

Nine-Dragon 1361

Chapter 1361: Refining the Reverse Scale

Prince Yun's lips stretched into a grim smile. "Of course you may! Not only you, but the rest of my brothers, too, may have a taste of Princess Chuxue if interested. She is the most beautiful Princess of the Empire after all."

Flames were blazing in the eyes of the Princes as they forcefully swallowed their saliva.

Their hearts thumped wildly at the mere thought of Princess Chuxue's beauty and grace.

Xue Xiaoman scowled slightly. As a woman, the idea of treating a woman that way greatly appalled her.

However, as she shot a glance at Prince Yun, Xue Xiaoman did not dare to object.

"Brother Prince Yun, I only ask to have Su Yu at my disposal."

Prince Yun nodded with nonchalance. "As you please! However, you have to treat him nicely, and let him know what the consequences of plundering the possessions of the Northern Xue Nation are!"

Xue Xiaoman nodded. "Exactly what I'm thinking!"

Nonetheless, Xue Xiaoman hated Su Yu far more for stripping her clothes off and leaving her naked than she resented him for taking her weapons.

The latter was due to her inferior strength, and she could not blame it on anyone else.

However, the former was a deliberate insult.

Prince Yun nodded, the expression of his face eerie and hideous. "The Northern Xue Nation has served the imperial family for millions of years, and finally, our Father has decided to join the Heaven-defying Empire!"

"Let the emancipation begin with the banquet at the Woods of Drunken Immortals, and may we celebrate the rebirth of the Northern Xue Nation with the blood of Princess Chuxue!"

The Northern Xue Nation was on the brink of a rebellion.

"The Northern Xue Nation is going to rebel," inside the shop, Su Yu muttered softly after brooding for a few moments.

Surprisingly, Yongye Chuxue did not argue. She remained calm as she listened to his words.

The reality, after all, was right before their eyes.

The Princes threatened her publicly, and later even sent several Level Five deities to besiege the place where she was staying.

What else could it be if not an attempt at rebellion?

After a long while, Yongye Chuxue said, "Celebrations rarely go well. I have a foreboding feeling about the upcoming banquet at the Woods of Drunken Immortals."

Su Yu chortled. "Are you sure it's just a foreboding feeling? I think you most likely wouldn't return!"

Casting a look at her beautiful form, Su Yu said musingly, "I'm not certain about what they are planning for me, but whatever it is, you would probably suffer an even worse fate, Princess."

Upon hearing that, Princess Chuxue shuddered. Her beauty was renowned, and if the Northern Xue Nation did rebel, she could imagine what the princes of that nation would do to her.

"If you wish to leave, I can send you off," Su Yu said placidly.

Even though they were surrounded by a large group of powerful individuals, if he chose to use the Yin Yang Wings, not even the monarchs of the four great empires could detain them.

"Why should I leave?" Unexpectedly, the seemingly feeble Yongye Chuxue had a resolute, staunch look on her face.

"I am a Princess of the Empire. Why should I bow to a bunch of traitors and usurpers?" Yongye Chuxue's crystal-clear eyes flickered with a gleam of ferocity. "Not only will I attend the banquet at the Woods of Drunken Immortals, but I will go with my flags flying and bands playing!"

Su Yu's eyes sparkled with admiration. "Hahaha, well said! If you run away now, I would look down on you indeed."

"Rest assured, I will escort you there tomorrow. If they wish to spill blood, I will indulge them!" Su Yu's smile was callous and dangerous.

Yongye Chuxue said impatiently, "It will be good enough if we manage to keep from harm. What a guy, always talking nonsense..."

Su Yu smiled. He began to pace around the room, trying to analyze the strategy driving the rulers of the Northern Xue Nation.

"It seems like the riots and upheavals of the southern tribes have finally propelled the Northern Xue Nation toward rebellion," Su Yu thought to himself.

"The rebellion of the south was triggered by a mysterious tomb-guarding spirit, the power of which must not be slighted!"

"The rebellion of the North must have had some sort of connection with Nitian Guyun."

"It must be quite challenging to douse the flames of war in both the North and the South. At least, it can't be done overnight!"

"In the midst of the spreading rebellion, how could the West and the East remain stable?"

“Even without the intervention of the Empire of Ice and Fire and the Taiching Empire, it is hard to be sure that the forces of the West and East wouldn’t seize power with their private armies,” Su Yu mumbled under his breath.

“The Empire of Darkness is in a precarious position. There is a high chance that it will dissolve and fall apart very soon!”

Su Yu could almost envision the complete downfall of the Empire of Darkness as he continued with his speculations. He could predict how the three great Empires would join forces and crush Yongye Jiuyang.

However, none of it mattered to Su Yu, he would not lend a hand to aid the Empire of Darkness.

After all, Yongye Jiuyang had always wanted him dead.

“The Ancient God Realm is on the verge of civil unrest, and the Lost Nation has turned out to be the safest place. This journey is bound to happen.” Su Yu made up his mind to travel to the Lost Nation.

Calming down, Su Yu took out the Reverse Scale. Yongye Wuming was left within the space of the Reverse Scale, and the rest of its contents were inexhaustible resources.

With a shift of thoughts, Su Yu transferred all of them to the world of the martial tower.

“Wahaha, so many resources! Man, have you started robbing and looting again?” Black Kylin stuck out its head, and its eyes shimmered with greed.

Su Yu rolled his eyes. “You could say that.”

“Hold on!” All of a sudden, Black Kylin looked stunned and the expression on its face gradually changed. “This is not the Star River!”

“Yes, this is a forsaken god realm, which had been the battlefield of the Nine Emperors in the olden days,” Su Yu stated placidly, observing Black Kylin’s expression from the corner of his eye.

Just as he expected, upon the mention of the Nine Emperors, Black Kylin’s eyes flashed with complex emotions. There were hints of remorse and sorrow flickering in them.

Nonetheless, those emotions were only displayed for a fleeting moment before being quickly concealed.

Black Kylin spoke again, “How fortunate you are to have found this forsaken god realm! It is even more glorious than the Star River.”

“You should take advantage of it. If you are lucky, you might be able to reap unexpected gains, such as some Emperor-based Saint Artifacts.”

Gains? Su Yu touched his chin. Nowadays, low-ranking Emperor-based Saint Artifacts no longer piqued his interest.

When it finished speaking, Black Kylin pulled its head back.

” Black Kylin has connections with the Nine Emperors indeed.” Su Yu has always been trying to figure out Kylin’s identity, but he hadn’t expected it to be related to the Nine Emperors.

One among the Nine Emperors was the Kylin Divine Warrior.

Su Yu could not be certain whether Black Kylin was related to the Kylin Divine Warrior.

Fixing his gaze on the Reverse Scale again, Su Yu transferred Yongye Wuming to the Buddha Pearl.

Holding the Reverse Scale in his grip, Su Yu pressed it gently to his chest.

A strong sense of connection with flesh and blood rose within him, and the Reverse Scale disappeared obediently into Su Yu’s chest without any delay.

The drop of the World Annihilation Dragon Blood hidden in the Reverse Scale fused into Su Yu’s body, little by little.

Su Yu felt an unimaginable power gradually filling his body, instantly transforming his physique into a better, stronger one.

As he clenched his fists, a power that even Su Yu himself found terrifying was surging back and forth within his grip.

“Ha! Now this fist can break a Level Six deity into pieces, can’t it? And a Level Five deity would shed a layer of skin even if their life was spared!” Su Yu was jubilant.

The increase in power was unimaginable. It had grown by leaps and bounds!

At that moment, Su Yu had attained the power of a Level Five deity in terms of physical strength. If he ever encountered Xue Zhongbao again, he could easily match him in a fistfight.

Su Yu looked inside his abdomen. Having been continuously nourished, the two divine spirits had thrived and reached the point of late-stage Prospective Deity.

Despite this, however, Su Yu experienced no sign of breakthrough into a deity level.

Even though he practiced several Divine Paths, he hadn’t observed any signs of divine transformation, which made Su Yu feel rather helpless.

For ordinary people, divine tribulations would emerge naturally once they arrived at the ultimate phase of the practice of a Divine Path.

By then, the Divine Path would be ignited and they could break past the divine tribulations, transforming into a deity.

However, Su Yu was different. Before his Divine Path was ignited, the divine spirit had appeared, fulfilling the conditions of becoming a deity.

Later, as Su Yu acquired more and more Divine Paths, there were no signs of the occurrence of divine tribulations.

If the Divine Path didn’t get ignited, Su Yu would never become a deity.

Su Yu had a vague feeling that some kind of force was suppressing him from rising to the level of a deity.

As he recalled the many divine tribulations which he had experienced in the past, Su Yu frowned. Could it be the hostile force meddling with him again?

As the thought occurred to him, resentment filled Su Yu's eyes.

That overwhelming force had been hindering and deterring Su Yu ever since he began training, and it was still holding him back even now.

"I have overcome even divine tribulations. What could stop me from becoming a deity?" Su Yu queried.

Stubbornly, he said, "You can suppress a Divine Path practiced to the point of perfection. Perhaps you can suppress even a hundred Divine Paths. What about a thousand, or ten thousand Divine Paths?"

Su Yu had the skeletal remains of ten thousand deities in hand, and he had the help of the Fragment of Rules. It would not be difficult for him to acquire the Divine Paths of all those deities.

"Fine! If you're determined to fight, I will fight to the last!" Su Yu snorted and commenced studying the Divine Paths left behind in the ten thousand deities' skeletons right away.

Boom!

A deafening bolt of thunder struck from the clear sky all of a sudden. The white bolts of lightning, several thousand feet in width, fell upon the Tiannu Trade House, splitting a thousand-year-old ancient tree at the backyard into halves.

Su Yu sneered. "I got it right! It is you who keeps messing with me."

The more the force tried to impede Su Yu, the more Su Yu would go against it.

Su Yu closed his eyes and quickly entered a meditative state to comprehend the Divine Paths of all the deities.

The next evening, the rays of the slanting sun shone on the clouds at dusk.

Su Yu slowly opened his eyes, awakening from meditation, and the Power of Time around him dissipated like receding water.

A trace of weariness and many sparks of enlightenment glittered at once in Su Yu's eyes.

"Now I have acquired the Divine Paths of ten more deities," Su Yu thought for a moment. If given enough time, it would not be too hard for him to acquire ten thousand Divine Paths.

At that moment, Su Yu felt someone approaching from outside and opened the door.

Yongye Chuxue was waiting out there. Her eyes were tired, but she looked resolute. Apparently, she had been secretly preparing for the banquet at the Woods of Drunken Immortals.

"Time to go." The look on Yongye Chuxue's face was cold and detached, and her eyes gleamed with icy sparks.

Su Yu nodded, and together, they left for the Woods of Drunken Immortals.

The servants of the Xue Nation, who had besieged them earlier, trailed after them stealthily, while constantly reporting their locations in case they ran away.

The Woods of Drunken Immortals were located on a small island amidst a lake, a recreational spot for the royal family of the Xue Nation. The place was usually closed, as it was reserved for receiving important guests.

Today, it was deliberately opened to receive their guest of honor, Yongye Chuxue. The occasion was obviously a ceremonious one.

In honor of it, the royal house of the Xue Nation even spread the news of the Princess's visit, informing everyone in the city about it.

Su Yu and Princess Chuxue arrived at the lakeside. From afar, they saw many members of the royal family on the island going about their activities, yet no one came forth to receive them.

Yongye Chuxue was not bothered by the purposeful negligence, as she had expected it all.

However, neither Yongye Chuxue nor Su Yu attempted to flee.

They knew that the members of the Xue family were planning to murder them at this banquet. Extricating themselves from this situation would not be that simple.

Chapter 1362: A Competition of Courage

Yongye Chuxue said, "According to the legend, this lake was formed from a dragon's tear that fell onto the earth. It possesses the natural power of a dragon."

"If one flies across the air above it, one will be thwarted by the dragon's power, thus losing the ability of flight and falling into the lake, drowning alive. Only unique boats are able to cross the lake."

Dragon's power? Su Yu flashed a small smile.

"However, I have made preparations to contend with this power!" Yongye Chuxue took out two fragrant sachets, handing one of them to Su Yu.

"This is a part of the divine dragon's body preserved by the royal house. It contains a dragon's power that can even out that of the lake. Crossing the lake shouldn't be a problem."

Su Yu realized she really was making preparations last night.

After stuffing the fragrant sachets into their pockets, Su Yu and Yongye Chuxue took off into the air, heading for the small island amidst the lake.

Just as expected, the moment they soared into the air above the lake, they felt the formidable force of the divine dragon, which caused stagnation to Su Yu's maneuver of Mortal Fairy's Strength.

However, the sachet in his pocket gave off an equal dragon's power, which canceled out a great part of the power coming from the lake, eliminating much of the stagnation.

Using this method, they made it across the greater part of the lake safely.

However, right as they were nearing the shore, a faint growl of a dragon suddenly rushed out from the lake!

The growl carried the power of the dragon and dashed right at them in the explosive form of a geyser.

The Mortal Fairy's Strength in Su Yu's body froze all of a sudden. His feet went weak, and his body was on the verge of plummeting.

Yongye Chuxue was doing no better than he was. After a brief moment of perseverance, her face tensed and she began falling.

On the island, many Princes and Princesses had teasing, disdainful looks on their faces.

If Yongye Chuxue drowned, she would end up a laughing stock to them all.

Su Yu was unruffled. A faintly discernible layer of dragon scales appeared on the surface of his body.

With the emergence of the dragon scales, the dragon's power surging towards him lost its effect.

In terms of this kind of power, who could rival the World Annihilation Dragon?

Su Yu stabilized himself just in time. Quickly, he reached out, catching Yongye Chuxue's snowy, delicate hand and secretly supporting her.

Yongye Chuxue noted it but pretended that nothing had happened. She let Su Yu support her as they landed on the island, side by side.

It seemed like they had only paused for a moment in midair.

They were in no way disheveled or frightened, and they certainly did not fall into the lake.

As they touched the ground, Yongye Chuxue drew her hand back, blush creeping up her cheeks. The warmth of Su Yu's hand was still lingering on her skin.

Prince Yun watched from the side, his eyes cold, pretending he had only noticed them at that moment.

He led the other Princes and Princesses and stepped forward pretentiously to greet the new arrivals. "My apologies. We were busy with the decorations just now, and it is our fault that you had to cross the lake on your own, Princess. I am truly sorry."

Yongye Chuxue replied placidly, "Since you are so sorry, you can kill yourself to make up for it."

Prince Yun's smile froze on his face, and he appeared stunned. The rest of the Princes and Princesses were startled as well. No one had expected Yongye Chuxue to say such words.

"Just kidding," Yongye Chuxue clarified, shooting a look of mischief at Su Yu.

Prince Yun's face had tensed up. He did not manage to humiliate Yongye Chuxue, and Yongye Chuxue made him uneasy instead.

"Haha, Princess, you're so much fun," Prince Yun laughed it off, but the threat lurking in his smile had intensified.

Yongye Chuxue looked around her. “Am I? I suppose the banquet would be much more fun, wouldn’t it?”

The Princes and Princesses were laughing grimly in their hearts. Yes, it would be so much fun, indeed!

Prince Yun’s lips curled into a creepy smile, which he quickly concealed. Politely, he said, “Of course it would! Before the banquet begins, how about having a little show?”

Clap! Clap!

Prince Yun clapped his hands, and Xue Zhongbao stepped out from among the Princes with an air of aggressive arrogance.

“Oh? What’s so fun about watching Prince Zhongbao?” Yongye Chuxue asked, not losing her calm.

Prince Yun chuckled. “Nothing, of course. But if we could have a match, it would be very entertaining.”

Yongye Chuxue was intrigued. “Match? I heard that you Princes all have your own merits. I have always looked forward to seeing you compete with one another.”

“It won’t be interesting if it’s just a match among the Princes of the Xue Nation, right? How about asking your squire to join?” Prince Yun was smiling amiably.

Yongye Chuxue replied, “The Xue Princes are all Level Five deities, yet my friend is only a Mortal Fairy of the Fourth Realm. With such a wide disparity, it’s not a great idea to let him join the contest, is it?”

Prince Yun laughed. “No need to be so humble, Princess. Your squire... I mean, your friend has achieved the top tier in bodily strength.”

“Although he appears to be a fourth-realm Mortal Fairy, his physical strength can rival a Level Six deity. In terms of physical strength, he has the upper hand.”

Yongye Chuxue tried to downplay this. “Still, there’s nothing special about it. The difference in physical strength between Level Five and Level Six deities is insignificant, plus it’s not just physical strength that they would be competing in.”

“If this is the kind of entertainment that you have prepared, I must say I am very disappointed.”

Anyone with a sound mind could see that Yongye Chuxue was protecting Su Yu to keep him from harm.

However, the Princes of the Xue Nation had been preparing for this show. How would they let their efforts go to waste?

“You have misunderstood me, Princess. This is not a contest of strength this time, but their courage and boldness,” Prince Yun said pleasantly.

Yongye Chuxue asked, “What do you mean?”

Prince Yun pointed at the lake. "There is an extremely valuable Emperor-based Saint Artifact at the bottom of the lake, ranked 208th."

"It is known as the Pearl of Godly Thunder, and it was refined by the Nine Emperors with the mighty thunder of the ancient world. This item can be used to defend against any powerful attacks by thunder."

"However, a certain amount of dragon's power is present in the lake. If you are unlucky, you would run into the dragon's growl which you have encountered just now, Princess. The power in your body would be immobilized, and you would drown!"

"The competition this time would include diving in the lake. Whoever emerges with the Pearl of Godly Thunder first gets to keep it."

The Princes began chattering with great excitement, as though they were very keen to own this item.

"Whoa, what a fascinating artifact. I'd like to take part too!"

"My goodness, Brother Prince Yun is way too generous, isn't he?"

"You're right. I should have volunteered to take part in the match!"

...

As she watched the Princes and Princesses expressing their feigned exhilaration, Yongye Chuxue could not help but sneer. She looked over at Su Yu. "What do you think?"

Su Yu leaned against the trunk of a tree, looking extremely bored, and replied with nonchalance, "Any Emperor-based Saint Artifact ranked after 200 is nothing more than an unwanted scrap."

"Since the Xue Princes and Princesses fancy it so much, let them fight for it. I would very much like to see them get it."

All of a sudden, the Princes and Princesses fell silent, and no one uttered a word.

Who would be dauntless enough to venture underwater for real? The danger lurking inside the lake would be fatal to them.

"Hey, didn't you just say that you wanted to get this item so badly? Why aren't you talking now?" Su Yu pointed at one of the Princes.

The Prince's face turned pale. He clutched at his belly and stammered, "Umm, my belly is aching right now. I'm not in my best condition, and I'm afraid it's not a good time for me to dive underwater."

"How about you? Didn't you think your brother was so generous? Didn't you really want to own that Emperor-based Saint Artifact? You should get down there. I would be pleased to watch you."

The Princess's face was flushed red, and she stepped back diffidently. "You... you have misheard, it wasn't me who said that."

“And you, since you want to join the match so eagerly, you should go ahead,” Su Yu pointed at another Prince.

The Prince broke out in cold sweat and said timidly, “I... I was just joking.”

...

Those who were called out by Su Yu recoiled in dread. Who would risk their lives for an Emperor-based Saint Artifact ranked in an inferior position?

They thought a squire like Su Yu would be ignorant enough to be tempted by any Emperor-based Saint Artifact, yet this fellow was so scornful about it that they ended up embarrassed instead.

When he finished, Su Yu looked over at Prince Yun. “Did you hear it? Your siblings do not care about the waste at the bottom of the lake, yet you tried to tempt an important guest with it. Just how stingy are you? If you wanted to test my courage, you should have offered something more impressive.”

Upon hearing that, the expression on Prince Yun’s face turned awful. He thought to himself, ‘Who the heck cares about impressing an important guest? Our target is Yongye Chuxue!’

Now that things had turned out this way, however, it was clear that this fellow would not simply get underwater without the offer of a more valuable Emperor-based Saint Artifact.

“Alright, I will prepare another Emperor-based Saint Artifact.” as he spoke, Prince Yun was about to retrieve it. However, Su Yu spoke, “Don’t offer trashy items ranked after 100th on the list.”

Prince Yun’s hand froze for a second before he slowly placed back the 180th-ranking Emperor-based Saint Artifact which he was about to show everyone. His face displayed hints of anger.

The rest of the Princes and Princesses were flushed with embarrassment, obviously provoked. That was because all they owned were ‘trashy items’ ranked after the 100th.

Even Yongye Chuxue could not help but chortle, thinking to herself, ‘He really is daring enough to ask for this! Any Emperor-based Saint Artifact ranked before the 100th would be a rare treasure held in the hands of influential people.’

“Even the Northern Xue Nation owns just five such articles, two of which Su Yu has already taken. And now he’s asking for another one! He is purposely infuriating them.”

Prince Yun held back his murderous desire. Indeed, he owned an Emperor-based Saint Artifact ranked among the top hundred.

However, would he be willing to offer it to a nobody like Su Yu?

The other Princes and Princesses exchanged glances. They had planned to humiliate their guests, but it seemed like the situation had gone out of hand now. They thought they might as well get straight to the point and kill Su Yu.

At that moment, Xue Zhongbao walked over and shot a resentful glare at Su Yu. Through telepathy, he secretly told Prince Yun, “Might as well just do as he wishes, for he’ll certainly get killed in the lake! At most, I could help you retrieve this Emperor-based Saint Artifact afterward.”

Prince Yun thought for a moment and agreed.

Both Su Yu and Yongye Chuxue were going to be killed today anyway, so he would be able to get his Emperor-based Saint Artifact back later.

Thus, his face beamed with a bright smile once again, and he took out an emerald-colored flute. “This is the 50th-ranking Emperor-based Saint Artifact, the True Sky Flute of Heavenly Melody.”

“Once played, it can produce the greatest divine melody in the world, which is capable of breaking any sound wave techniques. Apart from that, it is the only treasure among the top hundred Emperor-based Saint Artifacts that could defend against sorcery energy!”

Upon hearing that, Su Yu’s eyes gleamed with interest. An Emperor-based Saint Artifact ranked 50th was good enough.

“Hmm, finally, an interesting offer. Alright, I accept the challenge!” Su Yu said.

Prince Yun’s face brightened. With a toss of his hand, the True Sky Flute of Heavenly Melody was thrown into the center of the lake.

He declared with a smile, “Same rule as before, whoever fetches it back gets to own the Emperor-based Saint Artifact.”

Xue Zhongbao laughed. “What do you mean, whoever? Of course, it belongs to me!”

As he finished speaking, he shot a provocative look at Su Yu and dived into the lake headfirst.

Unhurriedly, Su Yu removed his coat and sauntered slowly to the lakeside.

Prince Yun scowled. Xue Zhongbao couldn’t stay long underwater. If Su Yu didn’t get in fast, how was Xue Zhongbao going to kill him?

“Aren’t you afraid that Xue Zhongbao will get it first?” Prince Yun asked, trying to hurry him.

Su Yu replied with a gentle laugh, “What’s there to be afraid of? He will be waiting for me.”

Prince Yun was taken aback by his words. Did Su Yu know something already?

Chapter 1363: Refusing to Confess

He felt a slight, lingering unease.

Splash!

What comforted him was that Su Yu had finally stopped procrastinating and dived into the lake.

A smile danced on Prince Yun’s lips, and he asked Yongye Chuxue, “Princess, who do you think is going to be the victor?”

Yongye Chuxue answered without a second thought, “Su Yu, of course!”

Prince Yun sneered secretly. Did she really think it was as simple as scooping the thing up? With Xue Zhongbao's strength, it would be a piece of cake for him to kill Su Yu underwater.

On the other hand, Yongye Chuxue believed that Su Yu must be carrying some remarkable artifacts with him since he could remain unscathed in the eruption of the dragon's power just now.

He would not necessarily lose to Xue Zhongbao.

Su Yu sank into the lake and quickly disappeared.

Everyone waited in silence.

Inside the lake, the moment Su Yu went under the surface of the water, boundless dragon's power came surging from all directions, rendering his Mortal Fairy's capabilities useless.

A patch of scales appeared on Su Yu's arm, canceling out the impact of the dragon's power. Now it was as though Su Yu was in any other ordinary lake.

Before long, Su Yu reached the center of the lake, where he found a pearl radiating bolts of lightning, about the size of a fist. It was the Pearl of Godly Thunder, which was capable of defending against any lightning and thunder in the world.

It was an Emperor-based Saint Artifact after all, and Su Yu wouldn't let it go to waste. Reaching out from across the water, he took the Pearl of Godly Thunder.

Right at that moment, a harsh violent force struck from behind.

He turned around. It was Xue Zhongbao, who had been lying in ambush behind Su Yu, and now aimed a deadly blow at him while he was collecting the Pearl of Godly Thunder.

"Brat, you have no idea yet, do you? This will be your grave!" Xue Zhongbao had learned his lesson. He did not use the Meteorite Hammers again but solely relied upon his vantage point of bodily strength to direct fatal blows at Su Yu.

Su Yu flashed him a smile. "What a coincidence, I happen to have that thought too."

When he finished, he turned around, transformed into a 2000-foot-long black dragon, and rushed towards him.

Pow! Ahh!

Xue Zhongbao was caught unawares and was sent flying by the humongous black dragon. He threw up a mouthful of blood, and half of his body was shattered into pieces.

An overwhelming terror struck him!

Back when they fought last time, Su Yu hadn't had such spectacular strength yet. It had only been a day ago, but he had become so horrifying since!

Xue Zhongbao was a man who noticed the details. Despite his gruffness, he wasn't totally reckless.

During the fight, Xue Zhongbao realized that he was losing.

As he ran for his life, his broken body healed at an astonishing speed. After a couple of breaths, he had recovered almost completely.

In the meantime, he swam towards the surface of the lake as fast as he could. Once he was in Prince Yun's sight, Su Yu would not dare to hurt him.

However, the instant he leaped out of the water surface, a black shadow blocked the area above his head, and a colossal, hideous dragon claw slammed down on him brutally.

Bang!

Xue Zhongbao was forced back down into the water.

His heart sank, and he growled with his head held high, "Su Yu, this is only a contest! Are you trying to kill me?"

"A contest?" Su Yu chortled.

Xue Zhongbao was horrified by his laughter. Hastily, he said, "It was... it was only a slip of tongue. I was angry about that day and had wanted to teach you a lesson. I meant no harm."

"After all, Princess Chuxue is right here, so how would I dare to kill you for real? I swear that this is only a game."

When it came to survival, Xue Zhongbao couldn't care less about his pride and ego anymore, but the hatred deep inside him had intensified. Once they surfaced, he would kill Su Yu immediately. This man was too dangerous to keep alive.

"Alright, I believe you. Let's agree that this is just a match," Su Yu said after a moment of musing.

Xue Zhongbao was secretly relieved and heaved a silent sigh. 'You're going to pay a high price for your naivety!'

However, the next moment, Su Yu said, "However, you can get on with your game while I get on with my killing, so there is no conflict between us."

As he spoke, he slammed his dragon claw down. Xue Zhongbao's body was about to fall apart before it got the chance to heal completely.

Xue Zhongbao was petrified. "Ahh! Su Yu, do you want to kill me?"

Su Yu's dragon eyes were indifferent as if a true dragon looked out of them. Dispassionately, he said, "You're wrong; it's not only you that I want to kill, but all of your family!"

Bang!

His dragon claw pressed down forcefully, and Xue Zhongbao's body shattered into smithereens.

A pure spirit escaped from his body, fleeing from the lake in terror.

Initially, at the speed at which the spirit crossed the Void, it could have fled back to Prince Yun's side with teleportation.

However, the dragon's power inside the lake water had restricted his speed, making it even slower than his physical body.

Su Yu returned to his human form. His lips stretched into a satisfied smile and a seam cracked open between his brows. "Soul Devouring!"

Hiss!

Xue Zhongbao's spirit was entirely consumed by Su Yu, along with his terror and remorse. He became a piece of nourishment to Su Yu's soul energy.

That was the spirit of a Peak Level Five deity. It would be a great supplement to Su Yu's strength even if he absorbed just a tenth of it.

Su Yu's soul energy was boosted rapidly, making a direct advancement to Level Five!

Having attained immense strength once again, Su Yu's senses became even more astonishing. Now he could even faintly capture faintly the source of the eyes that were watching him.

As if realizing his exposure, the owner of the eyes stopped his surveillance immediately.

"Haha, I will get even with you very soon," Su Yu snorted coldly. Without the feeling of being watched, he felt a heavy weight lift off his shoulders.

Having dealt with Xue Zhongbao, Su Yu found the True Sky Flute of Heavenly Melody effortlessly.

He rubbed it, and a faint melody floated from the holes of the flute. The moment it reached his ears, Su Yu's soul shuddered slightly at it, as though having received a baptism. It was a pleasurable sensation.

Su Yu marveled secretly, "This is a great thing indeed! Even the mere sound it makes is powerful. It can absolutely fend off the impact of all sound wave techniques, as well as suppress the waves of sorcery, with its heavenly melody."

"Hehe, Prince Yun has offered me a remarkable gift indeed!"

In the outside world, Yongye Chuxue and the royal heirs of the Xue Nation stood by the lake, paying close attention to what was happening inside it.

Before long, dull noise sounded from under the lake, and the water became murky. Right away, they knew that the fight had begun.

The Xue Princes were secretly sneering in self-assurance. They glanced at Yongye Chuxue from time to time, desire burning in their eyes.

Very soon, she would turn into their toy.

However, they were slightly perplexed upon seeing the pitch-black shadow of a dragon under the water, which vanished in a fleeting moment. Many of the Princes and Princesses thought it was a mere illusion.

The commotion died down very soon. They thought Xue Zhongbao had probably finished dealing with Su Yu.

Prince Yun was smiling slightly. "Princess Chuxue, although this is just a match, the lake is full of perils. If your friend doesn't make it out alive, I'm really sorry for your loss."

Yongye Chuxue appeared calm, but she was, in fact, extremely nervous. She knew very well what kind of position she was in.

In terms of strength, the chances of Su Yu getting killed were sky-high!

Splash!

All of a sudden, the splashing sound of water broke through the air. The Princes and Princesses were delighted. It was finally over.

However, when they recognized the person who surfaced, all the Princes and Princesses were stunned.

On the other hand, Yongye Chuxue heaved a great sigh of relief and unclenched her fists. Her palms were clammy with sweat.

Su Yu swam ashore, exhausted. Yongye Chuxue, who instilled him with divine energy to help him recover his strength, subtly held him up.

Prince Yun's eyes grew fierce. "Why was it you who came up first?"

With a pale face, Su Yu questioned him in return, "Why were you so certain that Xue Zhongbao would come up first?"

"I..." Prince Yun bit his tongue. Of course, he had planned that Xue Zhongbao would kill Su Yu underwater, but he couldn't disclose it. With a snort, he asked, "Where's Xue Zhongbao?"

Su Yu replied, "How should I know?"

Prince Yun held back his roiling urge to kill Su Yu, which was about to make him lose control.

"Brother Yun, no need to worry. If he could make it out, of course Brother Zhongbao will, too," a Princess said.

The rest of the Princes and Princesses put their minds at ease as well. They were thinking to themselves that perhaps Xue Zhongbao was careless enough to have let him escape, and was probably still down there looking for Su Yu right now.

Among them, only Xue Xiaoman remained alert.

She stared Su Yu in the eye as an ominous feeling crept into her soul.

Perhaps Xue Zhongbao would never make it out again.

A while later, the surface of the lake turned calm and tranquil again.

Half an hour later, there still wasn't any more movement in the lake.

When an hour passed by, the expressions of the Princes and Princesses finally changed.

Even if Xue Zhongbao were still looking for Su Yu, he would have surfaced already after an hour.

The more he waited, the more Prince Yun felt that something was not right. He shot a cold look at Su Yu and questioned, "Why hasn't he surfaced till now?"

Su Yu shrugged. "You should ask him. Perhaps he's fallen asleep under the lake?"

Boom!

Prince Yun erupted in rage, sending the dust and dirt in the surroundings flying everywhere.

Yongye Chuxue replied placidly, "What are you doing, Prince Yun? Are you trying to kill us?"

Prince Yun shot an icy glance at her and slowly concealed his energy. He said, "I just want to know what happened under the lake now. What had caused that massive commotion?"

Upon hearing that, Su Yu put on a befuddled look. "I have no idea. I was frightened by all that turbulence. That was why I swam back quickly."

"You're lying! That commotion was..." Prince Yun said grimly.

Su Yu's eyes were calm and serene. "What was the commotion about? Do enlighten me, Prince Yun."

Prince Yun was speechless. Could he divulge that it was Xue Zhongbao assaulting Su Yu?

"Nothing. It must have been roused by some strange beasts in the lake," Prince Yun's tone of voice was inexplicably dismal.

"Hold on a bit!" After another half hour of waiting to no avail, Prince Yun dived into the water himself.

A short while later, with a soft splash, Prince Yun surfaced, dripping water.

His long wet hair was plastered to his back, and his face was looking even more sullen.

In his arms, he was holding half of Xue Zhongbao's dead body. The hideous wounds caused by sharp claws were clearly visible.

"Ahh! Brother Zhongbao!"

"Brother Zhongbao was killed!"

"Who did it? It must be Su Yu! Who else could it be!"

Xue Zhongbao's death caused a massive tumult among the Princes and Princesses.

Su Yu glanced at them serenely. Then, with complete nonchalance, he said, "Ladies and gentlemen, do watch your mouths. What reason do you have for accusing me?"

All the Princes and Princesses stared at Su Yu with great resentment, their eyes glinting with malice.

"Haha, you are so certain I am the murderer, just as you knew I would be fighting with Xue Zhongbao. Is it possible that all of you happen to be prophets?"

The moment he spoke, the Princes and Princesses quickly concealed their hateful expressions and avoided Su Yu's gaze.

"By looking at the wounds, it seems obvious they were caused by the bizarre beasts in the lake, but you people are trying to blame it on me, aren't you?" Su Yu questioned coldly.

The Princes and Princesses dared not meet Su Yu's eyes at all.

However, the raging fire stifled in their hearts blazed even more intensely. It was obviously Su Yu who killed their brother, yet he was questioning them so righteously and audaciously, and they couldn't even voice their suspicion.

The grievance was not something that they had seen coming at all.

“Su Yu,” Prince Yun spoke at that moment, in a grim, dismal voice, “Where is my Emperor-based Saint Artifact, the True Sky Flute of Heavenly Melody?”

Chapter 1364: Intoxicating Wine

“Right here, of course,” Su Yu did not deny it. He flipped his hand over, and the True Sky Flute of Heavenly Melody appeared on his palm.

Prince Yun’s pupils shrank a little, but he held back the words that were at the tip of his tongue.

Su Yu said placidly, “I have to remind you, Prince Yun, that according to the rule you had set, the True Sky Flute of Heavenly Melody would belong to whoever found it, and it is mine now.”

“So it is not yours anymore, Prince Yun. It belongs to me from now on!”

The Princes and Princesses were fuming with rage.

As they recalled all that had happened now, all of it seemed to be a scheme of Su Yu!

He concealed his true strength and made them let their guard down. Prince Yun was careless enough to use his most precious treasure, the True Sky Flute of Heavenly Melody, as the wager.

Not only was Xue Zhongbao murdered, but the precious Emperor-based Saint Artifact had ended up in Su Yu’s possession.

It drove them insane with indignation that they knew the truth but couldn’t speak it.

Prince Yun stared at Su Yu, the emotions in his eyes ever-changing, and finally assumed a peaceful expression. “I keep my promises. Since you got the flute from the bottom of the lake, it belongs to you now.”

Upon hearing that, Yongye Chuxue, who had been on tenterhooks, heaved a sigh of relief.

Luckily, this did not turn into an open confrontation.

Now was not the time for it yet.

“We are very sorry for Xue Zhongbao’s mishap too. I hereby offer our condolences,” Yongye Chuxue said, her voice flat.

Prince Yun strenuously forced a smile and nodded stiffly. “His death will not make us cancel our banquet. Princess and Su Yu, please take your seats.”

Under his lead, they arrived at the center of the small island, where twenty tree stumps, all of the same size, surrounded a broken ancient grave several meters in diameter.

It had a smooth, even surface, perfect to be used as a table.

Currently, a wide assortment of spiritual fruits and beverages adorned the ancient grave table, and a thick spiritual scent was wafting through the air. Apparently, this was some valuable stuff.

Prince Yun invited them to take their seats while he sat at the head of the improvised table, acting as today’s host.

Xue Xiaoman sat down as well. Upon shooting a glance at the calm, unperturbed face of Su Yu, the unsettling feeling inside her intensified.

After a moment of hesitation, she communicated through telepathy, "Brother Yun, Su Yu holds the Violet Gold Rings of Yin Yang, the Divine Feather of Frost and the Peacock's Plume in his hands, so he isn't easy to deal with. I think that was how he had killed Xue Zhongbao."

"There is no point in getting on with the banquet anymore. We should strike right now and eliminate him with our combined strength. When Yongye Chuxue is the only one left, it'll be so much easier."

Prince Yun remained calm on the surface, but replied in the same way, "Do you think I plan to murder my guests at a banquet? You lost the valuable treasures, didn't you? If we confront him directly, what if he destroys them?"

Among the three lost treasures, one was an Emperor-based Saint Artifact. It was originally reserved for Prince Yun, but Prince Yun reluctantly lent it to Xue Xiaoman for her protection, after much imploring on her part. Who would have expected it to be stolen?

The royal house was still kept in the dark about the loss of those items.

If they failed to seize them back before the loss became publicized and the royal house was alerted of this mishap, neither Xue Xiaoman nor he would be granted mercy.

If they got into a head-on brawl, he was worried that Su Yu might destroy or lose the precious item. Therefore, in order to capture the rat without destroying the cage, he chose to stab his guests in the back.

Xue Xiaoman hung her head low in compunction.

Su Yu caught sight of some exchange between them from the corner of his eye, and the ghost of a smile danced across his lips.

Prince Yun looked towards Yongye Chuxue with a placid expression. "These 21 divine trees are known as the Spirit-reaching Wood, which is somewhat related to the Soul-stabilizing Wood."

"They are capable of nourishing themselves by ingesting the spirits of the world. Every decade, these tree stumps will brew mellow, tasty fairy wine, which contains dense energy. Once consumed, it gives extraordinary effects to the nourishment of souls."

"Ordinary men would be completely inebriated by drinking just a single drop of it, hence the name, 'Woods of Drunken Immortals'."

Yongye Chuxue nodded lightly. The Spirit-reaching Wood was widely renowned in the Empire of Darkness, and the fairy wine brewed from them was a rare, precious beverage of this part of the world.

Even the Empire of Darkness received merely ten drops of it as a tribute every year, and all of those were consumed by the monarch alone.

Yongye Chuxue had only taken diluted spiritual liquid once throughout the years, and indeed, the nourishing effect it had on the soul was truly astounding.

However, just like Prince Yun had said, the wine was extremely intoxicating. The single drop of fairy wine that she had taken back then was mixed with nine drops of water, yet she could not withstand it and had fallen into a deep slumber for three days.

Rumor had it that even Yongye Jiuyang dared not drink much of it. A single drop at a time was his upper limit.

“However, what people don’t know is that the most powerful fairy wines aren’t the ones in the market, but the ones yet to be extracted, hidden in the channels of the Spirit-reaching Wood!” Prince Yun smiled mysteriously.

The rest of the Princes and Princesses licked their lips with an anticipating look.

If it was not for the banquet at the Woods of Drunken Immortals tonight, there was no way they could have a taste of the wine.

“Princess Chuxue, Su Yu, as the saying goes, it is better to come in time than to come early. The fairy wine is extracted once every ten years. You won’t get to taste the extracted wine, yet you get to taste the virgin fairy wine!”

With a flick of his hand, 21 thin tubes appeared on the table, neatly displayed in front of all the participants.

Each tube was crafted from the material of the Spirit-reaching Wood.

“Ladies and gentlemen, time waits for no man. Let us begin drinking,” Prince Yun called as he clasped the thin tube before him and inserted it into the ancient wooden table.

A queer thing occurred. The moment the tube got into contact with the table, layers of thin rootlets grew from the base of the tube, becoming one with the surface of the table.

Shortly after, Prince Yun held the tube in his mouth and sucked gently. Instantly, layers of emerald crystalline, viscous spiritual liquid oozed out from the rootlets inside the table and flowed into Prince Yun’s mouth along the tube.

A unique fragrance emanated from the liquid, its tantalizing scent soothing the soul and clearing the mind.

The rest of the Princes and Princess could not suppress their thirst any longer at the sight of it. All of them followed suit and began sucking the virgin fairy wine from the tree stump.

All of a sudden, fairy wine overflowed from all the activated spots, the mesmerizing fragrance filling the entire island.

Although he did not taste it yet, Su Yu could feel his soul being strengthened a little just from sniffing at the remnants of fragrance lingering in the air.

The spiritual liquid of the Spirit-reaching Wood was remarkable indeed. Su Yu’s eyes were filled with interest, but he made no attempt to taste the wine.

Yongye Chuxue cast a praising glance at Su Yu and said through telepathy, “The fairy wine in the market has certainly vaporized in the process of being extracted, thus its effects can never compare to the virgin fairy wine.”

“Even so, the commercial fairy wine could make a person sleep for ten days and nights from just one sip, so you can imagine the after-effect of drinking this virgin fairy wine.”

“Although they seem to be drinking casually, they must have come prepared with means of countering the inebriating effects of the fairy wine. You are right not to have followed suit.”

As she spoke, Yongye Chuxue retrieved two black-colored pills from her sleeve and handed one of which to Su Yu. “Keep it in your mouth. It will absorb the power of the fairy wine, and we can keep ourselves unaffected even if we consume it.”

She had clearly done some impressive preparations.

Su Yu took the pill and placed it in his mouth before taking a sip of the wine.

A cool, rejuvenating sensation filled his mouth, while his soul had entered a surreal, celestial state.

Su Yu had devoured souls thrice, causing his soul to strengthen too rapidly, becoming incompatible with his physical body.

Under the nourishment of this spiritual liquid, Su Yu’s soul blended with his physical body quickly, getting rid of the hidden danger.

Su Yu was secretly jubilant. This trip had not been pointless after all.

However, it was just as Yongye Chuxue said. Despite the amazing power of the fairy wine, its intoxicating quality was no joke.

Before long, Su Yu felt a giddy feeling of confusion hit him.

“What a powerful intoxicating effect!” Su Yu marveled. He had an antidote in his mouth, yet the wine was still impacting him so strongly.

“Hold on, this is not right!” A thought hit Su Yu out of nowhere. Before his mind turned all blurry, he sensed imminent danger.

Having consumed the spiritual liquid too, Yongye Chuxue remained completely unaffected and showed no sign of intoxication.

She had taken the same antidote as he did, so why was there such a great difference?

His eyes flickered secretly as he glanced around at the rest of the people, without saying a word.

The Princes appeared to be sucking with delight, but with his Transparent Eye, Su Yu clearly saw that there was nothing in their tubes. It turned out that Yongye Chuxue and he were the only ones drinking.

Su Yu's pupils shrank slightly when he saw that besides the emerald spiritual liquid flowing in the channels within the tree stump, there was also a light golden liquid. It was colorless and odorless, blended into the emerald liquid, and no one would possibly notice it.

Something was not right!

Su Yu pretended to be drinking while secretly taking note of everyone's actions.

Before long, Su Yu's eyes gleamed as he discovered a pinch of residual golden powder in Prince Yun's hand.

Su Yu could not help but sneer at the sight of it.

They added the intoxicating ingredient into the spiritual liquid to let Su Yu consume it without realizing so that he would pass out. Didn't they?

Besides, judging from their look, they had planned it earlier on. Once Su Yu began drinking, they would stop all at once, in case they consumed the golden liquid by accident.

Su Yu was amused by how they were all pretending to be enjoying the wine and getting wasted.

"Fine, since they're fond of pretending, I'll give them a little surprise." Su Yu flashed a smile and pretended he was drunk.

Smacking his lips, he giggled like a fool. "What a great wine! I have never tasted such delicious wine in my entire life. No way, I must get another sip."

When he finished, he lowered his head to bite the tube.

However, this time he did not suck at it but spat some liquid into the thin tube instead.

The liquid entered the tree stump and quickly circulated around the entire inner part of the stump along the channels.

Clueless, the Princes and Princesses exchanged glances.

Having swallowed so much of the golden liquid, Su was supposed to be almost finished!

Prince Yun's lips curled into a hardly noticeable smirk.

"Haha, Brother Su, since you like it, you might as well take a few more sips. After today, you will hardly get the chance to drink this wine again," Prince Yun played a pun.

There were hints of intoxication on Su Yu's face, and his cheeks looked rosy. His eyes slowly lost their focus and he looked more inebriated with every passing minute. It was only a matter of time before he fell into a deep sleep.

He slurred, "I'll take a rest and then carry on drinking. You can go on for now."

Prince Yun said smilingly, "Brother Su, you are my guest. How could we carry on drinking while you are taking a break?"

Su Yu queried, "Why must you wait until I drink? Is there a problem with the wine?"

Having been challenged by Su Yu's words, the Princes and Princesses were all taken aback.

Prince Yun remained unruffled and offered a pleasant smile. "If so, let us carry on drinking and enjoy ourselves."

As he spoke, his palm caressed the bottom of the table. The golden yellow liquid in the channels was withdrawn all at once.

Having taken the hint from Prince Yun, the rest of the Princes and Princesses cast their worries away and drank fearlessly after ascertaining that the spiritual liquid was safe for consumption.

Yongye Chuxue could not help but take another sip after getting a taste of it.

All of a sudden, she felt Su Yu's hand pressing her thigh.

Chapter 1365: Heaven-Striped Dragon Sword

Yongye Chuxue's cheeks became flushed with anger. She glared at Su Yu, meaning, 'Why did you touch my leg?'

Su Yu pretended to be drunk, but the look in his eyes as he covertly glanced at Yongye Chuxue was soberer than ever.

Cautiously looking sideways, Yongye Chuxue finally understood what Su Yu meant. Something was wrong with the wine. She looked up.

"Princess, why don't you drink more?" Prince Yun pressed her.

Yongye Chuxue rubbed her forehead and laughed playfully. "The fairy wine's fame is indeed well-deserved. I already feel a little tipsy after taking just one sip of it."

Prince Yun found it rather bizarre. The poison he injected was only directed at Su Yu, so why was Yongye Chuxue affected too?

Was it because the golden liquid had not been controlled well and part of it had flowed in Yongye Chuxue's direction?

Anyway, that was not a big deal, as long as Su Yu fell victim.

"Haha, in that case, you should take a rest, Princess," Prince Yun laughed politely while seizing the chance to drink a little more wine himself.

Yongye Chuxue offered him a stiff smile. Then she reached down, grabbed Su Yu's hand that was placed on her thigh and pushed it aside in apparent anger.

She then shot a fierce glare at Su Yu from the corner of her eye.

Su Yu chuckled, the warmth of her thigh still lingering in his palm.

He could not help but remember the naked, gorgeous body in the venomous lake of the Seven Poisons Demonic Toad, and his heart fluttered a little.

The thought flashed across his mind quickly, and Su Yu shook off the sensation, guiltily thinking to himself, "Drinking this wine really does mess with people's minds, the ancient ones were right about it."

"Brother Su, why don't you take some more wine?" Prince Yun asked, pausing in his drinking.

The other Princes and Princesses appeared to be savoring their wine as if nothing was happening. In fact, all of them had stopped drinking, and now were just pretending.

Su Yu took a glance with his Transparent Eye. Good God, the golden liquid in the tree stump had increased more than threefold!

They were planning to inebriate him and kill him once and for all!

“Haha, fine, I’ll take a few more sips then. Hope you don’t mind, Prince Yun. My tolerance for alcohol has always been impressive.” Su Yu belched.

Prince Yun was rather stingy about his wine, but just how much more could an already drunk person take?

“Hahaha, don’t mention it, Brother Su. Both of you were invited here today to have a hearty drink, so please don’t restrain yourself. Drink all you can!”

Su Yu said, “How generous! I won’t be so scrupulous anymore then!”

As he spoke, Su Yu began drinking to his heart’s content, sucking the thin tube in his mouth.

Meanwhile, under the table, he held his right palm to his chest.

Before the spiritual liquid could flow into Su Yu’s bloodstream, the Milky Way’s Star Sand removed it from his body.

The golden liquid it was mixed with was thoroughly eliminated as well, leaving behind the pure emerald liquid, which Su Yu channeled into a massive jade plate the size of a basin.

Yongye Chuxue was worrying about Su Yu. Then she caught sight of it and her jaw almost dropped from shock.

She was amazed not by how Su Yu could separate the spiritual liquid, but by the size of the vessel he had prepared. Was he planning to plunder all the spiritual liquid of the Woods of Drunken Immortals collected over the past ten years?

Yongye Chuxue took a few deep breaths and pretended as if nothing happened. However, the corner of her eye kept glancing at the gradually dwindling fairy wine, and she couldn’t stop herself from pouting in resentment.

She thought to herself, “So this fellow isn’t going to give me some of it? With its spirit-refining effects, this wine would be extremely beneficial to help me break through into the realm of Level Two Deity.”

“No way! I’m going to confiscate all of it later. I’m the Princess, after all.”

Watching Su Yu take a few more sips, Prince Yun and the others smiled.

However, after quite some time, he was still sipping the wine without showing any sign of falling into a coma. The smiles on their faces slowly disappeared.

“Why hasn’t this fellow fainted yet?”

“Having drunk so much wine, even if he has an antidote, he must be nearing his limit already, isn’t that so?”

Prince Yun was beginning to worry. Even though the Princes and Princesses were allowed to hold a banquet at the Woods of Drunken Immortals, there was a limit to the amount of fairy wine that they could consume. If they took too much of it, they would be strictly punished by Father.

Prince Yun held back his displeasure and sent a comforting message to his siblings: “Don’t get worked up yet, it’s happening soon.”

However, time passed and Su Yu was still drinking.

The faces of all the Princes and Princesses fell.

Even Prince Yun was wearing an intimidating look.

“What the heck is going on? Even if the poison has not taken effect, drinking this fairy wine alone would be enough to intoxicate the monarchs of the four great empires to the point of collapse. Why is this fellow still totally unaffected?”

“He has sucked up nearly a third of our supply, hasn’t he? If he goes on, the source is going to dry up!”

Prince Yun smiled stiffly. “Brother Su, you should slow down, drinking too much is harmful...”

Unexpectedly, Yongye Chuxue, who was thinking of sharing the spoils, spoke, “Eh? Didn’t Prince Yun say that we could drink all we want and that we shouldn’t have any scruples?”

Prince Yun smiled sheepishly. “I’m just worried about my guest’s well-being...”

Gulp!

Upon hearing this, Su Yu began drinking even more quickly, so that the liquid in the tree stump made a gurgling sound.

The sight of him drinking like that totally unnerved the Princes and Princesses, yet despite their anxiety, they could not speak a word. They sat as if mesmerized, watching the spiritual liquid in the tree stump being sucked away at an insane speed.

However, as they watched Su Yu turn a darker and darker shade of red and look as if he was about to collapse, they thought that they just had to bear with it a while longer.

Another half-hour passed by.

Slurp!

Eventually, there was the unmistakable sound of the tree stump being sucked dry.

The last drop of fairy wine trickled down Su Yu’s throat.

Much to the stupefaction of the Princes and Princesses, Su Yu, who had ingested an immense amount of fairy wine, did not collapse despite his flushed cheeks and unsteady posture.

This was the first time the Northern Xue Nation ever encountered such a peculiar event in all the years they had guarded the Spirit-reaching Wood.

Su Yu had finished ten years’ worth of fairy wine, yet he did not pass out.

Patting his belly, Su Yu belched and said in a slurred voice, “Great wine, really great wine...”

In the meantime, avoiding everyone's attention, he hid away the basin-size vessel full to the brim with wine.

Prince Yun's attention was so focused on Su Yu that he did not notice the fairy wine had actually all been siphoned away.

"Is there more? I want to drink some more if you have more of this stuff..." Su Yu ranted. And at long last, he closed his eyes and appeared to have passed out.

The Princes and Princesses did not look relieved, however. This effect has come too late.

If that was the price they had to pay, wasn't it too high?

He had finished ten years' worth of fairy wine. How were they going to explain it to Father?

The mere thought of it made them want to commit suicide. How did things even turn out this way?

Nonetheless, no matter what, now that Su Yu had fainted, taking back the Emperor-based Saint Artifacts safely should no longer be an issue. They could finally put their minds at ease on this point at least.

Having suppressed their emotions for so long, the Princes and Princesses slowly revealed their vengeful cruelty.

Several Princes could not conceal the rapacious looks in their eyes any longer as they stared at Yongye Chuxue's willowy, alluring form. The heat in their eyes was palpable.

Yongye Chuxue raised her brows and hissed, "How dare you look at me so insolently!"

However, having exposed their ulterior motives, they no longer had any fears.

"You're the insolent one!" Prince Yun's amity and courtesy disappeared without a trace, replaced by fury. His Level Four aura was no longer concealed as he unleashed all of it at once, forming a shroud around Yongye Chuxue.

The expression of Yongye Chuxue's beautiful face turned icy cold. She slammed her palm on the table and demanded in a low voice, "Are you people trying to rebel?"

Prince Yun offered half a smile. "Congratulations, you got it right!"

What? Although Su Yu had predicted this, having heard their confession, Yongye Chuxue was still taken aback. Indignant, she said, "The Empire of Darkness has always showered its grace upon you people. When did we ever mistreat you?"

"Why would you rebel? I do not believe this. Let the Northern Xue Monarch speak to me personally!"

Looking at Yongye Chuxue's frantic manner, Prince Yun finally got to vent his grievance and anger. He sneered eerily, "You want to meet Father? As you please. I will take your head and bring it to him!"

Until then, Yongye Chuxue was holding on to the last shred of hope.

It all unfolded just as Su Yu had predicted. The Northern Xue Nation was planning on a rebellion.

The banquet at the Woods of Drunken Immortals tonight was supposed to be a historical event.

They were planning to announce the detachment of the Northern Xue Nation from the Empire of Darkness, and their accession into the Heaven-defying Empire, with her blood.

She closed her eyes gently. When she opened them once again, Yongye Chuxue's expression was icy and solemn, as though she was looking through a curtain of snow and frost, giving off a boundless frigidness.

"Anyone has the right to punish traitors and rebels!" Yongye Chuxue took out a short sword from her sleeve. It was engraved with an epigraph and gave off a shockingly formidable air.

Prince Yun was rather fearful. "The 38th-ranking Emperor-based Saint Artifact, the Heaven-Striped Dragon Sword! According to the legend, it was crafted from the horn of a divine dragon as powerful as the Nine Emperors and possesses astonishing capabilities."

Yongye Chuxue held the dragon sword in her hand, her murderous aura raging. "You did not see this coming, did you? I have secretly acquired this sword a long time ago!"

"I think it is even less likely that you have expected me to know your intentions early on. I am offering you one last chance to back off!"

Much to her shock, Prince Yun flashed her a creepy smile. "No! In fact, I knew it, and therefore, I have prepared a gift especially for you!"

"Palm of the Great Buddha!"

All of a sudden, a furious growl resonated through the air above the Woods of Drunken Immortals.

A ferocious-looking monk clad in a cassock, with a necklace of skulls wound around his neck, was basking in a sea of golden Buddha glow.

With his left hand weaving signs, and his right hand serving as the striking palm, a turbulent surge of Buddha glow roiled and formed a humongous palm shape, slamming down from above.

The power of the palm could match a Level Four deities, which meant it was on par with Prince Yun.

The difference was that the strike of the ferocious monk was a move that Yongye Chuxue couldn't have guarded against.

Yongye Chuxue was stunned. "The Grand Adviser of the Northern Xue Nation, Asura?"

In a flash, Yongye Chuxue raised the Heaven-Striped Dragon Sword above her head and thrust it skywards. "Dragon Stripe Skyfall!"

Roar!

Amidst the bleakness, a dragon's growl sounded, piercing through the heavens.

A beam of pure divine brilliance gushed out from the Heaven-Striped Dragon Sword, shattering the Buddha's palm that came striking.

However, before the strike was complete, Prince Yun's eyes shimmered and he moved in a flash, aiming a brutal blow at Yongye Chuxue's abdomen with fists as powerful as mighty mountains.

Pow!

Under the assaulting force, Yongye Chuxue opened her mouth and spat out a mouthful of essence blood. Losing control, she was sent flying backward.

Having taken overwhelming blows, Yongye Chuxue was severely injured.

"Take another hit from me!" From the sky, the vicious-looking Asura was preparing to charge with another Palm of the Great Buddha.

Prince Yun smirked. "Do not kill her, Grand Adviser. My brothers are waiting to have a taste of Princess Chuxue's noble body!"

The Asura burst out in hoarse laughter. "I'd like to savor the exquisite body of the Princess too, to find out if she's any different from ordinary women!"

Chapter 1366: Massacre

However, the instant the palm print shimmering with Buddha glow struck, Yongye Chuxue's eyes turned completely cold, and a dim grey whorl appeared on her abdomen.

"Seal, open up!"

Creak!

With an abrupt revolution, the whorl transformed into endless dim grey energy and surged into all parts of her body. That was the sign of sorcery energy spreading.

In the meantime, stupefying divine energy erupted from her abdomen, looking extremely horrendous.

The Asura who had looked so self-confident before, turned pale and growled in dread, "Level Three deity!"

Yongye Chuxue let out a cold laugh. "Finally! You hadn't seen this coming, right?"

When she finished, her fair hand slammed upwards with astonishing speed.

Rumble!

All of a sudden, the heavens and the earth growled and shook, and the Buddha brilliance was sent flying backward.

The Asura flew right out of the Woods of Drunken Immortals and fell into the lake, his body cracking up as though having sustained an immense blow. He was on the verge of falling apart.

Prince Yun's vile smile froze on his face, and without a second thought, he turned around and took flight!

Yongye Chuxue's face was full of scorn and contempt. "I attended this banquet to give you a chance, but you don't seem to appreciate it. If that is the case, there's nothing else for me to do but kill all of you!"

With a snap of her fingers, a terrifying wave of divine energy penetrated the Void and shattered a great half of Prince Yun's body.

Prince Yun was horrified. Who would expect the usually humble Yongye Chuxue of the Imperial house to conceal a dreadful Level Three power?

This was comparable to the level of the Saints of the Moonwatch Sect!

In the face of a Level Three deity, Prince Yun stood no chance of escaping.

However, just when Yongye Chuxue was about to launch a fatal blow at him, a furious growl pierced through the air, reverberating in a vast, majestic tone:

"Who dares to hurt my son?"

Yongye Chuxue sneered, "The Monarch of the Northern Xue Nation? Glad that you came. I am going to eliminate you traitors and rebels on behalf of my Father!"

As she spoke, she charged skywards with the dragon sword in her hand and began a duel with the magnificent figure in the air.

With a thunderous boom, the heavens and earth trembled vigorously, and mad, vast waves rose from the lake. The fight between the two had almost devastated the palace of the Northern Xue Nation.

After a while, a delicate figure plummeted from the clouds with a miserable whimper and fell into the Woods of Drunken Immortals.

Shortly after, a middle-aged man with blue hair and a purple robe touched the ground.

With his hands placed behind his back, he stared coldly at Yongye Chuxue, who was sprawled at his feet.

Yongye Chuxue sustained lethal injuries in many parts of her body, and most importantly, her sorcery energy broke loose from her. She seemed to be on the brink of death.

Having gone through a near-death experience, Prince Yun hurried back, fuming with rage. "This Yongye Chuxue has hidden her strength too well. People only ever knew her brother for being a phenomenal genius."

"No one would have thought that she was so powerful. If Father hadn't come to our rescue, we would have died today!"

The Monarch of the Northern Xue Nation replied sternly, "No matter. The downfall of the Empire of Darkness is propelled by circumstances. Her death is only the beginning!"

Upon finishing, he stepped forward to kill Yongye Chuxue but was stopped by Prince Yun. "Hold on, Father, how about leaving her at our disposal?"

The Monarch of the Northern Xue Nation cast a look at Yongye Chuxue and nodded lightly. "Fine, I have no wish to stain my hands with the royal blood of the Empire of Darkness!"

"But you have to be cautious. There is extremely powerful sorcery energy within her, which has spread to every nook and cranny of her body. If it gets into you by

accident, you might not die like she soon will, but it might be the end of your training path.”

When he finished speaking, the Monarch of the Northern Xue Nation left by streaking across the air and returned to his chambers.

The moment he entered his chambers, his calm face turned pallid all of a sudden and he threw up a big mouthful of blood.

Traces of fear lingered on his face. “That was too terrifying! If it was not for the eruption of the sorcery energy inside her, which injured her, I might have been killed if the fight went on! At her peak condition, I don’t think anyone among the Level Three deities could rival her.”

Without knowing what he had said, the Princes and Princesses gathered around after recovering from their fright.

Looking at the semi-conscious Yongye Chuxue, who had lost the ability to retaliate, the Princes’ eyes glittered with a beastly desire.

“This woman wanted to slaughter us all? Humph, if I don’t show her what we are capable of and punish her properly, how would she know about our power?” A restless Prince said with a vile smile.

After he consumed an elixir, Prince Yun’s shattered body had healed considerably. Putting on a sly smug smile, he said, “How about that, Princess Chuxue? At last, you see you can’t escape the fate that we have provided for you, can you?”

“Not only will I use your blood to leave a monumental mark in the history of the Empire of Darkness’s downfall, but I will also make you serve my brothers before your death!”

Perhaps she heard his words. With a fading consciousness, Yongye Chuxue raised the Heaven-Striped Dragon Sword and tried to stab her own chest with it.

Prince Yun reached out and easily grabbed the Heaven-Striped Dragon Sword. He scoffed, “There’s no way we’d let you die just like that. You haven’t done your job of pleasing my brothers yet! So I’ll just keep this Emperor-based Saint Artifact.”

As he spoke of Emperor-based Saint Artifacts, Prince Yun could not help but remember his own True Sky Flute of Heavenly Melody. He told his brothers, “I leave the Princess to your mercy.”

When he finished, he walked towards Su Yu.

However, Xue Xiaoman was already standing at Su Yu’s side, complex emotions playing across her face. She had intended to kill him, but could not bring herself to do it.

“Xiaoman, why haven’t you killed him?” Prince Yun asked with a frown.

Xue Xiaoman took out a sharp blade but hesitated to plunge it into Su Yu’s unconscious body. She said, “I think... I think he’s innocent. We might as well spare him and kill Yongye Chuxue alone.”

The moment she uttered those words, Xue Xiaoman could not even understand herself. No matter what, she should be longing to kill this man, so why was she speaking for him?

“Innocent?” Prince Yun was indignant. “Stealing the Emperor-based Saint Artifacts of the Northern Xue Nation is an unpardonable crime, one beyond redemption, yet you’re calling him innocent?”

“Kill him right now!” Prince Yun compelled.

Xue Xiaoman struggled inside. The rational part of her told her to do so, but something inside her had rebelled.

From her perspective, it was due to her own inadequacy that the treasures were stolen.

As for the murder of Xue Zhongbao today, Su Yu was culpable for certain, but they hadn’t invited him here with pure intentions either.

After a moment of hesitation, Xue Xiaoman gritted her teeth, set down the sharp blade, and turned to leave. “I can’t bring myself to do it, Brother Yun. You had better do it yourself.”

From afar, she saw a bunch of euphoric Princes crowding around Yongye Chuxue. A streak of disappointment flashed in her eyes. She hung her head low and walked to the lakeside without saying a word.

Prince Yun shot a doubtful look at her and stared at Su Yu once again, his killing intention palpable in his eyes.

“You beast! You caused me a lot of trouble, took my True Sky Flute of Heavenly Melody, and drunk all the fairy wine before you died! You can’t pay for this enough, even if you die a million deaths!”

Maneuvering his divine energy in his hand, Prince Yun sneered as he looked at the unconscious Su Yu. “The fairy wine must be so good that you’re still craving more of it, right? I’d be too merciful to finish you off just like that!”

When he finished, he lifted his hand to strike down with deadly force.

However, right at that moment, a stupefying scene unfolded before Prince Yun’s astonished eyes.

Su Yu opened his eyes abruptly and flashed him an indulgent smile. “The fairy wine was really tasty. Thanks for your generosity.”

Prince Yun was taken aback. “You did not pass out?”

As he spoke, his hand reached for Su Yu’s chest.

At the same time, a bolt of divine energy surged from Su Yu’s abdomen, charging the Ice Blue Divine Armor around his body.

The Ice Blue Divine Armor was fully activated, radiating with a magnificent, cerulean icy brilliance.

Prince Yun’s palm, which was charged with divine energy, hit the icy light and encountered great resistance. Its divine energy was relentlessly absorbed, gradually weakening.

Seizing the chance, Su Yu jumped up like a carp leaping out of water.

The scene alarmed the rest of the Princes and Princesses. Overcoming their surprise, all of them scurried over, encircling Su Yu.

Prince Yun was flabbergasted, but his fury did not diminish. “How could you be conscious when you have drunk so much of our fairy wine and poison?”

Su Yu chortled. “What, that weak stuff? I would be safe even if I drank more. However, I have not expected you to be able to bear with my poison for so long after drinking it. I suppose the fairy wine has canceled some of its effects.”

Upon hearing that, everyone was dumbfounded.

“You... you put poison in the tree stump?” Prince Yun was very perturbed, but he kept his composure. “Don’t panic, everyone, he might be raising a false alarm to scare us...”

As if confirming Su Yu’s statement, one of the Princes turned pale, and a rotten-looking pitch-black liquid flowed out from his hair follicles. He said, “Prince Yun, it might be true. I have been feeling unwell for a little while now...”

“Oww...”

As he spoke, he spat out a big mouthful of black-colored blood, along with a faint liquid of seven colors.

That was the powerful venom of the Seven Poisons Demonic Toad, which Su Yu injected into the tree stump!

A Level Two deity’s body would be corroded once it got into contact with this poison, and consuming it was like seeking one’s own death.

Su Yu had the Milky Way Star Sand, which helped him remove the poison when it got into his mouth, but it was not the case for the Xue family.

“Ohhhh...” Suddenly, another one of the princes had collapsed.

“Eekkk...” Another one!

“Ahh! My body is all rotten inside! Prince Yun, save me!” Yet another cried out desperately.

...

Before long, the venom took its toll on them, beginning with those who had low-grade cultivation and had consumed a lot of the poisoned wine.

Before they could be rescued, they began dying and decomposing from the inside out, and not even their souls were spared.

Normally, they would have sensed the presence of the poison in their bodies earlier, but having drunk the fairy wine, they were all intoxicated to some degree, which numbed the discomfort they felt. That was how the horrendous plight of mass poisoning had taken place.

Watching his brothers and sisters collapse to the ground, Prince Yun growled like a beast, with his eyes bulging and his face contorting in agony, "Give me the antidote!"

Propping himself up on his arms, Su Yu asked indifferently, "What antidote do you want? Don't you want to mark the glorious history of the Northern Xue Nation's detachment from the Empire of Darkness with blood?"

"If it is your own blood, you might earn the respect and admiration of the future generations, and your names will live on."

"Hand me the antidote, or I'm going to kill you!" Prince Yun's features were hideously distorted as he bellowed.

Su Yu cast a glance at the Princes and Princesses sprawled on the ground and shrugged. "It's useless, they're all dead."

"I will destroy you!" Prince Yun howled in wrath and pounced forward.

Su Yu dared not take the attack of a Level Four deity lightly.

However, he had come prepared. His eyes turned cold, and he called softly, "Nine Suns Sword Formation!"

Slash! Slash! Slash!

All of a sudden, nine rays of blindingly glaring golden suns appeared in the air above the Woods of Drunken Immortals, illuminating the entire area with a golden halo.

Under the brilliant golden rays, many of the trees in the Woods of Drunken Immortals turned into ashes and dust.

Chapter 1367: A Stroke of Glory

Those weren't golden rays of sunshine at all, but numerous shafts of powerful sword energy.

"Ahh!" Prince Yun cried out in pain as countless cracks appeared all over his skin.

Right at that moment, the nine dazzling suns vanished from the air, transforming into long golden swords that penetrated Prince Yun's body.

Not only were the nine swords extremely fast, but they were also exceptionally sharp.

One after another, the blades pierced through the body of Prince Yun, making it look like a sieve in the blink of an eye.

His death was only a matter of time; it would only take a few breaths to kill him right then and there.

However, right at that moment, a magnificent Buddha brilliance charged from the air above.

"Palm of the Great Buddha!" The humongous palm print, charged with Buddha brilliance, interfered with the operation of the swords, causing a moment of stagnation.

A ferocious monk jumped in at that moment and grabbed Prince Yun out from the sword formation.

It turned out that the Asura had climbed out from the bottom of the lake and happened to see the Eldest Prince in mortal peril. Thus, he rushed to Prince Yun's rescue.

"Buddha's glory!" The Asura slapped Prince Yun's back with his palm, and the Buddha brilliance surged into the prince's body. It possessed an enigmatic purifying effect, which cleared the poison from Prince Yun's bloodstream and organs.

Now free of the poison's influence, Prince Yun swiftly maneuvered his divine energy and healed his wounds.

However, Su Yu had picked up Yongye Chuxue from the ground at that exact moment and withdrew the Nine Suns Sword Formation.

Looking at the dead bodies of his brothers and sisters, and recalling his rendezvous with death, Prince Yun was furious. "Su Yu! You slaughtered the entire younger generation of the Northern Xue Nation royal house. If you get away with this, how am I going to explain it to the world?"

Su Yu flashed him a genial smile. "It's very simple. You can tell the world that you have used the blood of an entire royal generation to promote the glorious history of the Northern Xue Nation.

"Besides, if I intend to leave, there is no way you can deter me."

Rumble!

At that very moment, a beam of extraordinarily harsh force, carrying boundless wrath and murderous desire, struck from nowhere, aiming right at Su Yu.

Without looking, Su Yu knew who it was right away. He laughed coldly. "A crooked stick is bound to have a crooked shadow. Wasn't one raid enough? Are you now coming for the second round? Too bad. If I'm determined to leave, no one can stop me!"

"Farewell, Northern Xue Nation. The happenings of today will certainly be marked on the pages of history!"

As Su Yu spoke, a figure of the Supreme Pole emerged above his head, shrouding him and Yongye Chuxue.

All of a sudden, Yin and Yang were reversed and the balance of the world was overturned.

In the next moment, Su Yu teleported right out of the Northern Xue Nation.

Nobody in the Northern Xue Nation could even detect his scent, let alone chase after them.

Boom!

A whiff of sword energy struck the spot where Su Yu had stood, shattering half of the Woods of Drunken Immortals.

A middle-aged man in a purple robe showed up, his eyes bulging with boundless rage.

When he saw the cold bodies all over the place, he went ballistic. He was so furious that he acted like someone who was losing his mind.

"Tell me! What happened? Why, why are all my children dead?" The Monarch stared at Prince Yun and the Asura, his eyes ablaze with rage.

His stare was like a bolt of thunder striking at them, making them throw up blood and whimper.

Prince Yun, especially, felt as if he was falling apart. He started to beg for mercy. "Father, please forgive me, it was Su Yu. He put poison in the wine!"

The Monarch was beyond furious. "I left the matter to you, yet you... yet all your siblings died, and you're the only one alive..."

His voice was trembling, from either grief or extreme fury.

All of a sudden, the Monarch looked to the lakeside, where a person was standing motionless. It was Xue Xiaoman.

She was safe and sound, showing no signs of being poisoned. Neither was she injured by the sword brilliance of the Nine Suns Sword Formation.

Prince Yun's eyes narrowed in suspicion, and he hurriedly said, "Father, something is wrong about Xiaoman! All of us were poisoned, yet she is unscathed!"

"And that sword brilliance... it shrouded the entire area of the Woods of Drunken Immortals, yet she is unharmed! Besides, when I asked her to kill Su Yu, she stubbornly refused!"

The Monarch squinted and reached out from across the air, grasping Xue Xiaoman and dragging her towards him. He clasped his hands around her neck, and with eyes bulging in madness, looking like a beast, he uttered slowly, "Give me an explanation, or else..."

Xue Xiaoman was petrified. She struggled to break free from her hideous-looking father's hand, and said, "I... I have no idea either!"

"I took a sip of the wine at the very beginning and did not drink anymore afterward. I guess this is why I was not poisoned."

"Then how do you explain being unharmed by the sword brilliance?"

Xue Xiaoman stammered, unable to come up with an explanation. That sword brilliance should have harmed her, but when it fell upon her, it swerved in a different direction all of a sudden. How was she supposed to explain it?

"Can't explain that? I'll ask you then, why didn't you kill him?"

Xue Xiaoman wasn't sure about that herself. How could she possibly explain?

The Monarch's eyes turned red, and he looked on the verge of losing control. "Sinful woman. I ought to kill you!"

However, reason stopped the Monarch. He bellowed, "You will not stay in the Northern Xue Nation any longer. I will contact the Heaven-defying Empire immediately and send you over there. You will be married to the Eldest Prince of the Heaven-defying Empire!"

Xue Xiaoman's face was full of grievance, yet she had no choice but to bear it in silence.

The Monarch shot a cold stare at Prince Yun and the Asura. "The two of you, you have escaped the death sentence, but other forms of punishment are in store!"

“I will give you a chance to atone for your crimes by meritorious service. Capture those responsible for what happened here today. Otherwise, you can go to Hell and keep them company!”

Prince Yun and the Asura assumed an obsequious attitude, holding their breaths.

After a pause, the Monarch glared at Xue Xiaoman and Prince Yun. “Besides, an Emperor-based Saint Artifact has been stolen by a mysterious powerful individual with a dragon head and a human body. You must settle this matter too!”

Upon hearing that, Prince Yun was stunned. Someone with a dragon head and a human body? Didn’t Xue Xiaoman say that it was Su Yu who stole it?

Xue Xiaoman seemed perplexed. A dragon head and a human body? Was Su Yu a demon? However, he did not look like one!

The Monarch’s expression turned dismal. “Is there a problem?”

Xue Xiaoman voiced her doubt. “Father, it was Su Yu who stole the guardian Emperor-based Saint Artifact, not a demon with a dragon’s head and a human body.”

The Monarch was taken aback. His eyes bulged, and he questioned, “Oh? What other treasures of yours did Su Yu steal? What powers does he possess?”

Xue Xiaoman replied guiltily, “All the treasures I carried have been taken, including the Divine Feather of Frost and the Peacock’s Plume. As for the power he possesses, we have all witnessed the sword formation just now.”

“How is that possible?” The Monarch was stunned.

The three of them exchanged glances.

The Monarch’s eyes nearly popped out of his head, and finally, he glowered at her with vexation, “Why didn’t you say it earlier?”

Xue Xiaoman put on an innocent look. “How would I bring myself to speak about such a humiliating matter? We were thinking of telling you after we got the Emperor-based Saint Artifact back, Father.”

The Monarch said with frustration, “You... you’re such an undutiful daughter! If only you had told me earlier, we could have gotten not an Emperor-based Saint Artifact, but the skeletal remains of an Ice and Fire Divine Warrior!”

Ahh!

Prince Yun, the Asura, and Xue Xiaoman were stupefied.

The Monarch said, “Yesterday, the rulers of the four great empires visited in secret and we had a confidential talk. They asked me about the whereabouts of the Emperor-based Saint Artifact.”

“After making a detailed inquiry, I got to know that the Violet Gold Rings of Yin Yang were stolen by a demon with a dragon’s head and a human body!”

The Monarch shook with wrath as he recounted it. “This demonic creature was very powerful. He was even capable of fighting the World Annihilation Dragon by himself!”

“Not only that, but he also carried many treasures with him, which greatly impressed even the four great rulers!”

“The Taiching Emperor’s Yin Yang Wings of Supreme Pole, the skeletal remains of the Ice and Fire Divine Warrior, and the Emperor of Darkness’ Six Fundamental Laws of Mind Control were all in his hands.”

Upon hearing that, the three of them inhaled sharply.

They were astounded by what they had just heard.

More importantly, they realized they had a problem.

Xue Xiaoman asked, “But what does the dragon-headed, human-bodied demon has to do with Su Yu?”

The Monarch sighed with regret. “The dragon-headed, human-bodied demon was using the treasures that you lost. The magical power of the Nine Suns Sword Formation was one of a kind too. How, in your opinion, could he be related to Su Yu?”

The three of them froze on their spots upon hearing that!

A fellow possessing treasures that shook the entire Ancient God Realm was sitting right in front of them a while ago?

If they had known it then, they wouldn’t have bothered with trying to kill Yongye Chuxue. They should have killed him instead, without a second thought!

“Do you have any idea what kind of opportunity you missed just now? You had deprived the Northern Xue Nation of a great accomplishment!”

The Yin Yang Wings of Supreme Pole might be nothing, as were the Six Fundamental Laws of Mind Control, but the remains of the Ice and Fire Divine Warrior could be used to build a whole new empire!

Such a marvelous opportunity just slipped right past them!

“Father, we...”

The Monarch’s eyes blazed with anger. “What more do you have to say? Capture Su Yu at any cost! However, do not disclose his identity to anyone else!”

At the border between the Northern Xue Nation and the Heaven-defying Empire...

The Yin and Yang energies of the world were disorderly, and the mark of a Supreme Pole was flickering high up in the air. From there, two figures descended.

The two were a silver-haired handsome man in white clothing and a beautiful woman with wounds all over her body.

Having escaped the Northern Xue Nation successfully, Su Yu was nevertheless far from happy.

Yongye Chuxue was severely wounded. The injuries inflicted by the Northern Xue Monarch were only skin-deep and could be healed with some high-quality spiritual medicines.

The dangerous part was the sorcery energy that had erupted within her.

“The sorcery energy inside her is unusually pure, even more powerful than that of the Saint Lady. The eruption must have been caused by a Level Two wizard. In the Moonwatch Sect, the Sect Master is the only one who has attained Level Two, isn’t he?” Su Yu pondered.

Su Yu tried to expel the sorcery energy inside Yongye Chuxue with the sorcery that he had learned. However, not only were his efforts in vain, but he nearly suffered the reverse impact, by which the horrifying sorcery energy almost invaded his body.

With no other options left, Su Yu used the Milky Way Star Sand.

It took him quite a while to extract a whiff of it.

If given ample time, healing her in that way would not be a problem.

The thing was, Yongye Chuxue would surely perish before the healing process was complete.

The eruption of the sorcery energy was overwhelming, repelling all the divine energy in Yongye Chuxue’s body. Having lost protection, her internal organs and soul were being corroded by the sorcery energy.

Currently, one-tenth of her body had been corroded. In ten days at most, Yongye Chuxue would be thoroughly consumed, and once her entire being was transformed into sorcery energy, she would vanish into thin air.

If she were gone, the Great Desolation Smelter would be hopeless.

Without the Great Desolation Smelter, it would be a big hassle for Su Yu to construct the Cosmos Sword Formation.

Hence, he had to save her!

Expelling the sorcery energy from her body was quite impossible at this point. The crucial thing was to support her vital signs.

Fortunately, Su Yu had searched the soul of a wizard while in the relic and had learned some tactics to relieve an outbreak of sorcery energy, but it required some special tools of the wizard tribe.

Tools of the wizard tribe were rare in the Ancient God Realm. The available ones were mostly collections, and there were basically none in the market.

There was only one place in the nearest Heaven-defying Empire where it would be possible to find tools of the wizard tribe.

That place was Yongzhen City, which was located at the border between the Lost Nation and the Heaven-defying Empire.

Chapter 1368: The Evil Fending Villa

This city was located in the Heaven-defying Empire, near the border of the Lost Nation, and had existed for countless years.

Back when the descendants of the Nine Empires defeated the Moonwatch Sect, they had made a clear demarcation of a border in this city. It could be thus said that the location of this city was unique.

Now, the Heaven-defying Empire also mustered their armies in this city for consecutive attacks on the Lost Nation.

The soldiers who returned from battle often brought back tools of the wizard tribe as trophies, and some of them would openly put those items on sale in the market, so it was often possible to find tools of the wizard tribe here.

Having made up his mind, Su Yu headed for Yongzhen City immediately.

Along the way, Su Yu kept using the Milky Way Star Sand to extract the sorcery energy from Yongye Chuxue so that the outbreak could be delayed.

Five days had passed. Su Yu had used the Yin Yang Wings of Supreme Pole almost ten times and finally arrived at Yongzhen City in record time.

Large troops of soldiers were garrisoned at Yongzhen City, and the somber atmosphere of gearing up for an imminent war filled every corner. All around, martial artists still arrived in continuous streams.

Many martial artists would take the chance to wipe out the scattered wizards in the Lost Nation after the war. They would either capture them or kill them, and rob them of their wealth and property, hence leading to the birth of a profession known as the Wizard Hunters.

A visitor like Su Yu caught no one's attention at all in Yongzhen City.

However, it was not as easy to find tools of the wizard tribe in Yongzhen City as Su Yu had expected, which slightly confounded him.

Doubtful, Su Yu chose a restaurant bustling with people, where he could possibly obtain news from many sources.

"Have you heard? The Eldest Prince won the battle again. It is said that he has fought the Saint of the Moonwatch Sect in person!"

"Tsk tsk, the Eldest Prince is a worthy heir of our empire indeed. There is no war he can't win and no attack that he doesn't succeed in!"

"I heard that he has seized many wizards and amassed a large amount of wealth."

"It's a pity that all those treasures have to be handed to the Prince's Mansion and cannot be released to the market."

"That's for sure! Those are all tools of the wizard tribe. If they are secretly purchased back by the Moonwatch Sect, isn't it a provision for the enemy?"

...

As he listened to their conversations, Su Yu was enlightened at once.

He knew now that the tools of the wizard tribe had been sent to the Prince's Mansion for handling.

It seemed like there were only two ways to find the tools of the wizard tribe: one, barging into the Prince's Mansion to look for them, and two, purchasing them from the hands of the Wizard Hunters.

As he considered this, the second method seemed more suitable.

“Waiter!” Su Yu called out.

The waiter was a seasoned man. Despite his young age, the stern, formidable air that Su Yu gave off was unmistakable, hence the waiter dared not slack. “How can I help you, sir?”

Su Yu said, “I have some questions for you. Have you any idea where the Wizard Hunters most often gather in this region?”

As he spoke, he tossed out an expensive jewel.

The waiter bowed subserviently. Hurriedly, he answered, “Sir, the Wizard Hunters are everywhere, but if you were to find the most famous ones, surely you must look for the Condor Wizard-hunting Alliance!”

“Most of the powerful Wizard Hunters gather in this Alliance, and among them, the Alliance Master is a powerful Level Four deity. He is extremely capable and had actually killed a Level Four wizard by himself. Even the people of the Prince's Mansion admire him.”

Su Yu thought about it. “Then there must be a lot of the wizard tribe's tools in their hands, right?”

Upon hearing that, the waiter replied, “That is for sure. All their trophies are placed in the Alliance Hall, waiting to be picked by the customers.”

Was that so? Su Yu touched his chin and said, “Alright.”

When he finished, he got up to leave.

As he watched Su Yu leave, hints of scorn flashed across the waiter's good-natured face. “Another ignorant doom-seeking fool.”

Su Yu walked down the stairs and ran into an ordinary-looking man in a white robe along his way. He had a gentle, placid manner, and was not eye-catching in the least bit.

Su Yu didn't notice him at first, but when the man brushed past Su Yu's shoulder, he stopped in his tracks and shot a slightly surprised look at Su Yu.

The stare made the hidden sorcery energy in Su Yu's body surge and roil, nearly spilling. Su Yu was taken aback, and could not help but take a glance at the man.

The white-robed man flashed him a gentle smile and went on upstairs as though nothing had happened.

Su Yu was secretly surprised. What was it about the white-robed man?

After a moment of pondering, Su Yu shook his head and stopped thinking about it. He headed straight for the Condor Alliance.

The Condor Alliance was situated in a suburban area that was rather remote but bustling with people. A great flurry of activities was going on there.

Su Yu entered the great hall and found many tools of the wizard tribe just as he expected. They were displayed in wide aisles and marked with clear price tags.

The spell that Su Yu intended to perform was a sort of magic named the Soul-subduing Spell, which required a rather convoluted set of wizard tribe tools.

After he browsed around for a bit, Su Yu felt slightly relieved. He found most of the items he needed, except for a fruit named the Wizard Dragon Fruit.

“What are you looking for, sir?” The Wizard Hunter of the Alliance in charge of sales asked, smiling.

Su Yu said, “The Wizard Dragon Fruit.”

Upon hearing that, the Wizard Hunter’s eyes flickered stealthily, but he replied, “The Wizard Dragon Fruit? This fruit is very rare, and even the Grand Wizards hardly own any, but from what I know, the Great Alliance Master does have a few Wizard Dragon Fruits in hands.”

Su Yu said, “Money isn’t a problem. When could we settle the transaction?”

The Wizard Hunter replied, seemingly troubled, “The Great Alliance Master is currently on a wizard hunt in the Lost Nation, and is not expected back until next month.”

Su Yu could not afford to wait that long.

“Does anyone else have it?”

“No one else.”

Su Yu frowned. How would he get a Wizard Dragon Fruit?

Right at that moment, a man in the attire of a Wizard Hunter ran inside, panting. “I have an urgent mission to announce!”

The Wizard Hunter tending to Su Yu turned away from him immediately, his eyes gleaming. “The pay for urgent missions is double the usual.”

“Money isn’t the best part. There are also extra rewards upon completion of the mission,” the man said, sounding quite anxious.

Wizard-hunting Alliances would accept missions to earn some income when manpower was adequate.

The Wizard Hunter who had attended to Su Yu said, “Tell us the pay first.”

The man thought for a second and retrieved some items from the pouch on his waist. There was a wide assortment of newly obtained wizard tribe tools.

“The ones who accomplish the mission could choose one item from these.”

Su Yu took a glance at the array and his pupils constricted slightly at the sight of a purplish-black fruit shaped like a dragon. It was the Wizard Dragon Fruit.

The shop-keeping Wizard Hunter looked at the Wizard Dragon Fruit and was startled for a moment. He told the man, "This customer over here is very interested in the Wizard Dragon Fruit. Would you be willing to sell it to him?"

The man shook his head. "No way, out of the question. I need many men to help me complete the mission. These items are rewards and not for sale."

The shopkeeper shrugged at Su Yu, helpless.

Su Yu thought for a moment, and said, "May I know what mission it is and whether I could participate?"

The man took a look at Su Yu and shook his head. "No, I'm afraid not. Participants must be at the level of deities unless they have some unique strengths."

Su Yu smiled. "I have loads of unique strengths. Which one would you like to see?"

The man chuckled. "It seems you're quite confident. Show me any of your skills, and if you can impress me, you're in."

Su Yu's eyelids fluttered and he said, "For example, I see three hidden treasure maps that you're carrying. One of them is stained with blood. Am I right?"

The man's smile froze on his face. His expression changed dramatically and he clutched his chest. Shocked, he looked at Su Yu. "How in the world did you know that?"

"Some see-through techniques that I have. Seems like you're impressed," Su Yu smiled.

The man gazed at Su Yu for a long time and heaved a helpless sigh after a long while. "Fine, you get a place in the group. I hope you are able to pull your own weight. We will gather here two days from now. In the meanwhile, I need to recruit more men."

After negotiating with the man a bit longer and making sure that the reward for the mission would be the Wizard Dragon Fruit, Su Yu finally left.

He found an inn to take a respite for the time being. While waiting for the mission to start, Su Yu worked on healing Yongye Chuxue's wounds.

The happenings in the Northern Xue Nation had reached the empire with the speed of an earthquake.

The Northern Xue Nation had rebelled and acceded to the Heaven-defying Empire.

With the upheaval in the South and civil unrest yet to be appeased, it struck the Empire of Darkness like a bolt out of the blue.

"Nitian Guyun!" Yongye Jiuyang was fuming with rage and hatred as he squeezed the messenger jade pendant into pieces.

Yongye Wuheng said, "Calm down, Father! It is not the first time that the Northern Xue Nation turns out to be disloyal to our Empire. It was always only a matter of time before it detached from us."

“However, they were audacious enough to attempt to kill Chuxue in order to seal their rebellion with her blood...”

Yongye Wuheng could not help but laugh. “Nonetheless, the outcome is that all the royal heirs of the Northern Xue Nation have been slaughtered by Chuxue, apart from Prince Yun and Xue Xiaoman, who are still alive. It made them a laughing stock, I guess.”

Only then did Yongye Jiuyang smile. That was the most pleasing part.

The Northern Xue Nation failed to kill the Princess and got nearly their entire family killed.

They would look weak and ridiculous as a result of their betrayal, and the adverse impact on the Empire would thus be minimized.

“Chuxue has fled to the Yongzhen City of the Heaven-defying Empire. Send someone to fetch her back,” Yongye Jiuyang ordered.

Then his eyes flickered. “Besides, settle that matter. It would be inappropriate for me to arrive in person, and it would attract the three of them too. Thus you should deal with it by yourself.”

Yongye Wuheng seemed troubled. He replied in a deep voice, “Yes, Father.”

Two days later...

Su Yu arrived at the gathering place as was agreed.

The man he had spoken to before was waiting for him, and there were three other people, all of whom apparently belonging to the group that would go on the mission.

One of them was an elderly man clad in yellow clothing. He gave off a creepy, ferocious air, which kept people away from him.

Another one was a fair young man who looked bold and arrogant. He had the air of a seasoned warrior despite his youth.

They were both Level Six deities.

Seeing Su Yu, the man greeted him with a smile. “We were waiting just for you.”

Upon hearing that, the haughty youth looked Su Yu over from head to toe and questioned with displeasure, “Is he the one you mentioned, the one with see-through ability? Shouldn’t our companion be at least a Prospective Deity, huh? A fourth-realm Mortal Fairy... isn’t he going to hold us back?”

The elderly man said nothing but glanced at Su Yu without any expression.

The man in charge of the mission said, “You can be sure that his see-through ability will come in handy during this mission. As for holding you back, our mission this time isn’t particularly dangerous, so he won’t be a hindrance.”

Only then did the arrogant youth relent. He snapped, “Fine. Could you tell us about the mission already?”

The man chortled. "Let me introduce myself. My name is Liang Kuan, and I'm a Wizard Hunter. Three days ago, when I was hunting for wizards in the Lost Nation all by myself, I found something strange."

"While I was staying at a villa, I found out that the creatures in the villa have all been contaminated by sorcery energy. Thus, I suspect that there are people of the wizard tribe in the villa, who disguise themselves as creatures of the Ancient God Realm!"

The arrogant youth mused. "Could you be talking about the Evil Fending Villa?"

Chapter 1369: Pay One Back with His Own Coin

"Hehe, exactly!"

Upon hearing that, the arrogant youth said, "I've heard some things about the Evil Fending Villa being a shelter for the wizard tribe, and have wanted to find out more about it. Now that we have three people on the team, we could finally give it a whirl."

The total of the people on the team obviously excluded Su Yu.

"Guys, if you could help me kill a deity-level wizard, I'm more than willing to give away the items that I promised." Liang Kuan displayed three items, among which was the Wizard Dragon Fruit that he promised Su Yu.

"Please have a look. If there's no problem, let us set on the journey now."

Su Yu took a glance, and after ascertaining that the fruit was in good condition, he nodded gladly.

The group of people left the Alliance and headed for the range of mountains shrouded in thick fog.

"The dense fog never dissipates. Rumor has it that it has existed ever since the birth of the Ancient God Realm."

"Various grotesque and odd creatures live within it, and they are usually very powerful," along the way, while they were resting in a quiet valley, Liang Kuan explained to relieve the disharmonious ambiance.

"However, we're only at the outer perimeter, and there are no powerful strange beasts known to live in the vicinity of the Evil Fending Villa, so that should reassure us."

Upon hearing that, Su Yu asked, "Who are the founders of the Evil Fending Villa? Why did they establish the villa in the remote, deserted region of the Lost Nation? Weren't they afraid of being raided by the wizards of the Moonwatch Sect?"

Before Liang Kuan could reply, the arrogant youth interrupted. He snorted, "You took on the adventure without even knowing that? The Evil Fending Villa was founded by the former Monarch of the Heaven-defying Empire, Nitian Qiubai."

“The purpose of building it was to form a base where the movements of the Moonwatch Sect within the Lost Nation could be monitored at all times. Once they showed signs of unusual behavior, the Evil Fending Villa would ring the alarm.”

So that was it. Su Yu was not bothered about this person’s arrogance. He continued to ponder, alone with his thoughts.

“We’ve had enough rest. Let us carry on with the journey.”

It was just as Liang Kuan had said. They encountered no danger along the way and successfully arrived at the Evil Fending Villa.

White fog lingered around the Evil Fending Villa, impregnated with dead silence. Once in a while, the chirps of insects could be heard.

The villa appeared uninhabited, and at the moment, not a single soul was in sight.

Anyone would find the sight eerie and gloomy.

When Su Yu and the rest approached the villa, they noticed traces of abnormal activity.

Whiffs of dim grey fog hovered over the mountain behind the villa. Those were made of sorcery energy!

Liang Kuan was right. Wizards were lurking around the villa.

“Who’s there?”

With a creak, the gates of the villa opened. A short-statured man with a long beard stuck his head out and glanced around nervously.

Liang Kuan replied with a smile, “Don’t be afraid. We are Wizard Hunters, and we noticed the scent of wizards somewhere around here. We were worried that wizards might have invaded the area, thus we hastened here to find out.”

The long-bearded man’s glance swept around them, and he looked relieved as if he had been granted amnesty. “You guys are finally here! Help at last!

“Thank you so much for offering aid! If the three of you had come any later, we’d be sucked dry by that wizard.”

The three of them? Liang Kuan turned around to look. There were four of them, so why did this old fellow only see three?

However, the important point was the wizard.

“So there really is a wizard here. Where is he?”

The short, long-bearded man said, “He comes and goes without leaving a trace behind, and only comes out at night. Sometimes he’ll take some of the livestock, and at other times he’ll capture the servants of the house.”

“He has taken three servants already, and when we went up the mountain to look for them, we only found their skins, which looked like dry husks.”

“The rest of the servants were so scared they ran away, leaving only me and the Master, who is still keeping the last will of the former Monarch and safeguarding this place, monitoring the movements of the wizard tribe,” the man explained.

“Several days ago, we have informed the defending troops at the base of the mountain, but they have not sent us any aid until now. No matter how, please help us seize that wizard today.”

Liang Kuan said, “Rest assured, we came today to deal with the wizard. Do allow us to lay an ambush in the manor.”

The short-statured man was more than willing to do so.

Following Liang Kuan’s arrangements, they set a powerful, gigantic trap within the villa.

Any creatures that would barge in from the outside world would trigger the formation and be trapped within it.

Su Yu was dispatched to the southeast corner to keep an eye on the changes of the formation.

The other three each safeguarded a different corner, carrying out close surveillance.

Time trickled away slowly until it was only a couple of hours before dawn, yet there was not a single movement outside the villa.

Ahh!

However, the short, long-bearded man let out an anguished scream that pierced through the night sky.

Su Yu glanced sharply around him as an ominous feeling filled his insides.

Liang Kuan also realized the situation after a moment of surprise. “It’s that servant! We have evaluated the situation wrongly. That wizard hadn’t come from the mountain beyond the villa, but has been hiding inside the villa the whole time!”

There were only two creatures in the villa!

Since the servant had been captured, the one who did it was undoubtedly the wizard who had disguised himself as a creature of the Ancient God Realm.

Liang Kuan yelled, “Search! The would-be master of the Villa Fending Villa is the wizard himself!”

They gathered into a group and searched every single room.

Eventually, they found faint traces and clues left behind in the ancestral hall.

All of a sudden, a ghastly scream sounded from the hall. A pair of eyes that looked as if they were filled with ghost fire peered from the darkness of the ancestral hall.

A monster in human form, with odd-looking liquid trickling down all over him, exuded a dense wizardly scent and bellowed at them, his blood red-eyes open wide.

As for the long-bearded man, he was most probably dead.

The arrogant youth stared at the human-like monster, his eyes filled with shock. “The master of the Evil Fending Villa, Bi Haisheng! I recognize the jade crown that he is wearing. I can’t believe he’s become a monster of the wizard tribe!”

Liang Kuan tried to keep his composure. “Don’t be afraid, guys, let’s kill him together.”

They nodded and dashed into the ancestral hall to kill the wizard.

The wizard was a powerful one. In an intense struggle between life and death, while he was fighting three opponents all by himself, he wasn’t losing his ground!

Only when the arrogant youth hurled a precious explosive talisman, which created a dent in the monster’s skull, did Liang Kuan and the hunched elderly man find the opportunity to give the wizard a fatal blow, shattering his skull completely.

With a howl of pain and fury, the wizard collapsed onto the ground, turning into a puddle of grimy liquid and leaving behind a bunch of wizard tribe tools, scattered all over the place.

Liang Kuan’s and the other men’s eyes glittered, and they divided the treasures among them.

Liang Kuan cast a look at Su Yu, who stood outside the ancestral hall and did not enter. He asked, “Little brother, don’t you want to get some?”

Su Yu folded his arms across his chest and said dispassionately, “I’m only interested in wizards. I have no intention of touching the things of this creature, who belonged to the Ancient God Realm.”

Upon hearing that, the arrogant youth snorted coldly, “You’re insane! This was a wizard that we have just killed. How could he be a creature of the Ancient God Realm?”

He did not notice how Liang Kuan’s eyes gradually turned dark and stared at Su Yu for a while. He heaved a dismissive sigh. “Seems like your super-penetrating vision was no great help after all.”

“No wonder you chose to avoid taking a single step into the ancestral hall. You must have realized something wasn’t right, haven’t you?”

The arrogant youth’s contemptuous smile froze, and his face fell. He got up abruptly and dashed outside, growling furiously, “What on earth are you doing?”

The good-natured look on Liang Kuan’s face was gradually replaced by gloomy fierceness. He snapped his fingers. “You should have believed him. It’s too late to leave now.”

Clang!

At the entrance to the ancestral hall, the door crafted from precious minerals fell all of a sudden.

The arrogant youth struck forth with a sword, but the blade of the sword was forcefully severed.

The expression of the arrogant youth’s face finally changed. Leaning against the door, he stared at Liang Kuan vigilantly, with anger in his eyes. “What do you want?”

Liang Kuan pointed at the corpse on the ground, his manner creepy. “To find a substitute to fool the other deities, of course.”

“Senior, let us subdue him together,” the arrogant youth finally curbed his pride and spoke to the hunched elder.

The dreadful elder turned sideways to look at him. He, who had not spoken a word until now, flashed him a spine-chilling, ominous smile. "What makes you think that I don't belong on his side?"

"What?" The arrogant youth inhaled sharply. "You... you guys gang up to murder people?"

The two of them flashed him eerie, cold smiles, and struck at once.

After a brief scuffle, the arrogant youth was on the ground with a blade of a pitch-black dagger thrust into his back. The poison in the dagger flowed into his body slowly, and it began to decay speedily, emanating a putrid, rotten scent.

His appearance bore a disturbing resemblance to the man they had seen previously!

The stooped elder picked up the jade crown from the ground and placed it on top of the arrogant youth's head. In a ghastly voice, he said, "This is the jade crown of the Evil Fending Villa Master. Don't drop it."

At that time, Liang Kuan shoved the elder with his elbow. "Look outside."

The elder took a glance outside and bared his teeth. "He hasn't fled yet! Has he become stupid from fright? He won't make it out anyway, though."

Liang Kuan scowled. He opened the iron door and stepped out of the hall cautiously. "Old Wu, be careful. I think this guy is kind of strange."

The hunched elder was not bothered. "A mere fourth-realm Mortal Fairy. how dangerous could he be?"

"Hey, fellow, how did you realize the truth about the two of us? Tell us. I might be in a good mood and show you some mercy," the hunched elder said in a warning manner.

Su Yu replied nonchalantly, "I have seen more wizards of a higher level than you ever had. Not any creature could impersonate a wizard by simply getting tinted with some sorcery energy."

The moment he saw the creature in the ancestral hall, Su Yu had realized it was a trap.

"Besides, how could there be such a coincidence? I happen to need a Wizard Dragon Fruit, and a Wizard Hunter immediately comes up with a mission, promising the Dragon Fruit as a reward?

"Not only that, but this Wizard Hunter was so magnanimous that he agreed to give me a place after some trivial abilities that I displayed."

In fact, since the very beginning, Su Yu had been vigilant.

Liang Kuan smiled. "In that case, it's our fault that we did not arrange it well and roused your suspicion."

Su Yu nodded. "Yes, your trick was not well-disguised at all, and could only fool people who were not yet familiar with the ways of the world."

He looked pityingly at the arrogant youth's body. When Su Yu refused to enter just now, if the youth had been clever enough to follow suit, he could have managed to escape.

However, he was too self-assured to understand Su Yu's intention.

The hunched elder's face grew even more sinister. "Well, you should speak your last wishes. How about that?"

"Last wishes?" Su Yu chuckled. "I'd like to ask you, how many times have you done this?"

The hunched elder started counting on his fingers and chortled once he had touched them all. "Can't remember, too many times."

"More than enough, then," Su Yu nodded. "Alright, I have heard your last wishes. I'll send you on your way to Hell now."

Chapter 1370: The Top Forbidden Technique

The hunched elder burst out laughing. "Liang Kuan, this brat must have gone mad...Ughh!"

A powerful fist smashed his heart and blood back-flowed into his throat, rendering him unable to speak.

Misery, disbelief, and befuddlement lingered on the elder's face. Then his vision turned dark as his body went limp and collapsed.

Having witnessed the scene, Liang Kuan choked in terror.

The hunched elder was killed before he even managed to see clearly how the other person attacked!

Even more to his shock and dread, a seam opened up between Su Yu's brows, and the hunched elder's soul was devoured before it could escape.

Liang Kuan felt chills creeping down his spine. Horrified, he ran out of the villa, screaming on top of his lungs.

Su Yu's cold eyes were flashing at him like bolts of lightning.

However, strangely, Su Yu did not chase after him, but remained motionless. Calmly, he said, "Don't try to fool me! The formations in the villa are meant to prevent the targeted quarries from escaping, just in case."

Once he said this, Liang Kuan, who was running, gradually slowed down to a halt. He turned around, the boundless panic in his face replaced by wariness.

"You even realized that?" He had killed many and had known all along that he would become the prey sooner or later. How could he possibly be surprised by the elder's death?

He was only trying to lure Su Yu to go after him so he would step into the formations in the villa, which would give him a chance to kill Su Yu.

Su Yu replied placidly, "I told you, your tactics are too clumsy and inferior."

Liang Kuan stared closely at Su Yu, feeling very intimidated. However, he had given up and seemed to be simply waiting for Su Yu to step forth and give him a fatal blow.

Nonetheless, Su Yu made no move. He said indifferently, "Where is the real wizard? Come out. I think there is no need for you to hide anymore."

Sizzle...

Thirty feet ahead of Liang Kuan, puffs of misty grey smoke emerged from the ground, and the scent of a real wizard showed itself.

It turned out that there was a trap here as well.

If Su Yu went anywhere near Liang Kuan, he would be exposing his back to this hidden wizard.

From the way they collaborated seamlessly, it looked as though they had a well-honed system for killing creatures of the Ancient God Realm.

The dim grey smoke condensed into the figure of a human. He turned out to be a short-statured man, his cheeks covered with a dense growth of beard.

Su Yu was not surprised at all. He said, "Just as expected. You, the servant, are the real wizard."

Apparently, the anguished scream was only an act he put up to lure them over.

The short man with the long beard glowered at Su Yu. "God da*n it, what is it about you? Why didn't I see you when you first came, but only saw the three of them?"

Su Yu flashed him a playful smile. "Are you talking about this?"

In an instant, he disappeared right on the spot.

However, strangely, Liang Kuan was able to see him.

That was the magical effect of the Illusory Soul Realm. As long as one's soul was stronger than the opponent's soul was, one could delude them with a mere maneuver of thoughts.

The short man was stupefied. "Can you do that? This is a very brilliant spiritual power. You are no ordinary man."

After a moment of brooding, the man said in a low voice, "You may leave now."

He could sense great danger here, so he was reluctant to get into a fight with Su Yu, despite being a Level Five Grand Wizard himself.

Standing in front of Su Yu, he felt a sense of uncertainty as though he was facing a profound chasm.

Su Yu did not go. Instead, he said, "You did not ask me if I give you permission to leave."

When he finished speaking, two rings flew out from Su Yu's sleeves.

The short man let out an angry laugh. "Since you're so eager to fight, I'll grant you your wish."

"Soul-enthraling Spell!" Overbearing patterns of sorcery energy filled the atmosphere, fending off the two rings in midair.

Before Liang Kuan could catch his breath, he saw Su Yu retrieve a feather, which he gently shook.

In the blink of an eye, a strong gust of wind took off, aiming straight for the long-bearded man.

He scoffed, "What can weapons of the Ancient God Realm do to wizards?"

"Wind-stabilizing Curse!"

The Grand Wizard Su Yu came across during the battle with Xue Xiaoman at the Myriad Bone Mountain had used the same tactic. One could destroy all artifacts and magical powers with a Wind-stabilizing Curse.

The storm dissipated, and the Divine Feather of Frost fell helplessly.

Nonetheless, before the short man could catch his breath, Su Yu retrieved another item, a piece of black-colored wood.

At the sight of this, the short man's face finally showed fear. "Soul-stabilizing Wood!"

Su Yu nodded gently. "Glad that you know!"

As he spoke, he raised his hand and tossed the piece of wood into the air.

The wood gave off a scent that calmed one's soul and thoughts. When the waves of sorcery energy swept past it, they weakened strangely and rapidly dissipated.

No longer halted by magical resistance, the two Yin and Yang Rings in the air fused into one in a flash, streaking across the Void and encircling the long-bearded man.

He was petrified. "Let go of me!"

Su Yu's eyes were ice cold. "You should be begging me not to kill you."

When Su Yu approached the man step by step, a nonchalant yet domineering voice sounded from far away. "I could say the same about you."

As the voice spoke, a wave of pure sorcery energy as strong as that of the Saint Lady came striking brutally out of nowhere.

Having encountered the wave of sorcery energy, the Soul-stabilizing Wood hovering in the air shattered into pieces right away, incapable of fending off such a powerful energy wave.

The Violet Gold Rings of Yin and Yang around the short man trembled vigorously under the influence of the wave, showing signs of strain.

Su Yu snorted coldly. "You think so?"

With a flick of his hand, an emerald flute appeared between Su Yu's fingers. He placed it at his lips and blew once it was infused with his divine energy.

All of a sudden, a heavenly, ethereal melody floated through the air, like the singing of an angel from paradise.

Where the celestial melody passed, the surging waves of sorcery energy dissolved quickly, like virgin snow under the warm sun. They disappeared without a trace.

The Violet Gold Rings of Yin and Yang tightened once again, firmly securing the long-bearded man.

Su Yu hid the flute inside his robes again. With each hand grasping a man, he used the Yin Yang Wings of Supreme Pole to teleport out of the villa.

He had no choice but to leave, as he felt an evil, overwhelming power quickly approaching.

The moment he took flight, a youth with fiery red long hair arrived, carried upon a gust of black wind.

The youth was extremely skinny, as though he was nothing more than a bag of bones. His eye sockets were so deeply sunken that his eyes seemed to be glinting out of deep pits, adding to his ferocity.

He glanced around and said in a hoarse voice, "Many can fend off my blows, but not many of those are as young as I am. Who was the Ancient God Realm creature that had been here just now? Has the Ancient God Realm gained another unrivaled prodigy after all these years?"

After a moment of brooding, the fierce youth said, "However, my purpose of coming here today was to clear up the awful shambles left behind. If the Sect Master finds out, I will surely lose to Luo Xueyi, and I won't be able to succeed to the position of the Sect Master."

Swish!

With a shift of his thoughts, Su Yu had returned to the suburban area of Yongzhen City, on top of a mountain.

The long-bearded man was firmly bound with no hopes of escape.

Su Yu looked at Liang Kuan. Under the penetrating stare of Su Yu's eyes, beads of cold sweat appeared on Liang Kuan's forehead. He was shivering.

"Please, please forgive me. I have been too ignorant to recognize your strength and thus have offended you. Please spare my life!"

An idea occurred to him. Liang Kuan retrieved the Wizard Dragon Fruit and presented it to Su Yu with trembling hands. "This... this is the Wizard Dragon Fruit that you asked for. I'll give it to you, my Lord, just please spare my life."

Su Yu did not look at him, but raised a finger and tapped it between Liang Kuan's eyes. Coldly, he said, "You killed many people, but I'm not concerned about that. However, colluding with foreign enemies and harming your own people is an unforgivable crime."

Pow!

A surge of dragon power was unleashed from the tip of his finger and pierced through Liang Kuan's skull. As for his soul, it was devoured by Su Yu at once.

Reaching out, Su Yu took the Wizard Dragon Fruit. Only then did he look at the short man with the long beard. He said dispassionately, "Now that you're in my hands, you must know I cannot let you live, right?"

The short man snorted. "What else could I expect? When did creatures of the Ancient God Realm ever spare the lives of the Moonwatch Sect disciples?"

"You're wrong about that. I have killed wizards before, but there were also wizards whom I have released, even Grand Wizards, and no less than a hundred of them," Su Yu said placidly.

“I don’t kill people because of their identities, but for the things that they do. If you posed no harm to the creatures of the Ancient God Realm, or even behaved with decency, of course I would spare your life. However, it does not seem as though you had done so.”

The short man was startled. He was not quite convinced Su Yu meant what he said, though he certainly believed the fact that Su Yu had killed many wizards.

“What do you want to know?”

Su Yu said, “I want to know this: you wouldn’t have colluded with men from the Ancient God Realm just to lure them and kill them, would you? These tactics are inefficient and troublesome.”

The short man hesitated for a moment and then sighed. “I’m working for the Saint.”

“The one whom I fought with from across the air just now?” Su Yu’s eyes glittered, and he went on, “He’s really powerful, even more powerful than your Saint Lady.”

The short man was taken aback. Could this man have fought the Saint Lady before as well?

Who on earth was he?

“Yes, that was the Saint! Under his orders, I collected souls for him to help him practice the top forbidden technique of the wizard tribe.”

“This forbidden technique requires many lives. If we looked for souls within the Moonwatch Sect, it would be noticed,” the short man explained.

Su Yu’s eyes gleamed with profound, icy light. “So you looked for souls among the creatures of the Ancient God Realm instead? And because you wanted this to remain confidential, you could only choose to collect them stealthily in this way?”

“Yes.”

Su Yu’s eyes turned even colder. “Unless I am mistaken, there must be many more like you, who collect souls for the Saint, right?”

The short man was stunned. How did he know?

“Yes. Most of these are wizards who follow the Saint. However, some of them are locals whom we had bribed, among them high-rank generals from the army of the Heaven-defying Empire.”

“Besides, there are also many in the Alliance who serve us. The souls that they had collected outnumber my haul a hundred times over.”

Su Yu looked unperturbed. He said, “I don’t care about the wizards. However, tell me about all the men of the Ancient God Realm who work for you in this way. Leave no one out.”

The short man shuddered. Despite Su Yu’s calm manner, he sensed deadly peril in his words.

Half an hour later, the short man had given Su Yu a complete list of all the men of the Ancient God Realm who collaborated with the Wizard Tribe.

At a random glance, Su Yu found a familiar name: Feiying!

If he remembered correctly, he was the Master of the Condor Alliance, a being of Level Four deity.

“Even the Alliance Master kills his own people and gives them to the enemy in exchange for benefits? His subordinates must be totally depraved then, aren’t they?” Su Yu said placidly.

As he recalled how Liang Kuan drew him to the villa, he thought of the Wizard Hunter from the shop.

If he had not been secretly providing information, how would Liang Kuan know that Su Yu needed the Wizard Dragon Fruit?

He skimmed through the name list, and just as expected, the members of the Condor Alliance who accounted for nearly 30 percent of it!

In other words, the Condor Alliance had killed its own people.

Having memorized all the names on the list, Su Yu said, “Looking at the history of humankind, the traitors are the most despicable of all.”

Lifting a finger, Su Yu showed mercy and gave the short man a clean death.

He stood up and looked over at Yongzhen City. Calmly, Su Yu said, “My hands have not been stained with the blood of my own people for a very long time.”