

## Overlord 411

### Chapter 411: Master Calls

According to the customs of his hometown, after someone's death, the descendants needed to stay at home for a few days, visiting the grave every evening to place lantern grass.

Yang Fei, Yang Hao, Yang Wen, and Huang Qiaoqiao spent every day at home accompanying Li Guiju.

Li Guiju, having lost her husband in middle age, naturally suffered a great blow. Her mental state had deteriorated significantly, and she had become much more haggard.

But without her husband, she became the head of the family; life had to go on for those still living, so she gathered herself, even consoling Yang Hao and Yang Wen, and apologetically saying to Huang Qiaoqiao that the two were supposed to be married next year, but now, with the death of a father in the family, their wedding might have to be postponed.

As the year's end approached, according to the original plan, the wedding of Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang was only a few days away. But now, with the death of his uncle, and since it was because of him, both he and Qin Yanyang tacitly agreed not to mention the matter of getting married.

Even the Imperial City Qin Family had released a statement, saying that Qin Yanyang would not get married this year.

Three days later, Yang Fei, Yang Hao, and Huang Qiaoqiao took Yang Wen to the airport.

Yang Wen had taken a long leave; the family matters had been settled, and she needed to go back to continue her studies.

Just before boarding the plane, Yang Wen said to Yang Fei, "Brother, I have a few words I want to say to you."

Yang Fei was taken aback and looked up at her.

Yang Wen smiled slightly and said, "Let's talk over there."

Yang Hao said with a curl of his lip, "Still whispering secrets, huh?"

Huang Qiaoqiao surreptitiously pinched his arm to stop him from interrupting.

Yang Fei and Yang Wen walked to a corner of the departure hall.

"Brother, I admittedly did blame you before. I felt that if it weren't for you, our dad wouldn't have died, but I've come to terms with it now. No matter what troubles you've caused outside, we are still your family. If dad were alive and knew I blamed you, he would definitely not forgive me. I want to apologize first; I really don't blame you at all now. Do you believe me?" Yang Wen looked at Yang Fei with sincere eyes.

Although Yang Fei was a martial arts expert, he had some difficulty controlling his emotions. Knowing that Yang Wen had hated him for the past few days, he didn't quite know how to react when he heard her say this, but he felt a warm gratitude, appreciating her comforting him like this.

"I wanted to tell you, don't carry any burden in your heart. Even if I, or mom, and Brother Yang Hao get dragged into your issues again in the future, we won't blame you because we are a family. United we stand, divided we fall. All that matters to me is that my brother is an honest man, who has never done anything against society. As for what those bad people think or do, that's their business, not something you're responsible for," Yang Wen continued.

Yang Fei was profoundly moved, and he opened his arms wide.

Yang Wen smiled and leaned in to hug her older brother.

The siblings embraced each other, and a determined and stubborn light flashed through Yang Fei's eyes.

He swore never to let his family suffer because of him again.

Gently patting Yang Wen's back, Yang Fei said softly, "Focus on your studies. With Yang Hao and Huang Qiaoqiao here, they'll take good care of your aunt. As for anything else, you shouldn't worry at all. I can promise you, your brother is definitely not a bad person."

"Mhm, I believe you," Yang Wen nodded.

...

Imperial City.

The highest base.

Qin Yanyang, dressed in a military uniform, stood tall and proud, like a spear, inside a massive office.

Behind the desk, a man in his sixties with an authoritative face was seriously supporting a newly issued special operations order.

"Qin Yanyang, this move is of great importance. Once the operation starts, it means a complete fallout. Are you clear about the various troubles we'll face down the line?" the elder asked gravely.

Qin Yanyang replied formally, "Reporting to the commander, Qin Yanyang will follow all orders."

Those who should be concerned are you, not me, Qin Yanyang.

Moreover, wouldn't various troubles arise in the future even if the operation didn't start?

If we do not act soon, the situation will only spiral further out of control.

Once all the departments are infiltrated by the Hidden Sect, then at that point, the country will be completely under their control.

The elderly man seemed to have read Qin Yanyang's thoughts and said solemnly, "After the final decision, we agree to this operation. Remember, behind you is the entire Divine Continent Country, and this operation must be perfectly accomplished."

"Yes, I guarantee to complete the mission!" Qin Yanyang said loudly.

Her gaze was firm, and her beautiful face brimmed with strong confidence.

The interests of Divine Continent outweigh everything.

Anyone who dares to covet the national treasures will be punished by law without exception!

The elderly man handed the operational orders to Qin Yanyang.

Qin Yanyang's gaze swept over them, seeing the toughness and determination from above.

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Yang Fei had called Qin Yanyang several times, but her phone was turned off.

He thought for a moment and called Qin Huai'an.

"Grandpa, is Yanyang still in Imperial City?" Yang Fei asked, "I can't get through to her phone, has something happened?"

Qin Huai'an was silent for a moment and replied, "She is carrying out an important mission."

"What mission?" Yang Fei asked, his heart stirred.

"It's top secret, I'm not very clear," Qin Huai'an answered.

Yang Fei furrowed his brow.

Qin Huai'an's voice came again, "There might be a change of situation, but it shouldn't be anything bad. If you're worried, come to Imperial City. If something happens, it's good to have someone to rely on."

Yang Fei agreed.

After dealing with his uncle's funeral, he was determined to go to the Hidden Sect, but with Qin Yanyang also in trouble, he was very worried and thought of waiting until there was a result on Qin Yanyang's side before making other plans.

"You're not caring for your aunt and Yang Hao anymore?"

Seeing Yang Fei decided to go to Imperial City, Wang Lei frowned and reminded him.

Yang Fei pondered briefly, about to speak, when his phone rang.

He took out his phone and his eyes lit up, immediately choosing to answer.

"Master, you finally remembered you have such a disciple?" Yang Fei spoke as soon as he answered the call, his tone carrying a hint of reproach.

"Hey, kid, your wife is too rash, she might cause serious trouble," the Fatty Taoist's voice came from the phone.

Yang Fei's expression changed and he asked, "Trouble, what happened?"

"She plans to purge the Hidden Sect's infiltrators within various departments. This will make her a target of the entire Hidden Sect, and forces from all sides will go against her. It will end very badly for her," the Fatty Taoist said.

Yang Fei's heart sank.

His identity as a Taoist Inheritor had been leaked, making him a target for the forces of the Hidden Sect, and it could even bring trouble to Qin Yanyang.

He hadn't expected Qin Yanyang to also become a thorn in the side of the Hidden Sect.

He and Qin Yanyang truly were a perfect match by fate.

"With things having reached this point, being her husband, I'll face it together with her," Yang Fei said.

"Face it together? Haha, do you think you're invincible in the world? Even if you're undefeated personally, the Hidden Sect has countless strong members, and you two alone can't fight against many. The fate that awaits you..." the Fatty Taoist coughed, "Anyway, you can't just confront this head-on, you need to find a way to mediate and resolve this slowly."

Yang Fei heard that he seemed to be hiding something, but he didn't rush to ask, instead asking, "Do you have any ideas?"

Having been unable to contact this elusive master for so long, and now with such a big issue at hand, he took the initiative to contact him, making Yang Fei believe he might have a way to help him resolve the current crisis.

#### Chapter 412: Fatty Taoist's Memories

"There are ways, it's not like there are none." Indeed, the Fatty Taoist gave Yang Fei the answer he was hoping for.

Listening to his master's response, Yang Fei was moved and couldn't help but ask, "Master, may I ask you a few questions?"

"Haha, you finally couldn't hold it back, eh? Ask away, I'll tell you everything I know," the Fatty Taoist replied cheerfully.

Yang Fei thought for a moment, then asked, "Was the Cultivation Technique of Qin Yanyang really left for Qin Huai'an by you?"

"Yes, Master has been painstakingly thinking ahead, planning to cultivate a daughter-in-law for you early. How about it, Master didn't deceive you, right? This daughter-in-law, in terms of appearance, personality, character, and abilities, has she not embarrassed you?" the Fatty Taoist bragged with a proud laugh.

Yang Fei had nothing to say about that.

Qin Yanyang was indeed so outstanding that he couldn't find a single flaw to pick at.

"Master, are you from the Hidden Sect World?" Yang Fei asked his second question.

"Yes," the Fatty Taoist still answered very readily.

Yang Fei then asked, "Are you a Taoist Inheritor?"

"Yes, so you and Qin Yanyang are also considered Taoist Inheritors, carrying a heavy responsibility," the Fatty Taoist said.

Yang Fei didn't ask about the matters of the Taoist being annihilated by various forces of the Hidden Sect World, as it seemed all to be true.

He asked the question he most wanted to know, "You knew my mother, Duanmu Qing, and because of this, you came to find me to be your disciple, to impart all your skills to me, right?"

The Fatty Taoist was silent for a while before he replied, "That's right."

Yang Fei was stirred, "That's right? Master, I'm already of age, and according to your arrangement, I have returned to the Divine Continent and already have irreconcilable conflicts with the Hidden Sect World. I hope you can tell me the whole truth."

The Fatty Taoist chuckled softly, "Smart kid, you knew it was my arrangement."

Yang Fei gave a wry smile, "As your disciple, being calculated by you is also something I'm willing to accept. Moreover, if my parents' deaths are indeed related to the various forces of the Hidden Sect World, as a son, there's no way I could refrain from seeking revenge. So, Master, if you have any plans, feel free to be honest with me. Your disciple will do his utmost."

"Ah, Master isn't as scheming as you think, not having so many calculations and thoughts," the Fatty Taoist sighed, seeming somewhat troubled.

Listening to this, Yang Fei felt a bit guilty and self-reproaching.

Could it be that he really was overthinking?

"Actually, you should call me 'Grand Master Teacher,'" the Fatty Taoist slowly said.

Yang Fei was moved, unable to help saying, "My mother was also your disciple?"

"It was your father. He was exceptionally gifted, a rare prodigy not to emerge in the world, with Cultivation talents far superior to yours, but unfortunately, it was too late when he met me, ah..."

Though this news was unexpected, it was easy for Yang Fei to accept.

According to his understanding of his mother, Duanmu Qing, she was an extraordinarily outstanding woman, beautiful and graceful, with exceptional talents, and she hailed from the noble Duanmu Family of the Hidden Sect World.



Such a woman would definitely choose a man with extraordinary qualities.

Qin Hua'an was seventeen when he left the village, and before that, he was a genuine farmer, whose handsome appearance alone, I'm afraid, wouldn't have caught Duanmu Qing's eye. The fact that they ended up together surely meant that my father had other abilities.

"Although I used the Bone Marrow Cleansing Pill to perform the Wash Essence and Cut Marrow on your father, allowing him a rebirth, he was already seventeen by then and had missed the optimal period for cultivation. Moreover, he had not been cultivating for three years when he met your mother, and thus he had not yet grown strong enough when he had to face great troubles, and eventually, he died with regrets."

Yang Fei listened intently, but felt that there were gaps in the story, and he became somewhat anxious to ask questions, yet he restrained himself, believing that his master, having opened up today, would tell him everything.

"Back then, your mother was a prodigious genius of the Duanmu aristocratic family, and at that time, the various powers of the Hidden Sect World wanted to deal with me, and they hoped to deduce the true Taoist Inheritance Cultivation Technique through your mother. Unprecedentedly, they united with one heart to cultivate your mother."

Yang Fei silently nodded.

Wang Lei had mentioned that his mother had learned the strengths of various families of the Hidden Sect World. He had wondered why the various powers were so generous to let his mother learn their secret books; now the Fatty Taoist offered an explanation.

To deal with him.

And to have his mother deduce stronger cultivation skills and obtain a more complete Taoist inheritance.

This showed how high his mother's talent was.

"Indeed, your mother was a person of exceptional intelligence, the highest talented, smartest, and most learned person I have met. At a young age, she learned the strengths of all families and integrated them, truly deducing cultivation skills close to the Taoist inheritance. In the history of thousands of years of the Hidden Sect, I have never seen such a smart woman."

The Fatty Taoist waxed emotional over the phone for a while, then continued, "Not only was Duanmu Qing incredibly bright, but she also had a pure and kind heart. Upon learning from me the reasons for the Taoist's downfall, she felt compassion, and later confirmed my words through her family members. Disgusted by the actions of her family and the various powers of the Hidden Sect World, she left the Hidden Sect."

Listening to the history of his mother, Yang Fei was deeply moved, feeling that although he had some fame now, he was likely much inferior to his mother.

"As a Taoist Inheritor, naturally, I wanted to restore the Taoist Legacy, and I was very wary of Duanmu Qing, so I had other intentions, and allowed your dad to meet your mom briefly."

A twitch appeared at the corner of Yang Fei's mouth.

Old scheming... cough, cough!

Even if it was just in his thoughts, he never really cursed out loud.

After all, he was his mentor who granted him a second life.

"Your dad, having not seen much of the world, naturally fell in love at first sight with a woman like Duanmu Qing, an immortal-like lady, completely smitten. Your mother was also attracted to him. Of course, she wasn't so inconsiderate; she had seen numerous talented young men, and your father, in her eyes, was no different from a bumpkin. But somehow, it was your father's unworldly bumpkin charisma that made your mother feel his goodness, simplicity, and honesty, and so she grew fond of him."

Yang Fei's mouth curled up, amused.

"However, later I found out that the reason your mother favored your father was that she had already discerned my intentional arrangement. Even more, she saw the innate intelligence in your father, who possessed the true Taoist inheritance. Even though she had deduced a set of cultivation techniques by integrating the strengths of all families, it ultimately differed from the authentic Taoist Cultivation Skill, hence she also had her own ulterior motives."

Yang Fei's grin widened even more; that was more like it.

No one is truly a fool; a smart person like his mother, even with serious feelings, would surely be cautious and not easily deceived.

"Right under my watch, she eloped with my dearly found Direct Disciple," the Fatty Taoist said with a tone filled with deep helplessness and sighed.

Yang Fei was stunned, then almost couldn't help but laugh.

The Fatty Taoist sighed, "How was I to know that your mother, seemingly kind-hearted and simple, and your dad, honest and straightforward, could manage to elope like that, the other also heartlessly willing to abandon his master and run off with someone else?"

"Alas, they had no idea how wicked the human heart could be, and that elopement led to trouble."

#### Chapter 413: Vigilance Against the Master

"What went wrong?" Yang Fei couldn't help but ask.

As a son, this was the first time he'd heard about his parents being together, so naturally, he was a bit concerned.

The Fatty Taoist sighed, "If it were up to my arrangements, after they met and got together, all they needed to do was to find a place to hide under my protection and live a calm and peaceful life. They could gradually grow stronger, and once both were powerful enough, any issue could be carefully planned out. Unfortunately..."

On the phone, it seemed that the Fatty Taoist was still immensely regretful about the events of those years. After letting out a long sigh, he slowly continued, "They ran off to Imperial City, and your foolish mother got involved with people from the Imperial City's Duanmu Family. She assumed a new identity, becoming the illegitimate daughter of the Duanmu Family."

Yang Fei silently nodded.

This connected his mother to the people he knew from the Imperial City's Duanmu Family.

"Though they spent over a year in Imperial City living a settled life, they were eventually targeted by people from the Hidden Sect. I'm not exactly clear about the details of what happened afterward, but I do know that just after your mother had given birth to you, when she was at her weakest, someone from the Hidden Sect suddenly appeared and took her away. Your father disappeared for a while before returning to his hometown, and then, a few days later, he passed away."

"When I heard of this, I went back to the Hidden Sect first, hoping to find a way to rescue your mother, but then I received the tragic news that she had died."

Yang Fei's brows furrowed slightly, feeling that the story about his parents told by his master seemed a bit too abrupt.

"After confirming the fact of your mother's death, I left the Hidden Sect and entered the secular world to look for your father. By the time I found him, all I saw was a mound of yellow earth."

"I had high hopes for your father, so at first, I didn't believe it. I personally dug up your father's grave..."

A spasm crossed the corners of Yang Fei's mouth.

"Ah... It was only then that I confirmed that your father had indeed died."

"The death of a beloved disciple left me in a terrible state. I returned to the Hidden Sect and made a scene, but I almost fell into their trap. With no other choice, I was forced to go into hiding. I came to see you when you were six, but it was too early, so I didn't disturb your life. I originally planned to take you

as my disciple when you turned ten, but since from a young age you were an orphan, and it was difficult for your uncle and aunt to raise three children, it wasn't until you were nearly thirteen and started showing signs of development that I appeared and took you away."

Yang Fei had personally experienced the events that followed, so the Fatty Taoist didn't elaborate further.

Yang Fei voiced the doubt in his heart, "Master, are you sure my mother is dead?"

"Dead."

The Fatty Taoist answered crisply, "I also had my doubts at first, considering she was a genius and the daughter of the Duanmu Family, with various powers placing great expectations on her, hoping she would find the true Taoist inheritance and obtain real Cultivation Techniques in pursuit of Immortality. Thus, it would be unlikely they would kill her off easily."

"However, after secretly investigating for many years, I found no trace of your mother. And according to multiple sources, I am certain she should be dead."

Yang Fei had held onto hope, but now felt an overwhelming sense of loss.

After all, he couldn't meet her in this life.

For him, who had been an orphan from a young age, it was hard to say how much affection he had for his parents, but blood was thicker than water, and he still longed to see his mother. If she were still alive, he would have taken care of her dutifully.

"Thank you for telling me all this," Yang Fei calmed down and said with sincere gratitude.

"Ah, there's no need for such formalities between us, master and disciple," the Fatty Taoist said. "After all, your parents and I were acquainted, and we shared a mentor-apprentice relationship. Now, you're my Direct Disciple, so we are family."

Yang Fei silently nodded, knowing that regardless of whether his master had his own motives, he had been kind to him. He owed him too much and could never repay it.

"As for your current predicament, there is only one solution," the Fatty Taoist finally spoke of the way out.

Yang Fei listened intently.

The Fatty Taoist said, "Go to the Hidden Sect."

Yang Fei's eyes flashed with surprise, "Go to the Hidden Sect? Isn't that like walking into a trap?"

The Fatty Taoist replied, "The various powers within the Hidden Sect are not of one mind."

Yang Fei nodded silently.

"They all desire to pursue the true path of Immortal Cultivation, but they are also suspicious and guard against each other. They wouldn't let any aristocratic family or sect obtain the inheritance alone. So, after you go there, although you will become a target that everyone wants to capture, they won't truly kill you—at least not until they get what they want from you. Before that, your life is not in danger," explained the Fatty Taoist.

Yang Fei fell silent.

Even if the Fatty Taoist didn't mention it, he had wanted to go to the Hidden Sect himself, to send a deep warning and prevent his loved ones from suffering any more innocent harm.

But it was undoubtedly a very risky move.

Although what the Fatty Taoist said made some sense, if he was really caught, even if it didn't kill him, he feared he would lose his freedom, or even be crippled. At that point, life might be worse than death.

"Master, since you took the initiative to call me, you must have a better plan, right?" Yang Fei asked tentatively.

The Fatty Taoist laughed and said, "I knew I couldn't hide it from you, kid. Hehe, you are my Direct Disciple, and whether the Taoist way can regain its glory all depends on you. How could I just watch you walk to your death?"

Filled with curiosity, Yang Fei asked, "Master, since you are a Taoist Inheritor and know the Taoist arts of Cultivation, why not train more disciples?"

"Hmph, do you think the Taoist Cultivation Techniques are as common as cabbages on the streets that anyone can partake in? Even in the Hidden Sect World, those who can truly master these techniques and reach the level of you and Qin Yanyang are one in ten thousand. Without a Spirit Root or a root of wisdom, they won't have a chance at the Taoist Immortality Technique," the Fatty Taoist dismissed.

Yang Fei silently nodded, thinking so that's how it is.

He couldn't help but feel a little smug inside.

It seemed that he wasn't as mediocre as his Master had said. At least he had successfully practiced the Taoist Cultivation Technique.

"As a Taoist Inheritor, how could I truly have no power of my own in the Hidden Sect World? Once you go, a force will secretly protect you. If they recognize you, securing the position of Sect Leader in the future will be smoother," the Fatty Taoist continued.

Yang Fei said, "But what Yanyang is doing now is extremely dangerous. I am worried that the Hidden Sect will send someone after her, and I..."

"You underestimate the strength of the nation too much. With the nation backing her, the Hidden Sect wouldn't dare to make reckless moves and will not be able to harm her," countered the Fatty Taoist.

Yang Fei was still hesitant.

He felt he should confirm Qin Yanyang's safety before heading to the Hidden Sect World, but the Fatty Taoist seemed to be urging him to go sooner.

He didn't want to suspect the Fatty Taoist of having ill intentions, but he couldn't help but feel cautious.

"Master, the trip to the Hidden Sect is not urgent. I think I will wait until the situation with Yanyang has settled before I go," Yang Fei expressed his thoughts.

"Going to Imperial City now would be inconvenient for you. Those who have infiltrated from the Hidden Sect aim to capture you, and they have caused so much trouble just as an excuse. If you were to go to Imperial City, you might bring unnecessary trouble. How about this—I'll make a trip to Imperial City. With me, Qin Huai'an, and Zhang Huai'ren there, nothing will go wrong. You better head to the Hidden Sect sooner to eliminate future threats, or else your loved ones will still be in danger," suggested the Fatty Taoist.

Yang Fei grew even more wary in his heart.

He couldn't shake off the feeling that his Master was eager to send him away.

But since the other had said this much, and Yang Fei was indeed worried that the Hidden Sect might send someone to target him, endangering his family's safety, he answered, "Alright, I'll go."

After hanging up the phone, he immediately called Qin Huai'an, relayed the Fatty Taoist's advice to go to the Hidden Sect, and shared his own concerns more subtly.

Qin Huai'an pondered for a while before saying, "Your master is absolutely trustworthy. Since he has arranged things this way, there must be good reason. Listen to him. As for the situation in Imperial City, the infiltration by the Hidden Sect isn't thorough enough. Yanyang can handle these matters with no big issue; you can rest assured."

Chapter 414: Xu Jian Joins



With Qin Huai'an's response, Yang Fei no longer insisted so much on going to Imperial City to help Qin Yanyang.

Since Qin Yanyang would not be in danger and could handle the trouble himself, he decided to focus on heading to the Hidden Sect.

Although he was puzzled why his master was so eager for him to go to the Hidden Sect, he had already planned to visit there. Even with doubts, the most he would do was to be more cautious after arriving.

Wang Lei had been watching Yang Fei make the phone call and had heard some of its content. Seeing him hang up, he asked, "So, you've decided to go to the Hidden Sect?"

Yang Fei pondered briefly and nodded, "Yes, to the Hidden Sect."

Knowing he had made up his mind, Wang Lei didn't try to persuade him otherwise, instead he offered, "Since you're set on this, I'll accompany you."

Yang Fei hummed in response, recalling a matter once entrusted to him by the elder Xu Jian.

Yang Fei took the Hidden Sect very seriously and never underestimated the strength of its powerful figures.

He knew he must make ample preparations before going to the Hidden Sect.

Having Wang Lei, an acquaintance, to lead the way was not enough; he also needed to strengthen the power of the people around him.

He had already returned to his peak condition, even stronger than his original prime, with his legs tempered for foundation establishment, boosting his power and speed considerably, which made handling opponents of the same realm no issue.

However, the Hidden Sect had too many powerful figures, and it would still be very dangerous to be attacked by many of them.

An extra person meant extra strength.

With this thought, Yang Fei dialed Xu Yunshan's number.

Xu Yunshan answered quickly, his tone respectful, "Hello, Mr. Yang."

Yang Fei got straight to the point, "Put your elder on the line, I have something important to discuss with him."

"Of course, please hold one moment while I connect you," responded Xu Yunshan.

About ten minutes later, the phone rang, and Yang Fei answered to hear the elderly voice of Xu Jian, "I hear you were looking for me?"

Yang Fei said, "Yes, senior, I've decided to go to the Hidden Sect. Would you care to join me?"

"Hahaha, you've made up your mind, that's great," Xu Jian laughed heartily, sounding very pleased.

Yang Fei stated, "I will wait for you for one day, I'll head to the Hidden Sect tomorrow."

"Alright, wait for me," Xu Jian said, and then hung up the phone.

After hanging up, Yang Fei looked at Wang Lei and asked, "Brother Wang, what is the overall strength of your Wang family in the Hidden Sect?"

Wang Lei, understanding Yang Fei's intention, said, "The Hidden Sect currently consists of five aristocratic families and three major sects. The disparity in overall strength isn't vast. It's hard to say where exactly the Wang family ranks, especially since the relationships among the Eight Great Forces

are intermarried and intertwined, pulling one strand would affect the whole, avoiding uncontrollable conflicts of interest."

Yang Fei nodded silently, then asked, "What is the highest realm among the strongest in the Hidden Sect world? You must have heard of it."

Wang Lei nodded and said, "In terms of realms, the martial artists of the Hidden Sect are divided into Inner Strength, Energy Transformation Realm, Innate Realm, Divine Travel Realm, and Vajra Realm."

"Vajra Realm?" Yang Fei was slightly surprised.

Wang Lei nodded and said, "It is said that after the Divine Travel Realm, cultivators truly achieve Unity with Heaven and Man, with both the divine soul and body cultivated to their limits, one can step into the Vajra Undying Realm."

Yang Fei secretly marveled and asked, "Does the Hidden Sect World have Vajra Realm masters?"

Wang Lei shook his head without hesitation and said, "The Vajra Realm exists only in legends for the Hidden Sect World, so the strongest in the Hidden Sect are merely at the Divine Travel Realm."

Yang Fei quietly breathed a sigh of relief.

Although his current state isn't the true Divine Travel Realm, it is similar, and he isn't afraid of facing a Divine Travel Realm master; he has the power to fight. If there were Vajra Realm masters in the Hidden Sect World, he would be somewhat apprehensive and dare not go there lightly.

"The Hidden Sect World has been a mysterious land of cultivation in Divine Continent since ancient times, where the spiritual energy of heaven and earth is even richer, indeed more suitable for cultivation. Plus, with more complete secrets of cultivation techniques held there, it's easier for cultivators to give birth to formidable masters. But it's not as mysterious and powerful as imagined, after all, they are still mortals with fleshly bodies. It is rumored that in the Vajra Realm, one's body is as hard as copper and iron bones, and even if flesh and blood are lost, it can be remade; with a solid and strong divine soul, it is hard to dissipate, hence it is also called the Undying Realm." Wang Lei slowly explained.

Yang Fei thought about his legs being tempered and strengthened; if his whole body were tempered, he might well be equivalent to the Vajra Realm described by Wang Lei.

According to Qin Yanyang, this realm in Taoist cultivation is actually the true Foundation Establishment.

And in Taoist realms, prior to Foundation Establishment, it is all Qi Cultivation Realm.

Those in the Hidden Sect World who practice martial arts are just martial artists who, after cultivating martial arts to a certain extent, touch the threshold of Taoist cultivation and classify the power levels above martial arts into divisions such as Innate Realm, Divine Travel Realm, and Vajra Realm.

"So from young to old, you haven't seen a Vajra Realm master?" Yang Fei refocused his thoughts and looked at Wang Lei as he asked.

Wang Lei shook his head, "In my Wang Family, I rarely see even a few legendary Divine Travel Realm ancestors, they are often elderly, and to live a few more days, they rarely go out and are almost always in secluded meditation.

"The same goes for Wang Family, and other sects or aristocratic families are the same; so the real active cultivators in the Hidden Sect World are below the Divine Travel Realm, with Energy Transformation being the most common, and the Innate Realm already being a first-class master."

Yang Fei grinned, "If that's the case, if we go there, wouldn't we be able to stride across it unchallenged?"

Wang Lei's mouth twitched, thought for a moment, and said, "If no one knows your true identity, and those masters do not come forward, with our combat power and realm, even if we can't act recklessly, we won't face great danger."

"Add Xu Jian to that, the three of us will be even safer," Yang Fei optimistically said.

Wang Lei coughed dryly and said, "Don't forget your own identity."

Yang Fei said, "Once we enter the Hidden Sect, the three of us can change our appearance; who could recognize us? As I understand, the Hidden Sect World is like ancient Divine Continent, transportation relies on oxen and human power, and communication is by messenger; there's no Heavenly Eye system, no high-tech to verify identity information. Once we're there, just keeping low profiles will be like finding a needle in the ocean, extremely hard to be singled out."

Wang Lei sighed and nodded, "Yes, the advantages of the Hidden Sect World are clear, but the shortcomings are also extremely distinct. Indeed, leaving aside those nearly invincible personal strengths, it would actually be quite difficult for the Hidden Sect World to integrate, as many modern weapons would suffice to annihilate them."

Yang Fei suddenly got an idea and said, "Right, we could also bring enough weapons over."

Wang Lei hurriedly shook his head, "Doing so would only expose our identity and movements faster, plus what we could bring would just be some minor weapons of little power, which are not very useful against real masters."

Yang Fei thought about it and let it go.

But he was thinking, if in the future there's no need to hide identities, it would be quite possible to bring enough modern weapons there, which would definitely be a significant deterrent to the Hidden Sect World.

While waiting for Xu Jian, Yang Fei asked Wang Lei many questions about the Hidden Sect.

Even though he had already learned a lot about the Hidden Sect from Wang Hui, Wang Lei seemed to know even more, so it was necessary to ask more detailed questions before deciding to enter the Hidden Sect World.

Here, the Eight Great Forces are the strongest, besides that, various places also have weaker families or sects banding together, and more are households engaged in manufacturing and production.

This is a world independent of the modern world, a backward world.

## Chapter 415: Feeling Watched

At 2 p.m. the following afternoon, Xu Jian arrived at Huangyang County to meet with Yang Fei and Wang Lei.

He came alone without anyone else from the Xu Family accompanying him.

However, after he left the Xu Family, three members of the Xu Family's Unique Tier also departed, heading to Imperial City. According to Yang Fei's instructions, they stayed in Qin Huai'an's quadrangle dwelling, ready to act at a moment's notice, just in case.

In addition to them, Zhu Tianshou also went to Imperial City.

After making all these arrangements, the three, Yang Fei, flew toward Kunlun.

"Are you sure all the entrances and exits are here, and only here?"

In the depths of Kunlun Death Valley, the cold wind howled; even the most daring Extreme Adventurers dared not tread lightly in this place.

The magnetic field here was in disarray, and the Heaven and Earth Power moved wildly as if not controlled by any rules, occasionally forming sharp Qi Blades that annihilated everything around them.

All three individuals, being Martial Arts experts, still had to activate their True Yuan to form Protective Gang Qi to prevent being cut by the fierce cold wind.

Xu Jian held a compass in his hand, which had already lost its function here, its needle trembling frenetically.

"Such a ferocious place is indeed mysterious," Xu Jian exclaimed.

He looked like an old man on the verge of death, but under his strong will, coupled with a body full of True Yuan, his physical strength was excellent. After walking into Death Valley, despite half a day's journey, he showed no signs of breathlessness.

After searching for a while, Wang Lei pointed to a spot high in the sky that seemed like the eye of a tornado and said, "It should be here."

Yang Fei and Xu Jian's expressions changed slightly.

Despite having asked about many things related to the Hidden Sect on the way and having accepted the absurd explanation that other parallel dimensions existed in this world, they still couldn't believe it when Wang Lei pointed to an empty space stating it was the entrance to the Hidden Sect World.

"Crossing this point, we can reach the Hidden Sect World. With good luck, we might avoid the guardians. If unlucky, we might expose our identities," Wang Lei said.

Yang Fei took a deep breath and asked, "Is there truly another world here?"

Wang Lei emphatically nodded and said, "Why would I lie to you? When I left before, I appeared right here. And as far as I know, there's only this one entrance and exit to and from the Hidden Sect."

Excitement flashed across Xu Jian's face as he said, "Yang Fei, he must be right. The real reason for such disorder in the magnetic field here is indeed the disharmony and repulsion caused by two parallel worlds. Moreover, pay attention and feel the Power Elements here, aren't they more active?"

Upon Xu Jian's reminder, Yang Fei immediately focused and indeed found that the Power Elements were more active here.

With just a slight intention, he realized that he could control even more power; his abilities seemed to have been elevated to a certain extent in this place.

"We just need to jump up there to enter the Hidden Sect World?" Yang Fei asked.

Wang Lei shook his head and said, "There's an invisible barrier that must be broken with force before one can pass through."

Xu Jian asked, "Will we encounter any trouble once we're inside?"

"There are guards nearby who watch over the passageway. If you're coming out from within, you have to pass their approval, but going back is not always the same; because the space is relatively chaotic, even though after breaking through, you're in the Hidden Sect World and near the passageway, the rules of the passageway are not stable. Over a long period, the people transmitted through might appear at a location quite far from the passageway," Wang Lei explained.

Yang Fei and Xu Jian were both somewhat astonished.

Seeing their gaze, Wang Lei couldn't help but give a wry smile and said, "I'm telling you the truth. This Small World, I'm not sure what force maintains it, but it's clear that this force is becoming smaller and weaker. The reason why people from the Hidden Sect World want to enter this world might also be because they foresee that this world will not last much longer and will eventually dissipate."

Yang Fei nodded silently. He didn't care whether the Hidden Sect World would collapse or not. He said to Wang Lei, "Since it's possible to be transported to different locations, then the three of us should cross over together, hand in hand, so we won't be separated."

Wang Lei nodded and said, "That's a good idea. If the guards discover us, we have two tokens. Just listen to me when the time comes."

"Let's go, no more dilly-dallying," Xu Jian, who was more straightforward, urged.

His time was running short, and after entering the Hidden Sect World, he still needed to find the Body Seizing and Rebirth Technique. Time was too precious for him.

Yang Fei no longer asked questions, and nodded, saying, "Alright, let's go in together."

The three exchanged looks and held onto each other.



Just then, Yang Fei suddenly felt a stirring in his heart and couldn't help but look back.

He had just had the illusion that someone was watching him.

"What's wrong?" Xu Jian sensed something amiss and asked in confusion.

Yang Fei said, "It seems like someone is watching us."

Xu Jian's heart stirred, and his Divine Thought radiated outward. After scanning the area and finding nothing, he laughed and shook his head, "You're just too nervous, kid. Within several days' travel from here, it's just the three of us. There is no other living being apart from us."

Yang Fei smiled wryly, "Maybe, let's go in and talk."

Right then, the three of them soared into the air. When they reached a height of fifteen meters, Wang Lei shouted loudly, and with a swing of his left hand, he tore through the space above.

Whizz!

Yang Fei and Xu Jian heard a clear sound in their ears and felt as though Wang Lei's strike, which appeared to hit nothing but air, actually connected with something invisible to the naked eye.

A split suddenly appeared.

An intense frigid wind surged out from within, exerting a powerful repelling force.

Wang Lei barked, "Go!"

He generated his Protective Gang Qi to forcefully withstand the repulsion and continued upwards.

Although Yang Fei and Xu Jian were shocked, neither of them held back. Instead, they gathered their strength and followed upward.

Whizz!

They were enveloped in a sensation of being wrapped by an invisible force. Yang Fei felt his body enter a special path, tightly enclosed, while dense and chaotic Power Elements furiously battered his body, as if trying to shred it into pieces.

Space turbulence! Space channel!

This feeling lasted only for a moment before they were suddenly greeted by a refreshing sensation as soothing as a spring breeze.

Before their eyes, the scene changed to a vibrant world, lush and green, appearing before the three of them.

...

"You sneaky brat, your vigilance has gotten quite high."

In the depths of Death Valley, behind a small hill, a plump and clean-looking Fatty Taoist in a grey Taoist robe poked his head out. Watching the three figures disappear into the void, he muttered a complaint.

"That Xu Jian is quite the character too, actually managing to survive until now. Not only that, but his Divine Soul is even stronger than that kid's by quite a bit. If it weren't for that kid noticing me in advance and making me prepare, Xu Jian might have discovered me already. Being with that old thing, I wonder if those two youngsters are in any danger."

The Fatty Taoist muttered to himself for a while, patted the dirt off his buttocks, and turned to stride out of Death Valley.

The kid had already gone in; the plan was half-successful.

Next, it was time to go to Imperial City and see that girl's performance.

#### Chapter 416: Qin Yanyang's Vigilance

Imperial City Suburb.

A war that did not alarm the common folk erupted at the headquarters base of the Military Department.

The inaugural Military Department Director, Ning Zhenbang, colluded with members of the Hidden Sect, aiming to seize power and usurp the state. Deputy Director Qin Yanyang led a team to encircle him at the Military Department headquarters base, and a fierce battle ensued.

After Ning Zhenbang was seriously wounded and captured by Qin Yanyang, all his close followers were detained. Qin Yanyang personally oversaw the interrogation and screening of these individuals.

It took a full half-month. Under the high-priority attention and strong support from the higher-ups, Qin Yanyang led the team in cleansing the entire Military Department.

At the same time, drastic changes occurred among the high echelons of Divine Continent Country, with many high-ranking officials arrested. However, a very few managed to flee upon hearing the news, escaping abroad in advance.

The high level of Divine Continent had long been wary of the considerable threat posed by the Hidden Sect.

Over the years, as the influence of the Hidden Sect infiltrated further, the authorities had turned a blind eye so long as they did not overstep their bounds, and all would be well. But the ambition of the Hidden Sect grew increasingly great. They attempted to control such vital departments as the Military Department, and even aspired to enter the world stage to wield power from the shadows, which was absolutely unacceptable.

Therefore, even at the risk of waging war against the Hidden Sect immediately, the higher-ups employed thunderous measures to eradicate all members of the Hidden Sect infiltrated within various departments, to prevent future troubles.

A silent storm occurred within Divine Continent, yet it didn't disturb the world.

After the storm had abated, it had been a month since Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei went their separate ways.

Following this incident, at the age of twenty-four, Qin Yanyang became the acting Director of the Military Department, in charge of this strategically vital special department for the future.

Worth mentioning is that, during this event, the Imperial Capital Zhang Family was also truly settled.

Zhang Wenfeng had previously acted autocratically and oppressively in the capacity of Martial Alliance Leader, which had long caused dissatisfaction among the higher-ups. After Zhang Wenfeng was defeated and fled by the combined efforts of Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, the higher-ups had not immediately acted against the Zhang Family.

But this time, the higher-ups were determined to eradicate all the malignant tumors. Therefore, the members of the Zhang Family were held accountable, and various problems were uncovered. All significant members of the Zhang Family's second generation within various departments were brought down.

Having dealt with some urgent matters that day, Qin Yanyang received a phone call from her grandfather.

On the phone, her grandfather asked her to come home.

Upon returning to Qin Huai'an's quadrangle dwelling, Qin Yanyang met a chubby old Taoist. A thought struck her, and she directly asked, "Senior, are you Yang Fei's master?"

The Fatty Taoist assessed Qin Yanyang for a while and then, smiling, nodded his head, "I really didn't misjudge that year. You, girl, indeed possess exceptional talents, suitable for cultivating that Cultivation Technique."

Qin Huai'an said to Qin Yanyang, "Yanyang, come and call him Master."

The Fatty Taoist laughed heartily, "Old Qin, you're quite naughty, eh? She's your granddaughter, yet you have her call me master. Wouldn't that make me a generation younger than you?"

Qin Huai'an laughed heartily, "That is the fact. Even if this girl is not your direct disciple, she is Yang Fei's wife, and Yang Fei is your disciple. Following Yang Fei, she should indeed call you master."

The Fatty Taoist kept smiling and shook his head but did not refute any further.

Under her grandfather's indicated gaze, Qin Yanyang respectfully called the Fatty Taoist Master.

The Fatty Taoist nodded his head, acknowledging the master-disciple relationship.

After all, the Xuanyin Scripture that Qin Yanyang had been practicing since childhood was passed down from his hands. In some sense, he truly was Qin Yanyang's master.

"Grandfather, I've been quite busy recently. Did you ask me to come over because there's something you want to talk about?" Qin Yanyang asked straightforwardly.

Upon hearing this, Qin Huai'an's expression became a bit more solemn, and he turned to the Fatty Taoist, "You tell her."

Qin Yanyang looked at the Fatty Taoist with a puzzled expression.

The Fatty Taoist sighed and said, "That boy, he went to the Hidden Sect."

Qin Yanyang's expression changed dramatically, and she exclaimed in surprise, "Yang Fei went to the Hidden Sect? When did this happen, and why didn't he tell me?"

The Fatty Taoist said, "He has already been gone for over twenty days. You've been busy with important matters recently, and so I and your grandfather didn't tell you to avoid distracting you. But now that the overall situation is set, it's time to inform you."

Qin Yanyang instantly became extremely anxious.

She had been too busy recently, often having to disconnect her phone and keep many things confidential, so she had not been in contact with the outside world for a long time.

She had planned to contact Yang Fei after she was done with her busy period to visit his uncle's grave, but she had not expected Yang Fei to go to the Hidden Sect.

"Why didn't you stop him?" Qin Yanyang was somewhat angry and raised her voice, "Although we dare to take action against the Hidden Sect from outside, that is just a warning to them. But you all know better than anyone how many powerful beings there are in the Hidden Sect World. For him to run into it as a Taoist Inheritor, it's simply a death sentence!"

Qin Huai'an frowned slightly and scolded, "Girl, don't be disrespectful. The boy's family has been threatened, and his heart is filled with hatred. He loathes the people of the Hidden Sect to the bone, and at the same time, he aspires to the Hidden Sect World and wants to have a look for himself. His legs are his own, can we tie him up and prevent him from going?"

"Why not tell me in advance, if I went with him, it might be safer," Qin Yanyang said anxiously.

She had been to the Hidden Sect before and even received the care of resources from the Hidden Sect. If not for that, even with her exceptional talent, she could not have grown so quickly.

So she was well aware of how terrifying the powerhouses of the Hidden Sect World are.

Once those people come out, with the special weapons of the Military Department, no matter how powerful, they won't be able to cause too much of an upheaval.

But in the Hidden Sect World, those people are truly fearsome beings.

"No, I must make a trip to the Hidden Sect," Qin Yanyang quickly calmed down and made her decision.

She had always been decisive and resolute, never indecisive in her actions.

"You're wrong, girl. If you want to ensure Yang Fei's safety, you can't go to the Hidden Sect," the Fatty Taoist spoke up.

Qin Yanyang looked up at him, her eyes slightly narrowed, "He is your Direct Disciple, the future hope of the Taoist sect. But it seems, you're not very worried about him."

The Fatty Taoist was startled, then burst out laughing, "You foolish girl, he is my disciple, the hope for the revival of the Taoist sect. How could I not care about his life and death?"

Qin Yanyang remained silent.

She felt that since Yang Fei had been in the Hidden Sect World for so long, and the Fatty Taoist was his mentor, he should care about his safety and protect him there or bring him back.

But little did she know that Yang Fei's urgency to go to the Hidden Sect World was because of the Fatty Taoist's instigation.

She had never met the Fatty Taoist and did not understand him well because of her lack of interaction.

Although she had heard some of the Fatty Taoist's deeds before, which led her to believe he was a righteous and good person, she began to harbor discontent in her heart towards him, possibly due to her concern for Yang Fei.

The Fatty Taoist continued, "You staying outside is the greatest deterrent to the Hidden Sect. To the Hidden Sect World, what they want are just the Cultivation Techniques of the Taoist sect, and even if they capture Yang Fei, they wouldn't easily take his life. Besides, that boy has exceptional strength; it's not so easy to catch him. You, on the other hand, have now become the head of the Military Department. You can use this opportunity to deter the Hidden Sect. So what you need to do next is to actively report the situation to your superiors, and if possible, best to eliminate the threat once and for all!"

Eliminate the threat once and for all?

What grand ambitions!

Qin Yanyang was inwardly shocked. She had only been slightly discontent with the Fatty Taoist, but now a wariness arose within her.

It seemed he harbored an enormous grudge against the Hidden Sect and wanted to completely collapse the Hidden Sect World.

Of course, this is also the thinking of many in the Divine Continent.

The authority of a powerful nation cannot tolerate the slightest threat, and the Hidden Sect is obviously the biggest internal risk.

Qin Yanyang's expression remained unchanged as she looked at the Fatty Taoist and asked, "Does Master mean to completely eradicate the Hidden Sect?"

Chapter 417: First Entry into the Hidden Sect

"No, just a show of force will do," the Fatty Taoist hastily shook his head and said.

Qin Yanyang frowned slightly, "Just a show of force will ensure Yang Fei's safety?"

The Fatty Taoist nodded, "The eight factions of the Hidden Sect are not united as one. Faced with the threat of life and death, they dare not refuse to bow. Moreover, Yang Fei does not pose a threat to



them; what they want is merely the inheritance of the Taoist. Once your tough stance is made clear here, the Hidden Sect will not dare to harm him, ensuring Yang Fei's safety."

"What if the people from the Hidden Sect refuse to bow? Can I really bombard their world? It's not just the eight major forces of the Hidden Sect that live there, but also countless innocent people. And these people are the Divine Continent People, the most precious wealth and strength of the Divine Continent, which will be of great use in the future," Qin Yanyang said.

The Fatty Taoist shook his head, "It won't come to that. The Hidden Sect has forgotten its agreements with the Divine Continent Country; they were the first to break the agreement of old, looking to change the rules. Do you think by removing those who have infiltrated the secular world that they will give up the idea of entering the secular world? If the Divine Continent wants peace, it must resolve this significant threat posed by the Hidden Sect."

Qin Yanyang did not refute.

The Hidden Sect exists apart from the world, able to live harmoniously with the Divine Continent because everyone abides by the rules. Even for the previous Divine Continent, the Hidden Sect was the greatest Guardian behind the scenes.

However, the nature of the Hidden Sect has now changed.

Specifically, it changed after the Taoist Sect was attacked and breached.

With the constraints of the Taoist Sect, the Hidden Sect and the Divine Continent Country coexisted peacefully, taking care of each other, living according to their mutually agreed rules.

But now, the Hidden Sect has become a land with no master at all, with the Eight Great Sects and aristocratic families each having their own ideas, showing more and more intention to enter the secular world. This has severely threatened the balance and stability of the Divine Continent.

Therefore, resolving this hidden danger from the Hidden Sect is an urgent issue.

But Qin Yanyang knew that what the higher-ups wanted was a smooth resolution of this danger.

"Girl, go and explain the pros and cons of this matter to the higher-ups, try to get it resolved as soon as possible," Qin Huai'an suddenly said.

Qin Yanyang looked at her grandfather, her gaze filled with questions.

With a sigh, Qin Huai'an said, "He who hesitates is lost. Since this hidden danger from the Hidden Sect must eventually be resolved, it's better to do it sooner rather than later."

Qin Yanyang slowly shook her head, "Such a significant matter is beyond my decision."

"You are now the Director of the Military Department, and the higher-ups support you so that you can deal with the future troubles from the Hidden Sect; thus, you might as well make your demands and see just how much support they truly offer you," Qin Huai'an said.

Qin Yanyang's brow furrowed slightly, and she said in a deep voice, "How are we different from the past Zhang Family then?"

Bristling with anger, Qin Huai'an exclaimed, "Nonsense, the Zhang Family was driven by selfish motives, while we are wholeheartedly serving our country. How can you even compare the two?"

Qin Yanyang looked at her grandfather and knew from her understanding of him that he had a heart full of righteousness and wasn't speaking empty words.

Yet for some reason, she always felt uneasy about the Fatty Taoist whom she had never met.

She knew he was Yang Fei's teacher and the benefactor who had taught her the Xuanyin Scripture. Moreover, as a Taoist Inheritor, he had always had a good reputation and was trustworthy. However, when it came to national matters, he seemed too eager to intervene, which made her vigilant.

However, Qin Yanyang did not express these thoughts. After all, she was concerned about Yang Fei's safety, and what her grandfather and the Fatty Taoist had said made sense.

The threat posed by the Hidden Sect would have to be dealt with sooner or later, and proposing a solution now was consistent with her role as the acting director of the Military Department. As for what the higher-ups decided, that was not in her hands.

"I will draft a military strategy report regarding the Hidden Sect's threat and submit it to the higher-ups, but I can't guarantee they will approve it," Qin Yanyang said.

The Fatty Taoist and Qin Huai'an both nodded, with the latter saying, "Indeed, fulfill your duty according to your position. You just need to follow your heart and do what you must."

...

Leaving the courtyard, Qin Yanyang drove towards the headquarters of the Military Department, her mind preoccupied with thoughts.

The sudden assignment by the Military Department to apprehend Yang Fei, along with the Hidden Sect master killing Yang Fei's uncle—these unexpected events disrupted their marriage plans, which frustrated her.

Now Yang Fei had ventured into the Hidden Sect World to avenge his uncle, and she was deeply concerned for him.

Grandpa and the Fatty Taoist's attitudes today had made her somewhat wary.

She wondered why the Fatty Taoist was so eager to push the country to act against Hidden Sects.

Was it to avenge the destruction of the Taoist sect and thus eliminate the Eight Great Forces, thereafter reorganizing the Taoist's mission?

Or was it for some other purpose?

Though she was only twenty-four, she had a high understanding of human nature. She knew human nature was the most complicated thing in the world and that most wars in the human world were caused by human greed.

Ultimately, she could not figure out the Fatty Taoist's intentions, so she repressed the thoughts deep in her heart and stopped pondering over them.

Rescuing Yang Fei, however, was something that had to be done.

If the higher-ups did not agree with her operation plan, then as Yang Fei's wife, she would also have to visit the Hidden Sect. She had to ensure Yang Fei's safety at all costs and bring him back.

...

Let's turn to another matter.

One month ago, after Yang Fei, Wang Lei, and Xu Jian entered the Hidden Sect World, what appeared before their eyes was a vibrant oasis-like scene.

The three of them were high in the air, more than ten meters above the ground, feeling the surge of dense Power Elements around them. Xu Jian couldn't help but exclaim with joy, "Such rich Spiritual Energy, worthy of the Hidden Sect's Small World."

Yang Fei was also silently amazed.

Although he had long known that Hidden Sects were worlds centered on cultivation, and everything here was more suitable for martial arts training, he was still greatly surprised after clearly feeling the activity of the Power Elements of heaven and earth, which was very different from the outside world.

Wang Lei, however, wore a look of melancholy. It had been ten years, and he hadn't expected to return here again.

For those pursuing cultivation, this place was Heaven, but for Wang Lei, who had grown up here, he felt it was a huge cage.

Thanks to Wang Lei's reminder before coming in, the three were connected together.

Under the influence of gravity, they were plummeting rapidly. Xu Jian extended his Telekinesis, causing winds to howl and clouds to gather. Power Elements invisible to the naked eye gathered around the three men, cushioning their falling bodies and letting them drift slowly downwards.

"Who dares trespass into the Hidden Sect's forbidden area?"

Just as the three were falling, a robust and powerful voice came from afar.

Wang Lei's expression changed, and he quietly warned, "This is bad, we've alarmed the Lord Guardian. Don't act rashly; I'll handle this."

As he spoke, the three had already landed in a clearing in the forest.

Wang Lei discreetly took out two Pass Tokens from his bosom, tokens he had obtained from Duanmu Yun and Duanmu Hai.

In just a moment, a powerful presence approached rapidly.

The three men's hearts tightened, secretly shocked.

They had just entered the Hidden Sect World and had already encountered such a formidable master.

Judging by the aura emanating from the stranger, Yang Fei and Xu Jian assessed that this person's strength was at the Innate Realm.

But the Innate Realm here was evidently different from the Innate Realm of the Divine Continent Martial World. This person's momentum was too strong, with an almost palpable sense of spiritual pressure being exuded.

Soon the three of them discovered that not far behind that person were several other presences rapidly approaching, among which two were nearly at the Innate level and the other two were also masters above the Energy Transformation Seventh Rank.

True to its nature as a land of cultivation, the number of martial arts masters here far exceeded that of the secular world.

#### Chapter 418: Morality

A moment later, the sharp and powerful aura grew closer. The three of them looked to see a middle-aged man dressed in a grey robe sprinting towards them, bringing with it a whirlwind that seemed to form around him as he approached.

"I am a descendant of the Langya Wang Family, and this is a Pass Token, please kindly examine it, Senior."

When the man stopped about ten meters away, Wang Lei hurriedly tossed over the two Pass Tokens and pointed at Yang Fei, saying, "This is my younger blood brother, who went out with me on a mission years ago."

The middle-aged man's sharp gaze swept across Yang Fei's face, then he lowered his head to glance at the token in his hand. After confirming it was correct, he nodded, the sharp aura dissipating significantly, but then he pointed at Xu Jian beside them and asked, "And who is this person?"

Wang Lei, who had already prepared a story, replied, "This man has been kind to me and my brother. He is now gravely ill, and we have brought him here to seek a cure."

The man scrutinized Xu Jian carefully, then silently nodded.

At that moment, Xu Jian's body was weak, seemingly losing his life force and on the brink of death. Martial Cultivators understand a bit about medicine and could tell at a glance that Xu Jian was close to death.

Meanwhile, a few guards who were responsible for overseeing the entrance and exit of the Hidden Sect hurried over, greeting the middle-aged man before turning their attention to Wang Lei and the others.

These were relatively young men, dispatched by various clans and sects to guard the gates, which indicated that they were not particularly accomplished within their own sects or families. Hence, none of them recognized Wang Lei.

"You two are members of the Langya Wang Family and possess Pass Tokens, so you naturally may come and go as you please. However, this man is an outsider, and according to the rules of the Hidden Sect, you should not have brought him here," the Lord Guardian said slowly.

Wang Lei immediately responded, "I hope the Senior can make an exception. The elderly gentleman indeed owes a favor to me and my brother. He sought our help, and we promised to find him medical treatments to extend his life for a few more years. Furthermore, once we bring him in, we will settle him within our family, ensuring he will not leave. This way, we would not be breaking the rules."

According to the rules of the Hidden Sect, without a Pass Token, one cannot leave freely, let alone bring outsiders into this world. If an outsider does enter, they must either be killed without discussion or, as Wang Lei said, not allowed to leave.

As long as those who come here do not depart, the existence of the Hidden Sect World will not be known to the common world.

Of course, there are exceptions for certain special individuals.

Zhang Yunlong and Qin Yanyang had both been to the Hidden Sect World and had also left it.

Before them, Zhang Wenfeng had entered and exited the Hidden Sect World even earlier.

But these were true masters of the Martial World, all Martial Artists themselves, concealing their identities in the mundane world. It was a great honor for them to be invited to the Hidden Sect as guests or for further cultivation, and it was only natural that they would not divulge anything about the Hidden Sect.

Xu Jian coughed weakly, saying, "Please, Lord Guardian, make an exception. This old man just wants to live a few more years. Once I enter, I will certainly not leave again. By the way, here is a check for two hundred million for the gentlemen to enjoy a cup of tea."

As he spoke, he boldly passed over a check.

This move left Wang Lei and Yang Fei a bit stunned, as they had not expected Xu Jian to pull such a stunt.

For the people of the Hidden Sect World, what use would an external check have?

Yet, Xu Jian, with the demeanor of a worldly and exceedingly wealthy old tycoon, had managed to convince the guards of his standing.

The Lord Guardian slightly furrowed his brow and, after hesitating a moment, casually gestured.

The check from Xu Jian's hand lightly floated into his.

He examined the check for a while, then smiled faintly and tucked the check into his chest, saying, "Since you are descendants of the Langya Wang Family, and you've agreed not to take this person out again, it doesn't count as a violation of the rules."

"What the Lord says is indeed true."

"It complies with the rules."



The other guards nodded their heads one after another.

If their leader had spoken thus, who were they to say more?

Not to mention the Langya Wang Family is one of the Eight Great Forces of the Hidden Sect World, even they hesitate to offend them lightly; being able to sell a favor to these two young masters might be useful in the future.

"Since you've returned here, your Pass Token is now void. I'll take it, and you can leave. Remember, don't let this man cause any trouble here; otherwise, you'll bear the consequences," the Lord Guardian scanned the three of them again and said with a wave of his hand.

Wang Lei smiled and clasped his hands in a bow, "Thank you, my lord. Rest assured, we understand the severity."

The Lord Guardian waved his hand, signaling the three of them that they could leave.

Wang Lei then nodded to the others and turned to leave with Yang Fei and Xu Jian.

Once the group was at a distance, one of the guards beside the Lord Guardian said, "It seems that the rumors are true. Recently more and more people are traveling, it's probably not long before the Hidden Sect World starts intervening in the mundane world."

"It's too early to talk about such matters, do not speculate wildly," the Lord Guardian huffed lightly.

"Yes," the guard immediately stopped talking but inwardly sneered with disdain.

If the Hidden Sect World wasn't planning to take major action in the world soon, then how could you possibly value a check worth two billion from the outside world? The Lord Guardian probably also fancied a stroll in the mundane world after completing this mission; otherwise, this check would be the equivalent of scrap paper in the Hidden Sect World.

"Shit, that worked?"

After walking a considerable distance, Yang Fei couldn't help but complain, "It seems money is a universal language everywhere, even two billion can buy compliance."

Xu Jian chuckled with a trace of scorn, clearly also sneering at the Lord Guardian for accepting his two-billion bribe.

Wang Lei, however, looked serious and said in a deep voice, "Don't you find this surprising?"

Yang Fei and Xu Jian were taken aback.

Wang Lei continued, "The Hidden Sect and the outside world are two unconnected realms. Under normal circumstances, people of the Hidden Sect would never leave here in their lifetime, but he accepted Senior Xu's check. This indicates that he, or someone from his family, might have the opportunity to go out."

Yang Fei silently nodded.

Xu Jian said, "Do you think the isolation between the Hidden Sect World and the outside is about to be broken and that the Hidden Sect people will start going out into the world more often for their cultivation?"

"Bullshit cultivation, it's just wanting to join the secular world," said Wang Lei.

Unsurprised by this, Xu Jian replied, "Us practitioners have made a fortune in the outside world, possessing endless wealth and certain special statuses, enjoying lives of luxury and leisure. These people from the Hidden Sect are even more formidable, naturally, they won't be content living these monotonous and ascetic lives forever. The Hidden Sect's immersion in the secular world is only a matter of time."

"Indeed, no one can withstand solitude. Once they realize that immortality is out of reach, these Hidden Sect Practitioners start thinking about living their finite lives to the fullest," Wang Lei added.

Shaking his head, Yang Fei said, "Nevermind that. Wang Lei, where is the Duanmu aristocratic family?"

Wang Lei looked at him and asked, "Are you sure you want to go to the Duanmu Family?"

"Nonsense, I came here to avenge my uncle and to seek justice for his death. If not the Duanmu Family, who else should I find?" Yang Fei said with determined eyes.

Although Duanmu Hai and Duanmu Yun had already been slain by his own hands, the Duanmu Family still needed to pay the price for it. Otherwise, his uncle's death would be in vain.

Most importantly, he wanted to make a notorious name for himself in the Hidden Sect World so everyone would remember one thing: anyone could come after Yang Fei, but they should never harm his family members.

Since ancient times, outlaws of the green forests had always adhered to the rule that calamity should not befall family members. These various clans and sects of the Hidden Sect profess to be paragons of justice, yet they do not measure up even to these bandits, not even upholding the most basic moral principles.

Chapter 419: Chasing the Flying Thieves on Horseback

"Let's head to the Duanmu Family," Xu Jian said to Yang Fei, "but, Little Brother Yang, before you trouble the Duanmu Family, could you perhaps help me with something?"

Yang Fei nodded, "Of course. Since we are together, we should look after each other. You came for the Body Seizing Technique, a matter I've always remembered. On our way to the Duanmu Family, let's first try to find some manuals related to the Body Seizing Technique."

Wang Lei, however, was unaware of this and his expression changed upon hearing this, he exclaimed in surprise, "Body Seizing Technique?"

He suddenly looked up at Xu Jian, his eyes filled with a hint of wariness.

Having grown up in the Hidden Sect, he was aware of various strange Immortality Techniques, and Body Seizing and Rebirth was a fairly well-known method. However, it was always considered a sinister practice, despised by people.

Xu Jian did not hide his intentions and nodded, "Yes, the Body Seizing Technique. My body's functions have long been depleted, and if not for the support of my True Yuan, I would have died physically. My coming to the Hidden Sect is to seek the Body Seizing Technique. Brother Wang, since you have lived in the Hidden Sect since childhood, have you ever heard of this technique?"

Wang Lei felt some aversion to the Body Seizing and Rebirth Technique, but since Xu Jian was brought by Yang Fei, he did not show displeasure and said, "I have heard of it, but I've never seen anyone use it. Perhaps those who practiced it were quite secretive; I might not have seen it."

Xu Jian frowned slightly, "Even the Hidden Sect does not have the Body Seizing Technique?"

Over the years, he had searched numerous ancient texts, and had seen fragments about the Body Seizing Technique therein, clearly stated as a Taoist method of immortality. It was mentioned in secular records as well, so it was not possible that the Hidden Sect lacked it.

Wang Lei shook his head, "I am not sure about this."

Seeing Xu Jian somewhat worried, Yang Fei spoke, "Senior, there's no need to worry. Since we are here, we will definitely clarify things. The Duanmu Family once participated in the siege against the Taoist sect and even divided some of the Taoist scriptures. Surely, we will be able to find some clues there."

Xu Jian's spirits lifted, and he nodded, "Indeed, talking more is useless; we must verify it ourselves to know the final outcome."

Wang Lei pointed towards the left and said, "This place is the southern side of the Hidden Sect. Heading northeast from here is the territory of the Duanmu Family, Muyun City."

Yang Fei said, "Brother Wang, please first explain the entire map of the Hidden Sect World to us, and also how vast it approximately is."

Xu Jian followed by nodding, looking towards Wang Lei.

Wang Lei said, "The map of the Hidden Sect World is very similar to Xinjiang, but the total area is only about nine hundred thousand square kilometers. Before I left, the available data estimated the population of the Hidden Sect to be over nine million."

While speaking, he used a branch to outline a rough contour on the ground, divided it into eight regions, and explained to Yang Fei and Xu Jian each Sect and family's location within those regions.

After a brief introduction, he pointed with a branch to the most central position, drew a circle and said, "This place was originally the Taoist stronghold. It was said to be the most splendid city in the Hidden Sect World, but after the Taoist sect was annihilated, the Eight Great Forces, in order to cover up everything about the Taoist sect, burned the city down and later built three smaller cities nearby, gradually replacing the influence of the central city."

"How many years has it been since the Taoist sect was annihilated?" Yang Fei asked.

Wang Lei thought for a moment, shook his head, and said, "I am not sure of the exact number of years, but it should be no more than eighty years."

Yang Fei asked again, "So before its annihilation, the Taoist sect was essentially the leader of the entire Hidden Sect World, right?"

"Yes," Wang Lei nodded, "It is said that the Hidden Sect World was originally carved out by the Taoist predecessors, a Cave Heaven Blessed Land belonging to the Taoist sect. Later, as natural disasters and human calamities made the outside world unsuitable for cultivation, the Taoist sect, to ensure the continuation of the cultivation heritage, brought the mainstream cultivation Sects and aristocratic families here, forming an independent world. However, over time, the Spiritual Energy of the Hidden Sect World has been decreasing, making it increasingly difficult to continue the once-flourishing cultivation tradition."

Yang Fei slightly furrowed his brows, puzzled, "According to what you say, was the cultivation in the past really very prosperous? Could there really be an Immortality cultivation path?"

Xu Jian said, "Indeed, there was."

Wang Lei glanced at Xu Jian and mused, "According to some legends, once cultivation reaches a certain height, one's personal abilities become extremely powerful, capable of summoning wind and rain, or soaring between the heavens and the earth. Isn't that akin to immortals in the eyes of mortals? As for whether one can achieve immortality, no one knows. At least, in the Hidden Sect World, there are no immortal beings alive."

Yang Fei nodded and said, "For the common folks outside, we cultivators already possess extraordinary abilities. Although we're not immortals, we are indeed anomalies and extraordinary beings in their eyes. According to the rule that the realms of cultivation are becoming lower and lower, the cultivators of the past might truly have realms beyond our imagination."

Xu Jian waved his hand and said, "Let's not talk about this anymore. For me right now, finding the Body Seizing Technique is crucial to continue my life. For you, if you can find more suitable cultivation methods, you will be able to go further in the future. Let's go to the Duanmu Family in Muyun City first."

The three of them headed in the direction of Muyun City, and soon were on an official road.

"The outside world's technology is so advanced, yet here it's like the technology level of the ancient feudal times. The contrast is really too great," Yang Fei couldn't help but complain. "The Hidden Sect isn't isolated. Why not introduce some technological devices from the outside world?"

Wang Lei shook his head, "If those things appeared here, this would no longer be the Hidden Sect."

"At least get some steam cars or something. That would make traveling easier," said Yang Fei.

Xu Jian laughed and shook his head, "The presence of those things here would be out of place. I rather like this lifestyle of traveling far on one's own legs."

Wang Lei said, "If we come across a small town ahead, we can buy horses. That would make our journey much faster."

The three of them walked and talked, with Yang Fei and Xu Jian becoming more and more satisfied with their surroundings.

The spiritual energy of the heavens and earth was rich; moving while circulating their inner cultivation techniques achieved excellent cultivation effects. Indeed, it was a sacred place for cultivation.

It wasn't long before the sound of horse hooves approached from behind.

The three stopped and looked back. Though they couldn't see anyone yet, they could clearly hear the sound of horse hooves steadily getting closer.

"A ride with the wind," Yang Fei laughed heartily. "If they don't give us a lift, let's play robbers just this once."

Wang Lei responded dryly, "Where's your morality?"

Yang Fei laughed, "Just kidding."

Amid their laughter, dust rose in the woods and the neighing of horses followed.

The first thing that came into view was a chestnut horse. Atop the horse, a woman dressed in red spurred her mount and cracked her whip, her face filled with urgency.

"Out of the way!"

The woman in red, seeing the three men standing in the middle of the road, immediately shouted loudly while swinging her whip, which cracked through the air creating bursts of sound.

Wang Lei was the first to dodge to the side, pulling Yang Fei with him, genuinely worried that Yang Fei might cause trouble.

Yang Fei simply smiled and dodged along with Wang Lei, while Xu Jian also stepped aside to clear the way.

"Fellows ahead, please help stop this female thief. Giant Sword Manor will be greatly thankful!"

Just then, a robust and powerful voice came from afar. At the end of the road, a burly man with a curled mustache chased after the woman on horseback. Behind him, dust swirled as over ten robust men followed suit, evidently in pursuit of the woman in red.

Chapter 420:

Hearing the name "Giant Sword Manor," Wang Lei's expression changed.

Yang Fei and Xu Jian also found it familiar, recalling it as one of the Eight Great Forces previously mentioned by Wang Lei, and also a very dominant Sect force.

Normally, when a thief pursued by one of the Eight Great Forces is encountered, Hidden Sect Practitioners would assist in the capture, which is why the bearded man had reminded them, asking Yang Fei and the others to help intercept the woman.

They just needed to slightly delay her for a moment, and they would be able to catch up and apprehend the lady in red.

However, none of the three moved.

They didn't know each other well, so why should they help intercept someone for him?

Whoosh!

The red-clad woman spurred her horse and darted past the trio.

It seemed that only then did she get a clear look at the attire of the three, a look of surprise in her eyes.



Yang Fei and the others also got a clear look at the woman's appearance.

She indeed was a stunningly beautiful woman, with delicate features and skin like creamy jade, and her elegant poise while riding added to her charm, making any man take notice with admiration.

Yang Fei, having experienced women before, and with both Tong Yunshu and Qin Yanyang being top beauties of the highest tier, found the woman before him astonishing, but she was not enough to captivate his heart, so he looked away after a glance.

Yet it was the transition of his gaze towards the pursuing group, sweeping over Wang Lei's face, that triggered a thought.

Wang Lei wore a look of surprise, and it lingered on the figure of the woman in red for quite some time.

Having known Wang Lei for many years, Yang Fei knew that although he was not one to shun females, he was also not particularly lecherous, so it wouldn't be like him to be so distracted by a woman.

Most importantly, the look of astonishment in his eyes made Yang Fei feel as though he might recognize the red-clad woman.

In that moment of distraction, the bearded man had already caught up.

"Useless trash!"

The bearded man cursed angrily, and the horsewhip in his hand began to lash out directly at the three of them, clearly displeased with them.

He had announced the name of Giant Sword Manor, yet these three didn't show the least bit of face, letting the female thief escape right before their eyes.

Utterly infuriating!

A fierce look flashed in Yang Fei's eyes, just as he was to make a move, his heart suddenly skipped a beat.

An intense blade intent suddenly erupted.

With a flash of the blade, Wang Lei had already made his move.

His strike was as swift as thunder, and the bearded strong man, who was arrogant about his identity and believed no one would dare to provoke Giant Sword Manor, was caught off guard.

By the time Wang Lei struck, the man, relying on his keen sense, sensed the danger too late to raise a defense. With a cry of alarm, he kicked his feet, propelling his body into the air, soaring into the sky.

"Pfft!"

The stallion let out a mournful neigh, its momentum carrying it forward. However, midway, it split in two.

Blood poured out like water from a bucket onto the middle of the road, dampening some of the dust.

To slice a horse in two, the speed and might of this blade were indeed formidable.

The bearded man, suspended in the air, looked down to see his beloved steed slain, feeling both shock and rage, and drew out a giant broadsword from behind, which was about one meter eighty in length and about twenty centimeters in width. He brought it down towards Wang Lei's head with the force of thunder.

"Seeking death!"

A murderous look flashed in Wang Lei's eyes. The ground beneath his feet cracked, and his body rocketed into the air like a missile, slashing furiously with his sword.

"Clang!"

Sparks flew as the steel sword collided with the giant sword, with a shockingly visible notch appearing on the latter.

The burly man with the twisted beard found his heavy sword unexpectedly blocked by Wang Lei's single strike, and his robust body was also shockingly catapulted into the air, causing his expression to drastically change as he bellowed, "Damn, they're tough! Kill them!"

Not a word was exchanged before they called for killing—this is the true Martial Arts World!

The seven or eight riders who were pursuing from behind had now rushed up close, seeing their leader engaged in combat, they didn't hesitate at all and charged at Yang Fei and Xu Jian, the one in the lead, still on horseback, drew his broadsword and viciously hacked towards Yang Fei.

Yang Fei's eyes flashed with a sharp light, and his telekinesis surged forth, his powerful spiritual power directly assaulted the man's brain.

That man had not yet grasped Divine Thought, and utterly unprepared, was immediately stupefied, losing consciousness on the spot.

Yang Fei reached out and grabbed, remarkably grasping the edge of the broadsword with his bare palm, twisting and turning, the broadsword fell into his hands.

With a counter-sweep of his hand, the broadsword smashed brutally onto the man's head, which burst open instantly; the body was flung off the horse.

To tell the story, it seems long, but in reality, from the moment Yang Fei made his move to when he killed the man, it took no more than two seconds.

The mental attack was instantaneous, and the disarming and counter-killing were concurrent with the mental assault; his movements were blindingly quick, resolving the combat in two seconds.

With a slight exertion of his palm, the broadsword dropped, and the handle fell into his hand.

Wielding the broadsword, which weighed around one hundred and fifty catties, Yang Fei found it extremely handy and serviceable; he brandished the broadsword and struck at another man.

"Pfft!"

That man had launched his attack slightly sooner, but before his sweep could fully connect, his body was cleaved into two by Yang Fei's sword.

In comparison, Yang Fei was much too fast; the two were simply not on the same level.

"Pfft, pfft, pfft!!!"

Yang Fei stood in the middle of the road wielding the sword; the seven experts from Giant Sword Manor collectively charged at him. Some leaped from their horses, slashing down with both hands while in mid-air, only to be bisected by a single stroke from Yang Fei.

They were no match for him in a single exchange.

Without the slightest hint of mercy, Yang Fei took the lives of these seven men in just a few breaths' time.

Only the uncontrollably neighing horses continued to do so, some running wildly into the woods, some galloping along the official road, and some slowing down after losing their riders.

"Ding!"

With a loud clang, Wang Lei sent the burly, twisted-bearded man flying with a slash; after soaring over ten meters, he fell to the ground, kicking up dust aplenty, and barely managed to stand up by propping himself with his giant sword. When he turned his gaze back to Wang Lei and Yang Fei, his eyes were

filled with shock, and he spat out a mouthful of blood before he struggled to speak, "Who... who are you to dare challenge Giant Sword Manor?"

"That's it?"

Yang Fei, holding the broadsword, approached Wang Lei with a look of utter disinterest.

Wang Lei was speechless and could only grimace, saying, "These are just some small fries."

The burly man with the twisted beard was named Zhao Changgong, a skilled fighter in Giant Sword Manor, his combat prowess akin to the Unique Tier of the secular Martial World. Coupled with his status as a Giant Sword Manor disciple, such a man carried considerable repute in the Hidden Sects.

But today, he had never expected to encounter three such formidable youths.

Hearing Wang Lei refer to himself as a small fry, Zhao Changgong almost coughed up a mouthful of old blood.

A Hall Master of the Giant Sword Manor is now deemed a small fry?

Yet, as he observed the bodies of his subordinates scattered across the ground, fear and dread seized him once more. His gaze swept across the faces of Yang Fei and Wang Lei as he asked in a heavy tone, "Who... who exactly are you?"

Wang Lei replied with cold indifference, "You seem not to understand the situation. You're a prisoner; you have no right to question us."

The burly man was at a loss for words, his eyes darting around, seemingly searching for a way to escape.

Dozens of meters away by the side of the official road, a red-clothed lady on horseback came to a halt in the distance. She had stopped after hearing the fight behind her, and after witnessing the bravery of Wang Lei and Yang Fei, she was stunned.

Intending to thank the two, she was concerned they might kill her to silence her as they had killed the people from Giant Sword Manor, so she kept her distance and did not approach.

After observing for a while and seeing them questioning the burly man, the red-clothed lady pondered for a moment, then, putting safety first, she spurred her horse and left.

In the midst of the scene, Yang Fei saw the red-clothed lady depart and couldn't help but laugh towards Wang Lei, "Brother Lei, you play the hero to save the damsel, and yet she seems unappreciative, making a swift exit. How about I handle things here, and you catch up with her to reminisce a bit?"