

## **My System 471**

Chapter 471 - Tianzhu – Fruits of Path to Divinity! \_2

Wu Ling listened to the palace maid's words, nodded slightly, a touch of joy appearing on her fair face, and she let out a sigh of relief. Moments later, as if remembering something, she looked at the palace maid.

"Did Father also enter that secret realm?"

The palace maid nodded slightly, "He should have. However, we of low status are not privy to His Majesty's exact whereabouts. At this moment, he might have already returned to the palace."

Upon hearing this, Wu Ling subconsciously shook her head.

Generally speaking, Emperor Zhou of Great Zhou would visit her every few days to teach her the practice of Spirit Dao and the Divine Power Sect. Several days had now passed.

Emperor Zhou had not yet appeared.

Even if he was delayed in the secret realm for a while, by now he should have come out along with the Princely Heir and the others.

"Why is there still no news of him?"

Wu Ling's attractive eyebrows furrowed slightly. Unable to comprehend the reason, a bad premonition began to rise faintly in her heart.

A guess emerged in her mind, unsolicited.

Father...

Hadn't something happened to him?

As soon as Wu Ling thought of this, she quickly shook her head, casting the thought from her mind.

"Impossible, Father is a Sky-Man; he cannot so easily fall into misfortune."

"Now that the Princely Heir has already emerged from the secret realm and caused such a stir in Duke Zhen's Mansion, it is evident he may have gained quite a few benefits from the secret realm."

"If even the Princely Heir could emerge unscathed from the secret realm, Father, being a Sky-Man, would have no reason to encounter any accidents."

Wu Ling whispered to herself.

As far as she was concerned,

although she did not particularly like Emperor Zhou of Great Zhou, he was the closest person to her in this life, more so than any other princes, princesses, and consorts of the Imperial Palace.

If something truly happened to Emperor Zhou, then for Wu Ling, aside from having a friend like Cheng Guang, she would have no other kin in this world.

The guards from the Eastern Palace hurried over, swords in hand, their expressions tense.

Beside the Eastern Palace guard, there was also the figure of Zhao Jin.

"Your Highness, pardon my intrusion."

Zhao Jin walked quickly up to Wu Ling and spoke to her in a low voice.

Wu Ling's gaze swept over Zhao Jin.

She did not speak.

The Eastern Palace guard looked self-reproachful, "Your Highness, I failed to stop him."

Wu Ling shook her head slightly and said softly, "It's only normal that you couldn't stop Eunuch Zhao, who is of the Ninth-order Martial Emperor Realm."

Zhao Jin, hearing Wu Ling's words, could sense the coldness in her tone.

He gave a wry smile and quickly said to Wu Ling, "Your Highness, a major event has occurred, could we step aside?"

Wu Ling looked at Zhao Jin with a hint of surprise.

Zhao Jin always followed behind Father; even if a major incident occurred, he should in principle report to Father. Why had he now come to find her?

A strange sense arose within Wu Ling's heart. She frowned slightly and watched Zhao Jin until sweat beaded heavily on his forehead. Only then did she shift her gaze away.

"Let's go."

Wu Ling walked toward the side room. Once Zhao Jin followed her inside and the surrounding palace maids and eunuchs had been dismissed, Wu Ling turned around. Through the round window, she looked toward the abnormal phenomena above Duke Zhen's Mansion and slowly asked,

"You said a major event has occurred? What event?"

Zhao Jin spoke respectfully, "Your Majesty, he... has not emerged from the secret realm."

At these words, Wu Ling's heart jolted, and she abruptly turned to look at Zhao Jin, "What do you mean he hasn't come out?"

Zhao Jin gave a bitter smile, momentarily at a loss for words, unsure how to respond.

He certainly couldn't say that he didn't know why His Majesty hadn't emerged from the secret realm.

At that time, Zhao Jin did not enter the secret realm with Emperor Zhou.

Firstly, his presence in the secret realm was of no use, and secondly, his status at Emperor Zhou's side had plummeted. Emperor Zhou would not have allowed him to stay by his side.

Therefore, Zhao Jin could only wait near the entrance to the secret realm, waiting for Emperor Zhou to emerge.

Zhao Jin had originally thought that Emperor Zhou, having obtained the opportunity within the secret realm, would soon appear. Even without such fortune, the realm was unlikely to harm a Sky-Man of Emperor Zhou's stature.

To his surprise,

since entering the secret realm, Emperor Zhou had vanished without trace.

Until even those of Seventh or Eighth Rank began to emerge from the secret realm, Emperor Zhou's figure remained unseen.

Until the entrance to the secret realm completely disappeared.

All the Sky-Men who entered the secret realm, except for Empress Wei, had vanished.

It was then that Zhao Jin realized that Emperor Zhou might have met with an accident.

All at once, the world was short of dozens of Sky-Men.

Their top-tier combat power had virtually disappeared out of thin air.

This was an event that, for the whole world, could be likened to an earthquake!

Zhao Jin's first reaction was that Emperor Zhou, along with a host of other Sky-Men, was likely no more.

Whether ultimately dead or not.

Trapped within the secret realm.

Given that the realm appeared and disappeared without logic,

Emperor Zhou and all other Sky-Men trapped within the realm were almost indistinguishable from being dead.

At this thought, Zhao Jin felt a chill crawl over his scalp. After standing dumbfounded for a while, he did not hesitate and immediately headed toward the Eastern Palace.

Being a eunuch, his only refuge was imperial power.

The future Sky-Man of Great Zhou might well belong to Wu Ling.

That's why he rushed to the Eastern Palace first.

Zhao Jin was ready to tell Wu Ling that Emperor Zhou was likely gone, suggesting she should prepare early.

Chapter 472 - Tianzhu – Fruits of Path to Divinity! \_3

The most important reason was that he first pledged allegiance to Wu Ling, then helped Wu Ling step by step in gaining control over Great Zhou Court's power. In the future, his status wouldn't differ much from Wu Shang's era as Emperor Zhou.

There was even a possibility of climbing even higher, who could say for sure?

Zhao Jin pondered in his heart and didn't immediately respond to Wu Ling's words.

Wu Ling was not a fool either. Seeing Zhao Jin's troubled expression, she roughly guessed the reason.

Wu Ling covered her red lips with one hand, "Who else knows about this?"

Zhao Jin answered, "Your Highness, currently, aside from Your Majesty, the vast majority of Sky-Men who entered the Secret Realm with His Majesty are all trapped in the Secret Realm, missing without a trace. It won't be long before the news of so many Sky-Men disappearing at once will spread throughout the world."

Wu Ling listened quietly to Zhao Jin's words, feeling waves of chill in her heart. So many Sky-Men had vanished; who knew how much chaos would arise among the world's major powers without the Sky-Men to suppress them.

She didn't know the situations in other imperial palaces.

But at this moment, in the entire Great Zhou Imperial Family, aside from Emperor Zhou Wu Shang, there were no other Sky-Men left.

If Wu Shang were to die, how could the Great Zhou Imperial Family, without any Sky-Men, suppress the coveting of various powers?

Wu Ling didn't know what exactly had happened in the Secret Realm, what caused all Sky-Men, including Emperor Zhou, to be trapped inside, unable to escape.

In her heart, such an event was simply impossible.

Just as she was about to ask further, she caught the implications in Zhao Jin's words.

"The vast majority?"

"Did any Sky-Men escape?"

Zhao Jin quickly nodded, "Yes, Empress Wei has come out. Aside from Empress Wei, there are no other Sky-Men who have escaped."

Wu Ling contemplated upon hearing Zhao Jin's words.

So many Sky-Men, none were able to escape from the Secret Realm.

Why was it that Empress Wei could escape?

It didn't make sense.

Either Empress Wei had some special means, ones that were more numerous and stronger than other Sky-Men.

Or it was a trap set by Empress Wei herself. She alone benefited, betraying all other Sky-Men.

The former guess was still possible.

But as for the latter,

It seemed rather absurd.

No matter how intelligent or powerful Empress Wei was, she couldn't possibly have betrayed so many Sky-Men at once.

Those who had cultivated to become Sky-Men, was there any one of them who was simple?

How could they be so easily betrayed by Empress Wei alone?

The more Wu Ling thought about it, the more her head hurt.

Watching the anomaly above Duke Zhen's Mansion from afar, she had already decided to send someone to ask Empress Wei.

Thinking this, Wu Ling's gaze fell on Zhao Jin.

"Zhao Jin."

When Zhao Jin heard Wu Ling's voice, he bowed his head slightly and responded respectfully.

Wu Ling then continued, "You go to Great Wei and ask Empress Wei what exactly happened in the Secret Realm."

"It doesn't matter if she doesn't speak. By going there, you represent Great Zhou. She should at least meet with you, just bring her reaction back to me."

Zhao Jin was startled for a moment but did not hesitate too much, agreeing immediately and turning to leave.

After Zhao Jin left, Wu Ling's gaze returned to the anomaly above Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Feeling the Qi of Cheng Guang continuously circulating above Duke Zhen's Mansion,

Stars appeared to twinkle in Wu Ling's bright eyes, much like droplets of tears.

"Thank goodness you are safe," she whispered to herself.

"But as for Father Emperor, he..."

Wu Ling's voice became weaker and weaker, to the point where one couldn't make out what she was saying, even when close to her lips.

...

Inside Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Outside Cheng Guang's bedroom.

Ning Qianxue, gazing towards Cheng Guang's bedroom and feeling the terrifyingly vast aura, couldn't help but murmur,

"One breath emits a sword light for three thousand miles, one sword slashes across the sky eliminating twelve autumns, cutting through the mortal world like a snowy scene."

"Even the legendary celestial swordsmen don't possess such a demeanor."

Qin Yanqiu beside Ning Qianxue nodded slightly, her cool eyes sparkling with a peculiar luster, as if she was puzzled why Cheng Guang could suddenly unleash such a powerful aura.

Just when she was about to say something, she suddenly turned her head, looking outside the courtyard.

Qin Yanqiu saw numerous figures suddenly appearing not far from Duke Zhen's Mansion.

These figures seemed to come from different formidable powers, their auras varied, but they were all looking towards Cheng Guang's location with an extremely astonished gaze.

Some among them wanted to approach.

But before they could get anywhere close to Duke Zhen's Mansion, a shadow flickered forth, bringing a streak of cold light, blocking the incoming strong forces outside the mansion.

The sounds of the Qi exploding from battle outside Duke Zhen's Mansion were endless.

A few moments later,

Qin Beifeng walked in slowly from the corner of the shaded path outside the courtyard.

"Someone wanted to force their way into Duke Zhen's Mansion, seeking to discover the Princely Heir's information," he remarked.

Qin Beifeng just quietly leaned against a willow tree in the yard, his eyes slightly closed, a sword cradled in his arms.

Qin Beifeng stood there quietly.

The many strong presences secretly trying to slip into Duke Zhen's Mansion to gather intelligence, upon noticing Qin Beifeng's figure, involuntarily felt a cold shiver, their bodies instinctively sensing a chill.

Qin Beifeng alone was deterring most of the prying eyes that lurked around.

Chapter 473 - Tianzhu – Fruits of Path to Divinity! \_4

Many powerhouses knew that at this moment, only Qin Beifeng has shown up inside Duke Zhen's Mansion; Cheng Zhihai had yet to appear.

With Qin Beifeng and Cheng Zhihai, two Ninth-order Martial Emperor realm powerhouses present, unless a Sky-Man took action, it was impossible for them to barge into Duke Zhen's Mansion.

They could only look on from a distance, far away.

Many who were curious about what miraculous opportunity Cheng Guang had stumbled upon to erupt with such a terrifying aura were secretly grinding their teeth out of anxiety.

"Damn it, in that Secret Realm, so many Sky-Men didn't come out and mysteriously vanished, which shows how dangerous that realm is. How did the Town-Nation Duke's Heir gain such an enormous opportunity after just one visit to the Secret Realm?"

"It seems that apart from the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, the others who entered the Secret Realm didn't obtain much fortune, right?"

"What fortune! It's already impressive that they could come out of the Secret Realm alive!!"

The murmuring in the dark was incessant.

But compared to the beginning, it was much quieter.

Meanwhile.

Within the bedroom.

Cheng Guang sat quietly, with his legs crossed.

He was unaware of everything happening outside.

At this moment, Cheng Guang devoted all his attention to the process of integrating the Heavenly Dao Pill.

The moment the Heavenly Dao Pill entered his mouth, a violent power erupted within Cheng Guang's body.

Like a raging fire, it burned, placing his body within a Pill Furnace to be smelted.

Cheng Guang's Primordial Spirit shook under the impact of this power.

His consciousness began to drift, as if slowly rising.

In a trance.

Cheng Guang saw the lines of the laws filling the sky above.

Cheng Guang saw the incomplete path composed of countless laws in the sky.

Then, as Cheng Guang's mind approached this incomplete path, he felt as if he was gradually merging into this path, gaining some power from the incomplete path, and at the same time, a law covered Cheng Guang's body.

Suddenly, Cheng Guang's Primordial Spirit surged, as profound as the starry sky.

Cheng Guang instinctively wanted to submit to this incomplete path, adopting its will as his own creed.

Suddenly.

Another force within Cheng Guang lighted up, warm and bright like the rising sun, illuminating Cheng Guang's heart.

The law power that covered Cheng Guang's Primordial Spirit, was gradually disintegrating.

Cheng Guang could feel that he was step by step freeing himself from its influence.

Cheng Guang realized this, a surge of joy rising in his heart, the previously taken Curse-Removing Pill and Rootless Water had taken effect.

It seemed that the negative effects of the Heavenly Dao Pill could be completely removed.

Cheng Guang took a breath of relief.

Next, he devoted all his mind to feeling the power he had obtained from the incomplete path.

That power was called Fruits of Path to Divinity.

To Cheng Guang, the concept of Dao Fruit was completely foreign.

After the power of the Heavenly Dao Pill was completely absorbed.

Cheng Guang could feel that within his Primordial Spirit appeared a bright, golden light, but its surface was covered with many dark lines.

Looking closely at that light.

One could see that it actually resembled a fruit.

But Cheng Guang's current cultivation was too low to discern the true face of that light sphere.

This is...

The Saint Dao Fruit.

Cheng Guang stared at the slightly weird light sphere near his Primordial Spirit, his mind shaken.

No wonder the Chicken Demon called those Worms as Saint Dao Fruits.

The authentic Saint Dao Fruit he obtained also seemed to be abnormal.

The dark layer on the surface, even without actively touching it, still let Cheng Guang feel a strong sense of ominousness.

"It makes sense, though."

"The Heavenly Dao is almost dead; how normal could the Saint Dao Fruits gained from it be?"

"Below the Sky-Men, the influence from the Heavenly Dao is minimal, but above that level, all the way to obtaining the Saint Dao Fruit, I fear it all ends up abnormal."

"That Chicken Demon became so strange, not only because of those Worms but more likely because there was something wrong with the Heavenly Dao, and it had no choice but to take an unusual path for the sake of breaking through in cultivation."

Cheng Guang murmured to himself.

He could feel that at this moment, if he touched the Saint Dao Fruit, he would be able to sense its abilities.

Perhaps it was his mere intention that could call upon the power of the Saint Dao Fruit.

It seemed that dealing with ordinary Sky-Men would be no issue.

With this thought in mind, Cheng Guang's Primordial Spirit cautiously approached the Saint Dao Fruit near it.

The moment he touched the glowing sphere of the Saint Dao Fruit.

Cheng Guang could sense clusters of memories forming in his mind.

Suddenly.

Like a myriad of blossoms bursting forth from his mind.

Scene after scene flowed past his eyes like swift glances.

In front of Cheng Guang, he saw an image of the prosperous Eastern Tang Dynasty, with its thousands of miles of splendor and bustling streets.

At a city gate.

A middle-aged man in dragon robes, gazing at "himself," spoke affectionately and slowly:

"Young brother, you're embarking on a long journey this time; take care."

Then, the scene shifted.

Cheng Guang saw the person in front of him, and a voice came from beside his ear, as if it was his own.

"This monk hails from the Eastern Tang Dynasty and is going to the Western Heaven to worship Buddha and fetch the scriptures."

Before Cheng Guang could take a closer look.

The scenes started to pass by even faster.

"Wukong, come and save me quickly."

"Amitabha Buddha, well said, well said, monks should harbor compassion."

Chapter 474 - Tianzhu – Fruits of Path to Divinity! \_5

...

"Do not indulge in excessive sentimentality, lest you tarnish the Buddha Sect's purity,"

"Wukong, I have wronged you."

"If there is a next life..."

The last image in Cheng Guang's vision froze on a gorgeous woman clad in a pink long skirt, her eyes, brimming with boundless tenderness, gazing at him.

And the "myself" within the image,

Seemed to be painfully closing his eyes,

Muttering verses from the Book of Songs.

Then the image turned pitch-black, with only the laments of living beings, the laughter of Immortal Buddhas, and the thunderous roar of the Great Dao audible.

In this darkness,

Another voice echoed in Cheng Guang's ears.

"With this merit, I adorn the Buddha's pure land. Above, I repay the fourfold grace; below, I relieve the suffering of the three paths. Should any who witness this develop the mind of Bodhi, may they be reborn together in the Ultimate Bliss, reciprocating this very body."

All images flowed past Cheng Guang's eyes in the blink of an eye, and he felt as if he had experienced everything firsthand.

Yet when he tried to recall it, he couldn't remember anything at all.

Even the appearance of the woman in the image, who had made a profound impact on Cheng Guang, was not clear in his mind.

He could only remember that pair of eyes, as if they contained all the tenderness in the world.

Besides the deep love,

They seemed to harbor intense sorrow.

Although Cheng Guang could not clearly recollect the recent images, he faintly felt...

"This is the Tang Monk..."

"The Tang Monk in my past life's memories hardly differs, but why is his last image shrouded in darkness, with echoes of countless ghastly wails and the Immortal Buddhas' heartless mockery in my ears?"

"Moreover... why have his memories, his firsthand experiences, become my Fruits of Path to Divinity?"

"Fruits of Path to Divinity..."

"What exactly is it??"

"Is it merit? The Great Dao's law? Or memories??"

The more Cheng Guang pondered, the more bewildered he became.

At that moment, a message surged into his mind.

It was information from the system.

[Tianzhu: Fruits of Path to Divinity, inherited from the Heavenly Dao, condenses the lifetime merit, experience, and trials of those who achieved the Saint Position into one, forming the Dao Fruit. With it, one can open the Heavenly Gate and attain the Saint Position.]

Cheng Guang examined the system prompt in astonishment.

The Fruits of Path to Divinity essentially combined everything of those who had attained the Saint Position, passing it on to another.

The cycle of the Heavenly Dao.

All things come from Heaven and Earth, and ultimately return to Heaven and Earth.

Cheng Guang did not know whether the Fruits of Path to Divinity that he acquired after swallowing the Heavenly Dao Pill named Tianzhu was random or predetermined.

Though unsure if all this was arranged, Cheng Guang was quite happy.

Having obtained the Fruits of Path to Divinity,

He might step beyond the Sky-Man and achieve the Saint Position, barring any accidents.

With the world undergoing significant changes, the contemporary Saint Position might not count for much compared to ancient times, but at present, it was still a supremely powerful existence.

Currently, in the entire Four Directions Mortal World, there was not a single person who had opened the Heavenly Gate, broken through Breaking Heaven's Gate, and stepped into the Saint Realm.

At least not publicly.

Whether there were any in secret, Cheng Guang truly did not know.

Cheng Guang took a deep breath and subdued his breathing.

When his consciousness returned to his body, Cheng Guang suddenly froze.

He suddenly raised his hand, feeling an endless surge of power passing through his body, and was slightly dumbfounded.

"What's happening with my cultivation level??"

"And my bloodline..."

Cheng Guang suddenly felt that his cultivation had skyrocketed.

Along with the fusion of the Heavenly Dao Pill and the acquisition of the Fruits of Path to Divinity,

His cultivation was also rapidly improving.

As for his ancient Great Xia royal bloodline, it became even more resplendently golden.

Cheng Guang stared blankly at his hands, and at this moment, he didn't even dare to exert force, fearing that a careless exertion of power might flatten the entire Million Specie Garden.

"My Martial Cultivation realm hasn't changed much, but my body has become incredibly strong."

"At this time, the toughness of my body might barely differ from that of the Iron Shell Turtle."

"And the realm of Spirit Dao..."

"Is this a breakthrough to Sky-Man...?"

Cheng Guang muttered to himself in disbelief, feeling the power of the Primordial Spirit, then suddenly shook his head.

No.

That's not right.

Cheng Guang realized that his Primordial Spirit, having merged with the Fruits of Path to Divinity, had undergone a complete transformation.

It was entirely different from an ordinary Spirit Dao cultivator.

Not belonging to any realm.

Though its power was slightly diminished.

But in terms of quality,

It was above the Sky-Man.

At this moment, Cheng Guang could, in a short amount of time, contend briefly with the Sky-Man solely with the power of the Primordial Spirit.

He could achieve three seconds of true manhood.

However, the overall power of the Primordial Spirit was too little, and even though his body had undergone the transformation of the Fruits of Path to Divinity, it showed signs of struggling to support the Primordial Spirit.

If he recklessly used the Primordial Spirit and power of the Fruits of Path to Divinity, his body would not last long before his channels ruptured and blood flowed from all seven orifices.

Under such circumstances, if anyone else were in his place, they would likely be hopeless.

To possess a treasure mountain yet unable to use it.

It was akin to sending an eunuch to a brothel, offering him ten Oirans, leaving him powerless but to watch.

But for Cheng Guang,

It was a different story.

Cheng Guang possessed the Divine Power of Everlasting.

Even if the body temporarily could not withstand the transformed Primordial Spirit of the Fruits of Path to Divinity, as long as he had the Divine Power of Everlasting, any injuries, no matter how severe, could recover.

Chapter 475 - Tianzhu – Fruits of Path to Divinity! \_6

Perhaps later, there could still be repeated repairs, enhancing the strength of the body and vitality.

Cheng Guang thought of this and couldn't help but click his tongue slightly.

"My body now could be called that of an Iron Shell Turtle, yet it still struggles a bit to withstand the price of using the power of the Saint Dao Fruit, and even that is the legacy of an incomplete Great Dao. It's hard to know how much power has been lost."

"It is truly unimaginable how powerful the true ancient Saint Realm experts were."

Cheng Guang muttered to himself.

He tapped his finger lightly on the spot between his eyebrows.

A golden radiance slowly emerged, flowing out from the tip of Cheng Guang's finger like sand.

The moment it began to flow out, the surrounding space couldn't help but start trembling.

Cheng Guang simply tested the power of the Saint Dao Fruit and hurriedly dissipated it.

Merely allowing his Primordial Spirit's power to leak out, without even using it to perform any Divine Power, was enough to produce such a formidable aura that even the void trembled involuntarily.

It was truly unimaginable.

When he would be able to use the power of the Saint Dao Fruit without any restraint, the extent of its might that could be unleashed.

Cheng Guang was delighted in his heart; even though he was not a Sky-Man now, he could still exert the power to battle a Sky-Man.

In today's world.

Perhaps he was the only one like this.

While Cheng Guang was testing his newly acquired power,

in a hidden place within the Four Directions Mortal World,

on a dilapidated mountain path,

an old man dressed in a white Daoist Robe was walking slowly, along with a young girl in splendid attire.

As the two of them walked, they conversed.

Mostly, the old man spoke, and the girl listened.

"Empress Your Majesty, walk a little slower."

"What I did was also out of necessity."

"Amongst all those reincarnated individuals, aside from those who awakened autonomously, for those who have not yet woken, I have only found you thus far. You have been awakened for so many years; it's not that you couldn't awaken, but that you didn't wish to awaken."

"If I hadn't used extraordinary measures, I'm afraid you would never have woken up, so I hope you won't blame me," said the Heavenly Machine Elder with a wry smile.

Jiang Luoqing listened to the Heavenly Machine Elder's words expressionlessly, without responding much.

After the Heavenly Machine Elder finished speaking, she slowly replied.

"Aside from me, how many others have awakened?"

"You have taken great pains and exerted such effort to awaken me, a person from the old era; surely, your purpose is not small."

The Heavenly Machine Elder shook his head, "There is no great purpose, it's just a desire to contend once more with heaven. The Heavenly Dao is incomplete, and Immortal Buddhas have been dead for who knows how many years."

"The era of dark turmoil has passed, and this era now is ours."

"The Heavenly Dao won't remain incomplete forever, it is saving itself, and the path to the Great Dao will soon open once again."

"In our time, the struggle over the Great Dao, the contest of fate, it all belonged to those exalted Immortal Buddhas; we could do nothing but act as chess pieces, with no say in the matter."

Saying this, the Heavenly Machine Elder glanced at Jiang Luojing, "Empress Your Majesty, you too were used as a chess piece, becoming part of the struggle for fate that year."

Upon hearing this, Jiang Luojing's radiant starry eyes briefly flitted over to the Heavenly Machine Elder.

"So, what are you trying to say?"

The Heavenly Machine Elder's voice was without fluctuations, earnestly saying:

"In the past, we were chess pieces, but now, when the great battle of the future era comes, if we exist in advance and lay out our plans ahead of time, then we are the chess players."

"All those Immortal Buddhas have vanished without a trace, and I certainly don't think they have all perished."

"After all..."

"We have survived, haven't we?"

"If you wish to take revenge for that person..."

The Heavenly Machine Elder paused in his steps and looked towards Jiang Luoqing as he said this.

Upon hearing the Heavenly Machine Elder's words, Jiang Luoqing's brows furrowed slightly.

After pondering for a moment.

Just as she was about to say something,

Suddenly, it was as if he sensed something.

He abruptly turned his head, looking in the direction of the Great Zhou Capital far away.

"This...!!"

Jiang Luoqing's starry eyes widened, her red lips slightly parted, staring at the distance in disbelief, her voice halting for a moment.

"Is this his presence...??"

"It's so strong!!"

The Heavenly Machine Elder also felt something, looking into the distance, his aged eyes suddenly trembling, the hand that had been slowly stroking his beard suddenly stiffened.

In shock, he plucked a strand of white beard from his chin, not realizing it.

"How could it be him..."

"He should have already... Logically, there shouldn't even be a possibility of reincarnation..."

The Heavenly Machine Elder murmured to himself, still in disbelief.

"No, no."

The Heavenly Machine Elder hurriedly waved his Daoist Robe and began to calculate with his fingers.

As he calculated,

Large beads of sweat, as big as beans, involuntarily broke out on the Heavenly Machine Elder's forehead.

"I can't calculate it, I can't calculate it..."

"How could this be..."

"If it really is that person, it's possible for even me not to discern it."

"But how could it possibly be him..."

The Heavenly Machine Elder gritted his teeth, and just as he was set to make another attempt, to try harder in his calculations,

Jiang Luojing, however, shook her head, "Stop calculating."

"In the direction of Duke Zhen's Mansion in the Great Zhou Capital."

Upon hearing this, the Heavenly Machine Elder suddenly looked up, gazing at Jiang Luojing, "Great Zhou Capital? Duke Zhen's Mansion??"

"How could there be his presence in that place?"

Jiang Luojing's starry eyes slightly drooped, no longer responding to the Heavenly Machine Elder, but instead, she fell into deep thought.

"I had said, I felt his presence on that person..."

"Perhaps, it really is him...?"

Complex emotions surged within Jiang Luojing's radiant starry eyes, and she prepared to leave, stepping on Qi.

At this moment,

The Heavenly Machine Elder quickly stopped Jiang Luojing.

"Wait, let's finish our business first."

"If you already know who is emitting that Qi, you can find him later."

"We need to focus on more pressing matters."

Jiang Luojing's steps paused, her gaze falling on the Heavenly Machine Elder.

The Heavenly Machine Elder's ancient face had a faint smile, showing no signs of coercion, but his tone was irrefutable.

It was clear to see.

The matter they were about to undertake was of great importance to the Heavenly Machine Elder.

Jiang Luojing pondered for a moment, her brows slightly furrowed, and she nodded slightly, "Let's go."

Seeing Jiang Luojing agree, the Heavenly Machine Elder breathed a sigh of relief.

He hastily led Jiang Luojing towards the mountain peak.

"At present, the Immortal Buddhas are nowhere to be found, the Four Continents and Three Realms are all divided; we remnants from the early era must seize that last glimmer of hope to survive the upcoming grand era conflict."

"If we allow those lofty beings to do as they please, we will ultimately remain but pawns in the game."

The Heavenly Machine Elder murmured to himself.

It was unknown.

Whether he was speaking to himself.

Or to Jiang Luojing.

Chapter 476 - Remnants of the Imperial Relic

When the rainbow light shone, autumn snow spread across the horizon.

Cheng Guang was taking in the rewards of fusing with the Saint Dao Fruit while calming his own Qi.

He did not know what the Saint Dao Fruit meant to the people of the world, nor did he know what the Ancient Tang Monk had experienced during the primal era.

Yet, in his heart, he was immensely curious about these legendary figures.

Cheng Guang exhaled slowly, aware that after his cultivation improved, he might have the chance to encounter such characters.

As Cheng Guang opened his eyes and was about to push open the door, he suddenly sensed that the sky outside had darkened.

After opening the door,

What caught his eye was the clear moon hanging in the sky, and in the Million Specie Garden, several people stood sparsely.

Qin Yanqiu and Ning Qianxue were sitting in a stone pavilion nearby.

When they heard the sound of the door opening, both shifted their gaze towards Cheng Guang.

At the same time, Cheng Guang's eyes also fell on the two of them.

Qin Yanqiu and Ning Qianxue were beautiful in their own right, and the pale moonlight that fell on them reflected a glow as translucent as white jade.

A sight too beautiful for words.

Cheng Guang only glanced at them briefly, smiled and nodded as a greeting, then turned his gaze towards Qin Beifeng who was standing aside.

"Mr. Qin."

Upon seeing Cheng Guang come out, feeling the aura emitting from him, Qin Beifeng's eyes involuntarily narrowed.

He was shocked.

He speculated that Cheng Guang might have encountered an incredible opportunity in the Secret Realm, with his cultivation having rapidly advanced.

Qin Beifeng opened his mouth slightly but in the end didn't ask anything more; in face of Cheng Guang's call, he nodded slightly, then respectfully said, "Princely Heir."

Cheng Guang asked, "Mr. Qin, what brings you here today?"

As he spoke, a hint of puzzled curiosity appropriately surfaced on his face.

Seeing the confusion that appeared on Cheng Guang's face, Qin Beifeng realized that Cheng Guang might not even know the commotion he had just caused.

If it weren't for him and Cheng Zhihai holding down the fort at Duke Zhen's Mansion, who knows how many powerhouses would have made their way inside at this time to spy on Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir.

Qin Beifeng forced a smile.

"Princely Heir, I'm afraid it wasn't just me who came today. Cheng Zhihai and even his entire Bureau of the Lamp rushed over because of you, Princely Heir... surrounding the Duke Zhen's Mansion."

"They just didn't enter the mansion, that's all."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Guang's eyes widened slightly, "What do you mean by that?"

No sooner had Cheng Guang spoken, he realized something.

"Could it be..."

Qin Beifeng nodded slightly.

Cheng Guang was taken aback for a moment, then stroked his chin, nodding lightly.

It was not so surprising, after all.

The Heavenly Dao Pill that enabled one to attain the Fruits of Path to Divinity would certainly not cause a small commotion when consumed.

It probably attracted the attention of countless people in the world.

This time, he was well protected by Cheng Zhihai and Qin Beifeng. While he consumed the Heavenly Dao Pill in his bedroom, he was not disturbed in the slightest.

Even the sounds of battle from outside had not reached Cheng Guang's ears.

If he had not stepped outside, he probably wouldn't have known what was happening in the outside world.

"Are there still people outside now?"

Cheng Guang looked at Qin Beifeng, his eyebrows raising slightly as he asked.

Qin Beifeng looked up at the sky, then said to Cheng Guang, "Princely Heir, there should be far fewer people now."

"Unless a Sky-Man steps in, no one can break into Duke Zhen's Mansion."

"Those are just some rats hiding in the shadows, too cowardly to show their faces, that's all the courage they have."

As Qin Beifeng spoke, his tone clearly conveyed his disdain for those powerhouses lurking around, spying on Cheng Guang.

They were intensely curious about the disturbance caused by Cheng Guang.

They wanted to get closer to see what opportunity Cheng Guang had garnered from the Secret Realm and whether there was a chance to share in the spoils.

But,

Most of them were afraid of the power wielded by Duke Zhen's Mansion, only able to cover up their faces and hide their identities, making moves in secret.

While their strengths were not particularly formidable to begin with, now that they were hiding and hesitating to engage fully, their power had been reduced by more than thirty percent.

If they could freely fight, Qin Beifeng would indeed be worried that they might break through the cordon of the Bureau of the Lamp's guards, enter Duke Zhen's Mansion, and make it to this Million Specie Garden.

Though most of them would not be a match for Qin Beifeng himself,

Allowing them to enter the Million Specie Garden and disturb Cheng Guang would not be desirable.

After Qin Beifeng finished speaking,

Cheng Guang slowly nodded.

The majority of Sky-Men in the world were now trapped in the Secret Realm, and apart from the Duke of the State, there was no other Sky-Man in the whole Great Zhou. To have a Sky-Man act against him was not so easy.

On the other hand,

Even if a Sky-Man did make a move against him,

He would not be the least bit fearful.

In fact, he might even be excited to test out the abilities he had acquired from the fusion with the Saint Dao Fruit.

Even if he couldn't defeat the Sky-Man, surviving would certainly not be a problem.

Cheng Guang wished to see how long he could last under the hand of a Sky-Man, with just the Power of the Primordial Spirit of Spirit Dao.

Cheng Guang pondered in his heart.

In the night sky at this moment, faint flashes of white light still twinkled from the explosive sound of Qi.

After Cheng Guang emerged from his room, the visions in the sky gradually began to dissipate, and many of those stirring outside couldn't help but nurse thoughts of retreat upon seeing the celestial phenomena abating.

Chapter 477 - Remnants of the Imperial Relic\_2

Because they knew, once the anomaly had disappeared, Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, very likely had already used the opportunity he had obtained from the Secret Realm.

Even if they were to force their way into Duke Zhen's Mansion now, peering into Cheng Guang's obtained fortunes, they could no longer snatch it away.

There was no further point in staying here now.

No benefits had been gained.

There was even the possibility of their identities being exposed, attracting the attention of the Bureau of the Lamp, leading to retribution afterwards.

Having thought this through,

the many formidable figures lurking around Duke Zhen's Mansion gave a low shout, retreating backwards.

The Bureau of the Lamp's constables didn't continue their pursuit either.

They simply exhaled slightly and quietly stood with their knives on the eaves, watching the others leave.

Gradually,

the atmosphere around Duke Zhen's Mansion became quieter and quieter.

Just as everyone thought that the matter would settle down and the disturbance caused by Cheng Guang would soon dissipate, suddenly, a figure somewhat abruptly appeared in the distant night sky.

The person stood up high in the sky,

his gaze fixed on the location where Cheng Guang was.

One could clearly see from within the night sky: the figure was dressed in a blue scholar's robe, his features neither handsome nor striking but rather ordinary or perhaps even kind.

The mere appearance of this person, without any further action, caused the countless strong figures around him, as well as the constables of the Bureau of the Lamp, to feel a slight hitch in their breathing.

They felt as if they were facing a towering mountain.

Their bodies, shrouded by the stranger's aura, involuntarily began to tremble.

"This... this aura..."

"It's a Sky-Man!!"

"Who exactly is this? When did a Sky-Man appear within the Great Zhou? Could it be a Sky-Man from another dynasty?"

Throughout the Great Zhou Capital, countless individuals sensed the presence emitting from the figure in the blue scholar's robe, their emotions shocked, showing a look of horror on their faces.

They had not expected that,

at this moment, the commotion caused by Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, would actually attract the attention of a Sky-Man.

Would this Sky-Man disregard the Duke of the State's face and make a move against the Town-Nation Duke's Heir?

At this thought, many people showed an interested smile upon their faces.

"Interesting, things have become interesting now."

"With a Sky-Man taking action, the Bureau of the Lamp can no longer intervene."

"If this Sky-Man can probe out what opportunity the Town-Nation Duke's Heir has obtained that could cause such a major disturbance, our trip here would not be in vain."

The many strong figures who had been spying on Cheng Guang, those who had intended to depart, stopped in their tracks upon witnessing the arrival of the man in the scholar's robe in the sky, turning their heads to watch his movements.

At this moment,

within a somewhat dilapidated civilian residence in the Great Zhou Capital, Lin Gongfu watched the distant developments. He had been extremely shocked by the multiple strange phenomena above Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Upon seeing the myriad of strong figures attempting to break into Duke Zhen's Mansion to uncover the details of Cheng Guang, the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, Lin Gongfu's eyes, deep as ancient wells, revealed no change.

As dead as ever.

However,

as soon as Lin Gongfu saw the man in the blue scholar's robe appear in the sky, his eyes suddenly widened, his fingers tightly gripping the armrest of his chair, turning white and even blue from the force without minding it.

"That... that is!!"

Lin Gongfu's voice came out astounded, seeming incredulous and as though he had seen something terrifying, causing his body to shake uncontrollably.

"That's the man who killed my son!!!"

"He's appeared again!?"

Lin Gongfu's aged voice rasped out, his tone filled with suppressed anger and resentment.

Lin Gongfu recognized the newcomer,

and his eyes almost split with rage.

If looks could kill,

Zhang Shunlong by now would have died countless times.

At this moment, Zhang Shunlong stood high above in the sky,

he cast down his gaze, looking over Cheng Guang's figure.

Gazing at Cheng Guang, Zhang Shunlong's kind face revealed a gentle smile, his hands together as if preparing to say something when,

he seemed to sense something else, his brows furrowing slightly and he turned his head to the side, his gaze piercing through the layered space and numerous buildings, landing on Lin Gongfu.

Seeing Lin Gongfu's resentful demeanor, Zhang Shunlong merely glanced once and recognized him.

A chill flashed through his eyes.

He snorted coldly.

Zhang Shunlong's voice was not loud, but when it reached Lin Gongfu's ears, it sounded like thunder, causing his body to sharply shiver once, after which he became dazed.

By the time Lin Gongfu came to his senses,

he found that his mouth and nose were bleeding profusely.

"This... no... how could this be!!"

"Even if he is a Sky-Man, he shouldn't be able to inflict such grave injuries from so far away with merely a hum!!!"

Lin Gongfu frantically shifted his gaze away, with his lean, knobbly hands quickly covering his mouth and nose, his eyes quivering non-stop.

He was extremely horrified.

At the same time,

Lin Gongfu also bowed his head deeply, avoiding Zhang Shunlong's scrutinizing gaze; at that moment, Lin Gongfu felt humiliated to the extreme.

Wounded gravely by Zhang Shunlong's breath, the resentment in his eyes intensified rather than subsided.

Zhang Shunlong didn't waste any more of his time on Lin Gongfu. If it weren't for Zhang Shunlong not wanting to be tainted with karma or soil his hands at this moment, then Lin Gongfu's experience would have been more than just bleeding from the mouth and nose.

His entire being would have been obliterated by that single snort.

Zhang Shunlong's gaze returned to rest on Cheng Guang, and after a moment of contemplation, he started to walk slowly towards Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Chapter 478 - Remnants of the Imperial Relic 3

Under the watchful gaze of countless strong figures,

Zhang Shunlong, the enigmatic Sky-Man, suddenly revealed a gentle smile. His calm voice slowly rose, not loud but seeming to echo by everyone's ear.

"Princely Heir, long time no see."

The many strong figures entrenched in the Capital city were dumbfounded upon hearing Zhang Shunlong's words.

What was this situation?

This powerful Sky-Man, he knew the Town-Nation Duke's Heir?

Many of them had been waiting for Zhang Shunlong to battle it out with Duke Zhen's Mansion.

But the result...

Was this it?

This Sky-Man was also one of Duke Zhen's Mansion's people?

Thinking of this, many strong figures felt their scalps tingle.

"Damn it!! Where did Duke Zhen's Mansion find such a formidable Sky-Man!"

"Had we known that besides the Duke, there was another Sky-Man in the Capital city, even with a hundred times the courage, we wouldn't have dared to spy on the Princely Heir."

"I'm done! I'm totally done! Can't play this at all! I'm out!"

As they heard Zhang Shunlong speak, the strong figures scurried away frantically, as if desperate to escape to a distant place.

They didn't want to stay any longer.

Otherwise,

If Zhang Shunlong, this Sky-Man, decided to take action against them, they would not be able to leave when the time came.

For a Sky-Man like Zhang Shunlong, perhaps all it would take was a thought to imprison them all within this world.

Beneath Sky-Men, all are ordinary.

This wasn't a joke.

At this moment,

Strong figures who had rushed over to Duke Zhen's Mansion from all corners of the Capital city due to the commotion caused by Cheng Guang began to rise and depart.

The once restless Capital city immediately became peaceful.

Cheng Guang, who was in the Million Specie Garden, wasn't disturbed much, but he could still distinctly feel that the Qi around him became much more stable.

He slightly lifted his eyes, looking at Zhang Shunlong, and raised his eyebrows.

"When did you get back to the Capital city?"

As far as Cheng Guang knew, Zhang Shunlong had been traveling around recently, striving to build his dynasty, and should not have appeared near the Capital city at this time.

Could it be because of him again?

Cheng Guang pondered internally.

Zhang Shunlong descended slowly from the high sky, walking toward Duke Zhen's Mansion. He reached the airspace above the Mansion but didn't enter, simply looking at Cheng Guang from a distance.

After observing Cheng Guang for a moment, he slowly gave a nod of respect.

"I was just passing by and sensed such a disturbance, so I came to have a look."

Zhang Shunlong said, his tone pausing briefly before continuing, "The commotion the Princely Heir just caused was not insignificant. That kind of aura made even my heart tremble; it seemed somewhat like..."

Zhang Shunlong's voice trailed off towards the end, growing fainter as if even he couldn't believe the guess that had surfaced in his mind, shaking his head with a wry smile afterward.

"Let's leave it at that, who knows how long it's been, it's unlikely."

"I heard there was a Secret Realm appearing near the Capital city. I was delayed by some matters, otherwise, I would have certainly entered it to take a look."

"The disturbance the Princely Heir just caused must be related to something from those Secret Realms."

"Those Secret Realms are chances as well as dangers. The Princely Heir must be careful."

After spouting some incoherent words, Zhang Shunlong lifted his gaze again toward the sky as if watching something interesting.

"Princely Heir, I'll take my leave first."

Zhang Shunlong vanished in an instant after speaking.

Cheng Guang was momentarily stunned.

Before he could react, a thunderous outcry came from the sky.

"You!! What are you doing!!!"

"I merely came to look; I didn't make a move against the Town-Nation Duke's Heir! Why are you helping him like this!?"

Booming sounds like thunder echoed from the sky.

The sound of fighting was continuous, the heavens flashing as if lightning had suddenly appeared.

Cheng Guang watched the aura in the sky, his eyes slightly bewildered.

"Heh, there really was a Sky-Man coming over."

Cheng Guang observed the sky with interest.

He also felt a bit of regret.

If Zhang Shunlong had not shown up, this Sky-Man, hidden in the shadows, might indeed have made a move against him.

At that time,

he could have tested his current strength.

Cheng Guang clicked his tongue and didn't take the matter to heart.

After all, he didn't know if Zhang Shunlong had acted for his sake.

If it was for him, driving away the Sky-Man was kind.

Cheng Guang had nothing to say about that.

If it wasn't for him, then Cheng Guang had even less to say.

As Cheng Guang contemplated, he turned and went back inside.

"Mr. Qin, it seems there won't be anything happening for a while. You can go back and rest first."

Cheng Guang said and then instructed Qing Luan to bring him some hot water.

With Qing Luan's assistance, Cheng Guang washed up quickly and then entered the bedroom, ready to rest.

After Cheng Guang entered the bedroom,

In the pavilion of Million Specie Garden,

Qin Yanqiu and Ning Qianxue caught each other's eye, and different meanings flickered in their eyes.

Qin Yanqiu's eyes, typically cool and undisturbed, had moonlight spilling over her shoulders, inexplicably giving her the likeness of a Fairy in the Moon.

"Tonight is yours to spend. After all, you haven't had the opportunity even once," said Qin Yanqiu, who seldom spoke.

Ning Qianxue, usually a chatterbox, was instead shy and at a loss for words.

She looked down slightly,

her porcelain-like face flushing with a hint of red.

"No, it wouldn't be right," she protested.

"We haven't even officially had a wedding ceremony; how could I presume to enter the Princely Heir's chamber at this time?"

Chapter 479 - Remnants of the Imperial Relic\_4

"If the Princely Heir dislikes me, or perhaps thinks I am a woman of loose morals, that would be bad. I do not wish for the Princely Heir to see me as such a woman."

"Sister Qin, what did it feel like the first time for you? Were you nervous? Do you have any advice for me??"

Ning Qianxue's clear eyes flickered as she turned to Qin Yanqiu, seeking some help and some emergency knowledge.

Upon hearing Ning Qianxue's words, Qin Yanqiu slightly frowned and then said expressionlessly, "There was no particular feeling, just a bit of pain."

"That kind of pain is nothing. Back when I was on the battlefield, I got my arm torn by a Demon Beast and didn't even cry."

"You just bear with it."

"Ah?" Upon hearing Qin Yanqiu's words, Ning Qianxue was somewhat stupefied, she lightly bit her red lips, and then whispered, "So, did Sister Qin also take the initiative to enter the Princely Heir's room back then?"

Qin Yanqiu gave Ning Qianxue a puzzled look.

"Otherwise?"

"Are you waiting for the Princely Heir to call you?"

After hearing Qin Yanqiu's words, Ning Qianxue slightly nodded thoughtfully, just as she was about to say something.

Qin Yanqiu added another sentence.

"Whether you enter the room or not, if you don't, then I'm going in."

Qin Yanqiu's cool eyes swept over Ning Qianxue, then she slowly stood up, patting her stomach.

"I feel if it happens a few more times, maybe I'll get pregnant."

Upon hearing Qin Yanqiu's statement, Ning Qianxue almost felt her CPU was about to overheat.

Her entire face turned beet red.

Unsure whether she was pushed by Qin Yanqiu or not, Ning Qianxue subconsciously stood up and started walking towards Cheng Guang's location.

But she had not yet reached Cheng Guang's door.

Ning Qianxue's body became a bit stiff, taking steps towards Cheng Guang's bedroom felt like walking into an unknown hell.

Nervousness took over her entire mind.

Just as Ning Qianxue arrived at Cheng Guang's bedroom door, she fumbled with the Brocade Handkerchief in her hand for quite a while, her hand tentatively lifted, preparing to knock and enter.

Suddenly.

The door pushed open from the inside out.

Cheng Guang's handsome face appeared, looking at Ning Qianxue with surprise.

"What are you doing in front of my door? Your face is all cloudy one moment and clear the next; are you planning to assassinate me?"

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's words, Ning Qianxue was so embarrassed her face turned crimson, and she hurriedly turned around, running back to Qin Yanqiu.

She simply couldn't hold herself together, and threw herself into Qin Yanqiu's arms.

She couldn't lift her face at all.

Qin Yanqiu lowered her gaze to Ning Qianxue in her arms, and then looked at Cheng Guang.

Just when she was about to say something.

Cheng Guang gestured to Qin Yanqiu with a wave of his hand, saying, "Yanqiu, come here."

Qin Yanqiu hesitated for a moment, her red lips slightly pursed, she nodded slightly, and stood up, gently pushing away Ning Qianxue who was in front of her, giving her a 'you had your chance' look, and walked towards Cheng Guang.

Approaching Cheng Guang, before she could say anything, she was pulled into the room by him.

Immediately following.

The lights in Cheng Guang's bedroom went out in an instant.

Ning Qianxue stood there dumbfounded, seemingly not yet recovered from the shock, noticing Cheng Guang's entire bedroom attic trembling gently.

Ning Qianxue's entire face became flushed, and she lowered her head on the stone table.

Her ears were so engorged they seemed as though they might bleed.

At the same time.

Ning Qianxue's ears perked up secretly, as if she was listening to something.

The more she listened, the more amazed she felt.

Her red lips parted slightly.

Then she quickly covered her mouth with one hand.

"Sister Qin's words, it turns out there can be so many."

...

After a bout of turmoil.

Cheng Guang sat on the bed, smiling at the sight of Qin Yanqiu, who was wrapped in a brocade quilt and sleeping soundly out of exhaustion, beside him.

This battle.

He had won.

There wasn't much suspense.

It was indeed proof of the saying, "If you're inexperienced, practice more; if you can't handle it, don't play."

Cheng Guang smiled, gently straightened Qin Yanqiu's hair, then his spirit sank slightly as he focused all his thoughts on the system.

Midnight had just passed.

The system's cold, emotionless voice, without any surprise, rang in Cheng Guang's ears.

Cheng Guang listened intently.

[On October 20th of the 34th year of Zhensheng, the one hundred and tenth day since you became a Heavenly Human Realm, you ventured into Five Daos Mountain again and shockingly found that deep within, there was an old Taoist whose age was unknown, and his power was far beyond your capabilities.]

[The Scorpion Demon, which was formidable for you, was but a servant to the other.]

[Luckily, the other did not strike at you; otherwise, your exploration of Five Daos Mountain might have ended like the other Sky-Men, never to come out again.]

[Although you gained much from this trip into Five Daos Mountain, you felt unsatisfied because, beyond entering the mountain, you did not find those Sky-Men who had disappeared in the Secret Realm years ago.]

[Are all those Sky-Men dead? If they are, how could they have left no trace at all??]

[You were puzzled; after exiting the Secret Realm, as you were about to establish your own power, you suffered from the aftermath of a battle between two powerhouses.]

[You were merely approaching and had no time to react before you were struck down instantly, seriously wounded and on the verge of death!]

[You were terrified. After all, you were a Sky-Man. How could you have been gravely injured by the residual attacks from the battle between two powerhouses without any chance to defend yourself!?!]

[Who exactly were those two powerhouses??]

[Perplexed, just before losing consciousness, you heard someone shouting, "Young man, what is your intent!? I harbor no ill will towards you!"]

[When you regained consciousness, you investigated and discovered that one of the battling powerhouses was a youth with a baby-faced appearance.]

[The young-looking youth had been seen by you in Great Zhou Capital when he was just a beggar, living a muddled life every day.]

[You did not expect that, after all these years, his appearance had not changed at all, and even more so, his power had become so great that it was beyond your reach.]

[Keep in mind, you are a Sky-Man now!]

[You found it hard to believe, not daring to imagine how powerful he was at that moment, perhaps even stronger than the True Sun Martial God Zhang Shunlong.]

[At the same time, you also secretly regretted not having made an acquaintance with him back then.]

[Four-Star Task: Befriend Li Tongzhen.]

[Task Reward: Remnants of the Imperial Relic.]

...

I was delayed today, and I'll make up for the missing word count the day after tomorrow. It's as if it wasn't missing if it's short.

Thank you for the tips, it's the thought that counts. A little is just as meaningful, don't tip more, it's a waste of money.

I feel like I haven't written well, undeserving of your generosity.

Thanks again!

Chapter 480 - Qingqing Isn't Hungry, Let Me Go!

After hearing the system task prompt, Cheng Guang was somewhat dumbfounded.

After completing the system task, Cheng Guang hadn't expected the next task to be this.

Very similar to the Zhang Shunlong task before it.

Become acquainted with Li Tongzhen.

Just who exactly was this Li Tongzhen?

In the system's chosen timeline, who knew how many years had passed, his appearance hadn't changed in the slightest.

Even so,

in that timeline, the true Princely Heir had already ascended to become a Sky-Man, yet he could still be gravely injured by the residual shockwaves of a battle between Li Tongzhen and some unknown powerful figure.

Could it be that Li Tongzhen had grown from an obscure beggar to an unparalleled powerhouse in just a short time?

Thoughtful, Cheng Guang slowly got out of bed, gently lifted the covers, trying not to disturb Qin Yanqiu as he got out of bed, and sat down at the desk nearby.

He poured himself a cup of clear tea and sat silently, deep in thought.

A tangled mess of thoughts crisscrossed in Cheng Guang's mind, intertwined like a bunch of tangled thread.

Cheng Guang couldn't figure it out.

If this Li Tongzhen was just like Zhang Shunlong, having acquired great power out of the blue, why hadn't he stirred up any waves in such a long time?

He seemed to have vanished into the vast sea of people.

If it weren't for Li Tongzhen's battle with that mysterious figure, which accidentally injured the future timeline's Princely Heir,

it was likely that the Princely Heir wouldn't have even noticed yet.

That Li Tongzhen was the beggar who begged in the Capital city years ago.

A glint flashed in Cheng Guang's eyes, aware that this Li Tongzhen was definitely not simple, his identity perhaps even more complex than that of Zhang Shunlong.

Zhang Shunlong's future whereabouts were very certain. He was known as the True Sun Martial God, the publicly recognized number one Sky-Man in the future.

He had established the True Sun Lord and even harbored the ambition to start his own dynasty, one without any nobility.

At that moment, Cheng Guang suddenly realized,

this world, because of his own involvement, seemed also to have changed Zhang Shunlong's future.

In the original timeline, Zhang Shunlong had already set up the True Sun Army by this time, disbanded by Zhang Shunlong himself before Emperor Zhou disappeared into the Secret Realm.

But now,

in this current world line, Cheng Guang had yet to hear any news about Zhang Shunlong establishing the True Sun Army.

Even the title of True Sun Martial God hadn't spread.

Cheng Guang tapped the desk with one finger and chuckled, shaking his head, "Is it because of my appearance that Zhang Shunlong has changed his view on nobility? Him coming here to help me must have been intentional."

"He can't be placing all his hopes for changing the world on me, can he?"

Cheng Guang muttered to himself, feeling the absurdity of the situation.

But upon further consideration, it was indeed a possibility.

However...

What Cheng Guang couldn't understand was,

if Zhang Shunlong really thought this way, why hadn't he taken the initiative to talk about it?

Could it be he was wary?

Worried that I, being nobility myself, would not revolutionize the noble class?

Arriving at this thought, Cheng Guang felt a wave of realization and looked through the ancient round window at the distant sky.

The early summer dawn was slightly cool, with a thin mist floating in the air, like delicate silk, breathtakingly beautiful.

A touch of pink appeared on the horizon, like a painter's gentle stroke, the blush spread gradually, staining half the sky red and reflecting the imminent rise of the sun.

Dawn broke.

Cheng Guang sat idle by the desk.

Before long,

Cheng Guang saw Ning Qianxue being attended by Qing Luan in the pavilion, washing up.

It was barely dawn, what were they doing getting up so early?

Cheng Guang sat at the desk, watching the two in the distance, stupefied.

After washing up, Ning Qianxue was led by Qing Luan into an adjacent room to dress and put on makeup.

Simultaneously, not much later, servants scattered about under the direction of Steward Wang entered the courtyard.

"Here, stick this up."

"Don't touch or fiddle with anything heedlessly in the Princely Heir's courtyard. An unassuming trinket here is worth a fortune. Breaking one could mean a cost we couldn't bear."

"Hang a lantern there. Yes, not too high... a bit lower... hmm..."

As soon as Steward Wang's group entered the courtyard, everything became lively and bustling.

Cheng Guang's lips twitched slightly at the sight of the festive red papers the servants were pasting on the walls of the courtyard.

He suddenly realized,

this must be Mrs. Wu's instructions. Ning Qianxue had already been in the Duke's Mansion for some time.

Cheng Guang had previously entered the Secret Realm and had been unable to marry or hold the wedding ceremony, so it was put on hold.

Now that Cheng Guang had returned,

Wu Yuemei was tirelessly pursuing the preparations.

Cheng Guang sighed. The whole world was about to be thrown into chaos, and here he was getting married.

Cheng Guang felt no particular dislike nor special fondness for Ning Qianxue.

She had come to Duke Zhen's Mansion.

After so many days,

she deserved a proper status.

Cheng Guang thought over it and decided not to look for Li Tongzhen today. He would complete the wedding ceremony first. After there was free time, he would search in the Capital city again.

According to the information from the system task prompt, Li Tongzhen should still be a beggar at this time.

Even in the Capital city, beneath the Emperor's feet, there were many beggars.

Even though he was the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, to find one named Li Tongzhen among the multitude of beggars would still require some effort.

As Cheng Guang pondered this, Qing Luan briskly pushed open the door of the room.