

Medical 931

Chapter 931: Profound Longing

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"We will soon become the Gods," Yan Xiaobao said, heartbroken. Phoenix couldn't help but smile. "I look forward to the day when I will have my body back again." Phoenix sighed. "I miss soaring in the sky. I miss my wings, feeling my wind. Soaring through the sky, experiencing the thrill of being alive!"

In the depth of his voice was such a heavy longing that Yan Xiaobao could guess Lan Feng was truly emotional. Reaching the Holy-level was indeed the first step to restoring Lan Feng's body. Yet, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but feel sad, because he knew that even though they were close to their goal, they were still so far away. He was no ordinary opponent, and battling him would never be easy.

"Don't worry about me," Lan Feng sensed Yan Xiaobao's sadness. 'I have already waited four thousand years. What is another thousand things? Meeting you was truly a boon! If it weren't for you, who knows if I could have maintained hope of still being alive?

Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but feel warmth spreading through his body at his words. Lan Feng rarely praised him, but when he did, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but feel pleased. "Don't worry," he said to Phoenix, his eyes burning, his thoughts unwavering. "No matter what, we must go through this one day. We will restore you to your own body, and then we will fly across the sky together!" Yan Xiaobao said, feeling heroic, but his words only made Phoenix burst into laughter. "You will fly across the sky with me?" he asked with a laugh. "How would you do that, wingless human? Even if your sword is fast, how could they compare to the divine Blue Phoenix?"

His words took Yan Xiaobao by surprise for a moment, but soon he laughed as well. It had been a long time since he had last seen a smile on Lan Feng's face. This bird was always busy cultivating or pondering, but now he returned to being his carefree self, as he was throughout Yan Xiaobao's childhood. As Yan Xiaobao thought about this, he moved on to the second stop of the day, the two souls resonating with each other and spreading warm happiness to both of them.

After talking to Yue Feng, Yan Xiaobao felt much better and once again collected his thoughts, looking around. He found himself surrounded by civilians at the market. Although some looked at him suspiciously, assuming he was a mixed-blood, no one said anything. Seeing various people coming and going, he felt a sense of belonging in the city he had lived in for a long time.

He sighed deeply and slowly walked through the small town toward the Blacksmith Shop belonging to Cou Ling. He needed to speak with her before leaving.

Cou Ling was someone he never thought he'd build a friendship with, yet after forging the Ice Storm Sword in an unknown tomb, it would be a lie to say he didn't care about her. She was like the sister he never had.

Moving to the Blacksmith Shop, he arrived quickly. Unlike usual, he didn't fly to the yard but entered the shop.

The shop displayed many various weapons and armor. Most were black, all exuding an exceptional aura. They were clearly forged in Yan Xiaobao's new smithing techniques, and these weapons and armor were stronger than any other on the plane, selling like hotcakes.

The entire shop was filled with people from various backgrounds; from mercenaries to lords and ladies, not to mention servants and merchants. Everyone watched the many displayed weapons and armor. Some decided what to purchase, while others only longed for the day they would have enough money to buy these outstanding treasures.

Yan Xiaobao, entering the shop, was immediately noticed by Fang Wei. The young man behind the counter immediately stopped serving the person in front of him and walked toward Yan Xiaobao, bowing deeply in front of him.

"Yan Xiaobao! Ling is out in the Blacksmith Shop, please go see her!" he said excitedly, and since his words were not silent, everyone heard. While some knew who Yan Xiaobao was and glanced, others were surprised someone could receive such treatment.

The person Fang Wei had been serving was someone who didn't know Yan Xiaobao, observing the young man with white hair, clearly seeing he was mixed-blood. He despised someone from such an inferior race, but before he could say anything, he noticed many strange and curious glances from others in the shop, wisely choosing to hold his tongue instead of roaring at the shopkeeper. After all, he came here as a customer and wouldn't gain anything by yelling at him. Fang Wei could refuse to sell to anyone he disliked, and if he insulted his friend, even a mixed-blood, he most likely wouldn't be able to buy what he wanted.

Yan Xiaobao nodded to Fang Wei, rustling the young man's hair as he moved through the back door of the shop into the yard.

Before him were sounds of the Blacksmith Shop and the regular clanging of a hammer. Striking the metal she was forging again and again.

The sound was repetitive, but also calming in a strange way. Yan Xiaobao paused before entering the Blacksmith Shop, wondering if he should wait for Cou Ling to finish what she was doing. Unfortunately, he did not truly have the luxury of time now. He had a whole set of people to talk to today, and she was just the second person. It was very important to talk to her as soon as possible.

Chapter 932: Profound Longing

As Yan Xiaobao entered the blacksmith shop, a smile appeared on his lips. He quickly noticed the diligent woman swinging her hammer. Rhythmic strikes resonated elegantly from the hard metal.

"Sorry to trouble you, Miss," Yan Xiaobao said in a playful voice, causing Cou Ling to look up.

Initially, she was a bit annoyed by being interrupted, but upon noticing it was Yan Xiaobao, her face broke into a smile. She laughed as she placed the metal into a bucket of water.

"Yan!" she exclaimed, wiping her forehead with a cloth laid at the side of the anvil. "What brings you here?" she asked curiously. Though they were friends, Yan Xiaobao and Cou Ling typically only met when one needed something from the other.

Yan Xiaobao's smile grew slightly melancholic as he watched the woman before him and sighed deeply. "Sadly, I will soon leave Muchuan City," he stated directly. "I don't know how long I'll be gone, whether for weeks or years, before I return. Many will have the chance to harm me in my endeavors, and they might follow my friends to do so." He continued speaking, without letting Cou Ling say anything, but her face grew a bit pale and listless.

"I've spoken with the Princess, and she'll help ensure your safety. No one should trouble you, even if I'm gone."

Hearing his words, Cou Ling felt grateful, yet she couldn't help but let out a chuckle—a laugh mixed with sadness.

"Silly child," she said, shaking her head. "Though I'm your friend, I'm also the best spiritual blacksmith in the world. Even the Saints need weapons, so even if they find your friends, they might not come for me," she reassured confidently.

Yan Xiaobao knew she was right, yet he also understood that despite her high esteem, some in the city might not care about such matters. There were people who were irrational and indifferent to others. He couldn't let his friend be in danger, hence he had asked the Princess to watch over Cou Ling.

"Will you be okay on your journey?" Cou Ling asked worriedly, and Yan Xiaobao could only smile at her gently. His dazzling smile was full of excitement.

"The progress of a cultivator is always a hazardous path. I have walked it all my life, and I will continue to do so. The journey I'm about to undertake is likely the most dangerous I've ever embarked on, even unknown graves might be easier than the regions I'm headed to. However, with great risks come great rewards. If I can truly obtain what I seek, the benefits will be immense." Yan Xiaobao did not specify his destination, but he didn't hide the difficulty of his journey either.

"That's why I'm unsure how long I'll be away," he continued, shaking his head. "Though it won't be easy, it's definitely worth it. This time I have companions; I won't be alone. With friends, I think I won't go wrong."

Hearing this, Cou Ling relaxed slightly, but deep down she felt anxious. She valued Yan Xiaobao dearly as a friend. He had given her many benefits: the extraordinary forging skills she displayed were a gift from Yan Xiaobao. Even when they met, he allowed her to create a weapon from the Nine Heavens Blood Devouring Metal, which was highly beneficial to her. He provided her with flying swords and enough wealth for a lifetime. She felt she owed him a great debt, one she hadn't yet started to repay.

"I have something for you," she finally said, suppressing her emotions as she slowly entered the depths of the blacksmith shop.

In the distance was an unremarkable wooden coffin, and when Cou Ling opened it, Yan Xiaobao saw a small black lamp shining. As she arrived, she picked up a bundle of weapons. They all had an aura, not inferior to that of Yan Xiaobao's Ice Cold Storm Sword. However, their auras were entirely different. While the Ice Cold Storm Sword's aura was icy and extremely sharp, making an enemy feel like

thousands of needles were piercing their skin when released, these had a heavy aura filled with threatening energy. Even Yan Xiaobao gasped as he looked at them.

"When I first started using the forging technique you gave me, the energy was so powerful. I can't control it now; the weapons I've made have been too terrifying to sell. I need to feed them blood regularly, or their energy will increase, attracting the crazed."

"I can't sell these weapons, and they've indeed brought me some problems. Buying blood is a rather tricky issue, and every time I have to feed them, I feel disgusted. On the other hand, your friends, always quarreling, if I could make them share blood with these weapons, I believe they'd gain something useful from them."

Yan Xiaobao nodded. He had just created some weapons and armor for his friends, but compared to the aura of these weapons, he truly lacked something.

With interest, Yan Xiaobao approached the weapons and randomly picked one up. The moment the weapon was in his hand, he felt a chill seep into his body, as a bloodthirstiness spread over him. Suddenly, he felt a connection with the sword.

"I think it's time to give them some blood," Cou Ling hesitated beside him, rustling as she searched for some blood in her coffin; however, before she found it, she saw Yan Xiaobao cut his arm, allowing his blood to drip onto the sword. It was something he often did with the Ice Cold Storm Sword, as it was forged from the Nine Heavens Blood Devouring Metal, further improved by absorbing blood. Feeding weapons blood was no difficult task.

As the blood was absorbed, the sword's intent to kill and bloodlust significantly decreased, replaced by the feeling of being part of him. This sword was no better than the Ice Cold Storm Sword, but it was not inferior either. Watching Cou Ling pour blood on the other weapons, Yan Xiaobao felt profoundly grateful.

"These swords are sentient treasures!" Lan Feng said in amazement. "Unlike the weapons you create, these have souls! Although they are only at the most primitive level, and the inherent soul is nothing more than instinct, if they receive good treatment and absorb enough blood, these weapons could potentially become sacred treasures!"

Lan Feng was thrilled, and Yan Xiaobao was also excited. If he inscribed runes on them, they would become even stronger than they are now, bringing sentient treasures to his friends would greatly increase their chances of survival.

"Please take them off my hands. Though they are wonderful treasures and may not be recreatable, I'm not skilled enough," Cou Ling said, making Yan Xiaobao nod. Extending his palm, he drew each sword into his Cosmic Box.

"Since you wish to give them to me, I will accept your gift. Thank you," he said, and as he accepted them, Cou Ling felt a bit better. "You've given me so much, giving some back is the least I can do." She smiled, feeling that she had at least repaid a tiny part of her debt. Though she might never fully repay what she owed, even a little was better than nothing.

"Thank you. I need to get started," Yan Xiaobao said regretfully as he patted the woman's hair. "I will come to see you when I return, though it might be a few years from now," he sighed.

Yan Xiaobao was not foolish. While the creation of life could make him as a god, it required time. Cultivation could not be rushed; therefore, he didn't expect to come back soon. Smiling sadly at his dear friend, Yan Xiaobao found his Flying Sword and went to the yard. With one last look at his good friend, he soared into the sky and headed for the next person on his farewell list.

Leaving Cou Ling's blacksmith shop, Yan Xiaobao felt at peace. He had come to say goodbye and inform her of the measures taken to ensure her safety, but not only had he bid farewell, he had also managed to acquire some incredible weapons.

"Where to next..." he considered before deciding to visit Xiao Ning.

Xiao Ning was the Clan Leader of the Xiao Family. While he was a renowned figure in Muchuan City, his family was one of the leading families in the city. The primary reason for this was their family's direct descendants focusing on defensive combat techniques, which they utilized for both attack and defense.

Chapter 933: Primal Power

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Yan Xiaobao arrived at the Xiao Mansion in the city, landing in front of the entrance. It was easy for him to descend from the sky, but he did not wish to be rude to a man who was once a good friend.

"Who's there?!" someone shouted, as Yan Xiaobao saw two tall men appear guarding the door. They were at least two meters tall, with broad shoulders, legs like logs, and arms like thick branches. Their muscles bulged beneath bronze-tanned skin, and their faces were full of vigilance.

"I'm Xiao Ning's friend," Yan Xiaobao quickly introduced himself, surprised by the stature of the two tall guards. Although he often met Xiao Ning, the latter would typically come to his mansion, dispatching servants if Yan Xiaobao needed him. This was his first visit to the Xiao Family's home.

"Tell Xiao Ning, Yan Xiaobao is here," he continued, nodding. Hearing Yan Xiaobao's name, the two tall guards looked at him in an entirely different way, an expression of reverence and doubt emerged.

One of them quickly gathered himself and bowed deeply to the small man in front of him, then rushed into the mansion to find the Clan Leader.

Xiao Ning was busy with renovations inside the mansion and had ordered not to be disturbed, so he was somewhat annoyed when one of the guards still entered; however, when he heard Yan Xiaobao was standing outside, his face shone with a warm smile.

"Quick! Invite him in! Bring him to my private library!" Xiao Ning shouted before quickly going to change clothes, and then headed to the library.

Yan Xiaobao was led into the mansion, and as soon as he entered, he felt the fluctuation of Qi as family members cultivated and trained in the courtyard. He looked around at the numerous men walking through the yard. It seemed everyone in the Xiao Family was much bigger than Yan Xiaobao. Even their young ones were tall and burly.

Many of them looked at Yan Xiaobao curiously. They were Xiao Ning's family, and it was evident they knew who this white-haired young man was. He filled their hearts with awe and curiosity.

Though he saw muscle-bound men everywhere, he quickly noticed there were not that many people; it was simply that all of them were so large. Realizing this, he couldn't help but chuckle. Even though Yan

Xiaobao was confident in his own strength, he wasn't as physically imposing as these men. "I really hope you don't become so big," Lan Feng's dry voice echoed in his mind.

"I'd be very embarrassed to continue sharing a body with you," he continued, making Yan Xiaobao laugh again.

"Honestly, you've trained your strength. Look at these men; they may appear strong, but even all together, they could never touch the hem of your garment. Compared to you, even the healthiest-looking among them lacks primal power.

Lan Feng argued strongly about why Yan Xiaobao shouldn't try to look like these people, his arguments repeatedly making Yan Xiaobao laugh inwardly. Laughing out loud would easily be seen as an insult to these hardworking men, so he maintained a professional demeanor outside.

Passing through them, they reached the main building and entered. In stark contrast to the outside, there was no one inside. The lighting was dim, and the air seemed suffocated, as if the mansion's interior was rarely used.

Entering the mansion, they finally arrived at a library where Xiao Ning was sitting. He was evidently trained, as his entire body was taut, and his skin glowed from the energy roaming beneath it.

"Yue!" he shouted excitedly upon seeing Yan Xiaobao enter, then immediately hoisted the small man to his chair. It was evident he was filled with pride. Yan Xiaobao's visit was unexpected for him.

Seeing his friend's excitement, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but feel a bit guilty for never visiting before, but he quickly dismissed these feelings.

"Sorry for interrupting your training," he casually began, but Xiao Ning shook his head. "Friends are more important than cultivation, because you came here, I can only imagine something important has happened, or an important event will occur," he said, and Yan Xiaobao nodded. Though Xiao Ning was a cultivator focused on physical strength, he was not foolish. Seeing Yan Xiaobao, how could he not guess something would happen?

"Although I haven't visited you before, this time I have some information I need to tell you."

"I am going to leave Muchuan City. There are things I must attend to that can no longer be delayed," Yan Xiaobao sighed. "Unfortunately, during this journey, I cannot take you or the other three; I need you four to remain in Muchuan City for various reasons. First, I wish you four to continue supporting the Princess. If she loses her support due to my departure, we will be at a disadvantage when I return home."

"How long will you be gone?" Xiao Ning asked, frowning, and Yan Xiaobao smiled wryly and shook his head. "I'm not sure," he admitted honestly. "It could take months to years. I really don't know how long I'll be gone, but when I leave, I know I can leave everything to you all."

Seeing the slightly thoughtful Xiao Ning nod. "What does years mean to us Saints?" After a while, he asked with a smile. "Although you will be gone for a while, what does this mean to brothers like us? Don't worry, I will ensure that Muchuan City remains unchanged when you leave."

Chapter 934: Primal Power (Part 2)

Nodding, Yan Xiaobao felt immense gratitude; his heart warmed, unable to contain his appreciation for his friend.

In Xu Xiao's home, Yan Xiaobao felt welcomed, and the two spent almost all their remaining time talking recently. As the sun set in the sky, Yan Xiaobao was shocked to realize how much time he had spent talking.

He quickly visited Ye Ling, Zhu Jun, and old Qiang, telling them what he had mentioned to Xiao Ning. The trio promised to do their utmost to ensure Muchuan City remained safe during his absence. They even vowed to take care of his friends.

Returning home late, Yan Xiaobao found the mansion aglow as he stepped inside, all his friends gathered in the dining room. The Rong twins were present, Ma Kong was there, and Gao Yan was eating at the banquet table, but when he saw a stunned Yan Xiaobao at the doorway, he laughed.

Seeing Yan Xiaobao's bewildered expression, everyone couldn't help but laugh, Rong Xing stepped forward, placing a hand on Yan Xiaobao's shoulder.

"Though we can't accompany you this time, we can't let you leave without a proper farewell! You've been so busy today that you haven't had time to say goodbye to us before tomorrow, but how can we

let you leave like that? Who knows how long we'll be apart this time? If it weren't for our own tasks, we'd join you!"

Rong Xing's eyes reddened slightly, tears welled up. Yan Xiaobao had given them so much. He was willing to sacrifice everything for his friends and always treated them well. Knowing they wouldn't see him for a long time saddened them all, but to hide their sorrow, wine and beer were poured into everyone's glasses; he drank with his friends on his last night in Muchuan City.

The first to fall asleep was Cai Jie, followed closely by Lao. Sha Yun lasted an hour longer, falling asleep on Wang Julong's leg. Rong Xing and Rong Ming went down simultaneously, and Gao Yan was quick to follow. Finally, Ma Kong couldn't hold on any longer, and even Yan Xiaobao, who was expected to last the longest, gave in.

Only Deng Wu, Qiao, and Wang Julong were left, and soon Wang Julong fell asleep on Snake Woman, leaving just Deng Wu and Qiao.

Both men were drunk, their faces beaming with smiles. They kept drinking with each other, neither willing to give up. They lasted until sunrise, then fell one after the other, Jo lasting a minute longer than Deng Wu.

The group of friends slept for a long time, none of them waking before noon. When they awoke, many found themselves with pounding headaches, but none regretted the night they spent together.

"I've rented a carriage." Yan Xiaobao said, waking up and washing while changing clothes. Everyone gathered together, even though some of them weren't planning to join him in the adventure, they were still curious about what would happen.

"The carriage will take us to the Sunset Mountains, from there we'll proceed to the Central Palace. Officially, we'll head to the Sunset Mountains to capture magical beasts, and no one should know our actual destination. I don't want rumors spreading. Nobody knows where the General is; if he hears we're going to the Central Palace in Muchuan City, I can only imagine the chaos. Meeting God is like death for us, so we have no choice but to keep it secret."

Everyone nodded; nobody wanted to misstep, so none would mention where they were headed, not even to their closest friends or family.

Soon, the rented carriage arrived, and Yan Xiaobao, Cai Jie, Wang Julong, Sha Yun, Deng Wu, Qiao, and Lao prepared to leave. Xu Biao, originally planned to accompany them, decided to stay behind. When they returned with the formation of life, he had a chance to become God at that time. Watching Xu Biao and hesitant friends, Yan Xiaobao gave them a smile. "We'll definitely be back." He promised, and the others nodded. Rong Xing's eyes welled up again, but this time she wasn't looking at Yan Xiaobao, but unexpectedly at Deng Wu. Deng Wu felt her gaze, looked at Rong Xing, and took a big step, pulling her into a warm embrace.

"You heard what Yue said." He murmured as his head rested in Rong Xing's hair. "We'll definitely be back. Wait for me." He continued, and a surprised Rong Xing slowly nodded her crimson head. Yan Xiaobao sat in the carriage, looking around at his family. Though Cai Jie and Deng Wu weren't part of the Hui Clan, these two were brothers to him. Although he wasn't formally married to Sha Yun and Wang Julong, these two women were undeniably his wives.

The carriage they sat in was made of wood and metal; it had two sofas, one on each side, with large cushions up front. The entire interior was made of soft fabric, making it comfortable to sit. Their journey would never be uncomfortable. The carriage he hired was one of the most expensive and also provided the best comfort.

The walls were thick, the driver sat outside unable to hear conversations inside. As they began their journey, all his friends gathered around him.

"The task we're undertaking this time will be very difficult, and it may very well be more dangerous than anything we've faced before." Yan Xiaobao spoke seriously, but even though he was serious, he couldn't hide the excitement within, as a smile crept onto his face.

"We'll reach the Sunset Mountains within a month, from there we'll proceed to the Central Palace without being seen by anyone. There, we'll have to rely on Deng Wu, Wang Julong, and Sha Yun. The three of you were there before leaving the sacred dungeon, even I don't know the exact location." Yan Xiaobao said.

Hearing their names, the three friends nodded, looking earnestly at each other. They had indeed been there before, so returning wasn't a big problem for them.

"We don't know what we'll encounter in the Central Palace. So that we're all on the same page, tell us the last things you noticed there." Yan Xiaobao requested as he looked at his three friends.

"The Central Palace, though it sounds like a bustling place, when we left the sacred dungeon, nothing was in sight. We never directly entered the palace itself, but from where we surfaced around it, no creatures were around." Deng Wu began, trembling slightly. Recalling the scene made him feel odd and uneasy.

"Though no one was present, the palace is indeed the largest I've ever seen. It sits atop a massive mountain and oversees four mountain ranges, separating four kingdoms from each other." Sha Yun added, having left the Divine Dragon Dungeon years ago, deeply pondering these events. Much had happened since then, yet she still vividly remembered it all.

"We quickly fled from the palace." Wang Julong shook his head, looking apologetically at Yan Xiaobao.

"We don't know if the Dragon Army or anyone else guards the area. Escorting the law seemed like the most dangerous choice. So, we dashed out. Though we left hastily, every glance inside the palace couldn't fail to evoke immense terror. It exuded a dark and commanding aura, the palace itself rose atop the enormous mountain peak, overseeing the entire world. It was very terrifying and daunting, so we fled immediately."

The other two nodded. "If it weren't for the allure of the life formation, I would have quit this entire trial long ago." Deng Wu admitted with a bashful smile. "Entering the Central Palace isn't easy. Even the Divine Dragon Dungeon's route doesn't lead to the actual premise of entering the Central Palace; they all circumscribe it. You wouldn't know because you were forced through one of the vermilion bird dungeon entrances."

"It looks like it might be more daunting than I expected." Yan Xiaobao smiled faintly, but even understanding his friends' words, Yan Xiaobao was not lightly frightened. If he was already scared, how could he lead them through this terrifying and dark Central Palace?

"Turns out the Central Palace is the home of four Divine Beasts." Lan Feng's voice resonated in Yan Xiaobao's heart. "When I was young, it was a vibrant place full of laughter and happiness. I know the entire layout of the palace, and I've learned a general way to achieve the life formation."

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Chapter 935: Journey to the Sunset Mountains

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Hearing this, Yan Xiaobao was shocked. Lan Feng had never mentioned anything about life formation, so hearing it from the Phoenix; he was stunned, but also thrilled. If Lan Feng knew anything, then things would become simpler.

However, don't expect too much. Lan Feng sighed. "My father never told me about the formation of life, nor did any other experts. Yet, one day, while I was exploring the Great Central Palace, I found a door I had never seen before. After trying to enter, my father immediately rushed over and scolded me. He told me not to enter, and if I did, I had to be willing to bear the consequences of my actions.

"My father told me that if I chose to enter this door, I might very well die. He never mentioned that if he did, I could gain godhood, then I would have entered long ago. There was a twinge of regret and disappointment in Lan Feng's voice, but hearing his words, Yan Xiaobao was not disappointed; on the contrary, he was excited.

"When he took over the Central Palace, he should have become the master of the formation." Lan Feng continued to speak, and at that moment Yan Xiaobao sighed. Lan Feng was right. As the master of the formation, he should be able to carry it with him, but since he has left this world, we still inherit the essence of heaven and earth, and that should be left behind.

"If he didn't move it at all, then we're fortunate, but if he did move it, then my help is worthless." Lan Feng continued to sigh. As they considered this, both he and Yan Xiaobao fell silent. In fact, they didn't know what to do; the formation could be anywhere from the Central Palace to the moon.

'General Frozen seems convinced that the formation of life is within the Central Palace. If necessary, let's believe him and pass through the entire palace.' Yan Xiaobao finally spoke to Lan Feng, and the Phoenix nodded. Zhong Hui seemed entirely certain that the formation was inside the Central Palace, and Yan Xiaobao felt he had reasons for making his assumption.

"Do you think he became God because of the formation?" Deng Wu asked curiously, and Yan Xiaobao nodded. "I'm quite sure he became God because of this formation. From what I know, training to become a God is nearly impossible, but clearly, he has already become a crowned Monarch. It likely took

him over four thousand years to rise from the Emperor's rank to this level when he deceived Lan Feng and others."

Hearing Yan Xiaobao's words, the others were all thrilled. Everyone was pondering the benefits they could gain from the formation of life. Becoming a cultivator who attains godhood was simply too tempting.

The journey across the Sunset Mountains was long, with pauses only when they needed to stretch their legs or when the night beasts needed to rest. Usually, they would stop in small villages or cities to stay at hotels and rest overnight. Although there were some nights, there was no other choice but to camp outside.

During the day, the Magic Qilin pulling the carriage was full of energy, and everyone would sit inside to cultivate. Regarding the task they were carrying out, even the slightest increase in their power left no other time to spend.

Soon a month passed, and they arrived at the Sunset Mountains.

"Milod, do you want me to wait for you to return, or go back to Muchuan City without you?" the carriage driver politely asked, but Yan Xiaobao shook his head and handed over a purse filled with Gold Coins. "We don't know how long we'll be gone." he said honestly as he paid the driver. "So asking you to stay is undoubtedly a waste of your time." After accepting the money, the driver nodded. Subsequently, he led the carriage and Kirins away.

"We'll make our own way back, or rent another carriage." Yan Xiaobao said to his friends, and they nodded. When they looked back, none of them seemed to care much. It was just something removed from them, not something they could think of. They focused solely on the journey ahead, Yan Xiaobao smiling happily. Apart from the task they were about to complete, he found it hard to focus on anything else.

"Well, I know you're all eager, but it's already late afternoon, so let's stay in this city for the night. Tomorrow we can start taking action when the last bit of fatigue has disappeared." he said, and when he spoke, everyone nodded. Since they had been cultivating during the journey, it left them quite exhausted.

"First, let's find an inn." he said, and the seven cultivators, along with his friends and family, entered the small city together.

Cities like this were scattered along the border of the Sunset Mountains, and their main inhabitants were adventurers, mercenaries, and merchants looking to profit. Many of them were here searching for the vast materials that could be found within the Sunset Mountains. These people were accustomed to hard living, perpetually battling life and death with creatures and other experts.

As they entered the city, Yan Xiaobao and his team caused quite a stir, and everyone looked up. They were all extraordinary, not just in appearance but in aura as well. Even the two younger ones had an aura, and many adventurers and mercenaries were struggling to form sentences.

When citizens noticed the sudden commotion, more and more people saw what was happening, and seeing this, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but feel helpless. Entering the city might not have been the best idea, but the decision had been made, and he straightforwardly led his friends and family towards the best inn in town.

Chapter 936: Journey to the Sunset Mountains

This hotel is a three-story building, and inside, Yan Xiaobao booked seven rooms, one for each member. This made the hotel owner extremely delighted as it meant more money to him since usually a group would share rooms.

"Rest," Yan Xiaobao calmly said. "We'll rest for the next four hours, then let's go see what this city has to offer."

His words immediately excited everyone, and they nodded, heading to their rooms either to rest or cultivate.

The rest was much needed for the weary experts. Although they could use the time for cultivation, each one was on the brink of falling asleep.

Some fell asleep in the bathtub; others just collapsed on the bed. Although they were sleeping on proper beds every night, and the journey was comfortable, the trip was mentally taxing. Constantly thinking about their next step, about entering the Central Palace, left them both anxious and excited, yet also exhausted, as all they could do was think about what might happen without actually doing

anything. The only one still awake was Huli, lying above Yan Xiaobao, keeping a vigilant eye on everything around her, as if she was worried about something.

During the travel on the carriage, there was nothing anyone could do besides cultivate, but now they finally felt the next phase of their journey, these thoughts overwhelmed them with fatigue. Now, suddenly having an opportunity to rest, they used it to get some much-needed sleep.

Though exhausted, four hours later, everyone except Wang Julong woke up and met in the restaurant on the inn grounds.

"Let's eat together," Yan Xiaobao suggested, and the others quickly agreed. While eating, they could wait for Wang Julong to wake up and dine together.

All the dishes on the table were made from magical beasts captured within the Sunset Mountains. Some were culinary delights, very expensive, while others were more common and cheaper. Yan Xiaobao ordered a variety so that they could share and eat what they liked.

The restaurant was crowded, and Yan Xiaobao found a table at the back, away from the roadside. Although no one around knew their true destination, it was not a good idea to cause trouble.

As they chatted in the restaurant for a few hours, more and more people arrived while others made their departure. Yan Xiaobao watched as a large group of experts entered the restaurant, loudly and looking rough.

"This town has no pretty women! What do they expect us to do? We should move to a bigger city," one of them said as they entered, causing the rest of the restaurant to quiet down. Other than this group, the only conversations heard were whispers among others. Even Yan Xiaobao and his team watched them silently, yet others looked at them fearfully, while Yan Xiaobao's group only had curiosity in their eyes.

"Oh! Look at that beauty!" someone suddenly said, pointing at the stairs, making Yan Xiaobao and his friends look up. When they saw the beauty, they couldn't help but shake their heads. "Should we help?" Sha Yun whispered worriedly as she saw the greed in the eyes of these rouge cultivators. The beauty descending the stairs was Wang Julong, dressed in green, and seeing her appearance, Sha Yun couldn't

help but feel angry. She had already considered Wang Julong family, as a sister, clearly above these men looking at her.

Yan Xiaobao smiled and shook his head, surprising the others.

"She is an Emperor," Yan Xiaobao said seriously. "Those experts, the strongest one is King-level, while the others are Dukes. In a small town like this, King Ranking experts are strong, but Ju Long isn't easy to handle for anyone, even those at her level."

Yan Xiaobao continued, "She is a Poison Master and an expert of the Emperor. While beating the whole group might be impossible for others, do you truly believe a Poison Master can't defeat a group of experts weaker than herself?"

After a moment of quiet, the others realized he was right. "We've never actually seen Ju Long fight," he continued watching the events unfold before him. "Although she's done everything possible to avoid fighting, don't underestimate her. If she wasn't worthy of being our companion, why would I allow her to travel with us? You know I can't stand to see her hurt, so it's obvious I believe in her ability to take her along."

Upon hearing this, the others nodded. Their view towards Wang Julong changed drastically; their eyes now filled with anticipation rather than worry, expecting how Wang Julong would handle these rowdy experts.

Wang Julong's eyes scanned the downstairs, pausing at the crowd before she spotted Yan Xiaobao and the others. She took decisive steps towards them without giving the other group a glance.

"Looks like she's with someone. Get back here!" one expert shouted, but Wang Julong completely ignored him, heading to a seat waiting for her at Yan Xiaobao's table.

"Capture her! The leader fancies her, so bring her to him. Anyone who blocks us will be eliminated," the group of ten experts charged across the room, oblivious to what they were destroying along the way.

Tables were knocked over, plates and glass shards crashed to the floor, causing food to splatter everywhere.

As they reached Wang Julong, all raised their hands to grab her, but she easily evaded them, her hands flickered, spiritual energy left her body forming a small cloud around her. The moment their hands tried to penetrate the cloud, their arms began to corrode, and all released chilling screams.

Their arms turned black, consumed by the mist; as the advancing experts collapsed to the ground, their screams echoed throughout the restaurant. Wang Julong coldly gazed at them, sighed, then turned her head towards the trembling King-level expert. "These three need to sever their infected limbs, or else they'll die," she said, as if indifferent, walking to Yan Xiaobao's table, sitting down, and enjoying the delicacies on her plate, as if specifically prepared for her.

The King Ranking expert rushed to his friends' side to sever their infected limbs, yet despite being filled with fear, he was not foolish enough to continue attacking Wang Julong. Seeing his subordinates injured by her alone informed him she was far stronger.

Many experts in the restaurant looked at Wang Julong as though she was a celestial descended from the sky. Her actions left everyone in the restaurant with eyes full of surprise gazing at their group.

Yan Xiaobao sighed and shook his head. So much for staying low-key and not attracting attention. However, if Wang Julong hadn't stopped them, he would have had to intervene, which might have been less pleasant. He might not have let them off with just missing limbs.

"You're actually such a terrifying mother!" Qiao admired her voice, her eyes were filled with wonder and excitement.

"It's nothing," Wang Julong's face blushed as she tried to focus on the turtle meat before her, attempting to slice it off her leg.

Others joined in, praising Wang Julong. Even Deng Wu was excited, "Let me spar with you!" he excitedly said, but as he spoke, a roasted carrot landed on his face. "If you want a duel, why not fight me? I'd gladly teach you how to battle." Yan Xiaobao smiled.

"No, Brother Yan! Please don't! I swear I'm just joking!" Hearing the plea in his voice, everyone around the table started laughing. Even the embarrassed Wang Julong couldn't hold back her laughter.

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Chapter 937: Soul Shadow

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The group completely ignored the young King Ranking Expert as he dragged his injured friend out of the restaurant. They didn't regard him as a danger to them at all, so they didn't kill him, and they didn't even pay him any attention.

"After we're done eating, let's explore this city and see what's interesting here," Yan Xiaobao said with a smile, having eaten some delicious food.

"Let big brother show you around," Deng Wu said proudly, puffing out his chest in an attempt to look important, which made everyone laugh again.

Over the past few years, Deng Wu had been to Sunset Mountains multiple times. Each time, he joined various adventure groups to capture the intense soul shadows of different beasts.

Because he often visited Sunset Mountain, Deng Wu also visited the city. However, it was a very brief stay, and he wasn't really familiar with the place.

"Well, in that case, we'll trust you," Sha Yun said with a smile. "But if you lead us to an establishment with many pretty maids, don't blame us for telling Xing when we get home."

Hearing her words, Deng Wu's body stiffened, and a somewhat worried smile appeared. "Yun, my dearest Yun, you are my brother's good wife, how can you tell on your husband's good brother?"

Everyone burst out laughing, their laughter echoing throughout the quiet restaurant. Many people had not yet come to terms with the fact that a young man and his companions were so hopelessly beaten by a young woman. Looking at the whole group in front of them, they all seemed equally frightening.

With the meal finished, everyone stood up. Yan Xiaobao left money on the table, and then they left the restaurant, ready to explore the city they were currently in.

Walking down the street, most people stepped aside. Some looked at them fearfully, while others watched them with curiosity. Everyone had heard about this group and the beautiful woman who had managed to destroy a large number of people with just one move.

Reaching the city center, they found a square filled with merchants and mercenaries selling and buying goods. Surprisingly, Yan Xiaobao began to look at many stalls, buying a few items there, mainly rare herbal medicine and beast cores.

Yan Xiaobao wasn't the only one buying items. Qiao purchased snacks from every stall she could find. Her eyes sparkled, and a smile spread across her face. "Keep eating like this, and you'll get round soon," Lao joked affectionately as he messed with Qiao's hair, but all he got in return was Qiao sticking out her tongue and continuing to eat her snacks.

Listening to these two kids, Yan Xiaobao chuckled but didn't interfere. Seeing the siblings carefree made him truly happy. As they wandered through the market, they bought many items and food; even Lao was inspired by Qiao and bought some snacks for himself, but his biggest focus was on the merchants selling pills. Lao was always on the lookout for pills that could help him gain elemental affinity. He also searched for herbal medicine to give to Yan Xiaobao so that his father could make more medicine pills for him.

Everyone was interested in the market, but most of the items sold there were things people found in the mountains. Most of Yan Xiaobao's purchases could also be found in Muchuan City; only they were cheaper here than in the Capital.

They were respected everywhere by merchants and mercenaries. The rumors about the poisonous woman had already spread throughout the city, and no one wanted to insult them. After all, this was a small city without many strong Cultivators.

After finishing their shopping, Yan Xiaobao and the others strolled through the small town, seeing various stalls and buying things here and there. However, after leaving the market, there wasn't much else to see.

"Let's go home and rest," Yan Xiaobao said with a smile, and the others nodded.

Relaxing in this small city, once rumors about Wang Julong spread, no one dared to cause trouble. Because of this, they didn't encounter any disturbances and managed to completely relax in the small city in a short period.

Early in the morning, the group gathered in front of the inn. Their eyes were shining with excitement, and their faces couldn't hide their smiles. They were finally setting off, and as they looked at the world around them, they nodded at each other. No one said anything, but they walked together out of the town directly towards the Sunset Mountains. This was a vast mountain range and forest, full of many strong beasts, bordering the city they lived in.

On the outskirts of the forest, at the foot of the mountains, they encountered many groups, but none were stupid enough to mess with Yan Xiaobao and his friends. Everyone in Yan Xiaobao's group had a very dominant aura, and their group was by no means small, which deterred all the other groups from even daring to look at them.

They also encountered many low-level Magic Beasts, but like humans, these beasts did their utmost to avoid the expert group. Even relatively powerful beasts avoided them because of their aura. The first day of travel passed quickly, and they didn't need to use any beats.

By this time, the group had ventured deep into the Sunset Mountains, and the only sound they could hear was the sound of beasts. These strong beasts were more vigilant than the weaker ones, and they would usually avoid such a large group whenever possible. The long-lived beasts were by no means stupid. Even if their territory was encroached upon, they would try their best to avoid them. These beasts were the kings and queens of the forest, but they were, after all, just creatures. Yan Xiaobao's group included quite a few experts, so if they wanted to fight, they would undoubtedly be at a disadvantage. Thus, the beasts stayed away.

Chapter 938: Soul Shadow

Yan Xiaobao also ensured that as they kept moving forward, they were very careful not to disturb the surrounding environment, staying far from the local King's and Queen's abode. He had no intention of making them feel threatened, so a mutual understanding formed between Yan Xiaobao and the beasts. As long as neither side opposed the other, they maintained a neutral relationship and pretended not to see each other.

"How far do we need to travel through this mountain range before reaching the Central Palace?" Yan Xiaobao curiously asked on the fifth day of their journey. He could feel they were going further and further away, but he had never been here before. Although leading this team, the true navigator was Deng Wu, the most familiar with the Sunset Mountains, having previously visited the Central Palace.

"We're about halfway up the mountain. When we reach the summit, we will need to head west, and then we should reach the Central Palace. Unfortunately, I think it will take approximately a week of walking before we get there. Furthermore, I'm concerned that the closer we get to the Central Palace, the more dangerous it will become. Remember, the Dragon Army has a route to the Central Palace. They might occasionally leave their Underworld to gather materials, train, or perform tasks. If we encounter the Dragon Army, we can't let them know we're going to the Central Palace. Though the palace might be abandoned now, it is the home of An Hee, and the Dragon Army is incredibly loyal to that cavern," Deng Wu continued, while Yan Xiaobao nodded in agreement.

Before harvesting Ancestor World Power from the laws of various worlds, the Dragon Army always obeyed An Hee's commands. It was clear they were willing to do anything for their master, which indeed could cause them some trouble.

Quieting down, the group continued traversing the dense forest when suddenly a beam of light shone ahead of them. A sense of danger descended upon the group, prompting them to gather behind Yan Xiaobao.

Yan Xiaobao stood at the forefront with Cai Jie and Deng Wu by his side. Behind him were Jo, Lao, Wang Ju Long, and Sha Yun, who lined up like diamonds in the distant Lao.

Powers surged within them. A shockwave filled with pure energy, energy so pure that Yan Xiaobao had never encountered anything like it before.

Holding his Ice Storm Sword in one hand and the Blood Sword taken from Cou Ling in the other, Yan Xiaobao formed a cross with the two swords in front of himself. With a shout, he propelled his martial power upwards, confronting the descending energy.

His martial power alone wasn't enough to block the incoming energy wave entirely, but it was sufficient to slow its advance and cause it to lose some strength. Consequently, Yan Xiaobao managed to block the remaining force with his two swords.

"Maintain formation, advance slowly!" Yan Xiaobao took a step forward. Another shockwave approached him, and once again, it was blocked in the same manner.

From his Ice Storm Sword, a blizzard suddenly emerged from nowhere. Snow fell in the tranquil forest, while the sword in his other hand, emitting a hum, oozed a killing intent rising from within.

With one step forward, the Blizzard Prison obscured their attacker's view and shielded them from further attacks. Although more shockwaves began descending, none landed on Yan Xiaobao or his companions. The Snowstorm Prison once again proved its worth as the hidden attack within the Ice Storm Sword.

As they moved forward, the sound of their steps was masked by the heavy atmosphere brought by the Blizzard Prison, and they soon reached their attacker. Despite every attack being blocked by Yan Xiaobao, the closer they got, the more frequent the attacks became. As they got closer, he used martial power more frequently but still managed to ensure no one got hurt.

Beside him, Deng Wu and Cai Jie were doing the same, blocking the numerous ripples hindering their advance.

"Cease attacking!" Deng Wu suddenly shouted, his voice filled with surprise yet tinged with excitement. His words puzzled Yan Xiaobao, but upon listening, he withdrew the Blizzard Prison and now confronted their attackers face-to-face.

Once he stopped attacking, his expression turned awkward, soon breaking into a smile as he understood why Deng Wu had asked him to stop attacking.

"Cease attacking! We are the ones who saved you!" Deng Wu shouted, and his words shocked the figures in front of them, momentarily halting their aggression.

Despite their surprise, the people were not overly hostile. They stared at Yan Xiaobao and his party, and although initially hostile, they didn't continue their assault.

As someone approached from behind, the commotion could be heard, and soon a little girl emerged. This little girl was someone they remembered from the dungeon. She was extraordinarily beautiful; her skin like porcelain, her eyes completely black. She was the law follower of the clouds, continually tormented by the Dragon Army. It was evident she was one of the higher-ranked laws in the group, and her words clearly dictated the obedience of the others.

Upon seeing Yan Xiaobao and Deng Wu, the little girl's eyes widened considerably. Although they hadn't seen Yan Xiaobao before, they had all met Deng Wu. Due to his distinctive appearance, he was hard to forget. After all, not many men have blue hair.

"It's true!" she spoke with a tremulous voice and a smile on her lovely, delicate face. "It's them, our saviors!"

Upon hearing her words, the others who also recognized Deng Wu nodded. Their expressions no longer conveyed hostility but brimmed with excitement.

Though many laws were enthusiastic, the little girl seemed troubled.

"Though we appreciate your aid, we live alone in the Sunset Mountains. We are so far apart that humans never venture into our lands. Why are you all here? If you need help, we will assist you if we can," the little girl spoke sincerely, yet Yan Xiaobao and his friends knew that although her words were heartfelt, she clearly wasn't aware of their purpose here. If not seeking their help, why would someone delve so deeply into the Sunset Mountains?

"We are not here to seek your help..." Yan Xiaobao stated clearly. "We accidentally stumbled upon your territory. Our goal is to reach the Central Palace, where we have some tasks to complete. We happened to intrude unintentionally. We apologize and hope that the laws can now live peacefully," Yan Xiaobao sighed and bowed slightly to the little girl.

Seeing his gesture, the girl was taken aback, but she quickly gathered herself and nodded. "In that case, we will no longer disturb you," she said and turned, made some gestures with her hands, causing all the laws before Yan Xiaobao and the others to slowly vanish from sight, retreating back to the protection of the Sunset Mountains.

Observing the disappearance of the laws, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but recall his many days in the Holy Dungeon. Gazing at the laws, Yan Xiaobao sensed a strange energy surrounding them. He couldn't help but remember their lies again and again, waiting to be killed time and again.

Seeing them again today, it was clear they had changed. Previously, the laws Yan Xiaobao encountered were gentle and kind; however, the ones he saw today were wary and hostile towards humans. Thinking

about this, Yan Xiaobao couldn't deny missing them. After experiencing what they did, finding their sanctuary in the vast Sunset Mountains was natural.

"We have another two to three days of travel before reaching the Central Palace," Deng Wu said as he surveyed his surroundings and continued forward. Though they complied with the laws, they had no time to linger with them. The excitement in reaching the Central Palace was palpable, and they couldn't afford any delays.

The following days passed in a blur. Eventually, they reached the peak of the mountain. Upon reaching the summit, they continued moving eastward, edging ever closer to the Central Palace. On the third day, they finally caught sight of the two towers belonging to the palace.

Unfortunately, they also noticed that this part of the Sunset Mountains was teeming with experts guarding the area.

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Chapter 939: The Silent Palace

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At first, they only encountered some lesser-ranked experts from Duke University, who were easily dealt with. However, as they got closer, they encountered more high-level experts.

"All these experts come from the Dragon Army. I think the other four corners of the Central Palace will also be protected by the other four armies. Our best option is to go where the Dragon Team and Flame Team share a border."

"I see they have two choices. Either they have more experts on the border to ensure that the other side doesn't enter their territory, or they spread their guards thinly because it's the border, they won't guard it. I'd say they'd concentrate their manpower in the central area."

The others nodded, and they retreated a bit before they started heading north. Their speed was swift, and although they encountered some people, they were quickly dealt with before moving on. In their trail, they left only death.

Yan Xiaobao was in a good mood because as they approached the border of two different factions, they saw fewer guards. When he guessed that no one bothered to protect this area and that they could sneak around easily, he seemed correct.

Shortly after reaching the border, they found very few guards around and wasted no time setting off. They moved under the shade of trees, racing towards the Central Palace in front of them.

As they advanced, they saw more and more guards hidden among the small tree boundary they were hiding in. Fortunately, no one paid attention to these trees, as they were looking elsewhere, allowing them to reach the Central Palace without trouble.

In front of them rose the largest building Yan Xiaobao had ever seen. Everything was designed to accommodate its massive size. The windows and doors looked as if they were made for giants rather than humans.

"It's because of the size of our ancestors," Lan Feng explained. "Although Father and others occasionally take human form, they must be able to maintain their original shape anywhere within the palace, even though their original forms have diminished. Thus, it was made to suit the size of large Divine Beasts."

Hui Yue nodded, understanding the explanation. They looked around as if their small group had found themselves within a small globe, separating them from the outside world. Everything was silent, with no guards around. Snow fell on the ground, helping to muffle their movements; this world remained untouched.

No one spoke as everyone maintained formation, getting closer to the massive gate leading to the Central Palace. When they reached the front, Yan Xiaobao took a breath of cool air.

In front of him was a thirty-meter-high gate. It was such a massive gate that Yan Xiaobao had to keep bending back to see the top.

"We shouldn't open and enter through the main gate," Lan Feng suggested. "Although it's our easiest option, the gate is too large. Undoubtedly, it will make a lot of noise. Opening the gate is no different from announcing that we're here."

"Let's go to the side. The servants have a door. All the servants in the mansion are humans, so the door will be much better for us. It's at most two meters high, so we can enter there without making too much noise."

Upon hearing Lan Feng's words, Yan Xiaobao felt relieved. He nodded, signaling his friends to follow him. Together, they left the main gate and went to the east side of the palace, where Lan Feng led them to a small door.

If not for Lan Feng's help, the door would have been impossible to find. This door had evidently been forgotten, as Yan Xiaobao had to remove most of the snow blocking the door.

The door was located between two massive towers and could be easily overlooked if one didn't know where to search. However, thanks to Lan Feng, Yan Xiaobao found it easily. When he cleared away all the snow, the small two-meter door was revealed.

Feeling his heart pounding, Yan Xiaobao gently tried to open the door, but it was tightly shut. No matter how much he pulled, it did not budge an inch.

Grinding his teeth, Yan Xiaobao summoned Wu Wei. With a sword in hand, he managed to cut the door in half. This allowed everyone to enter the silent palace.

They entered the kitchen. Looking around this massive kitchen, one could imagine how busy it must have been when the Divine Beasts lived here, but now it was very quiet. Some items, like plates, wine glasses, and cutlery, remained on tables, while others were scattered on the floor. Over the past thousand years, all the food had long since disappeared completely, leaving behind only a layer of dust everywhere.

Upon entering the room, they found a door leading to a large dining hall inside, with tables and benches. At the top of the hall was a raised platform, where another table with four seats was placed, each seat engraved with mythical beasts. There was a vermilion bird, a Sky Blue Dragon, a black tortoise, and a White Tiger carved on them.

It was evident that these seats belonged to the Divine Beasts, who once sat there and ate every day. Now, sadly, they found them empty. Since the last time these chairs were used, a long time had passed, and dust had long since erased any traces of their use.

Passing through the hall, they entered the core area of the palace. At first, they reached the front hall and looked inside, seeing a giant door blocked from the inside by a large bundle of wood. If they tried to enter through this place, they would really be in trouble. The door itself was at least a meter and a half thick.

Chapter 940: The Silent Palace (Part 2)

Far from the gigantic front door, they saw a grand staircase leading up to many different levels of the mansion. Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but be somewhat astonished at the sheer size of the entire estate. It would take quite some time to traverse this place.

"Let's start from the top and move downward," Yan Xiaobao whispered, yet even as he tried to keep his voice low, it still echoed throughout the vast hall.

The others did not oppose Yan Xiaobao's suggestion, and together they slowly climbed the enormous staircase.

"Do not split up. We do not know what we will encounter here, so please stay vigilant. I highly doubt this will be a simple walk in the park to find the life formation," Yan Xiaobao, though stunned by the great palace, remained highly alert. His time in the unknown tombs had indeed kept him ever cautious of his surroundings, especially now with his family beside him.

But no matter how alert he was or how much attention he paid to his surroundings, nothing happened. The entire palace was empty; no sound could be heard, and no one inside saw their group.

Together they reached the highest tower and slowly moved through the palace, exploring what they encountered. So far, they hadn't found anything, not even the slightest sign that An He had appeared recently. As they moved through the palace, they entered every single room, every corridor, and every tower.

Many guest rooms were luxuriously decorated. In some, gold covered the walls, while others were entirely made of heavy wood. Some rooms had soft silk fabrics that insects had destroyed over the years. Although once lavish, now they were nothing more than rags.

As they crossed the palace, Yan Xiaobao decided to start from the tower top because he wanted to see through the entire Central Palace. Though he was quite certain, if there were anything truly significant within the palace, it would be in the cellar beneath them.

Though they traversed the Central Palace, it took them more than three days to go through the entire above-ground palace. They did not waste time, although it sounds lengthy, spending three days per room was actually quite fast.

"There's nothing in this palace. Do you think An He has already dismantled the formation of life?" Deng Wu asked frustratedly when they all stood in the front hall. Having just gone through every room in the palace, they had finally returned to where they started, but Yan Xiaobao merely shook his head slightly at Deng Wu's question.

"Lan Feng told me about a part of the palace he was never allowed to enter. This room is located underground, and I can't help but think that's where we'll find the formation."

The group of friends felt frustrated and near giving up for having found nothing, but when they heard Yan Xiaobao's words, their eyes filled with excitement once more.

"Do you think it's in that place?" Cai Jie asked curiously. Among all present, undoubtedly, he was the most eager to become God. He had been a God before but got injured and lost his power, and he simply couldn't wait to be God again.

"I really do think it's there, so follow me. I'll lead us to the next step of our investigation," Yan Xiaobao said excitedly, confidently walking towards the stairs on one side of the hall. This staircase led to rooms underground.

"If he indeed found it here, what makes you think it's still here?" Cai Jie asked, frowning curiously, but Yan Xiaobao just laughed.

"If you have to go through countless dangers, arrays, and traps to get the formation, why move it from such a secure place? I believe every time they want to access the formation, they have to go through certain dangers. Instead of wasting time protecting barriers, why not use the one already created by Divine Beasts? We need to remember, these Divine Beasts, although no longer around, when they discovered this formation, they were stronger than An He. At the time, he didn't have the ability to

create a better hiding place than he does now. Also, if I'm not mistaken, he only used the formation of life to help himself and his four Generals reach God status. Therefore, moving it would be troublesome."

Everything Yan Xiaobao said made sense, and those who were initially very anxious about entering a death trap felt more relaxed.

"I don't know what we'll encounter on this journey." Yan Xiaobao warned them, holding a sword in each hand. He held a cold storm sword in his left hand and a blood-drinking blade in his right, ready to face any challenge.

"We need to stay alert, and whatever we encounter, we need to take care of each other. Don't do anything dangerous, and if necessary, don't hesitate. We'll complete this together!"

Yan Xiaobao's words provided reassurance, and upon hearing them, everyone felt much better. "Don't forget, when he was just an Emperor, he most likely accessed this formation. We have more people than him, so we should be able to succeed faster than he did!" Cai Jie said. His voice brought even more determination and excitement to those standing in front of a door that seemed deceptively simple.

This door was the one Lan Feng had told Yan Xiaobao about, but if someone looked at it, they wouldn't see anything special. It was made of black wood, with some iron bolts through it. The handle was made of ordinary iron, not even engraved with the slightest inscription. Looking at this seemingly simple door, everyone held their breath.

"Alright, we're not waiting outside to gain anything!" Yan Xiaobao finally said. His heart raced, only to find a wall of energy after the door.

This energy wall was entirely black, with silver whirlwinds running through it. It was clearly thick and blocked the way. When they saw it, the energy shocked them.

Yan Xiaobao extended his arm to pull his strength through the energy curtain, and when his arm didn't stop, his face showed surprise, but he continued to move forward to the other side. As he proceeded, it felt as though he had entered an oven.

"There's something on the other side, it's really hot, so be prepared," Yan Xiaobao warned, stepping firmly through the doorway, becoming fully engulfed by the black energy curtain.

The energy wall was very thin, and as he passed through, he entered another place. When he looked around, his face showed surprise. In front of him was a world of fire. Everything was filled with red hues. Even the sky above was red, but as he looked up, Yan Xiaobao found there were no stars in the dim sky. The only thing he could see was two not-so-bright suns.

The ground before him was barren, cracked, filled with craters, and he could see lava flowing in many nearby places. On the right, he saw a forest; on the left, a wasteland filled with geysers, craters, and lava. Everywhere was boiling water and erupting lava.

Looking at the wasteland, Yan Xiaobao couldn't help but shiver, and looking at the forest, he felt no better. The forest was dense, visibility only a few meters inside; however, when he looked, he discovered every tree was dark red. The trunks were dark red, while the leaves varied from orange to deep red. All the trees were different, yet every tree emitted a menacing aura. This fiery world made Yan Xiaobao sense that this place was more profound than it seemed.

As Yan Xiaobao looked around at the environment, his friends appeared behind him. Now that everyone was here, they looked around at the four distinct areas, trying to decide where they should go.

Suddenly, before Yan Xiaobao had time to decide, a creature appeared in the forest. It looked like a Bull but walked on its hind legs. This bull-like creature had six eyes, two large vortex-shaped horns, and a set of wings on its back. The Bull didn't have hooves for front legs but instead had arms and hands, and its right hand held a large spear.

The Bull was white, while its wings were golden. The spear in its hand was also golden, as were its eyes. The creature calmly observed Yan Xiaobao and the group behind him. It was clearly moving towards them, and they could clearly see the Bull was incredibly strong. Although he lacked any aura, the absence of an aura made them more fearful. Nevertheless, it was evident the creature held no hostility towards them.

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