Nine-Dragon 821

Chapter 821: Tracing the Problem Back to Its Origin

"Wait!" Xue Qi's eyes lit up slightly as she quickly chased after Su Yu.

As she ran after him, she said, "The Right Palace Master's people always keep a high-profile in the outer sanctum these days. It seems like we must force them to see that the outer sanctum doesn't belong to the Right Palace Master alone."

She then added, "I will go there first and notify Ruffian Long and the others. We will muster all of our outer sanctum's black market's members!"

Su Yu understood that she was expressing her goodwill to him and hoped for him to join the Left Palace Master's camp one day.

He now had a multitude of enemies and just a few friends. So, he would surely not reject Xue Qi's kindness.

"You should go with Xue Qi to get reinforcements, while I go to deal with another matter," Su Yu's eyes flickered for a moment as he spoke.

Xue Qi stamped her foot, then nodded at Shangguan Fei and said, "Let's leave."

Shangguan Fei was overjoyed, while also slightly shocked. He knew that Xue Qi was an inner sanctum's disciple, who was responsible for the outer sanctum's black market. It was also rumored that she belonged to the Left Palace Master's camp and had a very high status.

As such, he really didn't expect that Su Yu would manage to be associated with such a woman, as two months still hadn't passed since he had joined the outer sanctum. Moreover, it seemed like Xue Qi treated Su Yu politely, which showed that there was really a great disparity between the current him and the past him, as he was a nobody before, completely dependent upon the Shangguan family to get an opportunity to participate in the outer sanctum's exam.

"Senior sister Xue Qi, many thanks for helping us." Shangguan Fei was quite grateful to her, so he thanked her as he followed after her to get reinforcements.

Su Yu left the Demon Mountain as well, but he didn't go to save Shangguan Yunque in a frantic rush. Instead, his eyes emitted a faint silver light, while he flew in the sky of the outer sanctum, sweeping over it with his gaze.

He knew that if he went there rashly, he wouldn't be able to save Shangguan Yunque. This is because the enemy had a Heart Oath Scroll that had been signed by Shangguan Yunque, and unless he paid 500,000 merit points, Shangguan Yunque's Dantian would be crippled according to the oath's decree!

Even the outer sanctum's three Palace Masters weren't necessarily capable of defying the black market's rules, so whoever started this problem had to be the one to put an end to it. Hence, since the three disciples who had borrowed the money had run away, Su Yu knew that he must find those three people, take them there, and force them to pay back the loan. Then, Shangguan Yunque wouldn't need to pay anything, and this problem would finally be resolved.

While thinking of this, Su Yu activated his Soul Eyes and swept the whole outer sanctum with them. None of the buildings were capable of obstructing his sight.

He needed to find those three people quickly, as he knew that there was a great possibility that Shao Qingfeng had sent them to harm Shangguan Yunque. Su Yu didn't know where Shao Qingfeng's residence was located, so he used his Soul Eyes to sweep through the whole outer sanctum.

After two hours had passed, he still hadn't found any clues about them, so he had to wonder... Were they killed? Or... Did they leave the sanctum?

As he thought about these possibilities, Su Yu's heart sank. But, after he considered them more carefully, he found these ideas to be implausible.

Even though Shangguan Yunque was careless and ended up being deceived by these three people, he wasn't a total fool! So, he surely couldn't have overlooked the fact that they had left the sanctum if they had done so.

Thus, they were surely still in the sanctum. Hence, as long as they weren't killed, they must be hiding somewhere! Moreover, it appeared that they were hiding in a place that his Soul Eyes couldn't reach!

The only places in the outer sanctum that his Soul Eyes couldn't penetrate were the three Palaces Masters residences and the illusory fighting rooms. The illusory fighting rooms were the most isolated places in the sanctum, and even though Su Yu had caused a great disturbance there in the past, there wasn't any wisp of demonic energy that had leaked out of them. From this fact alone, it could be seen how extraordinary their isolation effects were!

As he thought of this, Su Yu quickly flew to the fighting house. When he was just about to enter it, Su Yu suddenly caught sight of someone.

This person's name was Second Tiger Yang, and he was once one of Ruffian Long's subordinates. But, he had defected later and joined Shao Qingfeng's ranks, helping him manage the outer sanctum's black market. Su Yu knew for a fact that Shangguan Yunque's three drinking buddies had taken a loan from this very man!

As he knew that Second Tiger Yang was quite vigilant and wily, before he entered the fighting house, he surveyed his surroundings and made sure that no one was following him. It was only after doing this that he finally entered the fighting house and went toward the illusory fighting room in the middle.

He then made a secret signal with his hand and knocked on the door three times. The stone gate was immediately opened, and a face that wore a wary expression appeared before him. The face belonged to none other than one of Shangguan Yunque's drinking buddies!

"Senior brother Yang, you finally came," the person said with a vigilant and careful tone.

Second Tiger Yang furrowed his brows and scolded him in a low voice, "I asked you to not show yourself! Quickly close the door behind us and let's have a talk inside."

As a creaking sound echoed, the person closed the door behind them as they both went into the room. The illusory fighting rooms had powerful formations that had been set within them, so Su

Yu's Soul Eyes couldn't penetrate through them to see what was happening inside. Hence, he could only wait patiently outside.

After less than five minutes had passed, Second Tiger Yang pushed the stone gate open and came out. He had a wary look on his face.

After Su Yu saw him leave the illusory fighting room, Su Yu's eyes flickered. He stopped watching the room and followed Second Tiger Yang, who had clearly chosen to take remote roads on purpose in order to keep this whole matter secret. The more he traveled, the more remote his route became, until eventually, Second Tiger Yang had reached a completely desolate land.

All of a sudden, Second Tiger Yang furrowed his brows and turned around, while wearing an ice-cold expression. "Sir, you have already followed me for a long while. State your business!"

From a corner that was about three hundred meters away from Second Tiger Yang, a white-haired old man walked out. Su Yu wasn't surprised by the fact that he had been discovered, as he hadn't tried to hide at all.

"Su Yuxian?" Second Tiger Yang's pupils contracted and alarm appeared on his face upon seeing Su Yu.

However, he quickly calmed down, then snorted coldly and asked, "Why are you tailing me? What we black market's members hate most is being tailed by someone!"

Su Yu replied calmly, "It doesn't matter to me whether you hate it or not, as I have something to ask you, and I hope that you can give me a satisfactory reply."

Second Tiger Yang turned around, crossed his hands over his chest, then looked at him coldly and said, "State your question."

He seemed quite imposing, and his look would be enough to scare any ordinary outer sanctum's disciple. This was because his cultivation was at the Level Six Fairy Realm.

"I just want to ask whether those three people are still alive," Su Yu asked calmly.

Second Tiger Yang's pupils contracted as he scolded him, "What rubbish are you spouting now? How could I kill them..."

His speech came to an abrupt end as he suddenly realized that Su Yu was just trying to get information from him, not really thinking that he had killed them at all! So, he then shouted with a frown, "I don't understand at all what you are implying! If you don't have anything else to say, I will take my leave."

Just as Second Tiger Yang turned around and was about to leave, Su Yu took a step forward and said coldly, "I didn't say that you could leave..."

Second Tiger Yang was so infuriated by this that he laughed. It was ridiculous to him that a mere Level Three Fairy dared to threaten him!

"It seems like defeating trash like Shao Li has caused you to become quite full of yourself." Second Tiger Yang laughed coldly and looked at Su Yu like he was looking at an idiot who had forgotten his place.

Su Yu found this a real pity. This was because if he knew the real reason why Shao Qingfeng wanted to get rid of Su Yu, he would surely not be laughing! After all, as Su Yu had managed to fight the phantom image of Jian Wusheng in the illusory fighting room, this was enough to demonstrate how great his fighting prowess was.

"It seems like I must teach you once again how great the disparity is between people's power!" A blue light came out from Second Tiger Yang's forehead as he spoke. It was similar to a giant elephant's phantom image and contained explosive power.

"A Barbarian Elephant Level the Land!" Second Tiger Yang shouted, while the giant elephant's phantom image came out from his forehead and took a step forward.

Each of its feet possessed a intense and intimidating power. However, Su Yu still didn't fear it, and he immediately thrust his right fist at it.

Crack!

The powerful giant elephant's phantom image was torn apart easily, as if was made of paper, while Su Yu's fist continued onward and struck Second Tiger Yang's chest.

When such an explosive power bombarded him, Second Tiger Yang was sent flying away, while spouting a mouthful of blood. As a thumping sound echoed out, Second Tiger Yang, whose gaze was filled with shock, fell on the ground and yelled, "How are you this powerful?" He couldn't understand how a trifling Level Three Fairy's brute power was higher than his.

Su Yu didn't waste his breath conversing with him any further. Instead, he stamped his chest and surveyed the surroundings calmly with his gaze.

After a long while, he said, "There isn't anyone here. Also, since this place has magnificent scenery, you shouldn't have any regrets about dying here..."

"Wait! We don't have any feuds between us. So, why do you want to kill me?" Second Tiger Yang's mind was racing to find more excuses to give Su Yu.

Su Yu replied calmly, "You are right. We really have no feuds between us, and if you want to resent someone for your fate, you should blame yourself for choosing to follow the wrong master."

Then, as Su Yu exerted his power on his foot and was about to kill Second Tiger Yang, Second Tiger Yang, while feeling as if death's shadow was engulfing him, begged, "Wait! Don't kill me! I will do anything you want!"

Su Yu loosened his foot slightly, then replied coldly, "I will ask you once again... Are those three people alive or dead?"

Fright engulfed Second Tiger Yang, but he still gritted his teeth and replied, "I obeyed senior brother Shao's orders and disposed of them."

As he spoke, he raised his index finger and three mutilated corpses were thrown out of his ring. Upon seeing this, Su Yu's heart sank.

It was already too late. The vicious and cruel Shao Qingfeng had obviously not spared them.

Since those three people were already dead, Su Yu knew that Shangguan Yunque would have to assume full responsibility for the loan. As such, it would be impossible for him to save Shangguan Yunque, unless he somehow managed to get 500,000 merit points!

All of a sudden, Su Yu got an idea, and his eyes flickered as smiled mysteriously. He then looked at Second Tiger Yang again and chuckled. "Do you want to live?" he asked.

Second Tiger Yang's heart rose up to his throat as he nodded repeatedly, then said, "Junior brother Su, I will abide by all of your orders. Please, instruct me." It was true that all traitors have no real loyalty, and since he could betray Ruffian Long, he could also betray Shao Qingfeng.

"I don't need you to do anything. I just want you to loosen your mind's defenses," Su Yu said.

Second Tiger Yang hesitated for a moment, but as Su Yu was watching him intently, he obediently chose to loosen his mind's defenses. Thereafter, a silver-gray ray of light shot out of Su Yu's eyes and invaded Second Tiger Yang's soul.

Second Tiger Yang's face grimaced in pain before his eyes went blank. He stood respectfully behind Su Yu like a puppet, while Su Yu laughed and said, "Hehe, this is what you all get for plotting against me!"

Chapter 822: Gangs' Fight

The outer sanctum's plaza was the most frequented place by the outer sanctum disciples, besides the fighting room. Not only were the people who offered loans with high interests here, but there were also black merchants, who sold many objects of unknown or suspicious origins, like elixirs, cultivation techniques, magical treasures and even some news.

In fact, you could get everything here, apart from activities that were prohibited by the sanctum, like assassination, robbery, human trafficking and some matters of the like. Today, the black market was even more bustling than usual.

This was because one of the black market's great factions was carry out an extremely cruel matter. It was the crippling of a disciple, who owed them merit points, yet still hadn't paid them back.

Such a matter hadn't occurred for a long time, as all those who borrowed money would sign an ironclad agreement with Heart Oath Scrolls, and if they didn't pay them back in time, their cultivations would be crippled, according to the agreement set in the Heart Oath Scroll.

The outer sanctum turned a blind eye to such a matters and didn't meddle with them. Instead, it would only warn people to be careful when taking out high-interest loans. The people whose cultivations were crippled wouldn't have any standing in the outer sanctum. As such, they could only become one of the mortals, taking care of outer sanctum disciples, or they would have to leave the sanctum entirely.

There were even those who were in even worse states. If these people had enemies, then their future days would be terrible, and they wouldn't dare to leave the sanctum at all, as they would be worried that they would be hunted down!

Their miserable fates were a warning to all people who came after them, and because of this, no one dared to take out loans rashly. In fact, they would only take them out if they had great confidence that they could immediately pay them back.

As it was such a weighty matter, it was only natural that this occurrence had caught so many people's attention. It was especially the case since the person whose cultivation was about to be crippled was a disciple of the Shangguan family, Shangguan Yunque!

The Shangguan family was ranked second among all of the factions besides the eighteen great factions. The fact that even such a great faction's young master wasn't spared from the terrifying consequences of not complying with the agreement caused people to shudder in fear.

The plaza was packed with people. In fact, it was so overcrowded that they spilled out of the entrance!

There were fifty disciples, all of whom had high cultivations, there. They were led by Shao Qingfeng.

The weakest among them was still a Level Three Fairy, while the strongest were Level Seven Fairies. They were familiar faces to all of the people here, as they were frequently seen by the black market's members, all of whom held control over half of the market. Now, they were all gathered behind Shao Qingfeng, like an organized crime syndicate.

At the very front, a person was being guarded by two Level Seven Fairies. He was an immaculately dressed youth, whose cheeks were blue and purple. His hands were tied and he was bound to a cross. The crowd all started whispering...

"Shangguan Yunque... I knew him. He had already entered the inner sanctum and started cultivating within it, yet he still loved to hang around the outer sanctum with his friends. Who would expect that he would fall into such a trap?"

"I can't agree more. In the past, he was quite well-off and grand. He had a very prominent family background and possessed an inexhaustible amount of merit points. But, it was a pity that he provoked some people, who mustn't be offended, and even if the Shangguan family was more amazing, they would still be insignificant in front of the Right Palace Master."

"Hehe, what could his family really amount to? His sister, Shangguan Qinger, is the Red Blood Palace's Master unofficial disciple, but the Right Palace Master still dared to target her brother."

"It's because the Red Blood Palace's Master didn't care about the sanctum matters in the past hundred years, so the Right and Left Palace Masters, who managed all of the sanctum's matters, became its true rulers. If she was the last disciple of Mo Tianxuan, then they wouldn't dare offend them."

An unofficial disciple was often just a mere title. It could seem illustrious in an average people's eyes, but it was nothing in the eyes of well-informed people. Shangguan Qinger was considered as

one of Mo Tianxuan's unofficial disciples, while in fact, she didn't get to meet Mo Tianxuan more than a few times.

While the people here were discussing the matter, some were rejoicing in the misfortune, while others wrung their hands and sighed. Shao Qingfeng waited patiently as he wore a mocking smile at the corners of his mouth. He wanted to see whether Su Yu would come to save him or not.

It would be best if he could find a way to cause a conflict. Then, among the chaos and confusion, Lao Ai could attack Su Yu and take his life with one strike!

Swoosh!

A disturbance rose among the people, while they all made way suddenly for a group of people. The one who took the lead was a sloppy-looking person, who was followed by around 50 ferocious-looking people.

"Ruffian Long and his group have come here!" someone in the crowd exclaimed in astonishment. Everyone wondered...

The Right Palace Master's black market's people were crippling a violator, so why did the Left Palace Master's people come here to pick a fight?

Both of them were members of the black market, and each of them occupied half of the market. They rarely fought each other because the outer sanctum had strict rules that forbid large-scale fights. Hence, their sudden appearance dumbfounded all of the people present.

Shao Qingfeng was startled, and he furrowed his brows slightly. "Why did you come here?"

Su Yu didn't come here, yet their sworn enemies had come!. This was beyond his expectations.

Ruffian Long then asked, "Was this place built by you? I can come here anytime I want! I don't need your permission!"

Ruffian Long was much weaker than Shao Qingfeng, but he could depend upon the great number of people in his group to face Shao Qingfeng alongside him.

Shao Qingfeng snorted coldly, "Let someone who can speak properly come here. Someone like you doesn't deserve to speak to me directly."

"Is that so? Then... Do I deserve to speak or not?" A woman, who possessed a charming and alluring body, appeared among the crowd. She attracted many ardent gazes.

"She's the inner sanctum's vixen, Xue Qi!" someone shouted. She had great fame, even in the outer sanctum, so many disciples knew her.

"Who would have expected that even the inner sanctum disciples would intervene in such a matter? It's really surprising!" someone else commented.

Shao Qingfeng's expression became somewhat nervous. "Xue Qi? What did you come here for?"

Xue Qi wore a bright and charming smile. "Hehe, I obviously came here to take young master Shangguan. I'm sorry to inform you that he also owes us a debt, so we couldn't let you cripple him before he paid us back. We still need him to be able to work to gain merit points."

The crowd suddenly realized what was happening, and they all started discussing it...

"It's really odd! Why would the Left Palace Master's black market members stand up for Shangguan Yunque? Moreover, they mobilized all of their black market's members, and it seems like they want to start a fight!"

"It seems quite fishy! The Shangguan family shouldn't have any opportunity of currying favor with the black market's members!"

"Indeed, even Xue Qi participated in such a matter. This woman has a high position in the Left Palace Master's faction and is proud and haughty, so why would she condescend herself to save this insignificant Shangguan Yungue?"

Shao Qingfeng's expression became somewhat gloomy. "As Su Yuxian has somehow gotten you to intervene... You must really value him greatly."

The Left Palace Master's faction's care of Su Yu had far surpassed his expectations. However, he was still obliged to kill Su Yu.

After he spoke, the people were startled by his words...

"What? Senior sister intervened because of Su Yuxian?"

Some people didn't know about him...

"Who?"

"You don't know about Su Yuxian? The new demon, the fifth demon, the central supreme demon? He's a terrifying man, who assaulted Bing Wuxin on the first day that he joined the Demon Mountain, and he conquered both her body and heart. It's rumored from that day onward, Bing Wuxin became submissive and was even jealous and fought against the Raging Flame Cabinet's Master in the street!"

"It's rumored that some people saw him consecutively entering the Raging Flame Cabinet's Master residence for a whole month, so she should have already been conquered by him!"

"Hiss! So, it was him!"

Many people were astonished, as they knew that a new central supreme demon had appeared, but they didn't know his name.

"Well... Was senior sister Xue Qi also conquered this central demon?" a quick-witted person asked, while many gazes immediately fell on Xue Qi.

Xue Qi didn't care about Shao Qingfeng's mockery, so she chuckled charmingly. "As long as Su Yuxian asked it of me, then I'd be willing to even climb a mountain of swords or plunge into a sea of flames for him."

"It's really hateful! The central demon took advantage of Bing Wuxin, yet he was still not satisfied, so he even took the Raging Flame Cabinet's Master! Now, he has conquered even Xue Qi! He's really a b*stard!"

"Yes! He's really repulsive. He took for himself three of the Red Blood Palace's famous beauties!"

"Da*ned central demon! When I get strong enough, you will be the first person I will look for, and I will beat you until you kneel before me."

Su Yu had already become the public enemy of all of the male outer sanctum disciples after such exaggerated stories had spread.

"Shao Qingfeng, hand him over, or I will teach you a lesson on behalf of the Right Palace Master," Xue Qi said.

Ruffian Long chuckled sinisterly. "Brothers, you shouldn't go easy on them! Go ahead and break their balls!"

Hoots of laughter resounded from the crowd. However, at such a moment, an ice-cold and disdainful shout transmitted from among the people behind Shao Qingfeng, "I really want to see who would dare to do such a thing?"

As his ice-cold shout echoed out, a fair-faced man, whose whole body emitted an ice-cold aura, walked out. Ruffian Long and the others held their breaths, while their sinister laughter came to an abrupt end.

Xue Qi squinted her eyes. "Lao Ai, you didn't stay in the inner sanctum, but came here to make a disturbance. Aren't you worried that you would be condemned by your Left Palace Master for violating the outer sanctum's black market's rules?"

Lao Ai chuckled coldly. "Isn't that the case for you, too?"

"Lao Ai, if you don't want to cause a disturbance in the outer sanctum, then you should hand him over to us now. Otherwise, the news of such a large-scale private fight will surely reach the inner sanctum's Palace Masters' ears, and even though I would be punished for it, you would also be punished as well."

Lao Ai's pupils contracted, as what he didn't want to happen the most was for this matter to reach the inner sanctum's people's ears. "Are you threatening me?" Lao Ai asked with squinted eyes.

Xue Qi stuck out her chest. "Yes! I'm threatening you! So, will you hand him over or not?"

A cold glint flickered in Lao Ai's eyes. "I will obviously hand him over to you, but you still need to wait for a short while."

He then swept his gaze over Shao Qingfeng and said, "It seems like Su Yuxian is just a coward, so there is no need for keeping this person. Go ahead and cripple his cultivation."

Shao Qingfeng was also disappointed. They had gone to a lot of trouble to arrange such a matter, yet Su Yu didn't fall for it.

The resentful Shao Qingfeng walked toward Shangguan Yunque and shouted coldly, "Your good brother is shameless! He knows clearly that you are in danger, yet he still didn't dare to show himself. I'm really feeling sorry for you right now."

When Shangguan Yunque heard that Su Yu hadn't come here, not only didn't disappointment appear on his swollen face, but a relieved look appeared on it instead. "Brother Su already warned me to not trust my drinking buddies, so it's my fault that I ended up in such a state. I can't blame him for anything, and I also wouldn't drag him down with me!"

He then added, "Moreover, since he didn't come here, then it's obvious that he saw through your plot!I'm greatly relieved by this, too! Hehehe."

Shao Qingfeng's expression became gloomy. "You must die! I will immediately cripple you!"

Chapter 823: Crippling His Cultivation

Shao Qingfeng exerted his power in his palm, then thrust it at Shangguan Yunque's Dantian. Once the latter's Dantian was damaged, he would become a cripple.

It was at this moment that a loud shout was heard coming from a distant place, "Stop!"

Shao Qingfeng, who wore a gloomy expression, found the voice slightly familiar and was startled by it. He curled up the corners of this mouth and formed a faint cold smile.

He then looked at Shangguan Yunque and said, "It seems like your brother isn't as smart as you have imagined him to be!"

Lao Ai's expression turned for the better, while a cold glint flickered in the deepest part of his eyes. He then quietly withdrew into the crowd. This was because he was planning a sneak-attack!

If a middle-stage Divine Master like him attacked Su Yu with his full power, he would manage to kill the latter instantly. Sensing this, Su Yu quickly rushed over, managing to make it just in time. He turned around lightly and landed gracefully before Xue Qi.

In the twinkling of an eye, many gazes were cast upon Su Yu. Everyone wanted to get a look at the Central Supreme Demon!

Xue Qi's eyes were glittering as she approached Su Yu and spoke to him with a stern look, "Junior brother Su, it will be up to you regarding what we will do now. We will adhere to all of your orders. Even if you want us to start a great battle here, we won't hesitate to start it in order to help you save Shangguan Yunque."

Su Yu was quite grateful to her at the moment. Although he knew that Xue Qi was only doing this to curry favor with him, she was still helping him.

"Senior sister Xue, please calm down. There's no need to start a conflict. This is probably what they are hoping for. After all, there is a mouse hiding among the crowd, and he's just waiting to take advantage of such a crisis." Su Yu revealed a sneer as he turned toward the crowd and asked, "Isn't this the case, senior brother Lao Ai?"

He had already pinpointed Lao Ai's location before he had even landed, so he had witnessed all of his actions. After all, Su Yu would not let down his guard against such a person, who he knew was fond of sneak-attacking people!

"Well, where is he?" It was only now that Xue Qi noticed that Lao Ai was hiding among the crowd. If she hadn't been warned by Su Yu and had started a fight rashly, Lao Ai would have been able to sneak-attack anyone!

Upon hearing this, many disciples chuckled in secret. Many of them had already heard about Lao Ai's conduct. A moment ago, he was still in the front of the crowd, yet in the twinkling of an eye, he had skillfully hidden himself among the crowd. Thus, everyone was clear on what he had planned.

Lao Ai's expression became slightly gloomy. Since they all saw through him, he wouldn't get an opportunity for making a sneak-attack. Thus, he could only fight openly and kill Su Yu, while acting like it had been a mistake!

"Lad, why did you come here? Do you want me to let off Shangguan Yunque? You don't have any right to order me to do so," Lao Ai spoke coldly and revealed his power.

He was ready to start fighting at any moment, and if he attacked, he would go all-out and kill Su Yu! Even though they were far from each other, Su Yu could still feel Lao Ai's intense killing intent. As such, he couldn't help but sneer inwardly, while thinking... This shameless guy really plans to kill me!

"Hehe, I didn't order you to release him, and I just want to consult you about something," Su Yu said as he clasped his hands behind his back.

His tone was calm and serene, while his current appearance gave him a special charm. He seemed like an old man, who had an air of transcendence about him.

Lao Ai squinted his eyes, then asked, "What rubbish do you want to tell me? Just go ahead and say it."

Su Yu revealed a faint smile and said, "I have just two questions... The first question... Since Shangguan Yunque is just a guarantor for other people, then if those three people come back, shouldn't you all go and look for them instead of Shangguan Yunque?"

Lao Ai's eyes flickered, and as he looked at Shao Qingfeng, the latter shook his head at him. It was only then that Lao Ai regained his composure.

"According to the rules, if those three people come back, we will obviously look for them and won't cause any trouble for the guarantor. However, it seems like they won't come back," Lao Ai replied.

Su Yu still wore a faint smile as he replied, "Okay, then I will ask my second question. If it was discovered that those three people colluded with someone to harm Shangguan Yunque, how would they be handled?"

Lao Ai and Shao Qingfeng were startled by this questions, and their gazes flickered slightly. When they didn't immediately reply, Su Yu said, "It seems like these guys won't reply. Senior sister Xue, can you please give me an answer?"

Xue Qi rolled her eyes. She felt that Su Yu had finally found the crux of this problem. She then looked at Lao Ai and Shao Qingfeng and sneered coldly.

She then said, "According to the black market's rules, if anyone dares to join hands with someone to harm the guarantor, the black market's two factions will join hands and cripple his cultivation. We do this because is a guarantor is not protected by some provisions such as these, no one would ever dare to become anyone's guarantor, which would have a drastic and negative impact on the black market's business."

Su Yu nodded. He then looked back at the two men and asked them calmly, "Did you hear that?"

Shao Qingfeng snorted coldly, then asked, "What does that have to do with us? Unless you find any proof, Shangguan Yunque's cultivation will still be crippled!"

Lao Ai then said coldly, "We have already wasted enough time. The guarantor, Shangguan Yunque, is incapable of paying back the 500,000 merit points, so he must be punished."

As he spoke, he was about to thrust his palm at Shangguan Yunque, while his gaze was still on Su Yu even now. He was trying to stir them up, hoping that they would start fighting and cause a great amount of chaos and confusion here.

But, just when he was just about to thrust his palm at him, a loud shout suddenly transmitted from a distant place, "Senior brother Shao, Senior brother Lao, I already killed those three guys as you instructed."

The shout had come from a robust and tall man. His voice was thunderous, and it spread throughout the whole plaza.

The noisy plaza instantly descended into silence. The crowd was taken aback, and they all looked at each other in dismay.

"It's Second Tiger Yang!" The crowd recognized Second Tiger Yang quickly, as his status was equal to Ruffian Long's.

Lao Ai and Shao Qingfeng were also startled, and horror appeared on both of their faces. Lao Ai looked at Shao Qingfeng coldly, then shouted at him, "Are all of your subordinates this stupid?"

Shao Qingfeng's face flushed red as he tapped the ground with the tip of his foot, then flew up to Second Tiger Yang. He pulled Second Tiger Yang's arm and asked him, "Have you gone crazy?"

However, Second Tiger Yang unexpectedly didn't quiet down, but he instead shouted loudly, as if he was confused by what was happening, "Senior brother Shao, I didn't say anything wrong! Didn't you order me to kill the three junior brothers, whose loans were guaranteed by Shangguan Yunque? I even brought their corpses with me!"

As he said this, Second Tiger Yang waved his hand and three corpses fell from his ring. They were the corpses of the three disciples!

"It's them! I know them because I saw them with Second Tiger Yang. At that time, they all asked Shangguan Yunque to guarantee their loans and borrowed merit points!" a disciple cried out in alarm.

Upon witnessing the three dead people, the whole crowd went into an uproar, and many shocked gazes looked at Shao Qingfeng.

"Second Tiger Yang, what nonsense are you stating? If you dare to say such crazy things ever again, I will send you to the Law Enforcement Division!" Shao Qingfeng yelled.

He was becoming very anxious as he thought... Why did Second Tiger Yang state this matter in front of everyone? This matter seems very fishy!

However, when Shao Qingfeng looked at Second Tiger Yang, he found his gave to be clear and bright. He didn't seem confused at all.

Second Tiger Yang spoke up again, "Senior brother Shao, what's wrong with you? I didn't say anything wrong! You instructed me to send Li Sang and the other two after Shangguan Yunque to gain his trust and ask him to become their guarantor. You wanted to use them to trick Shangguan Yunque. How can you forget this?"

The crowd went into an uproar once again. Second Tiger Yang had unexpectedly stated everything about the shady plan in front of everyone. It was really inconceivable!

As for whether it was true or not, the crowd was certain it was factual. After all, Shangguan Yunque was a fat cat in all of the black market's people's eyes, so it wasn't strange that Shao Qingfeng would set his sights on him.

"You are just stating senseless drivel!" Shao Qingfeng was infuriated.

He believed that something was seriously wrong with Second Tiger Yang. So, he held his shoulder, revolved his Vital Energy, and confined his limbs and bones, thus preventing him from speaking any further and disclosing any more outrageous matters.

However, when he was just about to take him away, Su Yu leaped over, and pushed Shao Qingfeng away with his palm as he said, "Senior brother Shao, why don't you let Second Tiger Yang state what he has to say? Why are you trying to drag him away so anxiously?"

It was at this moment that Shao Qingfeng finally realized that it was Su Yu who plotted against him! "Su Yuxian, you unexpectedly dared to plot against me!" Shao Qingfeng became flushed from anger.

Su Yu shrugged his shoulders and said, "Senior brother Shao, what are you saying? I don't know what you are talking about."

"You are courting death!" Shao Qingfeng flew into a rage and attacked him angrily.

This affair would have an unimaginable influence on the Left Palace Master's outer sanctum black market. After all, if a loan provider colluded with people to harm a guarantor, no one would still dare to take out loans here again, much less become anyone's guarantor!

Moreover, Xue Qi still meddled in this matter, so the outer sanctum's black market power structure would probably experience great changes. At that time, the Left Palace Master wouldn't forgive him!

He planned to seize such an opportunity to dispose of Su Yu, yet Su Yu had used his weakest point against him, causing him to end up implicated by this affair! Naturally, he hated Su Yu now!

"Hehe, Senior brother Shao, what you are you planning to do?" A sweet fragrance assaulted them as Xue Qi flew over and easily blocked Shao Qingfeng's palm strike.

After Shao Qingfeng was shaken off by her, he drew back and yelled in a fury, "How daring! Senior brother Lao, why didn't you..."

When he looked back, Shao Qingfeng's heart skipped a beat. Lao Ai was no longer here!

His heart couldn't help but sink at that moment. Lao Ai must have realized that something was amiss here, so he had abandoned him!

Xue Qi felt extremely satisfied now. There had been many fights occurring in the outer sanctum's black market for a long time, yet no one had ever managed to get a victory. Yet, she had now caught a glimmer of hope that she might actually win on this day.

"Shao Qingfeng, according to the black market's rules, anyone who dares to collude with someone to harm a guarantor will be punished. Also, his cultivation will be crippled. No one can be exempt from this." Xue Qi wore a solemn look as she informed him.

Shao Qingfeng's face turned pale. Even though such a rule was really set by both of their sides, he didn't see how he could just obediently submit to it.

"They are all framing me. I'm the person in charge of the black market, so one can't just convict me as he wants. There must first be a thorough investigation," Shao Qingfeng said anxiously.

He then turned and shouted at the members behind him, "What are you all just standing there in a daze for?"

They all understood what he was implying, so they quickly rushed over to him and surrounded him, protecting him in their middle. After all, he was their leader, and if he was killed, their future would be dark and doomed!

Xue Qi sneered coldly. "Outer sanctum's black market's disciples, obey orders! Shao Qingfeng abused the black market's power and issued orders to frame a guarantor. Hence, his cultivation must be crippled! Yet now, he's trying to stay out of this matter. Will you allow this?"

Upon hearing this, the black market's people responded in unison, "We won't allow it!"

"Then, what are you waiting for?" Xue Qi asked, while chuckling.

Ruffian Long laughed, then said in a strange voice, "Brothers, charge forward! Let's drive away that vermin and take back our black market's former glory."

Upon hearing this, many outer sanctum's disciples rolled their eyes and wondered... What glory does a place like the black market have?

However, Shao Qingfeng's actions were still infuriating to them. After all, he had framed Shangguan Yunque and almost crippled his cultivation!

Shao Qingfeng's face was deathly pale. Since the opponents had an inner sanctum disciple, he couldn't see how he could resist them.

"You should all stop!" When they were about to start fighting, an imposing shout was heard. The voice was awe-inspiring and possessed a great spiritual pressure, which caused all of the people to come to an involuntary halt.

Xue Qi furrowed her brows and muttered to herself, "This old man really didn't come at a good time. It's really disappointing."

Chapter 824: Outer Sanctum's Palace Master

Delight appeared on Shao Qingfeng's face at this moment, and he went over to the Palace Master and saluted him. "Greetings Great Palace Master, please take justice for me, as they are all vicious and ruthless and are seeking to cripple my cultivation."

At that moment, three people, riding white clouds, flew here from the deepest part of the outer sanctum. One of them was an aged, white-haired woman, whose name was Palace Master Kong Chan. The second one was an old man with a goatee, whose name was Palace Master Hua.

The last one was a man, who has his hands clasped behind his back. It was obvious that this person's status was higher than the prior two.

He wore a navy blue robe, which was plain and unadorned, and he seemed like an ordinary old man. However, his eyes were extremely sharp, seeming like they were capable of seeing through anyone.

Su Yu's blood couldn't help but flow faster when the old man looked at him. The startled Su Yu quickly tried to calm himself down. This old man's cultivation should have already reached the peak of Divine Master Realm, and as such, it was greater than both Palace Master Kong Chan's and Palace Master Hua's.

It was obvious that the person before him was the ruler of the Outer Palace, the Great Palace Master. The Outer Palace had three Palace Masters, including two lower ones and one great one.

Palace Master Kong Chan and Palace Master Hua were Lower Palace Masters, while the old man in front of him should be the Great Palace Master. As such, he was the person who held the greatest power in the entire Outer Sanctum. Even in the whole sect, his power was only inferior to the Right and Left Palace Masters.

His appearance caused everyone here to quiet down immediately, and no matter if it was Xue Qi's black market faction or Shao Qingfeng's, they were all afraid of him and became quite restless. After all, the Great Palace Master was famous for his strictness and ruthless means.

The Great Palace Master turned a blind eye to Shao Qingfeng's complaints as he landed composedly and swept his gaze over all of the black market's members.

Seeing that they were about to start a great fight, he shouted imposingly, "This is outrageous! Didn't all of you work hard to pass the strict exam in order to enter the outer sanctum? But, look at yourselves now! What are you doing? You don't put your efforts into cultivating, but are instead gathering here to fight. Aren't you wasting all of the effort that you put into reaching here?"

His heartfelt words touched many of the people here. He wasn't mistaken, as all of the people who managed to join the Red Blood Palace were geniuses who had gone through many difficulties in order to get here. So, he had to wonder... When did they become this muddle-headed and lose their martial hearts?

Many people lowered their heads in shame.

After everyone calmed down, the Great Palace Master looked at the two gangs coldly and asked, "Speak! Tell me what's going on?"

Shao Qingfeng spoke hurriedly before Xue Qi could manage to reply, "They are taking advantage of their position in order to bully people, and they conspired together to cripple my cultivation. So, it was fortunate that you came here in time..."

"Shut up! I asked them, not you!" The Great Palace Master looked at him coldly. Shao Qingfeng groaned softly as his blood flow stagnated. He almost spouted out a mouthful of blood. After all, the Great Palace Master was questioning the black market's members!

Ruffian Long also feared him greatly, but he still braced himself and said, "We heard that there is a member of the black market who conspired to murder a guarantor, so we came here hurriedly to save him because it would tarnish our reputation."

When the Great Palace Master listened to this explanation, he looked at the black market's members at Shao Qingfeng's side and asked them, "And... As for you? Tell me the truth."

In the face of his power and steady gaze, no one dared to tell him a lie. At this moment, Second Tiger came over and sais, "Great Palace Master, it happened like this..."

He then narrated in full detail all that had happened. The Great Palace Master listened to him patiently before he spoke solemnly, while looking at Second Tiger, "Then... Doesn't this mean that they didn't lie?"

Second Tiger nodded. "It's really what happened."

Shao Qingfeng's face became deathly pale, as he knew that everything was done for.

"Okay, then let me ask you another question," the Great Palace Master spoke, while looking at Shao Qingfeng.

Second Tiger said, "Great Palace Master, please state it."

"Who's controlling you?" The Great Palace Master asked expressionlessly.

All of the people here were startled when they heard him, and they had to wonder... Is Second Tiger being controlled by someone?

After all, Second Tiger's actions today were really too strange, and it didn't seem like he did them willingly.

Su Yu was also startled, while he saw through it and thought... What an amazing Great Palace Master!

Second Tiger was confused."Great Palace Master, I don't know what you mean..." He clearly didn't realize at all that he was being controlled by someone.

The Great Palace Master squinted his eyes. "What a terrifying soul control technique, even the person being controlled has no idea about it!" Not only that, but even the other people here couldn't see any signs of it!

Second Tiger turned around suddenly and fled. The Great Palace Master wasn't surprised by this, and as he surveyed the surroundings, he calmly said, "The person controlling him is in the surroundings. Who would expect that our outer sanctum would have such a great soul technique expert?"

As he spoke, he waved his hand and sucked the fleeing Second Tiger back to him, then bound him. The Great Palace Master then tapped him with his finger and sent a resplendent ray into his mind.

Second Tiger's whole body convulsed and pain appeared on his face. However, it was only after three breaths' time before the pain was alleviated and he returned to his normal state.

He observed his surroundings blankly, and as his eyes got back their original luster, his face fell when he saw the person before him. "Great... Great Palace Master!"

His current actions were enough to show that he had really controlled by someone before.

"Do you remember who was controlling you?" The Great Palace Master surveyed the surroundings with his gaze, while paying careful attention to each person's facial expressions.

Second Tiger shook his head blankly. "It seems like my memory from the moment I left the fighting room onward was erased by someone."

Su Yu rejoiced somewhat in learning that he had successfully erased all memories related to him before using a soul control technique on Second Tiger. He did so just as a precaution for the occurrence of something unexpected happening, and he didn't really expect that it would come in handy!

The Great Palace Master didn't find any clues from anyone's facial expressions, so he said calmly, "I don't care who you are, but since you dared to control an outer sanctum disciple and cause trouble in the outer sanctum, then I can't let you off easily."

Su Yu's heart shuddered, as he really didn't expect that he would catch the Great Palace Master's attention by such actions. As such, Su Yu couldn't help but be on his guard against him, as this old man was quite thorny!

The Great Palace Master averted his gaze from them, while he took a look at the three corpses on the ground, then gazed at Second Tiger and asked solemnly, "Did you truly kill them?"

Second Tiger's heart thumped, and while he wanted to shake his head, as he faced the Great Palace Master's gaze, his whole body shuddered and he didn't dare to lie. After he hesitated for a while, he knelt on the ground and entreated him, "Great Palace Master, please spare me, as it was Shao Qingfeng who ordered me to do it. I didn't really want to do it."

"Fine... Then why don't you tell me the whole sequence of events clearly?" The Great Palace Master's expression was still calm as he spoke.

Second Tiger then narrated in full detail all that had happened once again, and it was exactly the same account that he had given before while he was being controlled. Although he was controlled at that time, Su Yu hadn't made him tell any lies, so everything was the truth.

"It's unexpectedly true! I had assumed that the person who was controlling him wanted to slander Shao Qingfeng, but everything that he said was really true!" he said, somewhat surprised.

Everyone here was equally astonished. But, after all, there wasn't anyone who could tell a lie in front of the Great Palace Master.

Shao Qingfeng felt his heart, which had just relaxed a moment ago, sink into an ice hole once again. The Great Palace Master, whose expression was calm, swept his gaze over the crowd, who was looking forward to hearing him give an appropriate punishment. The crowd wouldn't rest until such a vile and sinister person like Shao Qingfeng was punished!

"From today onward, the Right Palace Master's people aren't allowed to open a black market in the outer sanctum, and the cultivation of all those who violated this new decree will be crippled," the Great Palace Master announced firmly.

Shock appeared on all of the people's faces, as it seemed like the Great Palace Master wanted to affront the Right Palace Master. Su Yu was also shocked by his great boldness.

After all, the Right Palace Master had been engaged in business in the outer sanctum for many years, yet the Great Palace Master had just turned a blind eye to him. But, now that Shao Qingfeng had tried to harm an innocent disciple like Shangguan Yunque, it had ended up angering him, so he directly drove the whole faction out of the outer sanctum!

Delight appeared on the faces of Xue Qi and the others, as this was a piece of unexpected good news to them. The outer sanctum's profits weren't any less than the inner sanctum's, as there was a large number of disciples in the outer sanctum. In fact, they were 10 times more numerous than the inner sanctum's, which explained why its black market was extremely prosperous.

After the Right Palace Master's black market members were driven out today, the outer sanctum would be wholly controlled by the Left Palace from now on. As the person who led such an operation, Xue Qi would surely get a generous reward.

"As for you, you should learn a lesson from this matter," the Great Palace Master said to Xue Qi and the others. "It's fine that you set up a black market in the outer sanctum, as its existence is really necessary, but if you dare to harm some disciples

because of your personal feuds, then you will suffer the consequences of being tossed out of the outer sanctum."

His severe warning made Xue Qi's heart shudder, and she replied hurriedly, "Great Palace Master, you can rest at ease, as even robbers have their own rules and principles, and we will all conduct business together peacefully. We wouldn't dare violate the law."

The Great Palace Master nodded slowly, then looked at Shao Qingfeng with a slightly cold gaze. "You really have been greatly disgraced in the outer sanctum. In the seasonal exam, which will occur in five days, you will go on the stage and fight against Su Yuxian. If you win, I will let you off, but if you lose, I will take your life on the spot."

The Great Palace Master had unexpectedly set up a match! Everyone looked at each other in dismay, then looked at Su Yu in confusion as they wondered... Does the Great Palace Master know Su Yuxian?

Even Su Yu was startled as he wondered... Did he see through me and discover that I was the one controlling Second Tiger?

However, it didn't really seem like this was the case, but he still had to wonder... Why did he set up such a match with Shao Qingfeng inexplicably, then let me decide whether he would live or die?

After all, as he was a person whose life was on the line, Shao Qingfeng would surely fight fiercely like a cornered beast, and he would be quite dangerous in such a state. He wondered...

Did I offend this old man at some unknown time? It is my first time seeing him, so how could I have offended him before?

Su Yu looked at Palace Master Kong Chan and Palace Master Hua, who were behind the Great Palace Master, but they both averted their gazes at the same time, not daring to face Su Yu's gaze. It seemed like they were both left without a choice in this matter as well.

"Fine. This matter will come to end here. As for the punishment for the main culprit, Shao Qingfeng, that will be decided in five days during the seasonal exam." The Great Palace Master then led his people away and left.

The people in the plaza also followed after him, while passing on the news about what had happened here to others along the way. As for the Right Palace Master's black market members, their expressions were extremely unsightly.

They looked as if the sky had just crumbled down upon them as they all left, one after the other. As for Ruffian Long and the others, they were all overjoyed, and they went back to celebrate the matter with wine.

"Junior brother Su, we are obliged to thank you, as you eliminated our Left Palace Master's enemies in the outer sanctum, and if the Left Palace Master hears of it, then he will surely reward you generously." Xue Qi's face was rosy and her eyes were bright.

Su Yu's luck was really great, and each time she ran into him, she had been blessed by his luck. From the discovery of the ghost in the Elegant Spirit Mountain to seeing through Manor Master

Zhang's true colors as a ghost, as well as getting rid of the Right Palace Master's black market in the outer sanctum, Su Yu truly seemed to bring good luck wherever he went! Moreover, his body was engulfed with fascinating colors, and as they followed behind him, they always ended up witnessing miracles.

Su Yu shook his head and said, "You may have already heard about this, but I already rejected the Left Palace Master's faction invitation, as I want to just pursue the martial path. I don't care about anything else."

Xue Qi was disappointed to hear this, but she still didn't give up. "It doesn't matter. If you change your opinion someday, then you can join the Left Palace Master's faction at any time. I believe that the Left Palace Master would surely welcome you happily, as he's a person who greatly values talented people."

Su Yu didn't really care about such a matter. "Senior sister, can I ask you something?" Su Yu's mind was still filled with many doubts about the Great Palace Master's peculiar treatment of him.

Xue Qi nodded. "Just ask me anything. if I know it, then I will surely tell you."

"May I ask you what mistake I made to end up offending the Great Palace Master? Why does he want to let me face Shao Qingfeng, who's at the end of his road?" Su Yu knew that it was somewhat futile to ask such a question, as he didn't know himself how he had offended him, so how could other people know?

But Su Yu was surprised that, after a moment of startlement, she widened her eyes and started sizing him up, then replied in an odd tone, "Don't you know? I assumed that you were already aware of it."

Chapter 825: A Young Girl's Scheme

Huh? Su Yu smacked his tongue, then said, "I don't know anything about this. Senior sister Xue, please speak clearly."

At that moment, a blue vein popped out on Xue Qi's forehead. She didn't know whether she should laugh or cry as she exclaimed, "It's really strange! Even I knew that you offended the Great Palace Master! You are the only one who is oblivious to it!"

She then asked, "Did anyone inform you when you just joined the sanctum that you brought great troubles upon yourselves in the Fairy Confining Forest's trial?"

Did I bring great troubles upon myself? Su Yu was confused at first, but then he suddenly recalled something... Wait! It seemed like someone once said that same thing!

When Su Yu came out of the Fairy Confining Forest on that day, the envoy elder, Elder Li, had informed Su Yu that he had brought great troubles upon himself by killing the Level Five Fairy Realm Devilish Eye Scarlet Marten. He had then asked him to stay behind after the Carp Leaping Over Dragon Gate's trial because Palace Mistress Kong Chan would look for him to discuss this in private.

It seemed like it was a grave matter at that time. However, after Su Yu had such an outstanding performance in the Carp Leaping Over Dragon Gate's trial, this matter was settled by simply leaving it unsettled.

Was it related to this affair? Su Yu wondered. He then asked in confusion, "Is it related to the Devilish Eye Scarlet Marten?" He asked this because he still had a Devilish Eye Scarlet Marten's egg in his spatial ring.

Upon hearing this, Xue Qi couldn't help but smile. "It seems like you are aware of it. That's right... You brought great troubles upon yourself because of that Devilish Eye Scarlet Marten."

"Why? Isn't it just the Beast King of the Hundred Beasts Valley? It's just a trifling Level Five Fairy Realm beast. What's so exceptional about it?" Su Yu asked in surprise.

Xue Qi spoke in a sympathetic tone, "Hehe, nothing is obviously exceptional about that Devilish Eye Scarlet Marten. But, did you know that it's the spiritual pet of the Great Palace Master's beloved granddaughter? Now, knowing that... Do you still feel like it isn't a big deal?"

The spiritual pet of the Great Palace Master's granddaughter? Su Yu was at a loss of words upon hearing this news.

Xue Qi then said, "The Great Palace Master's granddaughter went to the Lifeless Sword Prefecture to continue her cultivation. She left the Devilish Eye Scarlet Marten, which she had raised, in the Fairy Confining Forest's Hundred Beasts Valley, never expecting that you would have killed it! Now, when his granddaughter comes back, she will surely be deeply hurt."

She then said, "The Great Palace Master, who treasures his granddaughter greatly, can't be happy about all of this. Now... Do you still feel like you didn't offend him?"

Su Yu was dumbfounded. He really wanted to start cursing at this moment.

It was all that Devilish Eye Scarlet Marten, which went crazy, that caused all of this turmoil! After all, Su Yu was really forced then to kill it, yet, he was now the one being blamed for offending the Great Palace Master!

"Hehe, you can set your mind at ease. The Great Palace Master will only give you a light punishment. If he was really angry, then with his bad temper, you wouldn't have even been allowed to stay in the outer sanctum until now. You would have already been driven away long ago," Xue Qi said, comforting him.

She then said, "I believe that in the seasonal exam, regardless of how much Shao Qingfeng desires to survive, he will still not dare to injure you heavily. However, you will still not be exempt from some physical suffering. This is probably the only punishment that the Great Palace Master has set for you."

The corners of Su Yu's mouth twitched upon hearing this. He was really dumbfounded.

"Okay, I will go back to my aunt's residence first and discuss with Wei Zheng how we can deal with the outer sanctum's black market's issues in the shortest possible time. If you need anything, you can just go ahead and ask for it," Xue Qi said bluntly.

Su Yu nodded in response. It was at this moment that Shangguan Yunque bore his pain and walked over, while being supported by Shangguan Fei. His face was filled with shame. He was clearly embarrassed to speak to Su Yu.

"Brother Su, I didn't listen to your advice in the past, and I deserve everything that has happened because of it. Moreover, I'm to blame for implicating you in all of this." It seemed like Shangguan Yunque had suffered a grave blow.

He wasn't as lively as he was in the past, and it seemed like he had became more steady and solemn. So, in fact, it seemed like this affair wasn't really a bad thing for him in the grand scheme of things. In fact, if he could stop wasting time and having too much fun, while concentrating instead on the martial path, this affair would actually be good for his future!

"Don't say that. You were just deceived by people, so you don't need to apologize or thank me." Su Yu waved his hand at him and comforted him, "You should go back to rest and have your injuries examined. After all, Shao Qingfeng is a treacherous and sinister person, so he might have secretly injured you somehow."

Shangguan Fei's expression became tense as he replied, "That's right, brother Yunque, you should listen to brother Su."

Shangguan Yunque nodded, cupped his fists at Su Yu, then left while being supported by Shangguan Fei. It was only after Shangguan Yunque left Su Yu's line of sight that the former stopped in his tracks, a decisive look appearing in his eyes.

"Brother Yunque, what's up?" Shangguan Fei asked.

Shangguan Yunque replied in a deep voice, "Write a letter for me, then pass it to Qinger, who is in the inner sanctum. Ask her to take out our Shangguan family's inherited secret canon, the Five Element Mysteries Art."

"Brother Yunque! What do you want that object for? That's our Shangguan family secret inherited art, which has been passed down from each Family Master to the other for generations! We inherited it from the ancient times, and the Family Master just left it in sister Qinger's care temporarily because you are always just playing around. What do you want with it?" Shangguan Fei asked in surprise.

The Five Element Mysteries Art was a secret canon that had been passed down through the Shangguan family for generations. It was rumored that its existence traced back to as early as tens of thousands of years ago.

It was rumored that, at that time, the Shangguan family was a colossal faction. But it had gradually declined with each passing generation, only t completely split apart in the end. Now, their Shangguan family was just a small branch of the past Shangguan family tree.

However, this small branch family still hid the past archaic Shangguan family's peerless treasure, the Five Element Mysteries Art, and only the Shangguan Family's core members were aware of this. The Shangguan Family's Master wanted to hand it over to Shangguan Yunque, but the latter didn't care about cultivation at all, so he could only leave in Shangguan Qinger's care. He had also done this out of precaution, just in case he ended up suffering an accident one day, the secret canon wouldn't be lost along with him.

"I will give it to brother Su," Shangguan Yunque said firmly.

Upon hearing this, Shangguan Fei jumped in fright and asked, "Brother Yunque, have you gone crazy? This is our Shangguan family's inherited treasure, so how can we give it to random people? Even sister Qinger won't agree to this, let alone the Family Master!"

Shangguan Yunque raised his head. His past juvenile look had disappeared completely, and he seemed to be wiser now as he said, "Our family will soon be destroyed, so why do we still need to protect the secret canon? A hundred years have already passed since the death of the past Quasi-Emperor of Jiuzhou, Shen Yichen, and the meet to fight for the Jiuzhou Emperor's position will soon start again. At that time, the Jiuzhou Continent will be in a state of turmoil and countless factions will be erased."

He then added, "Recently, the Eighteen Blessed and Heavenly Lands suffered consecutive mysterious attacks. As a result of these attacks, many sects and factions were destroyed. Our Shangguan family seems peaceful, but it's actually in imminent danger. So... It's time for us to look for a reliable supporter!"

Even after he heard this, Shangguan Fei was still puzzled, so he said, "Brother Yunque, you aren't mistaken. Jiuzhou enjoyed peace for more than a hundred years, but turmoil will surely start again. All of the factions are trying to get a backer, so why don't we get a more reliable backer? We have a secret canon, and if we gift it to the Left or Right Palace Masters or even the Palace Mistress, Mo Tianxuan, won't we get their protection?"

"Brother Yunque, are you cracking a joke? Do you really plan to ask Su Yuxian to protect our family? He's just an ordinary disciple, and even though he could fight those at levels that are higher than his could he fight Divine Masters?" he asked Shangguan Yunque with some doubts.

Shangguan Yunque shook his head and said, "You underestimate him. Brother Su's power isn't as simple as it seems. Haven't you noticed that anyone who has ever opposed him didn't come to a good end? It started with the Shao Family's Master, Shao Yueming, to Shao Qingfeng and even the two Divine Master Realm experts who went to the Elegant Spirit Mountain. None of them came to a good end. It seemed in other people's eyes that these things were all mere coincidences, while it seemed to me like this was all done by brother Su's own hands!"

He then added, "Moreover, if I am guessing correctly, the soul technique expert that was mentioned by the Great Palace Master is surely brother Su! I can't think of anyone else who would take risks for me, especially controlling Second Tiger Yang to turn the situation around. Hence, Su Yu is surely that soul technique expert!"

He then reiterated, "His true power is extremely terrifying. Hence, leaving the Shangguan family in his care is a reliable choice."

Shangguan Yunque's eyes shone brightly. Even though he seemed heedless, he still possessed brilliant observational powers.

Upon hearing this, Shangguan Fei hesitated for a moment, but he was still skeptical. "I still feel like handing over the Five Element Mysteries Art to people with greater power, like the Left and Right Palace Masters or Mo Tianxuan, is a more reliable choice."

"It isn't as simple as you think!" Shangguan Yunque shook his head, while his eyes shone with a profound glow. "The Five Element Mysteries Art has many secrets hidden behind it, and once we offer it to them, our Shangguan family won't be protected by them, but will instead most likely be interrogated by them by force, or even exterminated!"

He sighed, then said, "Otherwise, why didn't we just hand it over to someone in exchange for protection when our Shangguan family was declining so badly? This reason was because we knew that we mustn't reveal it to anyone untrustworthy!"

He then added, "As for brother Su, after observing him, I find that he seems like a person who will recognize kindness and repay it by several folds. In the past, when I had just brought him to the Shangguan family and gifted him the Blue Water Nine Heavens Wing, he saved you all in the Fairy Confining Forest. Moreover, today, he didn't hesitate to save me, regardless of the price that he had pay in order to do so. It could be easily seen from this matter alone that he is a reliable person!"

Upon hearing this Shangguan Fei became very quiet. He was slightly convinced by this reasoning.

...

After Su Yu left the plaza, he went back to the Demon Mountain. Just after he entered it, he was greeted by Gongsun Wuxie, who wore a fluffy black dress.

She welcomed him with a smile, hugged his arm, and asked, "Brother Yuxian, are you alright?"

Su Yu smiled. When he had first met the two-faced little demoness, she was wearing the same kind and lovely look. This made him wonder... What is she up to this time?

"I'm alright. I will be staying in your residence these next few days. I'm sorry for the trouble," Su Yu said.

Gongsun Wuxie patted her flat chest and said, "Don't worry about it. I'm known for being kind and benevolent!"

"One must always read your words in reverse!" Su Yu knew well this two-faced young girl too well, thus doubted nearly every word that she said.

. . .

Gongsun Wuxie's residence was clean, tidy, and spacious, as it had two bedrooms.

"I will stay upstairs, while you can stay downstairs," Gongsun Wuxie said. "Brother Yuxian, you must be tired. I have just brewed two cups of tea, please wait for a moment and I will bring one to you."

Su Yu nodded, then sat patiently on a stone chair and observed the surroundings. Although it seemed like he was just observing the surroundings casually, he had already activated his Soul Eyes and had penetrated the wall with his gaze. At the moment, he observing Gongsun Wuxie's every move. After all, Su Yu couldn't possibly set his mind at ease and simply sit around drinking this two-faced young girl's tea!

When he had a good look at her, the corners of Su Yu's mouth couldn't help but twitch. The little demoness really had brewed two cups of tea. However, she was now holding a purple medicine bottle, pouring its contents into one of the cups!

The little demoness was careful and prudent, and she seemed afraid of coming into contact with the purple powder. This revealed to Su Yu just how terrifying this powder must be!

Just after that, the little demoness carried the two cups toward Su Yu's room, while revealing a crafty smile for a moment before she wore her usual faint smile upon entering the room.

"Brother Yuxian, here is the tea," she announced.

As she smiled at him with that fake smile of hers, two dimples appeared at the corners of Gongsun Wuxie's mouth. She seemed quite lovely as she pushed one of the two cups toward Su Yu.

Su Yu looked at the tea and chuckled inwardly, while thinking... It seems like this two-faced young girl wants to mess with me even before the Elegant Spirit Mountain's trip. I think I will let her have a taste of her own medicine!

"Brother Yuxian, what's wrong with you? Does my tea not appeal to you?" Gongsun Wuxie opened her gem-like eyes wide, while waiting for him to take the cup that she was offering.

Su Yu took the cup with his right hand, then said with a smile, "Okay. I will drink it, and you should also drink yours."

Gongsun Wuxie blinked her eyes, and it was only after she observed Su Yu drinking every drop of his tea completely that she put on an act and took several sips of her tea. She didn't notice at all that a milky white light flickered for an instant in Su Yu's right palm, while a scarlet ray flickered in his right eye at the same time.

Chapter 826: Glittering Jewel Wonderland

"Brother Yuxian, is it tasty?" A sweet smile was plastered on the little demoness' face.

Su Yu nodded. "It is tasty."

The little demoness' smile became even more sweet as a crafty look appeared in her eyes. "Hehe, brother Yuxian, it's really embarrassing, but I still must apologize to you."

Su Yu was startled. "Why do you need to apologize?"

The little demoness finally revealed her claws and teeth as she spoke with a smile, "I poured brother Shanliang's Nine Heavens Earth Extinguishing Diarrhea Powder into the tea by mistake. Brother Yuxian, I'm really sorry."

Nine Heavens Earth Extinguishing Diarrhea Powder? That is the powder that caused one to end up on a bed for three months after consuming it, and which would force someone to abstain from eating or drinking anything!

As he thought of this, Su Yu's expression became quite unsightly. "Wuxie, why are you causing trouble? Get the antidote quickly! Since Bai Shanliang could make such a poison, then shouldn't he be capable of easily making an antidote for it?"

Sweat appeared on Su Yu's forehead, while his face became pale and he held his belly with his palm.

"Well? Has it taken effect this quickly?" The little demoness was surprised and excitement appeared on her face as she laughed heartily. "Su Yuxian, you've finally fallen into my hands!"

Su Yu's face became scarlet as he asked, "Wuxie, what do you mean? Why are you treating me in such a way?"

The little demoness clasped her hands behind her back as she jumped in front of Su Yu proudly. Her face became rosy as she asked, "Hehe, why would I tell you my reasons? The poison has already seeped into your body, so you will certainly be incapable of participating in the seasonal exam, won't you?"

She smiled coyly as she said, "I heard that the Great Palace Master set up a match between you and Shao Qingfeng. It's such a shame that he will have to punish you if you don't participate in it..."

Su Yu's expression became somewhat gloomy upon hearing her words. "What do you want? You surely didn't poison me for no reason!"

"Hehe, you are clever, but if you want the antidote, then you must give me back my privileges!" The little demoness revealed her true goal.

Su Yu was astonished. "What privileges?"

The little demoness crossed her hands in front of her chest as she spoke angrily, "You are still acting stupid! You were the one who destroyed the phantom image that I left in the Carp Leaping Over the Dragon Gate's 50th layer, right?"

Su Yu nodded. "Yes, and I got a Carp Dragon Badge for it. I was told that it possessed special privileges, so is that what you are talking about?"

The little demoness snorted and raised her neck highly as she wore a look that seemed to say, "Now that you know, why don't you quickly return it to me?"

"How can its privileges be used?" Su Yu asked.

The little demoness glared at him, while trying her best to put on a seemingly angry look. "Why are you asking me about such matters? Do you want the antidote or not? You will end up sullying yourself in a short while without it!"

Then, the little demoness was startled as she witnessed that the sweat on Su Yu's forehead had disappeared, while his pale face had recovered its color. He then took his hand off of his belly.

"Aren't you pained?" The little demoness widened her eyes, as she couldn't understand how he seemed to have recovered in such a short while.

Su Yu mumbled to himself, "It seems that it takes a long while for the medicine to take effect."

At this moment, the little demoness was startled, and she put her hand on her own belly and groaned with pain! Her face became filled with confusion as she asked, "What has happened to my belly?"

Su Yu had already recovered and wore a faint smile as he said, "It's obviously the effect of the Nine Heavens Earth Extinguishing Diarrhea Powder!"

The little demoness' small mouth widened. "Impossible! I obviously put it in your cup, so how did I end up drinking it?" She was quite clear about her process of making the two cups of tea, and she was sure that the one that she had drunk was clean.

"You don't need to care about such a matter, as you need to just focus on replying to my questions now." It was now Su Yu's turn to ask questions.

As the little demoness realized that her current situation was far from good, she clenched her teeth and escaped, while holding onto her belly and shouting, "Sister Wuxin, save me! Su Yuxian wants to assault me!"

However, before she even took a few steps, a palm that was as firm as metal detained her left shoulder, while another palm covered her mouth, and as Su Yu waved his leg, the door was closed with a gust of wind that had been created by it. With the residence's good sound isolation effects, even if the little demoness had shouted at the top of her lungs, the people outside would still not have heard her.

"Ah! You b*stard! What do you want to do with me? You better watch out, or I will bite you to death!" The little demoness turned her head around and spoke to Su Yu viciously.

Su Yu's palm let go of her mouth, but his other hand was still holding her shoulder firmly as he spoke to her calmly, "I just want you to answer several of my questions, and if you tarry on until the medicine takes full effect, then you will sully yourself in front of me."

"Don't even dream about it." The little demoness' whole body shook.

She was a Level Nine Fairy, so her Vital Energy and physical power should both be both many times more powerful than Su Yu's! But, when she used her Vital Energy, her face convulsed, while beads of sweat appeared on her forehead.

Because of the medicine's effects, even if she just revolved her Vital Energy slightly, she felt a sharp pain from her belly and was rendered incapable of using her Vital Energy. This was one of the Nine Heavens Earth Extinguishing Diarrhea Powder's amazing effects. It could affect even her Vital Energy's revolution!

Not only was the little demoness unable to use her Vital Energy, but she ended up causing her Vital Energy to flow backwards, which made her small body convulse before it fell down weakly. Seeing this, Su Yu extended his thigh and held her with it. Then, as he raised her small and round butt with it, he caused her body to lay against his thigh.

"Ah! B*stard! Let me off quickly, or I will..." The little demoness clenched her teeth and bared her fangs, while she waved her hands at him.

Su Yu chuckled, then asked, "How can the 50th layer's privileges be used... And why are you so determined to get them?"

He had already witnessed the little demoness spending a 100,000 merit points just to challenge the Carp Leaping Over the Dragon Gate once again and get back her privileges.

"I won't tell you, and if you don't let go of me, then I will start shouting." The little demoness had a stubborn temper.

Slap!

However, when her words had just echoed out, her butt suffered a ruthless slap! The little demoness' words came to an abrupt end and her whole body trembled intensely, as if she had just received an electric shock.

As her cute small face became scarlet, she was both angered and scared. "You! What did you just do? You dared to hit my butt..."

Slap!

She suffered another slap, which caused her whole body to shudder, while her face became extremely scarlet. "You are shameless and lecherous, I'm a girl... Ah!"

Su Yu curled his lips into a mischievous smile. "You are just 10 years old, so in my eyes, you are just a child."

The little demoness almost wept as she spoke resentfully, "Who said that I was a ten-year-old..."

Slap!

Su Yu didn't even bother to listen to her words as he slapped her once again, which caused the little demoness to almost burst with rage.

"Speak, or I will continue hitting you until the medicine flares up in your body. You surely don't want to sully yourself in front of him, do you?" Su Yu spoke to her playfully. After all, this black-hearted young girl was always trying to harm people, and now she had even tried to harm him.

The little demoness was both infuriated and embarrassed. However, since she was in a disadvantageous position, she could only bear it.

"Fine, I will tell you. From the 50th layer onward, each layer of the Carp Leaping Over the Dragon Gate has special privileges, and by standing in the 50th layer, you got the its privileges, which allows you to hold a shopkeeper's position in Tianya City," she reluctantly explained.

"Tianya City?" Su Yu was confused by this, as he wasn't clear about how such matters worked.

The little demoness clarified, "Tianya City is a city on the border between the Eighteen Blessed and Heavenly Lands and the central prefecture. It's a great commercial city, which many martial artists and merchants frequent. The Eighteen Blessed and Heavenly Lands have all kinds of demonic beasts and worldly treasures, while the central prefecture has an abundance of spirit elixirs and magical treasures."

She then added, "It's because of this that its business flourishes, making it the Eighteen Blessed and Heavenly Lands' greatest commercial city. In fact, all of the eighteen great factions set up shops there."

She then said, "The 50th layer's special privileges permit you to enter Tianya City and be in charge of one of the Red Blood Palace's industries there. You could be a shopkeeper for a whole month, and if your results reach the set target, then you will be awarded 10,000 merit points. If you surpass the set target, then you will get even more merit points."

Su Yu was somewhat startled to hear this, and he asked, "Wow! It seems to good to be true! Are you sure about this?"

"You don't need to care about such a matter." The little demoness didn't explain it further, which made it seem like she was still hiding something from him. However, Su Yu didn't investigate it further at the moment, as he figured that it was merely her personal matter, so he didn't want to meddle in it.

"I still have another question. Since you have a large number of merit points, then why do you still feel the need to get even more?" Su Yu was somewhat curious about this.

When she heard him, the little demoness looked at him, seemingly baffled by his question. "Don't you know that everyone is saving up merit points for the Glittering Jewel Wonderland?"

"The Glittering Jewel Wonderland?" he repeated the name. It seemed to him like he had once heard Bing Wuxin mention that her reason for staying in the outer sanctum was the Glittering Jewel Wonderland.

The little demoness rolled her eyes. "I really don't know how you managed to enter the Red Blood Palace without even knowing about the Glittering Jewel Wonderland. This was a place that was left by the Jiuzhou Emperor, and he left his whole inheritance in it."

She then explained, "It would only appear once every hundred years, and the next time it is set to open is in another half a year. If a Red Blood Palace's disciple wants to enter it, then he needs to buy an entry into it for 400,000 merit points."

She then added, "All of the powerful inner and outer sanctums' disciples are doing their bests to save up enough merit points to enter it, and I still need several hundred thousand more merit points, so I'm trying every way I can think of to get them. Such is also the case for Sister Wuxin and the others, yet you are oblivious to all of this!"

Su Yu was greatly shocked by her words. A place left by the past Jiuzhou Emperor?

All of the past Jiuzhou Emperors were people who stood at the peak of the Jiuzhou Continent. As such, they were all peerless and matchless emperors. The cultivations of such people should have already surpassed the All Creation Realm to reach an inconceivable realm!

Shen Yichen was about to become the Jiuzhou Emperor, and he was a person who had managed to reconstruct Zhenlong to form a whole world, all while he was heavily injured and on the brink of death.

In thinking of this impressive feat, Su Yu had to wonder... How powerful were the true Jiuzhou Emperors? Su Yu's heart throbbed faster, as such an inheritance should be unique in the Jiuzhou Continent.

"All of the world's factions, as well as the nine prefectures, coveted it and wanted to enter into it and take the Jiuzhou Emperor's seal. This is also the case for each prefecture's king. It could be said that it's a ruin that caused a great sensation in all of Jiuzhou," she said.

She then added, "If someone managed to get the Glittering Jewel Fairy Emperor's complete inheritance, then it would be a matter great enough to alter the whole continent's destiny and change the power structure of the whole world!"

Su Yu was somewhat tempted after hearing her story, so he decided that he must surely go into this matchless ruin and explore it. Su Yu had a faint premonition that he could probably obtain a great and fortuitous opportunity in the ruin, which would be better for him than if he just cultivated in the Red Blood Palace quietly.

However, as he thought about the conditions of gaining permission to enter it, which was 400,000 merit points, he couldn't help but smile bitterly. As of right now, he only had two thousand merit points, which wasn't enough for even settling his debts! So, it seemed like he must use the special privileges that were coveted by the little demoness and take a trip to Tianya City.

"Quick, let me go!" The little demoness' face was scarlet, and she was filled with shame and panic. She knew that the poison would shortly take effect and she would end up sullying herself.

Since he had already gotten his answers, Su Yu let her go. The little demoness, who was now freed, scurried to the latrine, while turning her head around and glaring at Su Yu viciously. "B*stard! You should bear in mind that it won't end here!"

Su Yu chuckled, but just when he was just about to return to his room and rest, his expression suddenly changed. He took a look at his surroundings before he entered a room and closed the window, then took a purple badge from his spatial ring.

It was the badge that he had gotten from Yuan Wanbi's maid, Xiao Tao, the Severed Fairy Cliff's badge. In the past, an evaluation mission had appeared on it. It was the mission of helping the Situ Family's Situ Yan enter the Red Blood Palace.

Su Yu had almost forgotten about the badge, yet now it had suddenly emitted a response, and not only was it glowing with a purple light, but it had become scalding hot and was emitting intense fluctuations!

When Su Yu turned it over and took a closer look at it, he found that a series of small words had appeared on it...

Congratulations for passing the evaluation. Please come to the Fairy Confining Forest to engrave your name and become a formal purple member of the Severed Fairy Cliff.

Chapter 827: The Severed Fairy Cliff's Command

Su Yu's eyes lit up as he held the badge. He made use of the darkness to leave the sanctum, then went stealthily into the Fairy Confining Forest's Hundred Beasts Valley.

After half a day had passed, the careful and prudent Su Yu reached the valley's entrance. There wasn't anyone near it, but when Su Yu was just about to search the surroundings, the lines that were written on the purple badge suddenly changed once again.

The lines now read... The meeting place was changed. Travel for 30,000 miles toward the west. You should leave to go there in less than five minutes.

"The Severed Fairy Cliff's members are really prudent," Su Yu murmured before he adhered to the instructions and traveled for 30,000 miles toward the west.

The badge changed several times, and it was only after another half a day had passed that he finally reached the meeting place. As Su Yu followed the instructions, he ended up coming back to the Hundred Beasts Valley's entrance once again.

There was a man wearing a silver mask standing there, while clasping his hands behind his back. Su Yu remembered this person because it was the same masked man who had recruited people to help the Situ family.

"Hehe, lad, we met once again!" The masked man revealed a faint smile as he spoke to Su Yu.

Su Yu cupped his fists at him and said, "Senior, I have really had some trouble looking for you, and after running around in circles for half a day, I have only now found my way here."

"All of the members of the Severed Fairy Cliff must be careful and prudent. I sent you running in circles so that I could verify that you didn't bring anyone with you!" the masked man explained.

Su Yu sighed. "Are you now satisfied that it's just me?"

The masked man revealed a faint smile and chuckled as he said, "Hehe, take out your badge. Congratulations in passing the test! Your name will be now carved in the badge, and from now on, you are an official member of the Severed Fairy Cliff."

Su Yu became slightly curious, so he asked, "Why is the task completion being verified only after two months?"

"We already verified that you completed the mission long ago, but we still needed time to verify your identity and origins. Two months can still be considered as a short period to wait for this, as there are some people who have waited for two years!" the masked man said.

He then added, "The investigation verified that you didn't come from any big faction, so your identify doesn't have any issues. Hence, I will now carve your name in the badge, and from now on, I will be your supervisor."

Investigation of one's identity? Su Yu's eyes flickered slightly as he thought about this. It seemed like the Severed Fairy Cliff didn't really manage to discover Su Yu's true origin, but just verified that he was a humble vagrant!

Su Yu took out the badge and passed it to the masked man, who then took out a strange and luminous pen. When Su Yu cast a glance at it casually, he was quite shocked. This was because the luminous pen emitted a spiritual pressure, which almost took form!

A Fairy Artifact's fragment? Su Yu was startled by this, and he wondered... Wow... Even a Divine Master possesses a Fairy Artifact's fragment!

It seemed like the masked man noticed Su Yu's confusion, and he spoke without raising his head, while still carving Su Yu's name on the badge, "It's just a Fairy Artifact's fragment, nothing extraordinary. If you can become a blue member of the Severed Fairy Cliff, you will be gifted a semi-manufactured Fairy Artifact."

I will be gifted a semi-manufactured Fairy Artifact? Su Yu couldn't help but feel a rush of excitement upon hearing this. The Severed Fairy Cliff seemed to be really powerful!

"How can I become a blue member?" Su Yu was now started to get interested in the Severed Fairy Cliff.

The masked man raised his head and chuckled. "Hehe, you should calm down for now. I'm your supervisor, and I will surely inform you about everything in detail when the time is right."

After a long while, the masked man threw the badge back to him and collected the luminous pen. When Su Yu looked at it, he saw that the three words 'Su Yuxian' were carved on the purple badge.

The masked man the explained, "This will be your identity badge in the future, and you can achieve two matters through it. These are accepting missions and issuing missions. Each month, a random mission will appear in the badge, and if you accept it, you must carry it out according to the badge's instructions."

He then said, "Later on, the person who issued the mission will contact you and verify whether you completed the mission. I will then give you the mission reward, which includes the mission's own specific rewards, as well as a single Fairy Bean for completing the mission."

Su Yu immediately asked, "What's a Fairy Bean?"

The masked man explained patiently, "There are two rewards that you will get for completing missions. The first comes from the mission issuer, and it can be something like crystals, while the other one will be given to you by the Severed Fairy Cliff. That reward will be a Fairy Bean."

He then continued, "Fairy Beans can be used to increase your membership grade and to promote you from a purple member to a blue member. This answers your previous question about how can you become a blue member."

The masked man then said, "As for how many of them you need for a promotion, it's quite simple. You will need 10,000 Fairy Beans. You are able of only getting a single Fairy Bean for each mission you carry out."

Su Yu felt like a bucket of cold water had just been poured on him as he wondered... Do I really need to carry out 10,000 missions in order to become a blue member?

"Are there other ways of getting Fairy Beans?" Su Yu asked.

The masked man said with a smile, "Are all youngsters as impatient as you nowadays? You should first listen completely to what I have to say. I have just informed you about how you can accept missions. Now, let's talk about issuing missions."

He then explained, "You can't also your purple badge to issue missions. If you want to issue a mission, you need to dip a drop of blood on the badge. I will then detect it and guide you to a place to meet me. You will then have to describe the mission in detail to me, and I will then issue that mission to all of the members I supervised. If someone among them accepts it, they will carry out the mission for you."

Su Yu nodded slowly.

"But... You must remember that you will consume a Fairy Bean each time you issue a mission," the masked man said.

Su Yu furrowed his brows upon hearing and wondered... Doesn't this mean that I must just carry missions nonstop in order to gather 10,000 Fairy Beans?

"However, there is an exception to this, where you won't need to consume a Fairy Bean. In fact, you can actually get an additional Fairy Bean." The masked man's voice became grave. It was obvious that this matter was quite important.

He then said, "This happens if the reward of the mission that you issued surpasses 100,000 thousand crystals. For example, if you want to kill someone and issued a mission for it that has a reward of 100,000 crystals, you won't consume any Fairy Beans and will be gifted an additional Fairy Bean by the Severed Fairy Cliff."

He took a deep breath, then said, "The Severed Fairy Cliff is encouraging its members to use large sums of wealth to issue missions because the Severed Fairy Cliff will always get a fifth of each mission's reward. Therefore, the higher the reward that you offer, the more Fairy Beans you will get."

He then added, "If you issue a mission that has a reward of 200,000 crystals, you will get two additional Fairy Beans. Hence, you will get a Fairy Bean for each 100,000."

Su Yu couldn't help but smile bitterly upon hearing this. If he needed to issue missions with 100,000 crystals as a reward just to get a single Fairy Bean, that meant that he would then need to use a billion of such missions to get just 10,000 Fairy Beans.

Only then could he become a blue member and get the semi-manufactured Fairy Artifact reward. As he thought of all of that work, it didn't seem worth it at all.

Upon seeing Su Yu's dubious expression, the masked man assured him, "Lad, you mustn't overthink it. It took me 200 years to become a blue member and the supervisor of all of the purple members in the Eighteen Blessed and Heavenly Lands. It's far too early for you to consider becoming a blue member! You must just concentrate on accumulating as many crystals as you can for now."

He then added, "Moreover, if you need to issue a mission, you can just set your mind at ease and hand it over to me for now. After all, I supervise countless experts among the purple members,

including more than ten late-stage Divine Masters and even one All Creation expert. As long as you can afford to pay a price that is great enough to tempt them, they can take care of anything for you. They can even help you kill your enemies!"

Su Yu's pupils couldn't help but contract when he heard this. He could hardly believe that there was still an All Creation Realm purple member among them!

If he invited him over to work as a killer for him, it seemed like Su Yu would be capable of killing anyone that he wanted! It seemed that the Severed Fairy Cliff's power was really dreadful!

"Senior, may I consult you about something? I want to issue a mission, but I still need to wait for a while to do so because I'm short of money," Su Yu said.

The masked man nodded, then said, "Okay, let's first have a look at it. I can help you record it for now, then we can wait until you have enough crystals or wealth before I issue the mission for you."

Su Yu nodded, then asked, "Senior, may I ask you whether or not I can get some Real Spirit Dragon Veins if I needed some?"

The masked man was shocked by this request, and he couldn't help ask Su Yu, "Are you sure that you didn't just ask me about the wrong object? All Real Spirits related objects are extremely precious, and the price of any one of them may rival a whole city's worth, let alone the rare Dragon Clan's. A piece of a Real Spirit Dragon Veins in the market may cost, at the very least, 10 million crystals."

That was a sky-high price even to the eighteen great faction's members. But, Su Yu did not seem flustered upon hearing it, and he simply said, "Senior, you don't need to worry about this. I have a way to get enough money."

After hearing Su Yu's calm reply, the masked man was startled yet again, while a glimmer of longing appeared in his eyes. This was because, since he was the supervisor of the Eighteen Blessed and Heavenly Lands' purple members, he could get a hundredth of any wealth that was offered as a reward for missions that were issued by members who he supervised.

Moreover, after he got enough money through such means, he could still get additional Fairy Beans in this same way, thus allowing him to continue to promote his membership grade. Hence, he greatly valued members like Su Yu, who had access to wealth.

"Hehe, I'm looking forward to that! I will first record the mission for you, then I will immediately issue it after you get enough money." The masked man chuckled, and his tone instantly became more polite.

Su Yu cupped his fists at him, turned around, then left.

As the masked man watched Su Yu leave, he muttered to himself, "This lad seems quite confident, so it seems like he's really capable of getting 10 million crystals. I just have to wait and see whether it's true or not."

All of a sudden, a ray of light flickered at the masked man's waist, and he reached down and took a purple badge from there and murmured, "Well! Someone just issued a mission!"

...

After he returned to the Demon Mountain, Su Yu pretended that nothing out of the ordinary had occurred. After he returned to his room and was had just started cultivating, his purple badge emitted a strange reaction.

Su Yu immediately took it out and was startled by what he saw. He read a new mission on the purple badge... I'm looking for a diarrhea power, which can't be detected by anyone. The reward is 100,000 crystals.

"Is this from the little demoness?" Su Yu wondered aloud, while the corners of his mouth twitched.

It seemed like that lassie wasn't willing to give up, as she even wanted to look for a better diarrhea powder! Su Yu was quite surprised by the fact that Gongsun Wuxie was also a member of the Severed Fairy Cliff. However, he decided that he would still just pretend that he was oblivious to this fact in front of her.

Four days passed in the twinkling of an eye, and they finally welcomed the seasonal exam's day. This was just a routine exam, which all outer sanctum's disciples were quite familiar with, yet people were still looking forward to it with great anticipation.

This was because several days ago, the Great Palace Master had orchestrated a fight between Su Yuxian and Shao Qingfeng. If Shao Qingfeng lost, the Great Palace Master would take his life as a punishment for his crime of framing an outer sanctum's disciple.

However, if Shao Qingfeng won, he could preserve his life. With such life and death terms, anyone could imagine that Shao Qingfeng would be like a rabid dog, who would do everything in his power to gain the victory.

Moreover, his opponent was Su Yu, who was only a Level Three Fairy. So, no one thought that Su Yu could possibly match Shao Qingfeng. There was just too large a disparity between the two of them.

Regardless of whether Su Yu was looking forward to the match or not, it was finally time for the exam. Many people wanted to witness Shao Qingfeng's fate, including Su Yu himself.

After all, he had plotted against Su Yu many times in the past, and Su Yu knew that he must put an end to this vendetta between them once and for all. At that moment, Su Yu, who was in a private room, snapped his eyes open, while the muffled roar from a giant black dragon transmitted from his chest. He had been awaiting this battle for a long time.

Chapter 828: Vital Energy Test

"Su Yuxian, come out." A soft shout transmitted from outside the residence as Bing Wuxin held a sword, while frowning and wearing a cold look on his face.

When Su Yu came out and saw Bing Wuxin's current state, he immediately felt that something was amiss. Then, when he took another look at her, he noticed the tearful little demoness beside her, who was weeping. She had a pitiful look on her face, as if she had suffered a great grievance.

"What is it?" Su Yu asked.

Bing Wuxin denounced him angrily, "Don't you know what you have done to Wuxie?"

Su Yu didn't deny it. "I just let her have a taste of her own Nine Heavens Earth Extinguishing Diarrhea Powder! So what?"

As the little demoness wiped away her tears, she clenched all her jaw tightly and stared at him viciously. She had spent the whole day in the toilet because of him!

"She already informed me of this matter, and as she was the who made the mistake first, you can't be blamed for it," Bing Wuxin said.

Hearing this, Su Yu was somewhat baffled and wondered... Since her anger isn't over this matter, then why did Bing Wuxin come here so murderously?

"I'm asking you about what did you do to Wuxie after that!" Bing Wuxin seemed quite infuriated.

What did I do? Su Yu pondered for a moment, then spoke in confusion, "I didn't really do anything. I just made her answer two questions and slapped her butt several times. Then, I passed the past five days in secluded cultivation, while she was trying to get rid of the poison. I haven't met her since."

Bing Wuxin glared at him even more angrily now. "You're shameless! You slapped her butt, yet you still dare to say that you didn't do anything wrong? Didn't anyone teach you that men and women shouldn't touch each other so casually?"

Su Yu was dumbfounded. "She's just a naughty child, so what's wrong with slapping her butt? You are making a big fuss over a trifling matter."

The little demoness clenched her fists, and as her face became flushed, she shouted angrily, "You are the one being a child! In fact, your whole family is made up of mere children!"

Bing Wuxin was surprised by Su Yu's words just a moment ago, and as she looked fixedly at Su Yu for a long while, she wore an odd look. She then asked, "Are you really unaware that Wuxie is actually nineteen?"

"What? Nineteen? Her?" Su Yu was surprised, and when he returned to his senses, he couldn't help but begin sizing up the little demoness once again. She had a childish face and a flat chest, similar to those of a ten-year-old girl!

"Lecher." The little demoness covered her chest hurriedly and spoke resentfully upon seeing his wandering eyes. "What are you looking at?"

Bing Wuxin wore a cold look as she said, "When Wuxie was ten years old, she ate a mysterious pill that caused her body to remain in its ten-year-old state. But, her true age is 19, so don't you see that it was an affront to her when you hit her butt?"

Su Yu's mind was in a mess at this point, and he didn't even know how to respond.

"You are my lover in name, so you should behave better than this! After all, if you stain my reputation, I won't forgive you." Bing Wuxin's murderous aura died down once she learned that it was just a misunderstanding, but she still warned him heatedly.

Su Yu couldn't help but curl the corners of his mouth into a smile as he said, "As if I cherish being the lover of such a ferocious woman like you!"

"What did you just say? Are you trying to pick a fight with me?" Bing Wuxin asked, while raising her brows.

Su Yu really couldn't bear her rude and unreasonable nature any longer.

"You two are already quarreling, even this early in the morning! You are really a special and passionate couple!" Bai Shanliang chuckled as he came out of the western residence.

Su Yu rolled his eyes at him, while Bing Wuxin glared at him.

"Fine. You should all go and participate in the seasonal exam, as you may end up running into each other on the stage, and at that time, you can express your love to each other or fight each other as you want!" Bai Shanliang quipped.

At this time, an extremely handsome and beautiful man walked out of the southern residence, wearing a flirtatious look. "If someone dares to bully brother Yuxian today, I will risk my life to fight him!" Tian Renyao looked at Su Yu affectionately as he spoke the words.

Su Yu's whole body shivered. He really wondered what part of himself Tian Renyao was attracted to, as he was now in his aged appearance and there wasn't any part of him worth such appreciation.

"Fine, then let's set off. However, before we go into the meeting place, I must still emphasize one matter..." the head of five demons, Bai Shanliang, said. "For the past few years, we demons were the outer sanctum's public figures, who had great virtue and character and were always admired and pursued by people. So, as we are such famous people, we must pay attention to our words and actions and not stain the glorious reputation of the Demon Mountain, understood?"

Apart from Su Yu, the other three demons nodded earnestly. The glorious reputation of the Demon Mountain? Su Yu couldn't help but blush with shame upon hearing such boastful words.

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The gathering place was a giant stage, which had numerous people on it. In fact, all of the outer sanctum disciples were gathered here to attend the seasonal exam.

The purpose of the exam was for the sanctum to evaluate all of the disciples' progress in the past season, and if they found that some of them hadn't made any progress for a long time, then they might be punished via deduction of merit points. Moreover, in some severe cases, they might even be kicked out of the sanctum! Hence, no one dared to take it lightly.

There was a great crowd gathered to witness such a lively and magnificent meeting, and as they were all standing abreast, the place was completely cramped. There was only one region that was empty, which was at the center of the audience's seats. If one counted these empty seats, he would find that they were several hundred of them.

Su Yu was in seated this empty region, and his forehead was now filled with black lines. "Is this the glorious image of the Black Mountain you were talking about?"

At this moment, Bai Shanliang, Tian Renyao, and Gongsun Wuxie revealed amiable smiles as they looked at the people, while waving their hands at them. They then shouted in unison, "Junior brothers and sisters, come here! There are many observation seats here."

However, the crowd's reaction was contrary to their wishes...

"Let's leave! Look at how sinister West Poison's smile is! He probably wants to look for people to try his new poison pills on! It's rumored that all those who are captured by him are taken as guinea pigs, so that he can test his poisons out on them!"

"East Evil is also wearing an evil smile, so she's obviously concocting some evil scheme! Everyone, don't forget to evade them, as we don't dare to fall into their hands."

Their amiable attitudes were not only unwelcomed by the crowd, but instead, they scared the crowd away. The people felt as if the demons were ghostly monsters. As such, another hundred seats were emptied instantly, leaving at least a tenth of the giant stage empty.

Gongsun Wuxie's sweet smile stiffened, and as she clenched her fists, she said viciously, "You don't know what's good for you! After the competition has come to an end, I will surely poison you all to death!"

As the crowd was frightened by her words, they scrambled to put even more distance between themselves and the demons. The people were willing to squeeze against each other to the point of extreme discomfort rather than be near the four great demons. Many of the people whispered among themselves in a panic...

"Did you hear her? They obviously don't harbor any good intentions, as she clearly wants to poison us!"

"The demons are really scary!"

"I really can't understand why our Demon Mountain's kind and charitable people are always being misunderstood!" Gongsun Wuxie snorted softly as she spoke.

"That's really the case!" Tian Renyao agreed resentfully.

At that moment, Bai Shanliang coughed out a mouthful of blood as he lamented and grieved. "Ah! Our Demon Mountain's glorious reputation..."

Su Yu rolled his eyes at them. He was thinking that they were really a bunch of weirdos.

Ding!

A bell's sound echoed in the air as three people rode in on the clouds. They were the outer sanctum's three Palace Masters, the Great Palace Master and two Lower Palace Masters.

When the three Palace Masters took their seats, an elder announced, "The seasonal exam will start now. The exam will be held in ten areas at the same time, and it will be carried out according to the sequential order of your entry to the sanctum."

Bai Shanliang, Bing Wuxin, Gongsun Wuxie and Tian Renyao had all been separated on purpose via placement in different areas. As for Su Yu, who was among the last batch of disciples to join the sanctum, he was placed in the tenth area.

Bing Wuxin had been paying attention to Su Yu all along, and when she learned that he was placed in the tenth area, she couldn't help but say coldly, "It seems like we won't have an opportunity to fight, so we should still fight after returning to the Demon Mountain."

The seasonal exam wasn't a formal competition that would set a ranking, so such matches were set just to evaluate whether the disciples' power had made any progress in the past's season. Hence, the disciples who were placed in different areas wouldn't have the opportunity to fight each other.

"I will welcome a fight with you at any time." Su Yu shook his head, as he had a headache because of her.

At that moment, all of the participants started going to their assigned areas. Su Yu found Shao Qingfeng in the tenth area as expected. He was being followed by a Divine Master elder at all times, so he didn't have an opportunity to flee.

The expert who had the strongest cultivation in the tenth area was none other than Shao Qingfeng. Moreover, what was even more unfortunate for Su Yu was that the person in charge of the tenth area was none other than the Raging Flame Cabinet's Master, the alluring Cabinet Master!

She was still as alluring and charming as ever, and she caught all of the people's attention as she stood in the arena. In fact, almost a third of the males here were smitten.

When she suddenly saw Su Yu from a distance, her eyes lit up and she cast a flirtatious glance at him. She then smiled and transmitted her voice to him, "Heartless guy, you haven't paid me a visit in a long time! You've really hurt my feelings!"

Su Yu was dumbfounded by her! What shocked him even more was that her flirtatious actions towards him seemed to make other people hate and resent him! There were many old disciples in the tenth area, who were already rubbing their fists and getting ready to give Su Yu a beating!

Among the great demons' powers, it was only Su Yu's power that was still relatively unknown to the people here. Hence, many of them set their eyes upon him, wanting to size him up.

"The first exam will test your Vital Energy's intensity." The alluring Cabinet Master wore a smile as she looked at Su Yu, who suffered the crowd's jealousy. She seemed to take great pleasure in his misfortune, and when she noticed that it was almost time to begin, she announced the start of the exam.

There was a giant sword-filled boulder in the tenth area, which had nine sword scars engraved in it. These represented the nine levels of Vital Energy intensity.

A Level One Fairy's Vital Energy could only reach the first sword's scar, and as for a Level Two Fairy's Vital Energy, that could reach the second sword's scar. This pattern went on as such until it reached the Level Nine Fairies, who could reach the ninth sword scar.

As for the Divine Masters, such a sword-filled boulder couldn't even be used to examine them. It could only be used to examine their cultivations, as their Vital Energy's intensity was decided by their cultivation's base level.

Soon, the people started undergoing the Vital Energy inspection according to their seniority. Some people had outstanding Vital Energy, which caught everyone's attention. Shao Qingfeng was one of these impressive people.

Before this, the people had only known that he was a Level Eight Fairy, and it was only after he went through the test that they discovered that his Vital Energy had almost reached the ninth sword scar's level! The results of the assessment surprised many people.

"Great Palace Master, it's really a pity for this lad, Shao Qingfeng, as if he hadn't made such a grave mistake, he could have been an excellent talent." A trace of pity flickered in Palace Master Hua's eyes.

Palace Master Kong Chan nodded slightly, as she approved of his words. However, she was paying more attention to Su Yu at the moment, as Su Yu's performance in the battle was much more suspenseful!

"Let's just wait and observe a bit longer," the Great Palace Master said calmly.

After a short while, it was Su Yu's turn. He was the last person to be tested.

Chapter 829: The Battle in the Exam

"Su Yuxian, come up!" The alluring Cabinet Mistress looked at Su Yu with a gaze that was filled with curiosity.

She really wanted to know whether Su Yu's real cultivation level was at the Level Three Fairy Realm like it seemed. After all, he was able to fight Jian Wusheng, who was at the same level, to a draw! Hence, he must not be ordinary or mediocre!

Shao Qingfeng didn't take this matter seriously. Even though Su Yu fought Jian Wusheng to a draw, it didn't matter to him because he was a Level Eight Fairy.

There was a great disparity between them, so nothing unexpected should occur. In fact, it seemed to him that the Great Palace Master had spared his life on purpose.

"What's worth seeing here? It will most likely be just three sword scars!" an onlooker said.

Several people who wore different outfits than the others were among the audience. They were either outer sanctum's elders or inner sanctum's disciples, and they had come to observe the battle.

Lao Ai and Wei Zheng were among them. They both represented the Right and Left Palace Masters, and they had come here to assess the new disciples that had promising potential, then invite them into their camps.

Moreover, the rumor that Su Yu had once managed to fight Jian Wusheng to a draw had already made it to their ears. Hence, they both were paying close attention to him. There were also some other people with mysterious origins paying close attention to Su Yu quietly.

"Is he the outer sanctum's disciple that we've been hearing so much about, who managed to fight Jian Wusheng to a draw? In the end, it really must just be a rumor, as he's just a Level Three Fairy!" A fair-faced and proud woman was staring at Su Yu as she whispered to the person beside her.

A smiling youth next to her said, "Junior sister He, we both followed junior sister Bing's orders and came here to study this outer sanctum's disciple. It's still just the examination stage, and we aren't allowed to challenge him, which has saved us the trouble of attempting to do so."

"Do we still need to observe, then? Junior sister Bing is too gullible. He's just a trifling Level Three Fairy, so what do we even need to observe about him? We will get clues about it soon enough from his Vital Energy Intensity's exam," Junior sister He said with disdain.

The smiling youth took a deep look at Su Yu and spoke meaningfully, "I feel like this lad has some outstanding aspects to him, and we may get a surprise from him in the Vital Energy Intensity's exam."

"Huh? How high can his Vital Energy even reach? It would be, at most, just at the third scar." Junior sister He shook her head to show her objection to this claim.

The smiling youth then said, "It doesn't seem like it will be the case. This lad's Vital Energy Intensity should be near a Level Four Fairy's, and it's only then that he might have had a chance of fighting Jian Wusheng to a draw."

Junior Sister He furrowed her brows, but she still didn't say anything else. Among the seats, Palace Mistress Kong Chan Palace Master Hua cast their gazes into the tenth area.

"This lad's Vital Energy Intensity shouldn't be low. If it was near three scars and a half, it will be considered pretty good. He would then need to cultivate just for a short period of time to advance into the Level Four Fairy Realm," Palace Master Hua said with a smile.

Palace Mistress Kong Chan nodded slowly. "I believe that it will surpass three scars and a half."

Upon hearing them, the Great Palace Master cast his gaze upon Su Yu and shook his head. He then said, "You both underestimate him. His Vital Energy Intensity won't just reach three scars and a half. In fact, it has a great chance of nearing the fourth scar."

Surprise appeared on the faces of the two Lesser Palace Masters upon hearing this prediction.

"Doesn't this mean that he's not far from reaching the Level Four Fairy Realm? He managed to advance from the Level One Fairy Realm and almost reach the Level Four Fairy Realm in just two short months. His cultivation speed is oddly quick, and he almost rivals the freaks in the inner sanctum!" one of the Lesser Palace Masters exclaimed, gratification appearing on his face.

Many ordinary disciples also looked at Su Yu. The power of the new Central Demon was still a mystery to them. Moreover, there was still a rumor circling regarding his fight against Jian Wusheng. So, naturally, they were all curious about him.

On the stage, Su Yu, who was the focus of the ten thousand people present, walked to the Sword Body, while pondering inwardly. It seemed like there wasn't any need to reveal his whole Vital Energy, and if he hid part of his power, he could catch Shao Qingfeng off guard in the fight and injure him!

When he was just about to suppress his Vital Energy and hide his power, the gaze of the alluring Cabinet Mistress, who seemed like she had already seen through Su Yu's plan, flickered.

She then said, "The disciples passing the exam must use all of their power. The Sword possesses acute senses, and if it detects that the examiner is hiding a part of his power, it will emit an alarm. The examiner will then be disqualified from participating in the exam, and he must then face the wall for over a year as a punishment."

Su Yu furrowed his brows when he heard this. He had no idea that there was such a rule! It was no wonder that no one before him had dared to hide his power and had choses to go all-out.

However, he had two Inner and Outer Dantians, so he wondered... If I just use a single Dantian's Vital Energy, could the Sword Body still detect that?

After he mulled it over for a moment, Su Yu decided to abstain from taking such a risk. Instead, he roused both his Inner and Outer Dantians' Vital Energy, condensed it in his right fist, and struck the Sword.

Buzz!

Three sword scars lit up on the spot, which demonstrated that Su Yu's Vital Energy Intensity had reached the Level Three Fairy Realm. However, it didn't stop there, as the sword scars radiance was still rising!

Shao Qingfeng snorted coldly. "I really didn't notice that your Vital Energy was this pure. It has almost reached three scars and a half..."

At that moment, the radiance surpassed three scars and a half, then continued to head toward the fourth!

"His Vital Energy's purity is probably at a level that is near the fourth sword scar!" Shao Qingfeng was surprised by this.

He remembered clearly that this lad had advanced to the Level Three Fairy Realm only after he came back from the Elegant Spirit Mountain. So, the fact that he could raise his cultivation near the Level Four Fairy Realm in just several days was astonishing!

Junior Sister He, who was in the audience seats, nodded. "Senior brother Lu, you hit the nail on the head. He really has almost reached Level Four Fairy Realm! But, even if that is the case, it's still unlikely for him to be able to fight Jian Wusheng."

Surprise appeared on the faces of Palace Mistress Kong Chan Palace Master Hua. "Isn't this lad's cultivation speed outrageously high?"

The Great Palace Master looked at Su Yu and nodded slowly. "It's not bad. He has almost advanced into the Level Four Fairy Realm... Wait! What's going on?"

Many people among the audience gasped at once, while some of them exclaimed in alarm. They were all staring at the sword. This was because the radiance still hadn't stopped rising, and it had already surpassed the fourth sword scar!

"What the h*ll? Su Yu's cultivation is obviously just at the Level Three Fairy Realm. So, how could his Vital Energy be as strong as a Level Four Fairy's Vital Energy?" someone cried out in alarm.

One's Vital Energy Intensity demonstrated one's current cultivation. Once the Vital Energy quantity in one's Dantian reached a certain amount, it would start compressing. The Dantian wouldn't be able to bear such pressure, so it would start expanding, which would increase one's cultivation by a whole level.

There shouldn't be any valid reason as to why Su Yu's Vital Energy was at the Level Four Fairy Realm, even though his Dantian still didn't expand at the same level. So, everyone had to wonder... Does he possess an inborn Dantian, which is different than the others? Is this the reason why it still hadn't expanded?

Surprise appeared on all three of the Palace Masters' faces. The two Lesser Palace Masters' faces were also filled with confusion, as it was their first time witnessing such a strange matter.

The Great Palace Master muttered to himself, "This is strange! Is his Dantian's expanse bigger than ordinary people's, thus allowing it to accommodate more Vital Energy?"

One couldn't deny that the Great Palace Master's guess was almost near the truth. However, while he was lost in his thoughts, the radiance still didn't stop rising, and it continued on until it passed the fifth sword scar!

"It's impossible!" Shao Qingfeng was shocked.

It was theoretically impossible for a Level Three Fairy to accommodate Vital Energy at the Level Five Fairy Realm. Everyone wondered... Is his Dantian bigger than ordinary people's by a whole fold?

If that was really the case, Su Yu's whole belly region wouldn't have room for anything else besides his Dantian! It shouldn't even have enough space for his internal organs! This was absolutely impossible, unless he wasn't even human!

The whole crowd went into an uproar. They were all shocked by the test's results, as well as by Su Yu's abnormal Dantian. The Great Palace Master was equally astounded, and even he didn't know what was going on.

Theoretically, a human's Dantian couldn't reach two fists' size. This explained why so many doubts and questions were appearing in the people's minds, and they couldn't dispel them, even after a long while.

The smiling youth, who was among the audience, laughed involuntarily as he said, "He's really a weird existence. Now, I believe that the rumor is true! He really must have fought Jian Wusheng to a draw."

Junior sister He snorted coldly. "Level Five Fairy Realm's Vital Energy is still not enough to defeat the Level Three Fairy Realm Jian Wusheng. Let's continue observing him."

Even after all of the areas' tests had come to an end, the tenth area's test was still the most astounding one. All of the people who were paying close attention to the Central Supreme Demon were astounded by the intensity of his freakish Vital Energy!

"The second exam will examine one's body's basic essence." The alluring Cabinet Mistress looked at Su Yu with her shining eyes, which were filled with expectation.

The body's basic essence exam was basically just a test that inspected one's fleshly power. Martial Artists cultivated both their inner Vital Energy and their outer fleshly body, which is why such an exam was so important.

The fleshly body's test was quite simple, as one needed just to carry a rectangular rock, each rock being as big as a fist. But, since the sanctum specially made those rocks for the inspection, they were quite unique.

Even if a Level One Fairy went all-out, he couldn't carry more than ten of them at a time. In other words, it meant that carrying each rock required one-tenth of an Elephant's power. Thus, this test could accurately evaluate the examiner's brute power.

The tenth area started carrying out the test, and unlike one's Vital Energy's intensity, one's fleshly body power wasn't restricted by one's current cultivation level. So, some people with stellar body refining techniques possessed outrageously powerful bodies.

Many impressive disciples appeared in the tenth area. One of them was a Level Seven Fairy Realm's outer sanctum disciple. He managed to carry 81 rocks, which meant that his power had reached eight Elephants and a tenth. This meant that he was stronger than even people who just advanced into the Level Eight Fairy Realm!

Eight Elephants' power was a power that only Level Eight Fairies' fleshly bodies possessed. This explained why the performance of this person caught so many disciples' attention.

There was still another person who caught people's attention. He was Shao Qingfeng. His cultivation was almost near the Level Nine Fairy Realm, while his fleshly body was capable of raising 91 rocks, which meant that it was comparable to a Level Nine Fairy.

Many people couldn't help but sigh when they saw him, as Shao Qingfeng was really a genius! In fact, if he was given enough time, he would have a great change of reaching the Level Nine Fairy Realm, and maybe even advancing into the Divine Master level!

However, it was a pity that he had made a grave mistake and was punished severely by the Great Palace Master. So, even if he defeated Su Yu on this day, he would still be driven out of the sanctum.

The Two Lesser Palace Masters sighed, while their hearts got heavy as they thought of this. Even though Shao Qingfeng's actions were vile, in the end, it was the outer sanctum that would suffer a loss through punishing him like that.

Time elapsed quickly, and soon, it was Su Yu's turn once again. And, once again, he caught everyone's attention. Everyone was shocked at how great a power Su Yu exhibited!

"Su Yuxian, go on the stage." The alluring Cabinet Mistress looked at Su Yu. "You must display your whole power, just like in the previous test. Otherwise, it may be detected by the sword."

Su Yu nodded, then looked at the big pile of rocks. He mulled it over for a moment, then grabbed a large number of rocks. To be precise, he grabbed 39 rocks.

"It's near four Elephants' power!" someone in the crowd yelled.

It would be shocking for a Level Three Fairy to possess such a power, but since it was Su Yu, they weren't surprised by it at all. Afterward, Su Yu started grabbing one rock after the other with his right hand, until he was easily carrying 49 rocks!

"It's near five Elephants' power." A satisfied expression appeared on Palace Mistress Kong Chan's face.

Palace Master Hua revealed a warm smile. "Hehe, he's a pretty good disciple. He has powerful Vital Energy and has cultivated even his fleshly body until its power has reached Five Elephants' level! If he trained meticulously, he could become a great genius."

Only the Great Palace Master remained quiet at this moment. He was observing Su Yu calmly.

Just like the crowd had expected, Su Yu shortly raised the fiftieth rock, and many people couldn't help but exclaim in admiration. However, what shocked them the most was that Su Yu still didn't stop there, but continued grabbing even more rocks!

"Fifty-three pieces."

"Fifty-four pieces."

"Fifty-five pieces."

"Oh my God! His fleshly body's power reached five Elephants and a half, and it's stronger than his own cultivation base!"

After shouting in surprise, the audience gradually calmed down because they discovered that five Elephants and a half still wasn't the fullest extent of his power!

"Fifty-seven pieces."

"Fifty-eight pieces."

"Fifty-nine pieces."

A voice drifted from the crowd. It was the sound of someone counting what Su Yu had achieved thus far. Many people couldn't help but swallow their saliva upon hearing it. He had almost reached six Elephants' power!

Thump!

Su Yu grabbed another rock. At this moment, the crowd roared, and someone shouted, "Six Elephants' power! He's just a Level Three Fairy, yet he managed to reach Six Elephants' power through cultivation and practice! How's this possible?"

However, they were all shortly dumbfounded again, as Su Yu still didn't stop! It was only after he carried 65 rocks that he furrowed his brows and gave up on the idea of grabbing more.

The alluring Cabinet Mistress, who was the judge, couldn't describe her current feelings. All she could think was... How could this person be just a Level Three Fairy? He is obviously a monster! If a Level Six Fairy unaware of Su Yu's true power ran into him, he would surely be taught a lesson!

"Six Elephants and a half! How did he manage to train to such a level?" a man exclaimed, while everyone in the crowd sucked in a breath of cold air.

Moreover, they were still unaware that Su Yu still hadn't used his First Dragon's body power! Otherwise, his power would have surely reached seven Elephants and a half!

Shao Qingfeng's expression became slightly grave, but it eased shortly. "It's really a pity, as there is still a large disparity between us."

The smiling youth's expression became slightly grave. He then took a breath and said, "He's really a monster! Just what he revealed alone is enough for him to fight Jian Wusheng! It seems like there isn't any need to continue observing him. Let's go back and report the completion of the mission."

Junior sister bit her lip and spoke obstinately, "Let's wait for a while. There is still another challenging contest, and it's rumored that he will fight with Shao Qingfeng. That will be a good chance for us to witness his true fighting prowess."

The smiling youth was left without a choice, so he could only stay and observe.

The Two Lesser Palace Masters were shocked, and they both wondered... How is Su Yu cultivating? How did he manage to become this powerful?

The tenth area became the center of attention once again due to Su Yu's test. The alluring Cabinet Mistress, whose face was glowing, announced the end of the second test.

Afterward, she wore a grave expression as she spoke solemnly, "The last exam will be carried out through real battles. Half of you, whose sequence number is an odd number, can challenge someone from the other half. You will simply throw your identity badge at your opponent to issue a challenge."

Swoosh! Swoosh!

Several thousand identity badges, all shining with a jade-like luster, were thrown out at that moment. However, what was odd was that more than a hundred badges were thrown at the same location.

"Central Supreme Demon! I will challenge you."

"Get Lost! I'm the one who will challenge him!"

"You should all get out of my way. I'm challenging the Central Supreme Demon in the name of my love for Bing Wuxin."

...

Many people were shouting angrily, and they all started vying for the chance to fight Su Yu. All the while, a big pile of identity badges had formed a small mountain in front of Su Yu's feet.

Su Yu's mind started racing when he witnessed those countless people's gazes, all filled with fighting intent, locked onto him.

"You should all get lost!" At this moment, a cold snorting sound transmitted from among the crowd. "I still didn't challenge him, and it isn't yet the turns of trash like you all!"

The challengers all quieted when they heard a familiar sounding voice. Then, they all immediately made way for Shao Qingfeng, who had his hands clasped behind his back and had just appeared before Su Yu.

Su Yu's eyes shone with a cold glint as he nodded and said, "That's right, it's only after disposing of you that I can have free time to keep the others company and fight with them."

Su Yu didn't forget his greatest task in this exam, which was taking care of this treacherous and poisonous snake!

Chapter 830: Absolute Repression

As Su Yu and Shao Qingfeng looked at each other, the people in the vicinity got out of the way, carefully leaving them with enough space to fight. The crowd had varying opinions about the imminent fight.

"Senior brother Lu, why don't you guess how many moves Su Yu can bear from Shao Qingfeng?" Junior sister He looked at Su Yu as she wondered aloud.

Senior brother Lu was also looking at Su Yu fixedly, so he didn't reply, as he was lost in his thoughts.

When she saw him lost in silence, junior sister He asked a bit louder, "Is it possible that you believe that this person actually has a chance of winning?"

Senior brother Lu kept silent for a long time before he looked at the outer sanctum's Great Palace Master and shook his head slowly. "He doesn't seem to have any chance of success, as there is a great disparity between their results from the fleshly body and Vital Energy inspection test."

He then added, "But, I'm still wondering... Why did the Great Palace Master set up such a fight? There shouldn't be any suspense in such a fight, and Su Yu will surely lose in less than ten moves."

Junior sister He replied after giving it some thought, "It's because the Great Palace Master wanted to give Shao Qingfeng a way out. After all, he was ranked tenth in the outer sanctum's ranking, and it would be a pity if he was killed. That's why he placed him against such a weak opponent as Su Yu."

Senior brother Lu nodded. "That explication seems reasonable."

Lao Ai and Wei Zheng were also paying attention to this fight, especially Lao Ai. After all, if Su Yu could display a great power, then the rumors of his tie against Jian Wusheng would be confirmed, and such news would surely reach the Right Palace Master's ears.

This was the outcome that he didn't want to occur, since if the Right Palace Master learned that he had offended such a genius repeatedly, thus pushing him into the Left Palace Master's camp, then he would be punished severely!

As for Wei Zheng, he had an indifferent attitude, as he still didn't believe that Su Yu had enough power to fight Jian Wusheng. After all, Jian Wusheng was a legend, who was pursued by many in the Red Blood Palace. Even the past masters of the Red Blood Palace couldn't rival her.

Moreover, judging from the previous two tests' results, it seemed like Su yu had only a Level Five Fairy's Vital Energy and a Level Six Fairy's fleshly body. Thus, he was really far from qualified.

"Fine, regardless of whether he can fight Jian Wusheng or not, I must still give him another opportunity, as with such skill as his, he is already qualified to join the Left Palace Master's camp." Wei Zheng stated his opinion.

The Left and Right Palace Masters were also observing the scene, and they both looked at the Great Palace Master meaningfully. In the end, the Great Palace Master was lenient, and he gave Shao Qingfeng a way out on purpose.

It was decided that as long as he could defeat Su Yu, he could leave the Red Blood Palace alive. The Great Palace Master was, after all, a person who cherished all talented people.

The alluring Cabinet Master looked at the Great Palace Master. She understood his intentions clearly, as she also didn't have any expectations for Su Yu in this fight, as there was a great disparity between the two fighters.

However, even if Su Yu lost, she was still full of expectations and hopes for his future, as the past two tests had already demonstrated that he had great potential, as well as a small cultivation secret. Thus, if he was trained well, he could become one of the outer sanctum's great experts in the future.

The alluring Cabinet Master calmed her mind as she announced the start of the fight solemnly, "The competition will start now, and all of you must challenge an opponent of your choice."

The crowd immediately picked an empty space and prepared to start fighting, while Su Yu and Shao Qingfeng looked at each other from far away, releasing their auras. Shao Qingfeng's face was filled with hatred. "My bright future prospects were destroyed by your hand! Do you know how much I hate you?"

As the outer sanctum's tenth expert, he could become a Divine Master in the future and enter into the inner sanctum to continue cultivating in it. But, after Su Yu had plotted against him, he had lost everything. As such, it could be said that Su Yu had severed all of his future prospects.

"Hehe, who used Shao Li and tried to kill me with an explosion? And... Who sent the two inner sanctum disciples to kill me in the Elegant Spirit Mountain? Who used Shangguan Yunque and intended to cooperate with Lao Ai to kill me? Doesn't it seem like you were the one who did everything bad?"

"I just paid you back for your deeds, yet you already hate me this much? What about me, who suffered from your plots several times! Shouldn't I hate you to the core?" Su Yu spoke to him in a mocking tone.

Shao Qingfeng could only blame himself for such a situation. Although Su Yu had a feud with the Shao family, he wasn't narrow-minded to the point that he would go to deal with all of its members in the outer sanctum!

But, Shao Qingfeng had plotted against him repeatedly and wasn't willing to give up. So, he couldn't blame Su Yu for anything now.

"Did I ever harm you? No! Yet, you brought great harm upon me," Shao Qingfeng shouted.

Su Yu snorted disdainfully. "That is laughable!"

Shao Qingfeng's expression became ice-cold. "Just shut up. I will defeat you with one punch in order to pay respect to the Great Palace Master's kindness!" All of the people could see that the Great Palace Master had been lenient with him.

"Kindness? Hehe, you are really delusional! Why didn't you ask me about it first?" Su Yu was determined that he would pay him back for everything now!

Shao Qingfeng didn't utter another word, but snorted softly before he speeded along, pulled back his right fist, and thrust it out when he was just a meter away from Su Yu. His fist contained eight-tenths of his body's power, so it would be impossible for Su Yu's fleshly body to face it.

However, Su Yu was still calm and composed, and before the crowd's astonished gazes, not only didn't he retreat, but he took a step forward and raised his right fist to face Shao Qingfeng!

"Is he courting death? Even if he used all of his power, it would be impossible for him to face Shao Qingfeng!" someone shouted. The whole crowd was flabbergasted by Su Yu's strange response.

"This idiot! He didn't need to use such an extreme method, did he? Did he really assume that Shao Qingfeng wouldn't dare to injure him heavily because he's afraid of the Great Palace Master?" Wei Zheng raised his brows as he started considering once again whether he should really give Su Yu an opportunity to join the Left Palace Master's camp.

Even Shao Qingfeng was startled for a moment before understanding Su Yu's intentions. "I wasn't going to injure you heavily on purpose, but since you have come at me and courted death, then the Great Palace Master can't blame me if you end up with serious injuries!"

As Shao Qingfeng spoke, his fist continued flying forward and bombarded Su Yu's right fist. He expected that Su Yu's fist would be crushed by his overwhelming power, leaving Su Yu with serious injuries.

However, when they collided, shock appeared on Shao Qingfeng's face, as he didn't even manage to beat Su Yu back. Instead, a surging power erupted out of the latter's fist, immediately bombarding Shao Qingfeng's right fist.

Shao Qingfeng understood everything instantly, and he couldn't help but shout angrily, "You hid vour power!"

When he looked at Su Yu again, he found that his arm had a faintly discernible golden internal blood energy channel within it. This belonged to the First Dragon Body, which he had hid!

Such power, which erupted suddenly, caught Shao Qingfeng off guard, and even though he managed to gather more of his power, he was still beaten back and was sent flying for several meters, while an intense pain wracked his bones.

Upon seeing this, the whole audience went into an uproar...

"It's impossible! He still hid some of his power?" someone from the crowd exclaimed in alarm, as he wondered how Su Yu had managed to cultivate such a strong fleshly body.

Wei Zheng opened his mouth widely in awe. He had assumed that Su Yu was just a fool, yet it turned out that he had hid a part of his power! Even the three Palace Masters didn't expect such a scene!

"He had a body refining technique that he hid? It should be, at the very least, a low-grade legendary technique," the Great Palace Master murmured.

The two Lesser Palace Masters glanced at each other and noticed the amazement in each other's eyes. Su Yu's performance was too dazzling, and it had greatly surpassed his past performance in the exam.

In the arena.

Su Yu lowered his right hand as he asked, "Is this how you will defeat me in one move, like you said?"

Shao Qingfeng was angered by his words. He had assumed that just eight-tenths of his power was enough to defeat Su Yu, and he certainly didn't expect that his opponent had hidden part of his power! Because of this, he had suffered a loss during their confrontation!

"What are you getting complacent for? Only now will the true fight start!" Shao Qingfeng yelled.

Ding!

A soft noise echoed out from a black longsword Shao Qingfeng's palm. The sword was emitting a hair-raising Ghost Energy. The sword was slightly wiggling, almost like it was a living creature!

"This sword's name is Penta Ghost, and it must be given blood to drink after being unsheathed. So, it would be better for you to concede now, as if we really fight, then I may not be able to control it..." Shao Qingfeng said.

Su Yu swept the sword with his eyes. He could sense that this sword emitted a great spiritual pressure, and that it was a low-grade spiritual artifact. Moreover, it was top-notch, and its might wasn't any weaker than a middle-grade spiritual artifact.

"Shao Qingfeng will use his whole power, and he even brought the Penta Ghost. With this sword, he could even defeat some people who have advanced to the Level Nine Fairy Realm recently! After all, this sword is quite demonic!" someone in the crowd shouted. "I also heard about that sword! It's rumored that, in the past, it belonged to a ghost, and it was made from the bones of Divine Master Realm demonic beasts. It is said that once it is unsheathed, even its master may not be able to control it wholly!" another onlooker exclaimed.

Expectation appeared on the faces of Senior brother Lu and junior sister He when they saw such a scene. Junior sister He said, "It will be known today whether Su Yu can fight Jian Wusheng or not... If he can confront such a sword!"

Many people raised their heads and paid attention to this sword, and many people who were fighting in the other arenas stopped fighting in order to observe their fight. After all, Shao Qingfeng's fate would depend upon this sword!

Su Yu spoke calmly, "Use your whole power so that you can die peacefully."

Shao Qingfeng shook his head slightly and spoke with pity in his voice, "Your ignorance is really scary. Since that's the case, then prepare yourself to shed your blood for such ignorance!"

Swoosh!

As Shao Qingfeng waved his sword, an intense sword energy swept through almost half of the arena. It was extremely sharp and caused the space to fluctuate as it went through it.

However, Su Yu still stood motionlessly in his place, and when the sword energy neared him, a black light flickered through his whole body, while a hideous-looking armor appeared and covered his body. Moreover, as Su Yu instilled his powerful Vital Energy into the armor, a black light screen emerged from it.

When the powerful sword energy bombarded the light screen, it managed to make it cave in slightly, but didn't manage to shatter it. After the two were deadlocked for a moment, the sword energy weakened, and it was then deflected back by the light screen.

Su Yu managed to easily block his strike, and he didn't even bother to attack him back. In the past, the Eternal Stone King Armor was a high-grade spiritual artifact, but now that it had been greatly damaged, it could only be considered a semi-spiritual artifact.

In the past, he had needed crystals' Vital Energy to activate its light screen, but now, Su Yu's Vital Energy was already quite tremendous. In fact, it was greater than the energy provided by crystals, so it caused his defense to become even more powerful than the past.

"Is this a defensive magical treasure of the Ghost Clan?" one of the three Palace Masters asked in surprise.

All of the three Palace Masters' faces were bewildered. They didn't expect that Su Yu had such a powerful defensive magical treasure. Moreover, it seemed like it was of quite a high grade!

"He managed to block his sword strike!" someone from the crowd exclaimed as the shocked crowd went into an uproar.

Shao Qingfeng obviously didn't hold anything back, yet he still couldn't deal with Su Yu! Lao Ai clenched his fists tightly as killing intent surged in his heart. He must surely not let the Right Palace Master hear about Su Yu.

Junior sister He was startled, "What an astonishing defensive magical treasure! I am beginning to think that he really is capable of fighting JIan Wusheng!"

Senior brother Lu let out a light breath. "Then, doesn't this mean that we can go to report it back? This lad must have really fought Jian Wusheng into a draw."

Junior sister He's eyes unexpectedly shone with a strange radiance. "Why are you in such a hurry? Why don't we just continue watching and wait to see the final outcome?"

In the beginning, she had looked upon Su Yu in disdain, but now, she filled with expectation for the fight's conclusion.

Senior brother Lu asked in surprise, "Junior sister He, do you feel like he can win?"

Junior sister He looked at Su Yu and grew quiet, not replying.

At the arena.

"I'm really sorry, but you aren't the only one who has a good treasure!" Su Yu wore a faint smile as he spoke.

Shao Qingfeng's eyes widened until they became very round. "Is this a damaged high-grade spiritual artifact? How did you get it?" He was incapable of understanding how a Level Three Fairy could possess such a great magical treasure.

"Do you think that I will actually tell you that?" Su Yu asked in reply.

Shao Qingfeng's expression became gloomy. He then said, "Let's try once again."

Shao Qingfeng was finally serious, and when he observed Su Yu carefully, he discovered that there was a hole in Su Yu's Eternal Stone King Armor's belly region, which meant that it was his defense's weak spot! Upon seeing this, Shao Qingfeng's eyes lit up, and as he held his longsword, he went towards him and thrust his black sword at the hole!

Su Yu sighed. The Eternal Stone King Armor's weak point was obvious to Fairies, and it would be a fatal weakness while facing Divine Masters, so he knew that he must repair it in the near future.

But, at that moment, he was busy! Su Yu took a golden small sword, flew forward, and blocked the black sword's edge just in time!

Ding!

A loud metallic collision sound echoed out. This Heavenly Orchid Silver Bamboo Sword was a semi-manufactured spiritual artifact, which Su Yu hadn't used for a long time.

"What a hard sword! There isn't even a blemish on it!" Shao Qingfeng was surprised. After all, the Penta Ghost was a top-notch low-grade spiritual artifact, which would rarely run into a semi-manufactured spiritual artifact that it couldn't destroy.

Su Yu's hand became slightly numb, as although he had managed to block his sword strike, his hand was still slightly injured by Shao Qingfeng's power.

"Well well... You really do seem to have many treasures! But, if you assumed that my Penta Ghost's power was limited to just this, then you have underestimated it greatly." The surprise vanished from Shao Qingfeng's face, and a grin, like that of someone whose evil schemes had just prevailed, appeared on his face.

Many well-informed people sighed softly when they witnessed such a scene. One of them exclaimed, "It seems like Su Yuxian was fooled by him, and this fight has already come to an end."

Wei Zheng's heart became much more at ease for some unknown reason as he this scene, and he said calmly, "It has ended."

The two lesser Palace Masters nodded lightly, while one of them said, "It was time for it to come to an end. It was already very impressive for Su Yu to manage to hang in this fight until now."

Su Yu was startled, and a sense of crisis welled up in his heart.

Whoosh!

The sound of something sharp, which was ripping the air apart, echoed out, while the black sword in Shao Qingfeng's hand disintegrated and turned into countless sharp needles. These needles immediately joined to form a weapon that was filled with thorns, which resembled a whip, yet it wasn't quite as long as a whip.

Moreover, this thorny weapon was unexpectedly alive, and after it was blocked by the Heavenly Orchid Silver Bamboo Sword, it wound itself around it, then went downward to pass by the hole in the Eternal Stone King Armor.

Then, it stabbed Su Yu! Everything happened so suddenly, it caught everyone off guard!

"It seems like I am still the one who will win!" Shao Qingfeng revealed a victorious smile.

The outcome was already decided at this moment. However, shock appeared on Shao Qingfeng just after he spoke, as not only was Su Yu not surprised by this, he even curled his lips into a mocking smile at this moment and asked, "But, why do I still feel like it's me who will win?"

What? Shao Qingfeng's heart sank when he heard his words. He had a bad premonition about what was to come...