent complete."

Elder Tang said, "Now, when refining a batch of True Qi Pills, at least three Top-grade True Qi Pills can be produced, sometimes four or five if fortunate."

"Brother Qin is the most skilled. He can consistently produce around four Top-grade True Qi Pills per batch, sometimes even five."

"Yes, yes."

Everyone looked at Elder Qin with admiration.

"I have just received a new pill formula. Let's set the previous one aside for now, and start researching this new one."

"A new pill formula?"

"Is it for True Qi Pills too?"

"President, where did this pill formula come from?"

The elders looked at each other.

"Yes, this pill formula was also given by Chen Fan."

Shi Tao smiled, "It is a formula that can refine Heaven-grade True Qi Pills."

Immediately, the room fell silent.

Not only Elder Qin and the others, but even Chang Fei and Shen Si felt like they were suffocating.

"H-Heaven-grade True Qi Pills?"

Elder Tang's eyes widened, "Shi Tao, are you joking? The pill formula you're giving us now can refine Heaven-grade True Qi Pills?"

"If it's true, wouldn't that mean Chen Fan has already refined Heaven-grade True Qi Pills?"

"This... impossible, right?"

The elders were in disbelief.

They admitted there was a significant gap between them and Chen Fan.

However, they thought this gap would close significantly with their continuous alchemy practice. Mastering the previous formula was only a matter of time, and they could eventually perfect it.

But now, Shi Tao's words made them feel like while they were figuring out how to refine Top-grade True Qi Pills, Chen Fan had already succeeded with Heaven-grade pills.

This was hard to accept.

"It's true."

Shi Tao took a deep breath and said, "This leads to the second thing I need to discuss with you."

"The second thing?"

Everyone looked at each other.

"You all know what realm Chen Fan is in, right?"

"Isn't he in the True Essence Realm?" Chang Fei asked instinctively.

"Could it be Chen Fan has already reached the Celestial Human Realm?" Shen Si's eyes widened.

"Celestial Human Realm?"

"Chen Fan is a Celestial Human Realm martial artist?"

Elder Tang and the others also asked in astonishment.

"No, but almost." Shi Tao nodded. Without waiting for more questions, he explained, "He isn't a Celestial Human Realm martial artist, but he could have entered it a long time ago. However, he chose to stay in the True Essence Realm to further enhance his True Essence."

"President, do you mean Chen Fan is now in the True Essence Realm Second Realm?" Chang Fei asked in surprise.

The breakthrough rate from the First Realm of True Essence to the Celestial Human Realm is very low, usually ending in failure.

Once reaching the Second Realm of True Essence, the chances of entering the Celestial Human Realm increase significantly, and there is a fair probability of forming Second-grade Martial Arts True Pills.

At the Third Realm of True Essence, there is a considerable chance of forming First-grade Martial Arts True Pills.

The President implied that Chen Fan, able to enter the Celestial Human Realm yet didn't, must be in the Second Realm of True Essence.

Shi Tao shook his head, "Not in the Second Realm of True Essence, but in the Fourth Realm of True Essence."

"Fourth Realm of True Essence?"

"Fourth Realm of True Essence!"

"Fourth Realm!"

Everyone was utterly shocked, even suspecting whether Shi Tao had misspoken.

"You didn't hear wrong, and I didn't misspeak." Shi Tao shook his head, "If he wanted to break through to the Celestial Human Realm, he could have done so in the Third Realm. But he aims to condense a Heaven-grade Martial Arts True Pill, so he entered the Fourth Realm of True Essence. This pill formula played a critical role. Without a vast amount of Top-grade True Qi Pills or Heaven-grade True Qi Pills, Chen Fan's cultivation wouldn't have advanced so swiftly, right?"

Everyone's breathing quickened.

Indeed, if this pill formula couldn't refine Heaven-grade True Qi Pills, Chen Fan wouldn't have delayed his breakthrough. Since this process is irreversible, only by filling the Sea of Qi can one break through to the Celestial Human Realm.

"No wonder Brother Chen had no difficulty killing Song Gang. His strength is indeed formidable," Shen Si thought, with a newfound understanding.

"In that case, the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association would have three Celestial Realm martial artists, including Elder Wang, right?"

Chang Fei said excitedly.

Of course, Chen Fan wasn't yet in the Celestial Human Realm, but with his abilities, it was only a matter of time.

Moreover, he even provided an improved pill formula.

Chang Fei felt immense gratitude, mixed with some worry.

Based on his understanding of Chen Fan, he wasn't one to freely give away such valuable formulas. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say there wasn't a second of its kind in the entire Yan Country.

The President likely paid a high price for this pill formula, didn't he?

But the value of it was worth any cost! In the end, the entire association, and perhaps the entire Human Race, would benefit.

"Shi... Shi Tao."

Elder Tang stood up from his chair, eyes filled with eagerness, "Is that pill formula with you now? Quickly, let us have a look."

"Yes, yes, show it to us."

"Hurry, hurry!"

Chapter 585: He is Deceiving You

Song Family.

The patriarch, Song Tian, looked at the numerous letters on the table, his brows knitted into a frown.

Since the reward order was issued, the clues the Song Family received were like mushrooms sprouting after the rain, but most of them were useless.

Even those that seemed valuable turned out to be in vain after investigation, wasting a significant amount of manpower and resources.

"Who exactly is trying to mess with my Song Family?"

Thinking of this, the veins on his forehead bulged, and he clenched his fists tightly.

The perpetrator was so meticulous, it couldn't have been an ordinary person. Could it be that one of the Song Family's rivals sent someone to do this?

The goal is to eliminate the Song Family as a competitor before the Elder Council convenes.

From the current point of view, this seems highly probable, because many families, having heard the news, were secretly watching the drama unfold.

"No matter who is behind this, it's best that I don't find out. If I do, my Song Family will not rest until you are destroyed!"

He growled lowly.

Just then, the sound of footsteps came from outside the room.

"Is Second Brother back?"

Song Tian quickly got up and walked towards the door.

During this time, the Song Family had obtained a clue.

Someone saw Shen Si from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association appear briefly at the site where Song Gang and others had the incident.

This information was extremely important.

Because Shen Si might have seen the face of the murderer.

As for whether the murderer was Shen Si himself, Song Tian thought this was very unlikely.

First of all, the Song Family and the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association had always minded their own business. There was no friendship, but there were also no conflicts.

Secondly, Shen Si's strength among True Essence Realm Martial Artists was average, while Song Gang was one of the top True Essence Realm Martial Artists. His martial arts and weapons were perfectly matched, and even two Shen Si wouldn't necessarily be his opponents.

Let's not forget, there was also John nearby.

After transforming into a werewolf, John's body size and defense increased dozens or hundreds of times. Even Song Gang, who wielded the Ice Soul Cold Blade, would find it hard to inflict much damage when John was in werewolf form.

If Shen Si attacked Song Gang, it would be suicidal.

Therefore, within less than a minute of receiving the information, Song Tian had excluded Shen Si and the others from suspicion.

"Creak."

The door opened with a light squeak.

Song Wu, who was about to walk in, paused, then sighed and said, "Big Brother, I went to Jiangnan City but found no valuable information."

"What?"

Disappointment flashed across Song Tian's face, and he said reluctantly, "How could this be? Could it be that Shen Si was not there at the time?"

"He was there."

Song Wu smiled bitterly, "But Shen Si and the others just passed by; they didn't even encounter those Feng Country people, let alone Third Brother and the others."

"Is that so?"

Song Tian's face didn't look good.

This was the clue he had the highest hopes for to identify the killer, but in the end, it was just like the previous clues—leading to nothing but false joy.

Next, he asked, "What was Shen Si's reaction at the time? Was he lying?"

Song Wu shook his head.

"I paid close attention to his expressions. Everything seemed normal; it didn't look like he was lying. Of course, it could also be that his acting was so good that even I was fooled."

"Hmm."

Song Tian nodded.

Shen Si couldn't have been an ordinary person to become the Vice President of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association. He certainly had as much cunning and depth as any of them.

If he was intentionally lying, it wouldn't be easy for them to notice unless they used certain means.

But even thinking about it made it obvious that it would be difficult to do so. Besides, the President of the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, Shi Tao, had just recently condensed a First-grade Martial Arts True Pill. Unless absolutely necessary, the Song Family didn't want to offend another power.

"I might be overthinking this."

Song Tian sighed and said, "And then? What did you discuss?"

"I asked Chairman Shen if he had seen any suspicious people. He said he hadn't. He seemed genuinely sorry for not being able to help and invited me to stay a few days to show me around Jiangnan City. Naturally, I refused. Given the circumstances, how could I even have the mood for that?" Song Wu said bitterly.

Almost the same day they received the news, the Revival Association people also got the news and came directly.

As the elder brother of the current patriarch of the Song Family, he was scolded by them to his face, not daring to refute, and had to placate them in every possible way. Only after paying some price and promising to find the killer within three days could he send them off.

Now, with each passing day, and one day left of the three-day period, they still had no clues. When the Revival Association people come back, how will they explain then?

"From what you said, that Shen Si doesn't seem like a bad person."

Song Tian murmured.

"Yes, I saw him right away upon arrival. Throughout, he was quite polite to me. Big Brother, once this matter settles, I think we should establish good relations with the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association. They should be the most powerful among the various martial arts associations, right?"

"We can discuss that later."

Song Tian shook his head.

At the moment, he was overwhelmed and had no extra energy to think about it.

"Understood."

Song Wu nodded.

The atmosphere suddenly became heavy.

Chapter 586: He Is Deceiving You\_2

At this moment, the phone in his hand suddenly vibrated.

If this happened one or two days ago, Song Wu would have been very excited, but having received so many calls, he had become numb.

He pulled out his phone and saw an unknown caller.

"Hello? Who is this?" he answered and asked.

"Don't worry about who I am," said a mature male voice from the phone, clearly a synthesized voice, but the tone was somewhat arrogant, "You've been looking for the person who killed your Song Family members recently, haven't you?"

Upon hearing this, Song Wu frowned, feeling a bit annoyed. However, he knew now was not the time to act on impulse. What if this person actually knew something?

So, he asked patiently, "Do you perhaps have a lead? If your information is verified and proven valuable by the Song Family, you will be heavily rewarded."

"Heh."

There was a cold snort from the other end of the phone, sounding very disdainful, "It's just 1 million points, right? To me, it's nothing. I'm in a good mood today, so I'll tell you the identity of the culprit without asking for any reward."

"What!"

Both Song Wu and Song Tian, listening quietly beside him, were astonished.

This was the first person who didn't ask for any reward.

If he was telling the truth, it would mean he was giving up 1 million points in bounty. Is there really such a person in this world?

They looked at each other.

Song Wu understood and said, "Rest assured, if what you provide is truly valuable information that leads us to the real culprit, the Song Family will certainly offer the 1 million points reward with both hands, and we won't take advantage of you,

but if what you provide is false information or even misleading, the Song Family is not to be trifled with."

During this time, many people have posed as informants, trying to accuse their enemies as the Fierce Beast to get the Song Family's help to eliminate them.

Those who were identified and located were all harshly dealt with.

"Heh."

The person on the other end laughed coldly but didn't dwell on the topic, instead asking, "Did you visit the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association?"

"How do you know?"

Song Wu blurted out, regretting immediately after the words left his mouth.

But the words were already spoken, so he had no choice but to respond boldly, "I did visit, but how did you know? Are you from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association?"

"Don't try to find out my identity; it's not beneficial to you or the Song Family behind you."

said the man.

Beside him, Song Tian's eyes flashed with coldness.

Such arrogance.

In the entire Yan Country, there are quite a few people the Song Family can't afford to offend, but not many.

And now, someone casually calls in and dares to belittle the Song Family?

"Alright, alright."

Song Wu nodded, "The fact that I visited the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, does it have any necessary connection with the identity of the culprit?"

"No, it doesn't."

"You!"

Song Wu felt a surge of anger.

The person's tone on the phone had already irritated him.

And now this unnecessary talk, wasting his precious time.

"What, can't even have the patience to listen to me finish?" the man taunted, "If that's the case, you can hang up. I'd like to see if the famous Song Family can find the real culprit."

"My apologies, please go ahead and speak."

Song Wu took a deep breath.

At this point, he couldn't afford to miss any opportunity.

Even among countless fake information, there might be one piece of real intelligence.

Though the chances were slim, Song Wu couldn't gamble, and the Song Family behind him couldn't gamble either.

"That's better."

The man said smugly, "Don't worry, I'm not just talking nonsense. My time is more valuable than yours. I'm telling you that everything I say is true."

"Yes, yes."

Song Wu nodded repeatedly, "Please continue, I am all ears."

"You went to the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association to see Vice Chairman Shen Si, to inquire about the culprit's whereabouts, right?"

Song Tian and Song Wu looked at each other, realizing the person on the other end was indeed someone distinguished.

"Did you get any leads?" the man asked in a superior tone.

"To be honest, we got no leads whatsoever," Song Wu humbly replied, "We initially thought that Chairman Shen appeared at the scene and could have seen the culprit, but when we visited, we found out that Chairman Shen was only passing by and didn't see anyone."

He paused, nervously and expectantly asking, "Were you perhaps at the scene and saw the culprit?"

Song Tian also held his breath, listening intently.

"He lied to you."

Four words from the other end left Song Wu and Song Tian stunned, their minds buzzing.

Indeed, they had considered this possibility before, but felt it was very unlikely.

This mysterious person's words shocked them as much as hearing about the death of their third brother.

After a moment, Song Tian asked coldly, "Why would he lie to us?"

"Yes, why would he lie?" Song Wu also reacted, asking, "Is he the culprit?"

A surge of anger rose from his heart.

Recalling the scene where he conversed with Shen Si yesterday, it seemed more and more hypocritical.

The killer, who caused such harm to his brother and the Song Family, was right in front of him, yet he was kept in the dark and even chatted with the person.

On the other side, Ling Yu's lips curled up.

Uncle Shen, consider this a small payback for sending me away that day.

If you hadn't driven me away back then, I might not have thought so much.

Of course, I, Ling Yu, am not heartless; I won't let you take the blame for long, considering our years of friendship.

"Do you think Shen Si is the culprit?"

Next, he asked.

"No, isn't he?" Song Wu froze, confused.

After all, it was you who said Shen Si lied.

Song Tian quickly understood, "So, the culprit is someone else, and Shen Si chose to hide it because he knows the culprit."

"Ha ha ha."

Ling Yu laughed heartily, "Smart."

"Someone else..."

Song Wu asked eagerly, "Who? Who killed our third brother and the members of Revival Association?"

Both were extremely excited.

As the person on the phone said, at first glance, it seemed he talked about irrelevant stuff, but all of it was insider information.

This person might really know the identity of the culprit!

Yet the phone remained silent.

"If you can reveal the culprit's identity and it is confirmed," Song Wu gritted his teeth, "The Song Family can double the reward, to 2 million points. How about it?"

"2 million points, haha, I'm indeed tempted."

Ling Yu laughed.

"But if you think I'm purposely withholding information to extort you, you're greatly mistaken. I said I can tell you the identity of the real culprit without any reward."

"Then..."

Song Wu was desperate and at a loss for words.

Speak, then! Quit beating around the bush!

Song Tian narrowed his eyes, sincerely saying, "Please help the Song Family, if we find the culprit, your great kindness will never be forgotten."

"Ha ha ha."

Ling Yu laughed, "You are the Patriarch Song, right? Indeed, your thinking is quick. Fine, since you've said so, it would be rude not to tell. Listen carefully."

Song Tian and Song Wu held their breath, not daring to make a sound.

"That person is Chen Fan from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association. Chen as in 'Ear East' and Fan as in 'Ordinary'. Find him, and everything will be revealed. Ha ha ha."

"Beep beep beep..."

After saying these words, the call was disconnected before they could respond.

Chapter 587: The Clown Turns Out to Be Me

"Hung up, hung up?"

Song Wu held the phone, his eyes widened, and looked at Song Tian.

He hadn't had time to ask more details yet.

Also, if it's true, how should he hand over the bounty to the other party?

million points is not a small amount for the Song family, and it's even less so for the average person.

But their Song family wouldn't renege on their word for this bit of immediate benefit.

"Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, Chen Fan?" Beside him, Song Tian mumbled to himself.

"Big brother, do you think what this guy said is true?"

Song Wu quickly asked.

If it's true, that would be great. As long as they catch this guy, all the problems would be easily solved.

But rationality told him that things wouldn't be so simple. There was something odd about this phone call.

"Maybe it's true, maybe it's false, who knows."

Upon hearing this, Song Tian sighed.

"Yeah."

Song Wu nodded.

He also had many questions in his heart.

For instance, if the information is true, why wouldn't the other party take the bounty of 1 million points? Just for some vanity?

Everyone is an adult, not a fool. How much is face worth? Unless, there's some unspeakable secret in this.

For instance, the information might also be fake. This person, like the previous ones, wants to use their Song family as a weapon. If it works, it's great news for them. If not, they have nothing to lose. This possibility seemed the largest to him.

However, this person is somewhat different from the previous ones; he indeed knows some inside information.

The other party is very likely someone from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association, and at a considerable rank.

If that's the case, he might be worried about them getting a handle on him, hence not willing to reveal his true identity. After all, betraying his own people won't sound good. If word gets out, not just the entire association, but the entire Yan Country would detest him.

"Alas, if only we could figure out whether Shen Si is deceiving me."

Song Wu frowned.

Before receiving that call, he thought it was nothing.

But after receiving it, the more he thought about it, the more something felt off. Although there was no substantial evidence, he just felt that he'd been deceived, played like a monkey.

To think that he had been so sincere at the time, and praised Shen Si's character to the people around him on his return.

In the end, the clown turned out to be me?

"Exactly."

Song Tian deeply agreed.

He had originally thought it might be possible that Shen Si was lying, given the timing was too coincidental.

Of course, it might also be a coincidence, passing by the murderer.

But after hearing the person on the phone, the seed of doubt in his heart completely took root and sprouted.

Shen Si and the one called Chen Fan are both from the same Martial Arts Association. If the murderer is Chen, then it's logical for Shen Si to cover up for him. If he thinks boldly, could it be that Shen Si is also involved in the third brother's death?

Then he certainly wouldn't say anything.

So, if there's evidence proving Shen Si is lying, then the truth is about to surface.

"Big brother, what do you think if I make another trip to Jiangnan City?"

Song Wu asked.

He had an impulse to confront Shen Si.

Of course, he wasn't a fool and knew that going to him again would probably yield the same answer.

So, to get the truth from him, some underhanded means might be necessary, the most direct being capturing him and extracting a confession through torture.

But then, this kind of thing is hard to pull off.

Shen Si is quite strong himself. Unless the big brother personally steps in, capturing him quickly would be challenging. The key is if he stays in the Jiangnan City headquarters, they truly have no way to take him down. After all, two Celestial Realm Martial Artists are stationed there, even their family's ancestor would have a hard time.

If they alert them, the Song family would offend another power. More importantly, if it turns out Shen Si wasn't lying, they'd have worked for nothing and might even leave a handle for the other side.

"What do you plan to do?" Song Tian asked curiously.

"I plan to invite him out for a meal, tamper with the food, then use the Soul-Searching Technique to get the answer." Song Wu thought this idea was good.

It only takes asking him, and he wouldn't remember what happened during that time.

Of course, if he really is involved in this matter.

Then their Song family would bring people to demand justice.

"You know the Soul-Searching Technique?"

Song Tian looked at him in surprise.

"I don't, but someone in the family does," Song Wu laughed. "As long as Shen Si falls into our trap, it won't take long to figure everything out."

Song Tian nodded first, then shook his head, saying, "Difficult, difficult. Think about it, if this matter is really related to Shen Si, then your visit yesterday has already alerted him, making him more vigilant. If you go again, no matter what you say, he won't come out with you. Moreover, your behavior itself is unusual. Even if he's not involved, he likely won't go out with you."

"Seems that's really the case."

Song Wu held his head in frustration.

Chapter 588: The Clown Turns Out to Be Me\_2

Is there really no other way?

Song Tian, on the side, suddenly had a flash of inspiration.

It's highly risky and difficult to start with Shen Si, but that doesn't mean it's equally risky and difficult to start with others.

"Second brother, when Shen Si returned to Jiangnan City from the rainforest, was he alone?"

"Was he alone? He probably wasn't alone, right?"

"What do you mean by 'probably'?" Song Tian said discontentedly, "Yes means yes, no means no, don't say probably, maybe, probably."

"No."

Song Wu quickly said, "I remember now, someone saw Shen Si, but he was with several others. However, the witness only recognized Shen Si."

"Isn't this a way?"

Song Tian's lips curled into a smile.

Song Wu's body trembled, and his pupils dilated, "Big brother means?"

"Spend some effort to track down those people and see if we can find a breakthrough from them."

Imagine, if Shen Si saw what happened, then the others with him would have no reason not to see it too.

So isn't it feasible to get the truth from them?

"Brilliant, absolutely brilliant! Big brother, you're amazing."

Song Wu's face immediately broke out into a fawning smile, "That's right, we can't just grab Shen Si for interrogation. It's too risky, but catching one or two martial artists should be no problem. Even if it's suspected, we can deny it, and the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association probably won't bring weapons against us over this matter."

"Hmm."

Song Tian nodded, not as excited as Song Wu.

Because in the end, it was just a lead, not necessarily the truth, and there was some risk involved, so he continued:

"Besides, find someone to investigate that man called Chen Fan? See what kind of person he is, his actions over the past few days, whether he went into that rainforest, and whom he might have offended."

"Whom did he offend?" Song Wu was taken aback for a moment before quickly understanding, "Big brother wants to find out who just called us?"

"Yes."

Song Tian narrowed his eyes, "If what he said is true, and this Chen really is the murderer of our third brother, even if he runs to the ends of the earth, our Song family won't let him go. The bounty will be delivered to the informant. But if this Chen has nothing to do with it, I want to see who he really is."

After he finished, he snorted coldly.

Thinking of himself, a dignified head of the Song family, when had he ever spoken so humbly to others? If ever, it was a rare occurrence.

"Understood."

Song Wu nodded repeatedly, excitement written on his face.

Facing difficulties is not scary; the scary thing is having no direction.

With a direction, no matter how big the difficulty, given their Song family's resources, they would eventually find a solution.

On the other side, at the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association Headquarters, Ling Yu hung up the phone, a smug smile on his face.

He had already told the Song family the identity of the real murderer, and they should know what to do next, right?

"Humph, Chen, if you had cooperated obediently from the beginning, there wouldn't have been all these subsequent issues. When I break through to the Celestial Human Realm, you would have had your benefits too, but why don't you know your place?"

Ling Yu's eyes showed a venomous gleam.

He had not only killed his confidant but also reported this matter to his master, getting himself scolded.

He even boasted that one day he would come to the headquarters to confront him face-to-face.

Face-to-face confrontation?

Ling Yu snorted coldly; would I be afraid of you?

But now that such a good opportunity had arisen, it would be too much of a pity to let it slip away.

"Chen, although I don't know how you managed to kill the Song family members, it was most likely through some despicable means like a sneak attack. Fine, if you want to confront me, let's see whether you can get through this crisis first."

Thinking of this, Ling Yu hummed a little tune, put his mobile phone into his spatial ring, and walked towards the secluded meditation room.

He was very cautious, making considerable plans just to make this call.

As for the 1 million points bounty, it was a lie if he said he wasn't tempted.

But he dared not underestimate the Song family people. Those old foxes probably already guessed he was from the Jiangnan Sub-district Martial Arts Association. If they knew his true identity, he would be in trouble.

So, forget about the 1 million points!

Before long, a few people came towards him, led by none other than the President, Shi Tao.

"Master!"

He quickly adjusted his expression and walked up respectfully.

Several people turned to look at him, each with a complex gaze.

"Uncle Chang, Uncle Shen..."

Ling Yu greeted the others one by one, and soon he sensed something was wrong, puzzled, "Uncle Chang, why are you all looking at me like that? Do I have something on my face?"

"No, no."

Chang Fei and the others quickly shook their heads.

They knew the insider story and were worried about Ling Yu's future.

Those who didn't know were filled with emotions.

They had thought Ling Yu and that other person were mere temporary standouts, but now, it turned out one had always been lying low, still doing so till now. It wouldn't be long before the entire headquarters witnessed his meteoric rise.

On that day, what realm would Ling Yu reach? Could he break through to the Second Realm of True Essence?

"Xiaoyu, you came just in time."

Shi Tao slowly exhaled and said, "I have some things to tell you."

"Yes, Master."

Ling Yu quickly nodded, but his heart was a bit uneasy.

His master seemed strange today. He feared what the master was going to say to him wouldn't be good news.

"Everyone else, get back to work. During my absence from the headquarters, I'll have to trouble you all."  
Shi Tao turned and said to the others.

"Yes, President."

"Rest assured, President, we won't let you down."

"President, please be careful. Make sure you come back safely."

Chang Fei and the others were both reluctant and worried, with some red eyes.

Shi Tao waved his hand, and only then did those people leave, occasionally looking back.

"Master," Ling Yu hurriedly asked, "Are you leaving?"

"Yes."

Shi Tao nodded, "Let's talk in another place."

One in front, one behind, they quickly arrived at the secluded meditation room.

Once the door closed, Ling Yu anxiously asked, "Master, why are you suddenly leaving? I just started learning the Undying Seal Technique and have many questions to ask you."

"The Beast Tide has erupted. Several others and I in the city have agreed to go out and hunt commander-level fierce beasts, so I must leave."

Shi Tao patiently explained, "As for the Undying Seal Technique, I have given you my cultivation insights. If you encounter any questions during cultivation, you can refer to them at any time. Alternatively, you can pause your cultivation and wait for my return."

He looked deeply at Ling Yu.

His feelings were mixed.

Originally, he had taught Ling Yu the Undying Seal Technique to increase his chances in his upcoming fight with Chen Fan.

In retrospect, he realized he had been overly optimistic.

One was at the Fourth Realm of True Essence, and the other at the First Realm; the difference in their True Qi was more than a hundredfold.

Even if Ling Yu mastered the Undying Seal Technique to the Perfection Realm and could transform most of the opponent's True Qi into his own, what good would it do?

In an instant, he might still explode and die.

So he advised him to pause his cultivation of the technique.

"The Beast Tide? It's here?"

Ling Yu was startled, "But what does that have to do with Jiangnan City? Master, I remember the Beast Tide just erupted not long ago; it shouldn't reach Jiangnan City so quickly, right?"

"The Beast Tide,"

Shi Tao stared intently into his eyes, his face solemn, "Concerns every person in our Yan Country; no one can remain indifferent."

Chapter 589: That Day Will Never Come

"Yes, yes."

Ling Yu was a bit frightened, quickly nodding: "Master, you are right. The Beast Tide has something to do with each of us. How could it have nothing to do with Jiangnan City? It was my fault, I spoke wrong earlier, my considerations were too shallow. Please don't be angry, Master."

After speaking, he shrank his neck, cautiously looking at Shi Tao.

Years of interaction told him that the master at this moment was truly angry. The best solution was to apologize sincerely and quickly.

Hearing his words, Shi Tao felt like something was stuck in his chest, even making it hard to breathe.

A strong sense of disappointment appeared in his eyes.

He knew that Ling Yu's words didn't come from genuine remorse; he was just afraid of making him angry and thus admitted his mistake.

"Could it be that I really spoiled him too much?"

Shi Tao asked himself inwardly.

Why is there such a big difference between people?

It's not strength, but character.

During the Beast Tide outbreak, Chen Fan could clearly have left Anshan City immediately and hid at the headquarters, but he didn't. Instead, he remained, trying to protect Anshan City and the lives of its tens of thousands of people.

As his direct disciple, how did Ling Yu think?

As long as the Beast Tide hasn't reached Jiangnan City, there's nothing to worry about. How many people die outside every day has nothing to do with him; he doesn't care at all.

Actually, these details were hard for him to notice in the past.

But now with the appearance of Chen Fan, the comparison made it hard for him to ignore.

"Maybe, I really spoiled him too much."

Shi Tao looked at Ling Yu, with guilt showing in his eyes.

Once upon a time, Ling Yu, saved by him from the wild, was also a simple and kind-hearted boy, considerate of others, with extremely high talent, and his cultivation realms rose quickly.

He felt naturally gratified and increasingly focused on his cultivation, ultimately only focusing on cultivation and neglecting everything else.

Ling Yu's character also changed day by day, reaching the current state. It takes time for significant change, like freezing a river over a long period or wearing down rock with dripping water over years.

Similarly, it won't be easy to correct him overnight. Moreover, with the Beast Tide outbreak and the human race in peril, there isn't time for such ideological restructuring.

"Master?"

One or two minutes passed, Ling Yu, gathering courage, called out.

Sure, he misspoke, but it shouldn't be that severe, right?

Shi Tao took a deep breath, speaking slowly: "Xiaoyu, you must remember, Fierce Beasts are the enemies of the whole human race. Whether ordinary people, martial artists, or awakeners, our stance against Fierce Beasts should be united.

True, the Beast Tide hasn't reached Jiangnan City yet, but you and I both understand that it's just a matter of time. Instead of waiting, we should weaken them now. When they come, it will be much easier to defend the city."

"Master is right." Ling Yu nodded like a pecking chick.

He's not an idiot; does this need to be repeated?

Shi Tao sighed inwardly.

Still, he didn't internalize it.

Not wanting to dwell on the topic further, he continued: "Besides this, I have another very important matter to tell you."

"Very important matter?"

Ling Yu's eyes brightened with some anticipation: "Master, what is it?"

Seeing this, Shi Tao didn't know how to start.

Ling Yu likely thought it was good news, but it wasn't at all.

However, what's destined to come will come. It's better to say it earlier.

He took a deep breath, saying: "Xiaoyu, do you remember Chen Fan?"

Ling Yu froze instantly, his expression changing several times before snorting coldly: "Of course I remember. Didn't he say he wants to compete at the headquarters? Master, has he arrived?"

Though unexpected, he believed he wouldn't lose.

"No."

Shi Tao shook his head.

"No?"

Ling Yu slightly exhaled in relief, "Then why bring him up? Oh, I see, you worry he might come while you're away? Don't worry, Master,"

He straightened, full of confidence: "I have acquired some mastery of the Undying Seal Technique, definitely not being his opponent. You needn't worry; if I win, I'd keep him here and wait for your return for further arrangements."

In his heart, he sneered.

That guy offended the Song Family; he likely wouldn't be coming.

Shi Tao quietly listened to his words, hesitated briefly, then said: "Xiaoyu, I have bad news. Chen Fan's current realm is the Fourth Realm of True Essence."

Ling Yu's smile gradually froze, eventually turning into horror, stammering: "True, True Essence Realm, Fourth, Fourth Realm?"

He stared at Shi Tao, eyes wide like copper bells, seeming to question: "Master, are you kidding me? A martial artist at the Fourth Realm of True Essence? Your highest realm is only the Third Realm."

"Yes, True Essence Realm, Fourth Realm."

Shi Tao said seriously.

The room's atmosphere instantly quieted.

Ling Yu sat there dazedly, his mind buzzing.

The higher the True Essence Realm, the more True Qi in the body, which is common knowledge.

Chapter 590: That Day Will Never Come\_2

But the question is, how could that guy Chen Fan possibly be in the Fourth Realm of True Essence? How could he be in the Fourth Realm of True Essence?

You have to understand, he is only in the First Realm of True Essence. The gap between these realms is unimaginable.

"M-Master, you're not trying to scare me, are you?" The next second, Ling Yu forced a smile.

As the saying goes, "one power defeats ten techniques," the same applies to the total amount of True Qi. No matter how skillfully you use your True Qi and how high your techniques are, if the opponent's punches contain ten times, a hundred times, or a thousand times your True Qi, how can you fight?

Shi Tao gave him a deep look.

To speak frankly, if he could, he also wished he was joking.

But, unfortunately, he wasn't.

"It was Elder Wang who told me."

With a sigh, he said, "Just a few hours ago, a battle broke out in Anshan City. The number of Fierce Beasts that attacked exceeded two hundred thousand. However, Chen Fan managed to kill all these Fierce Beasts on his own and defended Anshan City."

"H-H-How is that possible?"

Hearing this, Ling Yu's mouth dropped open.

Even if those two hundred thousand Fierce Beasts were all Mid to Low-level Fierce Beasts, it's still impossible to kill them all alone, right? How could a mere True Essence Realm Martial Artist have so much True Qi? Using physical strength would be exhausting to death.

"Nothing is impossible," Shi Tao stood up, hands behind his back, slowly walking forward, "Or rather, it's precisely because he has reached the Fourth Realm of True Essence that this became possible."

At first, Ling Yu's mouth trembled, and then his whole body started to shake.

That's right, this is unmanageable, completely unmanageable.

But he didn't understand why that guy's cultivation speed could be so fast?

Could it be?

Realizing something, he hurriedly asked, "Master, did he consume all the True Qi Pills he refined?"

"That's correct."

Shi Tao nodded.

"I knew it, I knew it!"

Ling Yu's face twisted with a hint of ferocity.

He hated it!

He hated that Xiao Hong was a useless fool who messed things up.

If he had brought people back at that time, then now, the one who would break through to the Fourth Realm of True Essence would be him, not that Chen Fan!

"Xiaoyu, what are you thinking?" Shi Tao noticed something was amiss, his voice cold.

"Nothing, nothing at all."

Ling Yu was startled, then licked his lips and said, "Master, I just feel a bit unconvinced. If I had those conditions too, I would definitely do better than him. Maybe I would already be a Celestial Realm Martial Artist."

Hearing this, Shi Tao remained silent.

Theoretically speaking, it was indeed possible.

"No need to be unconvinced."

He consoled, "Just a moment ago, Chen Fan handed over the improved True Qi Pill Formula to the headquarters."

"I-Improved Pill Formula?" Ling Yu was stunned for a bit and involuntarily asked, "What's the effect?"

"Both the probability of successfully refining the Elixir and the probability of producing a Top-grade True Qi Pill have increased significantly. There's also a chance of producing a Heaven-grade True Qi Pill, which is more than ten times more effective than a Top-grade True Qi Pill."

"T-Ten times!"

Ling Yu's mouth opened wide, visibly excited.

"So, Master, has it been refined now?"

"Not so fast."

Shi Tao glanced at him, "However, Elder Tang and the others are already researching it. Even if it can't be refined immediately, the number of Top-grade True Qi Pills will continue to increase."

"Great, thank you, Master!"

Ling Yu was extremely excited.

Isn't it just the Fourth Realm of True Essence?

With enough True Qi Pill supplies, he could easily achieve the same.

No, what's the Fourth Realm of True Essence? He would aim for the Fifth Realm of True Essence! Astonishing Yan Country! Stepping into the Celestial Human Realm, and upon becoming a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, he could suppress even those at the mid-stage of the Celestial Human Realm!

"The one you should be thankful for is not me, but Chen Fan."

Shi Tao sighed, "Including the Top-grade True Qi Pills you've been taking recently, it's all thanks to him."

"The headquarters did not take his things for free, and the Elixirs weren't refined by him. If anyone should be thanked, it should be Elder Tang and the others." Ling Yu said disdainfully.

"This time, he gave it for free." Shi Tao added.

Ling Yu was instantly speechless.

Time passed by the second, and he didn't utter a word.

Shi Tao sighed, "I know you have a stubborn personality and don't yield easily, but a true man adapts to the situation. As long as I'm around, even if Chen Fan comes, he can't do anything to you.

But his growth rate is so fast that even I am astonished. I fear that one day, even I won't be able to defeat him. At that time, even if I want to protect you, I may not have the strength to do so."

"M-Master?"

Hearing these words, Ling Yu was almost scared stiff.

Is this his confident, powerful Master who exudes confidence in his every move?

"Master, you must be joking." He forced a smile, "You are a Celestial Realm Martial Artist; how could you be not his opponent?"

"This is no joke, this is a real possibility."

Shi Tao's eyes fell on him, his expression extremely serious, "So I hope you can take the initiative to contact him and plead for forgiveness. Trust me, with his personality, he won't really do anything to you. Maybe you two could even become friends, which would be the best outcome for both you and the headquarters."

"Impossible!"

Ling Yu, like a cat whose tail was stepped on, was extremely agitated, "Plead for forgiveness? Does he deserve it? I'd rather die, die in the wilderness, be eaten by Fierce Beasts with not even bones left, than plead for forgiveness from him!"

Shi Tao wasn't surprised by his reaction, sighed, and continued, "Xiaoyu, I know your personality and know how difficult this is for you. I say this as a suggestion. If you can do it, that's the best. If not, I will still do everything to protect you."

"Yes, Master, don't worry. That day will never come." Ling Yu smiled.

Internally, he felt fortunate that he had a backup plan.

The strength of the Song Family was greater than that of their association.

And Chen Fan? He is just one person. What does the Fourth Realm of True Essence mean? No matter even if he is a Celestial Realm Martial Artist, facing a noble family with a legacy of hundreds to thousands of years, what awaits him is only death or a fate worse than death.

"Yes, let's hope so."

Shi Tao nodded.

For some reason, he felt that there was something hidden in Ling Yu's smile, but he couldn't pinpoint exactly what it was.

...

Anshan City.

It was already close to dusk, the evening shade hanging low.

Many dark shadows hid in the shadows, the occasional sound of crunching bones could be heard.

The guards on the city walls didn't dare to make any sound but prayed inwardly that these Fierce Beasts, drawn by the scent of blood, would leave quickly after being satiated and not form a second wave of Beast Tide.

The city interior was also unusually quiet, like an empty city. But inside the houses, the aroma of cooking meat wafted, whetting appetites.

Today was the most unforgettable day for the city's people, filled with both morning fears and nighttime feasts. Many had never eaten so much in their lives.

In the Martial Arts Association, Chen Fan silently absorbed the Heaven and Earth Primordial Qi.

There was still no news from Meng Xue.

And even if there was, it was probably inadequate to handle the increasingly complex situation.

Luckily, there was only one day left to unlock the Emperor's Qi Observation Skill, which would give him some ability to foresee the future.

Just then, his phone rang.

Chen Fan opened his eyes, took out his phone, and saw it was from the Awakened Association, specifically the Awakened Association Headquarters.

"Could it be?"

Chen Fan's pupils instantly dilated.

Could there be news about the Observing the Universe Technique?