

Menu 1331

Chapter 1331: Night Talk, Part 2

Who would have known, there's absolutely nothing.

Seeing Dou Bao's disappointed expression, Cui Long couldn't help but blink.

Cui Long found it hard to imagine how someone like Dou Bao, a seasoned wanderer littered with venomous flair, could be so naive.

'Could it be an act?'

Cui Long contemplated.

But she didn't stop talking.

"The martial world isn't easy to navigate."

"Which renowned expert hasn't left countless bones in their wake?"

"Just take my father... He earned the name 'Great Dragon Head', but the name stands upon the result of thousands dying."

Cui Long instinctively gave an example, but as the words spilled out, she realized something was off.

Nonetheless, she continued.

Leaving things unsaid would result in threats."

Cui Long was well aware of this, she had heard of a hefty and greedy storyteller in her former city's inn who always left tales incomplete, leading to a barrage of mail threats from patrons. With a cartload of threats accumulated, he turned the threats into profit, bought a house, land, married, and had children.

Thinking back, it was slightly enviable.

But Cui Long did not want to be labeled as ‘shameless’ or ‘short-witted.’

She knew the former was unfavorable.

As for the latter...

Emmm, even Sister Red Sleeve knew—

That was worse.

"Did ‘Great Dragon Head’ ever consider challenging those nine great masters?"

Dou Bao suddenly recalled the classic scenario of ‘challenge’ in martial novels and immediately posed the question to Cui Long.

"How could he not?"

"Ten years ago, my father challenged the ‘Knife Monarch’. Ultimately, he was utterly defeated, gravely wounded, narrowly escaped death—and precisely because of this challenge, he earned the title ‘Great Dragon Head.’

"After all, surviving the blade of ‘Knife Monarch’, not just anyone can achieve that."

As Cui Long spoke, there was a hint of pride in her voice.

But quickly, she shook her head sadly.

Before challenging the 'Knife Monarch', her father would visit her regularly, always bringing some objects she liked and telling her amusing tales from the faction or the martial world.

But after failing the challenge against the 'Knife Monarch', her father changed.

He never visited her again.

And spent his days either in seclusion or urging her to refine medicines.

Thinking about this, sadness deepened on Cui Long's face.

"What level has 'Great Dragon Head' reached in strength?"

"Condensing 'Qi-Blood', or refining the 'organs'?"

Dou Bao's question drew even Jason's attention, breaking his contemplation.

For Jason, despite having fought many battles in the current world.

He still felt unclear about his position in this world.

"Father had completed something greater than refining the 'organs' ten years ago, he reshaped the 'Bone Marrow', unlocked his body's treasure, and entered the 'Aperture' stage. Without such advancements, he couldn't have had the confidence to challenge the 'Knife Monarch'."

"Body's treasure? 'Apertures'?"

Dou Bao suddenly furrowed her brows.

She seemed to have heard of similar terms.

She recalled it was once mentioned by her dad.

Only, she couldn't remember clearly.

At the time, her dad was washing her mom's feet and said that her foot's 'Apertures' were all refined, making the sensation of washing them different, smoother, softer—praising his wife endlessly.

Listening to it made her stomach churn.

She didn't catch the rest.

But did her dad really understand 'Apertures'?

Dou Bao instinctively shook her head.

She believed her dad excelled at foot washing, herbal baths, carpentry, cooking, but martial arts 'Apertures'?

No way.

She must have misheard, her dad was likely giving a foot massage instead.

What Dou Bao was thinking, Cui Long was unaware of.

She merely assumed Dou Bao's simple lack of understanding and quickly explained.

"The body itself is a treasure, but because of various external factors, this treasure becomes bewildered. Only by completing the condensing of 'Qi-Blood', refining the 'Organs', and reshaping the 'Bone Marrow' can it be unlocked."

"And 'Apertures' are the key to unlocking."

"It's rumored that each 'Aperture' exists in an incredible manner, requiring special means to find them, but what exactly it is, I don't know."

Cui Long spoke, with a yearning gleam in her eyes.

It's not ambition.

Just pure longing for the unknown.

Dou Bao then looked towards Jason.

She wasn't intending to ask Jason about 'Apertures', but to give him a confident gaze, encouraging and cheering him on.

She thought that her Master could reach such a level.

Although not now, he definitely would in the future.

As for worrying that Jason might become disheartened, afraid of obstacles?

That's not possible.

The Master she knew wouldn't be scared by difficulties.

He would only move toward his goal step by step.

“‘Acupoint,’ huh?”

Jason muttered the term.

This was the first time he encountered this term since coming to this world.

In those ‘heritage items,’ with Gousheng, he had never seen or heard of it.

‘Indeed, seeking out Cui Long-nv for information was the right choice.’

Thinking this, Jason cupped his hands toward Cui Long-nv.

"Thank you, Miss Cui."

"You're welcome, Master Mu."

"If there's nothing else, I'll head back to my room to rest."

Cui Long-nv was quite perceptive and didn't stay to watch Jason and Dou Bao. Instead, she got up and returned to her room.

Dou Bao was very satisfied with this.

"Sister Cui, rest early. We have to set out early tomorrow morning."

Our destination is Fragrance City. Although it's also in 'Bianzhou,' it takes at least a week to travel by land from Zhoufu to Fragrance City, and that's on the premise of hurrying with fast horses. If we dawdle a bit, it will take even longer.

For Cui Long-nv, who was rushing for 'funeral rites' and to inherit the 'Si Hai Bang,' she couldn't possibly wait that long.

Moreover, the longer it takes, the more flaws there will be.

Even though Xu Dashan had designed it as meticulously as possible.

Cui Long-nv lay in bed thinking about these things and couldn't fall asleep for a long time.

At that time, from the courtyard, she could still hear the voices of Jason and Dou Bao chatting.

"Master, the moonlight tonight is beautiful."

"Hmm."

"And the night breeze is gentle."

"Hmm."

"Master, do you want to have some more midnight snack?"

"Yes!"

"I quietly stewed some pig trotters, just a few, only enough for the two of us. If Sister Cui were here, there wouldn't be enough to share."

Upon hearing this, Cui Long-nv felt aggrieved.

Is she someone who covets a few pig trotters?

Besides, even if she was there, would they share with her?

She didn't get any of the old ginseng chicken soup before.

Before long, the fragrance of the pig trotters wafted in, and Cui Long-nv suddenly felt hungry.

She gulped, finding it even harder to sleep.

But would she go out to ask for a pig trotter?

Cui Long-nv dared not.

Yet she couldn't sleep while hungry.

For a moment, Cui Long-nv was plunged into a kind of unending torment.

Especially when the sound of Jason and Dou Bao chewing on the pig trotters kept reaching her ears. Cui Long-nv couldn't help but cover her head with the quilt.

Then she drifted off to sleep in a muddled state.

Until the next day's journey, when Dou Bao woke her up.

"Sister Cui, get up quickly to wash up; we have to hit the road."

"By the way, I saw you were sleeping soundly just now, so I didn't call you to have breakfast."

Cui Long-nv: ...

She was confident that Dou Bao did it on purpose.

So cute, yet so tormenting in actions.

Moreover, up till now, she still didn't know how she offended her.

With a sigh at her misfortune, Cui Long-nv washed up and bought a few sesame seed cakes to take on the road when leaving the city.

In the days that followed, Cui Long-nv developed a good habit of preparing food in advance.

Sesame seed cakes, buns, soy sauce meats, braised snacks, and so on.

As long as she could find them, she filled her bag with them.

Experiencing hunger in the quiet of the night once was enough.

The wheels of the carriage rolled rumbling forward.

The three of them reached a pavilion ten miles outside Fragrance City without incident along the way.

Someone was already waiting there.

It was Xu Dashan.

As he saw the approaching carriage and Jason, Dou Bao on it, a smile inadvertently appeared on Xu Dashan's face, but when he saw Cui Long-nv getting off the carriage, the old man's face showed a pause.

"Miss, have you gained weight?"

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"I didn't."

"Don't talk nonsense."

"It's an illusion."

Cui Long quickly denied it three times in a row.

It's impossible to get fat, it's just that I've been a bit swollen from the traveling recently.

As long as I rest well for two days and don't eat midnight snacks, I'll slim down again.

Xu Dashan maintained the perspective of a truly wise elder on this matter.

"A bit of weight is good, it means good fortune."

Xu Dashan said with a hearty laugh, then cupped his hands towards Jason and Dou Bao.

"Master Mu, Miss Dou Bao, you've had a hard journey."

After saying this, he took a step forward, stood before Jason, and with utmost formality, bowed deeply, saying: "Master Mu's great kindness, Xu Dashan, and Si Hai Bang will never forget."

At the same time, more than ten people walked out from beside the Ten-Mile Pavilion, all saluting Jason in unison.

"Master Mu's great kindness, Si Hai Bang will never forget."

Each voice was loud and full of energy.

Cui Long, seeing these subordinates of the 'Si Hai Bang', couldn't help but heave a sigh of relief.

At last, it wasn't the worst-case scenario.

She was really worried about encountering a situation where 'everywhere you look, enemies are all around'.

'Luckily, luckily!'

Cui Long's expression fell into the eyes of Xu Dashan, who then immediately smiled.

"Miss, don't worry."

"Things aren't as bad as we initially feared."

Xu Dashan said this.

Jason's face remained expressionless, but his heart was slightly moved.

Could it be...

Seeing Xu Dashan's unconcealed joy, Jason had some suspicions in his heart, and then he spoke directly.

"Mr. Xu, the escort mission completed, Dou Bao and I will return to 'Mountain City' now."

After saying that, Jason turned around, ready to leave with Dou Bao.

"Wait! Master Mu, please wait!"

"I've already arranged a banquet to welcome and honor Master Mu."

"And..."

"There is someone who wishes to thank Master Mu personally."

Xu Dashan lowered his voice.

Then, in an even lower voice, he said,

"Rest assured, it's a good thing!"

These words made Jason understand that his guess was likely correct.

Immediately, he did not refuse.

After all, he really wanted to meet the 'Grand Dragon Leader' Cui Longwang.

Indeed!

It's the 'Grand Dragon Leader' Cui Longwang!

The supposedly deceased 'Grand Dragon Leader' Cui Longwang was not dead.

Or to be precise, it was a staged false death.

As to why?

Think about those people from the 'Si Hai Bang' Hall of Law Enforcement.

The answer was already quite obvious, wasn't it?

Though 'Si Hai Bang' was expanding its influence at a pace beyond ordinary imagination, internal issues gradually emerged, and there were even likely spies from other organizations and powers within 'Si Hai Bang'.

In order to ensure better development for 'Si Hai Bang', the 'Grand Dragon Leader' Cui Longwang would certainly not sit idly by.

But wanting to completely resolve these people, especially those hidden in the shadows, was not an easy task.

So, the 'Grand Dragon Leader' Cui Longwang chose to fake his death.

Because Cui Longwang understood very well that only when he 'died' would those hidden in the shadows reveal themselves.

In fact, that was exactly the case.

As soon as the news of Cui Longwang's death spread, all those lurking in the shadows within 'Si Hai Bang' showed themselves.

Similarly, some people with ulterior motives also revealed their true colors.

"What a brilliant plan."

Jason murmured softly.

"Cui Longwang isn't dead?"

Dou Bao blinked, surprised upon hearing the news Jason shared, but then quickly nodded with understanding.

Without needing Jason to explain further, Dou Bao understood why Cui Longwang did this.

During the time of fleeing famine, many people relied on force to gather others, but as more people joined, the initially easy collaboration for food became difficult, filled with dissatisfaction and negative emotions, because some saw themselves working while others enjoyed the benefits, and such sentiments easily spread, soon affecting a large group.

In the end, none of those initial leaders survived.

They were either killed by their first partners.

Or by those who joined later.

Dou Bao witnessed this more than once.

She even almost got killed once.

It was a family of three she had been helping, who were ill at the time and would have died if she hadn't treated them. But once they recovered, after she firmly rejected the son's marriage proposal from that family, they planned to sell her to others for food. So she recalled what her mother used to say, 'There are many good people in this world, but also many bad ones, and... human nature is inherently evil.'

After burying that family of three, Dou Bao continued on her journey.

During this journey, her mind grew rapidly.

Those 'evils', like a dark abyss, forced her to grow.

Just when Dou Bao was completely lost in darkness, a beam of light shone through.

It was her family master.

Unconsciously, Dou Bao looked at Jason, smiling fondly.

Only in darkness can one truly understand the preciousness of light.

'Believe in the light!'

Her father always said that.

At first, she didn't understand.

Now, she finally understood.

Neigh!

The horses neighed, as a luxurious carriage was led out by the 'Si Hai Bang' members. Cui Long struggled a bit to climb into the carriage, bent over and sat inside, and then instinctively wanted to touch her bundle.

Inside that bundle were peanuts, sunflower seeds, sesame candy, peach crisps, and other snacks, as well as chicken feet, duck necks, pig trotters, elbows, and roast chicken and other braised meats.

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Those were all things she bought along the way.

At the moment, that bundle was obviously on the carriage Jason and Dou Bao were riding.

Having lost it, Cui Longnu felt an emptiness inside.

"Forget it; I need to lose weight."

"It's lost its value."

"I don't need it anymore."

Cui Longnu told herself this way.

Then, just as the carriage started, Cui Longnu suddenly spoke up.

"Uncle Xu, please help me get my bundle."

"Alright, young miss."

Xu Dashan didn't think much of it and went straight to get the bundle for Cui Longnu.

"Miss, what's in this bundle of yours?"

"Why is it so heavy?"

Xu Dashan asked.

"It's... a secret."

Cui Longnu concealed.

Then, sitting cross-legged inside the carriage, holding her bundle, she stroked the snacks, marinated dishes, and meats inside, a feeling of security washed over her.

"How can I lose weight without eating my fill!"

"After this meal, I'll start losing weight!"

Cui Longnu clenched her fist and cheered herself up.

Then, in a good mood, she took out a spicy duck neck and put it in her mouth.

"Master, try this."

"I just fried this fatty intestine this morning."

Dou Bao handed a greaseproof paper bag to Jason.

Jason took the paper bag, looked at the golden fried intestine inside, and couldn't help but smile.

So how does one 'enjoy a trip'?

Answer: Have a cook with you.

If that still doesn't make you happy, it just proves your cook's skills are lacking.

Crunch!

The crispy outer layer, tender inside, especially the part where the fat gathers inside the intestines, Jason truly loved it. Combined with Dou Bao's special mixture of cumin chili pepper, it was exceptionally tasty.

Cui Longnu was gnawing on the duck neck inside the carriage.

Jason sat at the front of the carriage eating fried intestines.

The refreshing morning breeze passed through the caravan, and the lush roadside swayed with the wind, with the aroma of duck neck and intestines drifting far away with it.

The members of the 'Si Hai Bang' around the carriage were trying to maintain seriousness.

But their expressions were somewhat odd.

They had never seen guards so relaxed before.

Even after completing their task, they should maintain some mutual respect, right?

They hadn't even had breakfast and were waiting there.

These helpers turned their heads to watch Jason leaning against the carriage, munching on fried intestines, secretly swallowing hard.

So fragrant.

But why, apart from fried intestines, was there also a hint of spicy duck neck?

Who's eating spicy duck neck?

The members scrutinized their surroundings.

Their expressions became increasingly solemn.

Really hungry.

If they didn't act serious, they couldn't hold it in.

And this scene in the eyes of those lurking in the shadows, made them nod secretly.

Truly deserving of the elite 'Dark Dragon Guard' of the 'Si Hai Bang'.

The caravan traveled straight forward along the pipe.

Soon, 'Fragrance City' came into view for Jason.

The city gates and walls weren't as grand or imposing as 'Fucheng', appearing more like 'Mountain City', but its prosperity exceeded 'Mountain City' tenfold at least.

In fact, Jason thought 'Fragrance City' in front of him seemed even more bustling than 'Fucheng'.

At least, there were more people.

"The water system of 'Bianzhou Prefecture' extends in all directions, spreading from 'Bianzhou Prefecture' to various towns, forming the characteristic of 'Bianzhou'. 'Fragrance City' was originally one of the insignificant towns, but after the current Emperor lifted the 'sea ban', as a port for going out to sea, 'Fragrance City' quickly became prosperous. 'The Big Boss' saw this and chose to place the headquarters of 'Si Hai Bang' here."

Xu Dashan rode over to Jason's carriage, talking while moving forward.

"However, back then, 'Fragrance City' was a mess. Everyone was eager to find gold here, and even a small pier had gathered over twenty different factions."

"Every day, those trying to make a living at the docks would fight."

"On the busiest days, more than a dozen people died."

"Luckily, later on, 'The Big Boss' showed up, took the docks with his brothers, and established real order, allowing everyone to live and work in peace. It's truly a great merit! Thinking back to when I fought shoulder to shoulder with 'The Big Boss', it feels just like yesterday."

Xu Dashan reminisced about the glorious days, completely lost in thought.

Jason was noncommittal about Xu Dashan's statements.

In Jason's eyes, Cui Long, the King, was the victor.

A winner naturally takes it all.

As for Xu Dashan's claim of making everyone live in peace and prosperity, isn't that truly a monumental achievement?

This is the victor's glorification, pure and simple.

Of course, it is also very much necessary.

But, just listen.

There's no need to actually believe it.

Most simply, passing through the city gate, the guards were truly respectful towards them.

The people around, upon seeing the 'Si Hai Bang' members, had eyes full of awe.

Everyone quickly stepped aside upon seeing the carriage.

There was not a single exception.

Apparently, 'Great Dragon Head' Cui Long, 'Si Hai Bang' had long become like the local emperor of 'Fragrance City', rather than some so-called 'boundless merit, savior of the people'.

The carriage moved along the main street inside 'Fragrance City'.

Just as it was reaching the center of the street, it turned left into another street. .

This street was different from the other bustling streets in 'Fragrance City'.

There were no pedestrians whatsoever.

Only members of the 'Si Hai Bang' were present.

From the entrance of the street, there were stationed members and frequent patrols.

It was a scene akin to a city within a city.

When the carriage stopped, a large, pitch-black gate came into view, flanked by three huge pillars that needed two people to encircle, also black, with two rows of twelve guards in front, standing expressionless.

Each one had a thick aura, at least reaching the level of 'Bone Tempering' martial artists.

In front of the gate were three steps.

Also, dismount stones and horse posts.

The hexagonal lintels were arranged in a line, with a plaque above, gold-edged on a black background.

'Si Hai Bang'!

The gold lettering exuded both majesty and nobility.

"Fire is red, water is black, the Great Dragon Head believes his name flourishes by water, so he chose black as the main tone."

Xu Dashan explained.

Jason nodded, following Xu Dashan into the Si Hai Bang.

Leading the way was Cui Long's daughter.

Upon hearing from Xu Dashan that Cui Long was in the backyard, Cui Long's daughter quickly moved to the front.

The heir of the 'Si Hai Bang' was evidently eager to see her father.

Even though over the years, her father had grown quite cold to her.

But blood is thicker than water.

Cui Long's daughter would not resent her father.

Especially considering the heart-wrenching feeling she had when she heard the news of her father's death a few days ago, Cui Long's daughter was even more impatient.

The headquarters of the 'Si Hai Bang' was naturally very familiar to Cui Long's daughter.

Turn left, loop right.

Soon, upon entering a backyard with a pond, Cui Long's daughter halted.

She saw a figure standing on a white jade stone bridge, back facing her, tossing fish food into the lake endlessly, and couldn't help but shout—

"Father."

The voice was clear, and the person on the bridge immediately turned around.

From the back, this person's shoulders didn't seem broad, giving a sense of frailty; the front was even more so, presenting the look of an ordinary person, somewhat disappointing.

But when people saw this person's eyes, their bodies would instinctively tense.

Those bright eyes were filled with endless dominance.

People with slightly weaker willpower would kneel involuntarily, choosing to submit upon seeing them.

Just like the surrounding members of the 'Si Hai Bang', each was immensely respectful.

But Cui Long's daughter was evidently not in this category.

She raised her hand and caught her father's hand.

"Your daughter has suffered, let father take a good look."

"Huh?"

"Why do I feel like you've gained quite a bit of weight, daughter?"

Cui Long looked at his daughter, unable to suppress his puzzled expression.

This didn't quite match the image in his mind of a gaunt, haggard daughter he expected to see.

Unconsciously, Cui Long, with a smile, looked towards the unexpected element in his plan.

At this moment, Jason also looked at Cui Long.

In an instant, the gaze of the two intersected, collided in mid-air.

Chapter 1334: Immortal Wandering Scripture

Jason and Cui Long Wang locked eyes.

Jason was calm.

Cui Long Wang smiled.

There wasn't any earth-shattering aura clash.

What was there, was just—

The wind, blowing gently.

The clothes of the surrounding people fluttered.

What was there, was just—

The fish attracted by the ‘bait’ under the bridge suddenly scattered.

The lake water stirred by the fish made the sound of flowing water.

"Mu Bai, Master Mu?"

Cui Long Wang asked.

"Cui Long Wang, Big Dragon Head?"

Jason responded.

Then, the two walked toward each other, Cui Long Wang stepped off the bridge, Mu Bai walked toward the bridge.

They got closer till only three steps apart, then stopped simultaneously.

Cui Long Wang’s smile broadened.

Jason’s calm demeanor remained unchanged.

"Rare, rare."

"To unexpectedly meet such a promising young hero like Master Mu."

"Come, let's eat."

Cui Long Wang said, turning and making a gesture of invitation, Jason proceeded forward.

The two walked side by side towards the banquet hall in the backyard.

Leaving Cui Long N somewhat bewildered.

"Did father just admire Master Mu?"

Cui Long N looked towards Xu Dashan.

At this time, Xu Dashan's brows were furrowed.

As a seasoned wanderer, Xu Dashan sensed something different.

But he couldn't put his finger on it.

It was quite puzzling.

"Perhaps..."

"The fish are dead!"

"Why have all these koi died?!"

Just as Xu Dashan was about to endorse what Cui Long N said, some guards from 'Si Hai Bang' suddenly noticed something amiss.

Xu Dashan and Cui Long N hurried to the lakeside.

Seeing the originally vibrant koi flipping over with their bellies up.

"This?!"

"Can it be like this?!"

Xu Dashan's eyes widened.

"Uncle Xu, do you know what's going on?"

Cui Long N asked curiously.

"Ten years ago, Big Dragon Head challenged 'Knife Monarch' outside 'Fragrance City' at Ten Mile Beach, neither had made a move yet, just during a stare-down, several seagulls flew across the sky, but they plummeted straight down before approaching." .

"Later, our people brought back the bodies of these seagulls for close examination and found that, despite appearing intact externally, their guts were crushed."

"Afterwards, I once asked Big Dragon Head personally."

"Big Dragon Head said: these seagulls had their insides shattered by the auras of himself and 'Knife Monarch', hence they fell."

Xu Dashan recounted.

Instantly, Cui Long N and the surrounding 'Si Hai Bang' followers gasped.

Ten years ago, when Cui Long Wang and 'Knife Monarch' faced off, their aura shattered the seagulls' guts.

And just now, when Cui Long Wang faced Mu Bai, the fish in the lake flipped belly up.

Doesn't that mean Mu Bai...

Possesses the same strength as 'Big Dragon Head'?!

The moment this thought entered their minds, everyone refused to believe it.

'Ripper' Mu Bai, was highly reputed in 'Mountain City', yet his fame diminished outside 'Mountain City', most didn't know, only the well-informed knew.

Especially for the 'Si Hai Bang' members.

Cui Long Wang was akin to a Deity.

Even a source of belief itself.

Though defeated by 'Knife Monarch', the respect was still intact.

The respect grew even more so.

Because 'Knife Monarch' was acknowledged as one of the top nine fighters globally.

In fact, in the last ten years, 'Big Dragon Head' Cui Long Wang was the only one to have faced 'Knife Monarch' and survived.

As for the others?

All were cut down by 'Knife Monarch'.

Therefore, 'Si Hai Bang' followers were immensely proud of their leader for surviving.

And now, a young man suddenly stood neck and neck with their leader.

Even if it was just a thought, they couldn't accept it.

They even considered it absurd.

"The Gang Leader must have shown mercy."

"That's right."

"That must be the case."

'Si Hai Bang' followers thought.

Xu Dashan and Cui Long N thought the same.

Only Dou Bao was different.

Dou Bao snorted at the 'Si Hai Bang' followers' thoughts.

What was this about being evenly matched with 'Big Dragon Head' Cui Long Wang?

If her Master would strike, 'Big Dragon Head' Cui Long Wang would certainly be no match.

This wasn't just subjective emotions.

But seen from her memory of her father and mother's confrontation, that was the only confrontation she remembered, normally her father followed her mother's lead all the time, but they argued once over the sweetness versus saltiness of soy milk.

Her father insisted soy milk should be salty.

Her mother thought soy milk should be sweet.

Then the confrontation began.

Though the beginning was the end.

She could tell, the seemingly equal confrontation, her father's aura had already fallen short.

And since then, their soy milk was only sweet.

Just now, it was the same when her Master and 'Big Dragon Head' Cui Long Wang confronted.

Dou Bao could see, 'Big Dragon Head' Cui Long Wang had fallen short.

Moreover...

Something about him seemed off.

Like mapo tofu missing minced meat, off.

However, these were trivial.

Dou Bao believed her Master would handle everything well.

And herself?

"Sister Cui, don't waste the dead fish, let's salvage them and make grilled fish, braised fish, spicy fish, and fish soup."

Dou Bao suggested.

"But these are ornamental fish."

Cui Long N was rather tempted, but still hesitated.

"Ornamental fish taste better, see how each is so plump, on the grill, brushed with oil, cooked over charcoal, sprinkled with cumin, sesame, and chili powder, the flavors..."

Chapter 1335: 53rd Immortal Wandering Scripture (2)

Gulp.

Before Dou Bao finished speaking, Cui Longnu began to swallow her saliva.

She waved her hand at the gang members around and said.

"A dead fish can't come back to life, we can't just be sad, we must handle everything properly."

"Food itself is hard to come by, we can't waste it."

"So, fish it up and send it to the kitchen."

Cui Longnu said with righteous indignation.

"Yes, Miss."

The members of the 'Si Hai Bang' responded in unison.

For them, whether the fish is fished up and thrown away or made into food makes no difference.

Of course, it would be better if it were the latter.

After all, maybe they would get an extra meal tonight.

Watching the gang members fish up the fish and send it to the kitchen, Cui Longnu couldn't help but nod, and at this moment, Xu Dashan came over.

"Miss, your saliva is coming out."

"Ah?!"

Cui Longnu raised her hand in panic, only to realize she was somehow wet.

The corners of her mouth and chin were covered in saliva.

Cui Longnu was flustered at first, but as the successor of 'Big Dragon Head' Cui Longwang, she quickly returned to normal.

"Uncle Xu, you saw it wrong."

Cui Longnu said very seriously.

Then, she turned and looked at Dou Bao.

"Let's go, Dou Bao."

"Don't keep father and Master Mu waiting too long."

After speaking, Cui Longnu walked towards the banquet hall in the back garden, her pace unhurried, showing a calm demeanor.

If Xu Dashan hadn't been sure he hadn't seen wrong, he would have doubted himself.

Looking at the Miss leaving side by side with Dou Bao, Xu Dashan was first stunned.

Then, he laughed silently.

He didn't dislike such a Miss.

Compared to the previous Miss who hid herself and kept a stern demeanor.

This version of the Miss was more genuine.

And endearing.

A glance at the surrounding gang members' expressions told it all.

Everyone looked at the Miss with respect and smiles, not with the previous unfamiliarity and awe.

"If it's this kind of Miss, even if 'Big Dragon Head' really died, the 'Si Hai Bang' wouldn't fall into chaos!"

Xu Dashan couldn't help but think.

Then, Xu Dashan quickly shook his head.

"What am I thinking? 'Big Dragon Head' is alive and well."

Thinking this, Xu Dashan strode towards the banquet hall.

Meanwhile, inside the banquet hall, 'Big Dragon Head' Cui Longwang raised his tea to toast Jason.

"Sorry, Master Mu."

"After the battle ten years ago, to recover faster, I quit drinking."

Cui Longwang explained.

"No problem, I'm not good at drinking either."

Jason raised his tea.

When it comes to alcoholic beverages, Jason always declines politely.

However, he doesn't mind using it for disinfection.

"Oh?"

"It's hard to believe, looking at Master Mu's burly figure, that he isn't good at drinking."

Cui Longwang was quite surprised.

Just like Cui Longwang said, Jason's body was exceptionally strong, and his chiseled features made one imagine him as a hero who devours meat and drinks heavily. .

But, this world already has enough bizarre things.

One more doesn't matter.

However, Cui Longwang, who considered himself worldly, soon widened his eyes.

It was because Jason ate too fast.

In the blink of an eye, half of the dishes on the table were gone.

In another moment of stupefaction, another half vanished.

'Such speed?!'

'If used for an attack...'

'Especially paired with a knife or sword, who, besides a few others, could withstand a strike from this young man in this world?'

Cui Longwang couldn't help but think.

Then, a bit more smile appeared on his face.

They are now friends, not enemies.

With such a friend, shouldn't one laugh more?

They can even drink a few more cups.

Unfortunately, he doesn't drink alcohol.

Not because he doesn't want to, but because he can't.

At once, King Cui Long picked up the tea again, drinking by himself.

That appearance, wasn't like drinking tea at all.

He was definitely drinking alcohol.

Jason glanced over and turned his attention to the table in front of him.

This is 'Si Hai Bang', not 'Drunken Fairy Tower' in 'Mountain City'.

Here at 'Si Hai Bang', there's no need to worry about running out of food; when Jason finished the first round, more food was served, all of them were selections of fine, exquisitely made cuisines.

Delightful.

This was the most direct feeling Jason had at that moment.

After five rounds in a row, Jason finally slowed down the pace.

He started eating with a speed just a bit faster than the average person.

After eating another five rounds, Jason temporarily stopped his chopsticks and picked up the teacup.

"Gang Leader Cui, do you know of any cultivation techniques that allow one to avoid death, then revive elsewhere?"

Jason asked.

Though he has identified 'Zhao Laosi' as a transportation leader, naturally, Jason wouldn't mind learning more about the opponent if possible.

"Revived from death?"

"Did they change their appearance?"

King Cui Long asked directly.

"Yes, Gang Leader Cui, do you know?"

Jason looked at King Cui Long.

Earlier, he just guessed King Cui Long might know, but he hadn't expected that King Cui Long seemed to know quite well.

"Do you know of the nine martial experts of the Jianghu, Master Mu?"

King Cui Long asked.

"I know."

"Is this person one of the heirs of the nine martial experts?"

Previously, Jason speculated that 'Zhao Laosi' was one of the heirs of the nine martial experts since the opponent's secret technique already transcended common martial arts, aligning with the characteristics of the so-called nine martial experts.

"That's right."

"The cultivation technique practiced by 'Heavenly Monster', one of the nine martial experts, is named the 'Immortal Wandering Scripture', and the entire 'Immortal Wandering Scripture' is the 'Thousand Faces, Thousand Lives Immortal Wandering Scripture'!"

King Cui Long spoke of the secret legends concerning 'Heavenly Monster' within the Jianghu.

"'Thousand Faces, Thousand Lives Immortal Wandering Scripture'?"

Jason muttered this somewhat tongue-twisting name.

"Yes, mimic a thousand faces, undying, immortal instantly."

King Cui Long nodded, and for the first time, his face showed a somber expression.

"Among the nine martial experts, 'Heavenly Monster' is the most mysterious, the most bizarre, and likewise the one least willing to be provoked, because you simply don't know when he or she or it attacks you, in what guise they will appear."

"May I talk to you about this 'Heavenly Monster' heir?"

King Cui Long asked.

"Of course."

Jason began to recount everything about 'Zhao Laosi'.

By this time, Dou Bao, Dragon Girl Cui, and Xu Dashan were already sitting by the side.

After Jason finished recounting, King Cui Long nodded again.

"Surely the 'Heavenly Monster' heir."

"However, the cultivation level of the 'Immortal Wandering Scripture' isn't high, only having completed the entry stage, otherwise Master Mu would've had a hard time spotting the flaw, yet this way..."

At this point, King Cui Long paused.

As if he hesitated to speak further.

It's only when he lifted his head did he notice, Jason already picked up the chopsticks again.

Still eating?

King Cui Long froze there.

For a good two or three seconds, only then did he continue speaking.

"The 'Immortal Wandering Scripture' is a very bizarre 'True Skill', different from other martial arts cultivation methods, this martial art relies on deception to gain power, deception after deception amplifies the power, but if one of them is seen through, not only does it harm their vitality severely and reduce power abruptly, but also the person who sees through it becomes a flaw in cultivating the 'Immortal Wandering Scripture'!"

"To recover and continue cultivation, this flaw has to be eliminated."

"For the first time it happens unintentionally, the opponent may not focus on you, Master Mu."

"But the second time is different."

"The opponent will definitely focus on you, Master Mu."

Speaking these words, King Cui Long always watched Jason.

Upon discovering Jason still calmly eating the meal, King Cui Long seemingly breathed a sigh of relief and smiled once again.

He had decided.

Chapter 1336: Cui Long Wang Challenges Again!

Once the idea was formed, it was acted upon.

The 'Dragon Head' Cui Long was not one to be indecisive.

Swift and decisive actions were the motto of Cui Long.

"Master Mu, you are a Guest Elder of the Red Fragrance Alley, and since Red Fragrance Alley is an affiliated organization of the 'Si Hai Bang', in a way, Master Mu, you are also a Guest Elder of the 'Si Hai Bang'."

"Moreover, your role in escorting my daughter to 'Fragrance City' was indeed courageous and resourceful, thus, I have a request to make."

"I hope Master Mu can become a Guest Elder of the 'Si Hai Bang'."

"Of course, there is no need for you to be a permanent resident of the 'Si Hai Bang', you can return to 'Mountain City', and your monthly remuneration will be tripled. Additionally, any mission rewards will be calculated separately."

"Furthermore, the library of the 'Si Hai Bang' will be fully open to you, Master Mu."

Cui Long spoke with utmost sincerity.

Both the tone and the content of his words conveyed sincerity.

No restriction on freedom, a tripling of the base monthly salary, and access to the 'Si Hai Bang' library.

Plus, mission rewards are also calculated separately.

If this isn't sincerity, Jason could not think of anything else.

Furthermore, these were precisely what he needed.

The monthly remuneration of 'Nourishing Essence Pill' increasing from three pills to nine pills, if taken a year in advance, excluding the already received thirty-six pills, he could receive an additional seventy-two pills.

As for the 'Si Hai Bang' library? .

Jason's interest grew even more.

He hoped to acquire more 'heritage items' to enrich the extra options for his [Barehanded Combat].

How could a single individual's efforts surpass the accumulated knowledge of the 'Si Hai Bang' over the years?

Thus, Jason naturally nodded.

"Alright."

"Master Mu is indeed straightforward!"

Without hesitation, without saying anything vague like considering the offer, Jason agreed directly, pleasing Cui Long.

What Cui Long appreciated most was someone as straightforward as Jason.

He always looked down on those who agreed in their hearts but delayed with words.

"Dashan, go to my study and bring the red brocade box from the bookshelf."

Feeling refreshed, Cui Long instructed Xu Dashan.

"Yes, Gang Leader."

Xu Dashan bowed and left.

A moment later, Xu Dashan returned holding a square red brocade box.

Cui Long took the brocade box and placed it in front of Jason.

"Master Mu, this is an additional reward for your escort of my daughter. The previous one was from her, and this one is from me as her father. They're different, and you mustn't refuse."

Jason did not refuse.

In fact, when Xu Dashan walked in with the brocade box, Jason's nostrils couldn't help but twitch.

Fragrance!

A faint fragrance!

And it was very familiar.

It's...

'Small Creation Pill'!

More importantly, there was more than one pill.

Based on the intensity of the fragrance, Jason judged that there were at least two 'Small Creation Pills' in the brocade box.

Given such a generous gesture, Jason naturally understood that there was an intention to win him over, yet he couldn't help but admire Cui Long's grandeur.

'No wonder he could build such a great foundation so quickly; aside from luck, these tactics are indispensable.'

Jason thought silently.

As for whether Cui Long would still give these two 'Small Creation Pills' if he refused?

Jason didn't even consider it.

The sky doesn't drop pies.

To gain, one must pay.

Back in his 'hometown', Jason understood this principle, but not clearly enough, and after several encounters in the 'Nightless City', he already had a profound understanding.

Seeing Jason directly accept the brocade box, and still maintain a calm demeanor, Cui Long felt even more satisfied.

Being straightforward could earn his favor.

And a person who remains unchanged in the face of major events commands his respect.

Especially when that person is young, it is even more so.

Sigh!

Cui Long exhaled, looking at Jason with undisguised admiration.

"How old is Master Mu this year, and is he married?"

"My daughter..."

"Ahem, ahem!" X3

Before Cui Long finished speaking, the other three in the banquet hall, excluding Jason, immediately started coughing.

Dou Bao's previously smiling face instantly turned gloomy, his eyes showing a chilling murderous intent.

The Cui Dragon Girl was completely flustered.

What's going on?

Isn't it too much to rush into marriage before the New Year?

Besides, I don't even like...

As the Cui Dragon Girl thought this, she subconsciously glanced at Jason, but before she could take a closer look, Dou Bao blocked her view with a peculiar look.

Instantly, the Cui Dragon Girl shivered.

She felt like a frog targeted by a snake.

Not only was she unable to move, but an indelible fear also began to well up from the depths of her heart.

At this moment, Xu Dashan quickly stepped forward to Cui Long, leaning over to whisper in his ear.

"So that's it!"

"What a pity!"

Hearing Xu Dashan's words, Cui Long was surprised as he glanced at Dou Bao.

Since Dou Bao came with Jason, Cui Long naturally knew this, and he also knew that Dou Bao was the maid of this Master Mu.

A maid following her master was nothing unusual.

But after hearing Xu Dashan's explanation, Cui Long immediately realized that he had misunderstood.

This Dou Bao before him was not merely a simple maid.

According to Xu Dashan's description, this Master Mu entrusted the entire martial hall to Dou Bao, including money matters, leaving nothing behind.

Chapter 1337: Cui Longwang Challenges Again! (2)

There is no doubt that this Dou Bao girl holds an extraordinary place in Master Mu's heart.

Plus, as Xu Dashan said, there should be a force behind Master Mu.

So...

While Dou Bao appears to be a maid, she should actually be the housekeeper in charge of internal affairs.

Furthermore, she might be a significant figure within the faction Mu Bai belongs to.

And, it's possible that the two of them have been childhood sweethearts, with feelings long developed.

Given this premise, although King Cui Long feels regretful, he won't do anything excessive either.

He is the 'Great Dragon Head' King Cui Long.

He wouldn't partake in the lowly act of breaking up a couple.

However, King Cui Long is also envious of Dou Bao's good fortune.

How old is Mu Bai?

Not yet twenty.

The vibrant Qi-blood and the unique energy of youth on him cannot be concealed from him.

And a master who can consolidate 'Qi-blood', refine 'organs', and reshape 'bone marrow' before the age of twenty is undoubtedly a genius; perhaps not seen in a hundred years, but one in a thousand.

If such a young man became his son-in-law, the 'Si Hai Bang' could definitely rise to the next level.

Even...

Dominate the world!

Why is the Empire able to exist currently?

Isn't it because two of the nine great experts are the rulers of the Empire?

If the 'Si Hai Bang' had two such experts, even without any nominal recognition, the reality would be much the same.

"What a pity, what a pity."

"Dou Bao girl is truly blessed!"

Thinking of the regret, King Cui Long shook his head and sighed again.

There was no concealment, it was right in front of everyone.

Dou Bao heard it.

The gloom on her face once again turned into a smiling expression, and the murderous intent in her eyes gradually faded. She looked at King Cui Long, at this legendary 'Great Dragon Head', and said crisply: "Of course."

With an unmistakable tone.

In an obvious manner.

As if it should be so.

King Cui Long was stunned for a moment, then laughed again.

"I originally thought Master Mu was an open and straightforward person, but didn't expect Dou Bao girl to be the same, indeed, birds of a feather flock together!"

King Cui Long's words would normally make a young girl feel embarrassed.

But Dou Bao just nodded and acknowledged it.

Then, she stood behind Jason again.

If it hadn't been for King Cui Long's words and Cui Dragon Lady's glance, she wouldn't have come out.

'Dou Bao, do you know why your father loves your mother so much?'

'Because he is afraid of you!'

'Silly child, there are no men afraid of their wives in this world, only men who love their wives.'

'Then why is dad kneeling on the washboard with a foot basin on his head?'

'Cough, cough, that's also love!'

'Remember, if you meet someone you like, always give them face in front of others; swallow any discontent! Once home, behind closed doors, show them who's boss!'

Dou Bao vividly recalled how after saying this, her mother had swung her shoe sole and fiercely beat her father, shouting, "Have you lost your mind? How dare you command me to empty the night chamber in front of so many people; if not for your face, I'd have made you eat it all.'

And her father?

Got beat, yet grinned flatteringly.

Why?

Because, at that time, her mother not only emptied the night chamber but also cleaned the chamber pot, toilet.

Dou Bao might not deeply understand the situation, but she could mimic her mother's actions.

'Hmph!

'Daring to try and steal my master.'

'If the master weren't here, and if you hadn't retracted your words, I would have let you taste 'King of Hell's Document.'

The King of Hell's Document was a semi-finished poison left by her mother.

In these days, she had perfected it completely.

Apart from a faint fruity aroma, 'King of Hell's Document' had no drawbacks and mixed with water easily.

According to her mother's method, poisoning the entire 'Fragrance City' might be a stretch, but killing off 'Si Hai Bang' would be more than sufficient.

Moreover, using another method taught by her mother, Dou Bao was confident she could kill King Cui Long without him even noticing.

Now standing behind Jason, Dou Bao was naturally shielded by Jason's broad body; no one knew what terrifying thoughts were swirling in this seemingly adorable little girl's mind just now.

Meanwhile, the conversation at the table continued.

Everyone was drawn to the voice of the 'Great Dragon Head' King Cui Long at this moment.

"What?!"

"Father, you want to challenge the 'Knife Monarch' again?!"

Cui Dragon Lady suddenly sprang from her seat and grabbed her father's hand, the worry in her eyes almost tangible, and even her eyes reddened.

'Knife Monarch'!

That is one of the nine great experts in the world!

Though ranking low, it does not mean the 'Knife Monarch' is weak.

On the contrary, the 'Knife Monarch' is very powerful.

It's just that he doesn't like to fight, which is why he's ranked ninth, but his true strength is definitely on par with the 'Heavenly Monster', 'Blood Demon', and for those who challenge him, he shows no mercy.

It is for this reason that very few dare to provoke this person.

Because if you provoke any other of the nine great experts, you might have a chance of survival, but provoke the 'Knife Monarch'?

Once the Tyrant Blade is drawn, no bones remain!

The last time the 'Great Dragon Head' King Cui Long managed to escape with his life was due to an agreement of three moves before the fight.

It was because the 'Great Dragon Head' King Cui Long had inadvertently helped someone very important to the 'Knife Monarch', thus the three-move agreement, but that favor has been repaid.

Chapter 1338: The Challenging King Cui Long Again! (3)

It's not the same now.

Outsiders don't know about such things, but Cui Longnu does.

She tightly grasped her father's hand, afraid that if she let go, she would lose him.

"Don't worry."

"The last challenge was enough for me to understand the gap, and this challenge, I bring up because I have the confidence!"

"The 'Knife Monarch' created the 'Tyrant Blade', which is supremely domineering."

"But is my self-created 'Surging Wave Palm' inferior?"

Cui Longwang stood up, speaking proudly.

An imposing presence flowed from this middle-aged man.

Like the tides of the sea.

Not only surging but continuous.

In Cui Longnu's ears, the sound of waves was already echoing.

But in the next moment, this wave sound disappeared.

Only Cui Longwang's tender gaze remained.

"I promise you, Father will definitely win."

Cui Longwang said.

Seeing her father's unwavering appearance, Cui Longnu's tears kept flowing.

Cui Longwang clumsily wiped his daughter's tears away.

"Don't cry, don't cry, Longnu, don't cry."

"Daddy will be fine."

"If you don't believe, Daddy can demonstrate his lifetime-achievement 'Surging Wave Palm' for you?"

"It's truly no inferior to the 'Tyrant Blade'.

Cui Longwang comforted Cui Longnu.

It's clear that this 'Great Dragon Head' may not be a qualified or competent father but is surely a genuinely doting father.

Perhaps he's not very good at expressing himself.

This is a common trait among fathers globally.

And at this moment, it's somewhat inappropriate for outsiders to be present.

Jason definitely wouldn't disturb the father and daughter.

He stood up and walked out with Dou Bao.

Xu Dashan followed behind, quietly closing the door behind them, gesturing to the surrounding members to guard the area and not to disturb the Gang Leader and his daughter.

After ensuring everything was settled, Xu Dashan walked ahead to lead the way for Jason and Dou Bao.

"Master Mu, Miss Dou Bao, your accommodation has been arranged. Please follow me."

Xu Dashan said, turning into one of the courtyards of Si Hai Bang.

An independent courtyard, with two loquat trees planted inside.

The branches and leaves were lush, with the first fruits growing.

Under the trees were stone tables and chairs, with a rockery and stream on one side for viewing.

At this moment, the stream gurgled, flowing down the rocks.

A two-story wooden building lay deep within the courtyard. The first floor featured double doors, with a bright interior. The fragrance of incense sticks had long kept away pests and bad odors. On the second floor, several beautiful curved backrests lined the stairs, leading to three large rooms: bedrooms on the sides and a study that doubled as a living room in the center.

Elegant and quiet.

Clearly, Xu Dashan knew Jason's habits well, carefully selecting a courtyard that suited Jason's preferences.

"Thank you, Mr. Xu."

Jason expressed his gratitude.

"Master Mu, it's really been a hassle for both of you these days. Now that you're in Fragrance City, please rest well for a few days. If you need anything, just tell the servants. If you want to go shopping, just let me know, and I'll arrange for someone to accompany you around 'Fragrance City'."

After saying this, Xu Dashan added a few more words before taking his leave.

Once the servants also left, Jason went directly into his room to prepare an extra meal.

And Dou Bao?

She circled the courtyard a few times, especially carefully inspecting each corner.

Then, she took out a bamboo flute and gently played it.

The small courtyard, the gentle breeze, under the loquat tree, the girl playing the flute.

Formed a beautiful picture.

But in the next moment, it became creepy.

A centipede, spider, scorpion, snake, and toad silently appeared around Dou Bao, then, guided by the flute, they disappeared into the surroundings of the courtyard as Dou Bao intended.

Except for her parents and the Master, Dou Bao didn't trust others.

Especially in such a strange place, it was best to be cautious.

After doing all this, Dou Bao skipped towards the kitchen.

She wanted to see if there was any food available.

Later, the Master will undoubtedly be hungry.

Before he gets hungry, she must have the meal ready.

After all, her Master mustn't go hungry.

But at this moment, a figure walked briskly in this direction.

Chapter 1339: Red Sleeves!

The figure moved with nimble steps; dressed as a maid, she wore a striking red dress and swift deerskin boots. Her face was rather stern, radiating a heroic aura, particularly because she stood a head taller than most men, causing those around her to instinctively look upwards.

At that moment, the figure stood before the small courtyard gate, her brow slightly furrowed, seeming hesitant.

However, she soon stepped forward and knocked on the door.

Clang, clang, clang!

The metal knocker struck the metal plate, sending a crisp sound far and wide.

Three knocks in a row.

The first knock paused for a breath, the two that followed were consecutive.

After repeating the sequence once more, the figure stopped, standing quietly outside the courtyard door to await a response from the master.

After about ten seconds, the door opened.

Dou Bao appeared behind the door, wearing an apron.

"Who are you?"

Dou Bao looked carefully at the woman in front of him, realizing he didn't recall her from his memory, and immediately asked in confusion.

"I am Hong Xiu, the maidservant of the young lady."

The woman quickly introduced herself.

"So it's Miss Hong Xiu."

"Is there something you need?"

Dou Bao knew of Hong Xiu, the maidservant who willingly became the decoy for Cui Long Nu to divert some pursuers.

Though it turned out to be a false alarm, at the time, Dou Bao was quite impressed by her actions, and Cui Long Nu frequently mentioned this 'Sister Hong Xiu.'

Clearly, the two had a very good relationship.

As a result, a smile appeared on Dou Bao's face.

Although their master had become a Guest Elder of the Si Hai Bang, this was still the Si Hai Bang's territory, and Dou Bao was well aware of how things should be done here.

She definitely wouldn't cause trouble for their master.

So, as a smile appeared on her face, Dou Bao stepped aside and invited Hong Xiu into the courtyard.

"What brings Miss Hong Xiu to visit so hastily?"

Dou Bao asked.

Given the relationship between Hong Xiu and Cui Long Nu, Cui Long Nu had only returned today, and they ought to be catching up with each other.

Yet Hong Xiu had come here instead; Dou Bao couldn't believe this was just a casual visit.

In fact, it was indeed more than that.

As soon as Dou Bao asked, hesitation again appeared on Hong Xiu's face.

After several seconds, the maidservant gritted her teeth and said.

"Can I see Master Mu?"

"I have urgent matters to discuss with him."

Seeing Hong Xiu in a state of struggle, hesitating, Dou Bao nodded her head.

"Miss Hong Xiu, you wait by the stone stool, I'll go ask the master."

Dou Bao didn't make any promises.

She knew their master had a habit of retreating into closed-door meditation regularly.

About this, Dou Bao had no complaints.

She remembered clearly the words her father had spoken—

‘Retreating into closed-door meditation is a rare and valuable thing; each time represents a summary of current stages, each time is an opportunity for strength enhancement. Unfortunately, after meeting your mother, I no longer needed to retreat.’

‘Is it because you need to cook, clean the house, wash clothes, and carry washbasins for foot baths every day?’

‘Of course not!’

‘These are all cultivation!’

‘Do you understand?’

‘It is precisely because of such cultivation that I, your father, have been steadily growing stronger!’

Saying such words, her father flipped an omelet, added some soy sauce, and skewered a few pieces of meat, then gleefully ran towards the bedroom while shouting: ‘Wife, time for a midnight snack!’

While at that time, she was left to clean up the aftermath.

Although thinking back, it also felt strange, but Dou Bao knew her father wouldn’t deceive her.

Closing off in meditation must be a beneficial thing.

It's also a way to quickly gain strength.

Otherwise, how could their master grow so powerful so quickly?

It was naturally due to meditation retreats.

Dou Bao entered the small building.

Hong Xiu sat patiently on the stone stool, waiting.

Her eyes glanced slightly over the small courtyard, then swiftly withdrew.

Something... feels off?

Why does it feel like danger is everywhere?

Hong Xiu tried her best to maintain calm, but the faint danger hidden around made her uneasy.

Hong Xiu knew of this courtyard.

Since it was a place for honored guests to stay, there were no traps.

The guards around were naturally tight, but they wouldn't pose a threat to her.

As for Master Mu inside the building she's visiting?

The two haven't met yet, so it couldn't be considered dangerous.

Moreover, the threatening aura wasn't coming from any specific place.

‘What is happening?’

The sense of unease made Hong Xiu’s hand, hidden in her sleeve, rapidly clench, subconsciously wanting to leave.

But thinking of the purpose of this trip, she had to remain seated here, waiting.

...

The entrance of two sour and sweet ‘Small Creation Pills’ instantly brought a smile to Jason’s eyes.

What is more joyful than eating?

Naturally, it’s eating two servings.

Satiation level and Excitement of Feast were the same as before, 450 points and 4 points respectively.

However, the attribute increase showed a downward trend.

The increases were +0.2, +0.1 Constitution respectively.

"Indeed, the effectiveness of the medicine gradually diminishes."

"The first pill had still 0.3 Constitution increase."

"I just don’t know whether it’s the same medicine diminishing, or the overall similar types of medicine diminishing."

"If it's the former..."

Jason thought while seated in the chair.

If it's the former, without a doubt, it's yet another method for Jason to quickly increase his strength.

Attribute point increases are undoubtedly the fastest short-cut for gaining strength.

Especially with the method where consuming a 'great medicine' can increase attributes — Jason truly loves it.

Chapter 1340: Red Sleeve! (2)

Unfortunately, 'big medicine' is rare!

Even if Jason wants to eat another 'Impermanence Pill' to test, it's still very difficult.

However, consuming other 'big medicines' is the same.

It's just that the 'Small Creation Pill', judging by the current trend, obviously won't increase attributes anymore, but if you let Jason eat it, he would still eat it.

How could you be picky about food?

What's more, there's the quite considerable satiety and Excitement of Feast benefits.

After glancing at the satiety which had reached 7771 points and 135 points of Excitement of Feast, Jason planned to swing by the 'Si Hai Bang' library before having a meal.

Increasing [Barehanded Combat] extra options is one thing.

If he could find clues akin to 'Twilight', that would be even better.

And just as Jason stood up, he heard footsteps coming from outside the courtyard.

Hongxiu?

Jason paused, slightly furrowing his brows.

He remembered this girl.

He had also heard her speak, and seen her once from afar.

But what impressed him most was that, like Cui Long, she was always exuding the scent of 'food', yet at this moment, Hongxiu's 'secret medicine' scent was apparent, but only so in words.

To put it simply, the former Hongxiu was marinated to taste.

With all sorts of 'secret medicine' flavors.

The Hongxiu appearing in his courtyard now, though carrying various 'secret medicine' scents, had a flavor too shallow, as if just freshly sprinkled.

To others, it might be indistinguishable.

But to Jason, it was too obvious.

Like eating eggs, one being boiled, and the other fried, it was that obvious.

No doubt, this Hongxiu was someone's disguise.

And in this replica world, quite a few could disguise themselves as others without being discovered.

However, the one doing it skillfully and having a grudge against him, there's only one.

Zhao Laosi!

The descendant of the 'Heavenly Monster', Zhao Laosi.

"So quick to come knocking?"

"Impatient, truly!"

"Could it be that my twice uncovering him had a bigger impact than imagined?"

Jason pondered silently.

Then, the corner of his mouth curved.

Since there was once and twice.

Then naturally he wouldn't mind a third, or fourth.

He was somewhat eager to see how the other would react if discovered a third time.

Thus, just before Dou Bao was about to knock, Jason directly opened the door.

"Master?"

Dou Bao blinked.

She clearly felt the master in front of her seemed a bit happy.

Was it because the retreat yielded results?

That would be wonderful.

Dou Bao felt genuinely happy for Jason.

"Shall we have a beef hotpot tonight? Stew a couple more ox tails, and make the yams softer."

Jason suggested.

"No problem."

"The tomatoes here in 'Fragrance City' are quite good, and there are some spices not found in 'Mountain City'. I'll purchase them in a bit."

Dou Bao nodded immediately.

Then, she quickly sprang into action.

For Dou Bao, nothing was more important than ensuring her master was well-fed.

This might not be one of the reasons for her existence.

But she liked the way her master smiled.

And only when eating, her master would smile.

This was something even the master himself didn't know.

It was a smile from the heart.

She loved it.

Jason followed the skipping Dou Bao downstairs.

Dou Bao nodded towards Hongxiu before heading out.

Of course, she didn't leave alone.

She chose to have a servant from the 'Si Hai Bang' guide her.

Although this wasn't Dou Bao's first visit to 'Fragrance City', she had come with her parents before when she was too young to remember much. So to avoid delaying meal preparations, having someone lead the way was the best choice.

After watching Dou Bao leave, Jason then headed towards the stone bench under the loquat tree.

"Miss Hongxiu."

Jason clasped his fists in salute like a martial artist from this replica world.

"Master Mu."

The Hongxiu before him didn't perform a typical courtesy bow like other ladies; instead, she also clasped her fists like a martial artist.

Her slightly robust appearance accompanied by a heroic and spirited demeanor made her appear very free and easy.

And she did not fail to live up to this freeness thereafter!

After putting down her hands, she spoke directly.

"I have a matter to entrust to Master Mu!"

"Of course, it's not without compensation."

"I will provide Master Mu with the corresponding reward, and additionally, I will inform Master Mu of some news."

The girl Hongxiu said thusly.

"Oh, what is it?"

Jason asked cooperatively.

The Hongxiu in front of him was indeed fake.

But the news might not necessarily be false.

On the contrary, to gain his trust, the news was most likely true.

And the matter of entrustment?

Would naturally also be true.

But it should originate from the real Hongxiu, not the 'Zhao Laosi' in front of him.

"Does Master Mu know of the 'Salvation Association'?"

The girl Hongxiu asked.

Jason shook his head.

He truly was hearing of the 'Salvation Association' for the first time, but as the name implies, Jason already guessed what kind of organization it was, probably one of 'self-help, mutual assistance'.

In fact, it was exactly so.

"The 'Salvation Association' was initially established as a grassroots organization in 'Fragrance City', intended for mutual aid. However, as it developed over time, this organization rapidly expanded, not only civilians but many martial artists also joined, and as more people got involved, things became complicated, and so did the 'Salvation Association', inevitably leading to conflict with the 'Si Hai Bang'."