

Overlord 421

Chapter 421: Nan Zhao City

Listening to Yang Fei's teasing, Wang Lei didn't respond, but he looked up to watch the woman in red leave, making no effort to hide his gaze.

Once the woman disappeared at the end of the road, Wang Lei turned to Zhao Changgong and asked, "Why are you pursuing her?"

Zhao Changgong said, "Qi Hongshao stole something important from Giant Sword Manor."

Wang Lei's expression changed slightly, it really was her.

After ten years, he hadn't expected her to become such an extraordinary beauty.

But how had she fallen to such a state?

Although the Qi Family wasn't one of the Eight Great Forces, it was a powerful family just below them, having allegedly acquired a special cultivation technique during the war that destroyed the Taoist sects, which quickly led to their rise.

As a daughter of the Qi Family, how could she be a thief, let alone provoke Giant Sword Manor?

Wasn't this just looking for trouble for the Qi Family?

"What did she steal?" His thoughts flashed quickly, but Wang Lei didn't forget to inquire aloud.

Zhao Changgong's expression changed several times and then he said, "If I tell you, can I live?"

Wang Lei frowned.

Yang Fei had killed all of Giant Sword Manor's subordinates cleanly, thoroughly offending Giant Sword Manor. Releasing Zhao Changgong wasn't that just asking for trouble?

Zhao Changgong seemingly realized he had asked a redundant question and sarcastically said, "I know I am certainly going to die today, but before I die I want to die with clarity. If I answer your question, could you tell me who you are? Your attire looks like it's from the outside world, but your abilities are extraordinary and you are so young, it's impossible that you grew up on the outside."

Wang Lei thought for a moment and said, "My name is Wang Lei."

Zhao Changgong's expression shifted, a hint of confusion appearing on his face, "Wang Lei? That name sounds familiar, somewhat rings a bell."

"Langya Wang Family," Wang Lei stated.

Zhao Changgong was moved and said, "You are from the Wang Family? Wang Lei... right, are you that genius of the Wang Family from those years?"

Wang Lei said, "I have already answered your question."

Knowing that Wang Lei would not disclose any more information, Zhao Changgong did not press further but with a resigned expression said, "Meeting you is also fate, I don't feel wronged by my loss."

"I don't want to hear nonsense," Wang Lei said coldly.

Zhao Changgong said, "I can't escape. Since I'm going to die anyway, as Zhao Changgong, I am not one to cling to life. I will certainly not tell you this secret."

Having said that, he unexpectedly committed suicide with his sword.

Yang Fei could have prevented it, but seeing such a valorous act, he had a measure of respect and didn't intervene.

Wang Lei frowned slightly, muttering to himself, "What exactly is it that she risks angering Giant Sword Manor just to obtain it?"

Yang Fei laughed and said, "Just chase after her and ask, then you'll know."

Wang Lei looked in the direction the woman in red had gone, shaking his head slowly, "Things have changed, today's interference was me repaying a bit of past connection. Since she didn't recognize me, let's not meet again. Besides, my intervention was also because Zhao Changgong was too arrogant; had he not attacked us, I wouldn't have needed to..."

"Come on, I hadn't even made a move and you already had your knife out. Clearly, it was for that woman in red called Qi Hongshao. Tsk tsk, no need to explain, Brother Lei, you're a man with a story, I get it," Yang Fei teased, laughing.

Seeing him say this, Wang Lei didn't bother to explain further but instead flashed a knowing smile, saying, "Let's go, you just complained about being tired, and here someone brought us horses, so no need to grumble now. But first, we should change our clothes, otherwise entering the town in our current attire will be too conspicuous and could bring trouble."

Including Zhao Changgong, Giant Sword Manor had a total of nine people and nine horses. Although two horses had been killed and several had run away, there were still four horses lingering nearby.

The three of them first changed into long robes and ancient attire, and conveniently searched the bodies for some copper coins and gold and silver valuables. Then, they selected three good horses, calmed the frightened animals, mounted, and set off along the official road.

As an old man nearing his end, Xu Jian had observed the recent skirmish and deepened his understanding of the strength of the two young men, Yang Fei and Wang Lei.

Sitting on horseback, Xu Jian sighed, "Being young is wonderful."

Yang Fei and Wang Lei glanced at him, as if they had just remembered that the man beside them was over one hundred thirty years old.

"That's why I can understand the elder's desire for immortality," Yang Fei said.

Xu Jian replied, "You'll understand when you reach my age."

Wang Lei said, "I believe the meaning of life is not in immortality, but in its richness. If there is no passion, no pursuit, and no love, then immortality would also be a form of torture."

Xu Jian laughed, "That sounds nice, but who doesn't covet the bustling life of this world?"

Yang Fei waved his hand, "Let's not talk about this." He then turned to Wang Lei and asked, "Brother Lei, tell me your story. I'm really curious why you decided to leave the Hidden Sect World back then."

Wang Lei replied, "Haven't I already told you?"

Yang Fei shook his head, "That doesn't count, there must have been something very important that happened that made you decide to leave, even at the cost of changing from the Wang Family's prodigy to its outcast."

Wang Lei remained silent.

Seeing his reluctance, Yang Fei dropped the joking tone and smiled, "Never mind, if you don't want to talk about it, let's see who rides better, come on!"

He whipped his horse, and the steed neighed and surged forward.

Wang Lei seemed to understand Yang Fei's intentions and hurriedly followed after him.

Xu Jian followed behind with a chuckling smile, muttering, "Youth is truly wonderful."

After chasing for more than half an hour without catching up to Qi Hongshao, the terrain suddenly flattened out, and a majestic wall made of tamped earth enclosed a bustling town that appeared in their vision.

There were no skyscrapers, only ancient buildings from ancient times in the Divine Continent.

The city gates were wide open without any soldiers guarding them.

Although Yang Fei and Xu Jian were mentally prepared, they were still somewhat shocked to see such authentic ancient buildings and towns before their eyes.

A moment later, Yang Fei couldn't resist asking, "Is there no military guard for such city walls? By the way, does this place have a state?"

Wang Lei shook his head, "No, but there is a City Lord. The city is open during the day, but at night, the gates are closed and guarded. It's not to prevent enemy attacks, but to protect the citizens from wild animals that might come out of the woods."

Xu Jian sighed, "From what you say, this place indeed seems like an ideal place to live."

After a moment, Wang Lei said, "According to the records, when the Taoist Sect still existed, this truly was a paradise on earth. All the powers followed the rules, and people here lived very happily."

Xu Jian expressed surprise and asked with a smile, "Did things change after the Taoist Sect was destroyed?"

"Without the restraint of the Taoist Sect, powerful clans and Sects began to exploit resources, and life became harder for the common people," Wang Lei explained.

Yang Fei added, "It is inevitable. Human civilization has developed for thousands, even longer, of years. Countless systems have existed and have continuously been refined. But no matter how perfect a system is, it needs people to adhere to it. Human nature is complex and greedy, so these systems only really hold sway over the weak, and to the powerful, they are virtually nonexistent."

"Nan Zhao City."

While talking, they had arrived near the city gate, where three big characters hung.

Previously, Wang Lei had briefly explained the distribution of power here. Yang Fei and Xu Jian still remembered that this place was located in the southern part of the Hidden Sect, Nan Zhao City being the southernmost city, not large, with a population of less than a hundred thousand, under the jurisdiction of the Nangong Family.

Chapter 422: is really going to change.

In Nan Zhao City, at a window seat of a tavern, Yang Fei and two others sat at a table, drinking and eating meat.

The brewing level here was extremely high; the taste of the liquor even surpassed that of the so-called top four national liquors of the outside world. Moreover, beef was not forbidden here, and the braised beef was abundant enough to satisfy anyone.

"To experience this kind of bold and carefree joy of the Martial Arts World, the trip was indeed worthwhile," Yang Fei said with a smile, holding a large bowl of liquor.

Wang Lei nodded and responded, "Compared to the hustle and bustle of the outside world, I do miss the straightforward disputes and carefree interactions here."

Xu Jian quietly sat on one side, also drinking heavily and eating meat, his profound gaze sweeping across the youthful faces of Yang Fei and Wang Lei, seemingly filled with envy.

Youth was indeed an asset.

In such a wonderful world, only with a young and robust body could one truly enjoy it.

After they had their fill, just as the three were about to leave, a sudden commotion occurred outside, and dense footsteps followed. A chilly voice then commanded, "Surround this place, no one leaves without my order."

A young man at the entrance, accompanied by several attendants, entered briskly. His sharp eyes quickly swept through the crowd in the tavern and soon fixed on Yang Fei and his companions, before he strode towards them.

Yang Fei and his friends were inwardly cautious but didn't take it too seriously.

Although this was the Hidden Sect World, with their combat power, they could virtually do as they pleased, as long as they didn't encounter top-tier fighters.

Though this young man exuded murderous aura and an imposing momentum, his Realm was close to that of Zhao Changgong, which posed no threat to the three of them.

"Were the people killed on the official road thirty miles southwest done by you?" the young man asked coldly, his eyes piercing as he locked onto Yang Fei and his companions.

Yang Fei was internally shocked, not expecting the local investigation to be so swift that they could pinpoint suspects so soon after the incident.

Wang Lei frowned slightly and responded sternly, "We don't understand what you're talking about."

The young man kept watching their expressions. When he mentioned the murder, and none showed any change in expression, he grew somewhat puzzled. Had he guessed wrong?

Though filled with doubts, the young man forcefully declared, "I am Nangong Yuheng, from the Nan Zhao City Lord Mansion. The City Lord Mansion governs everything within a hundred miles of Nan Zhao City. A major case occurred recently thirty miles to the southwest, and I suspect it was you three. Come with us."

Nine people from the Giant Sword Manor were killed, including the expert Zhao Changgong. The incident happened on Nangong Family territory. If the Nangong Family didn't clear the case promptly, it would inevitably lead to a conflict with the Giant Sword Manor.

In these troublesome times, the Nangong Family definitely did not want to have unpleasant dealings with the Giant Sword Manor.

"Like I said, we don't know what you are talking about. Why should we accompany you without any evidence?" Wang Lei said assertively.

Nangong Yuheng raised his eyebrows, staring at Wang Lei and asked, "Dare you resist?"

Wang Lei retorted, "What right do you have to investigate us?"

Yang Fei laughed.

This was the essence of the Martial Arts World.

In the outside world, Nangong Yuheng could simply show his credentials and proceed by the law.

But here, you, Nangong Yuheng, claim to represent the Nangong Family and believe that you govern everything within a hundred miles, but we don't acknowledge your right to manage this matter or recognize your status as a Law Enforcer.

This is the Martial Arts World.

Depending on the martial prowess to impose rules, you have your norms, I have my reasoning; in the absence of a robust legal system, society falls into chaos.

"By what right?"

Nangong Yuheng thought he had misheard and, after a brief pause, started laughing. Observing Wang Lei, he said, "Kid, are you new to the Martial Arts World? You actually dare ask such a naive question?"

Wang Lei slowly shook his head and responded, "Regardless of whether I am inexperienced, I only know that one cannot arrest people without solid evidence."

"This is Nan Zhao City, the territory of the Nangong Family," Nangong Yuheng reminded.

Wang Lei snickered disdainfully, "Don't try to scare me with the Nangong Family. I come from the Langya Wang Family."

Nangong Yuheng's expression changed upon hearing this, staring at Wang Lei, "Are you truly a member of the Langya Wang Family?"

Wang Lei replied, "The real deal."

To minimize trouble, he had no choice but to use the name of the Langya Wang Family.

Given Nangong Yuheng's assertive nature, he would definitely bring the three for investigation today, which would be too time-consuming. He knew Yang Fei, who would definitely not cooperate with the investigation willingly.

Rather than coming to blows with them, it was better to test if the name of the Langya Wang Family still held sway.

Nangong Yuheng grew serious, asking, "Do you have proof?"

Wang Lei drew his blade, and thunder rumbled through the void, as if thunderclaps were about to descend.

A trace of shock flashed in Xu Jian's deep eyes—such a bizarre saber technique that could communicate with the Thunder Power of heaven and earth!

Nangong Yuheng's complexion drastically changed, "Thunderclap Saber Technique!"

Immediately, he clasped his hands in front, addressing Wang Lei very politely, "So you are a son of the Langya Wang Family. I was rude just now, my apologies."

The Langya Wang Family was famous for many martial arts, but the Thunderclap Saber Technique was definitely the most renowned, and could only be cultivated by members of the direct lineage.

Most crucially, the man in front of him was so young yet had managed to cultivate the Thunderclap Saber Technique to such a level. His talent was evident, marking him as a highly significant person within the Langya Wang Family—definitely not someone he could afford to offend.

Wang Lei secretly breathed a sigh of relief.

The name of the Langya Wang Family was indeed useful, sparing him a lot of trouble.

Although he had been expelled from the Langya Wang Family, he was not a pedantic person and took no issue with using the family's name.

"No worries, you have your stance," Wang Lei said.

The other party had given him face, and he needed to show some measure of tact in return.

"By the way, you mentioned a murder case. Seeing how anxious you look, the identity of the victim must be quite extraordinary, right?" Wang Lei asked insincerely.

This question made Nangong Yuheng even less likely to suspect him. He said, "It was people from the Giant Sword Manor that were killed, a total of nine. This incident happened not far outside Nan Zhao City, and the Nangong Family must put on a show, otherwise, they wouldn't be able to explain to the Giant Sword Manor."

Understanding the situation, Wang Lei nodded, saying, "Who would be so bold as to harm so many from the Giant Sword Manor, and what could they possibly want by doing so?"

As he asked this last question, he stared into Nangong Yuheng's eyes.

Nangong Yuheng shook his head, "I don't know."

Wang Lei was somewhat disappointed, as he could see that Nangong Yuheng indeed did not know the reason.

"What is your esteemed name, Brother Wang? Although there have been many offenses today, Nangong Yuheng likes to make friends," Nangong Yuheng asked Wang Lei.

"Wang Lin," Wang Lei casually gave a name.

Nangong Yuheng searched his mind and felt he had never heard this name, yet he harbored no doubts. Instead, he thought that the Langya Wang Family was indeed unfathomable, to have such an unknown talented youth.

Of course, he also guessed that the other party might be using an alias, but he was not foolish enough to pry further.

"I must continue my investigation of this case, so I will take my leave now." Nangong Yuheng also had his pride and, seeing that the other party did not seem eager to befriend him, he took his leave.

After leaving the restaurant and walking some distance, a thin man beside Nangong Yuheng suddenly lowered his voice, "My lord, these three seemed very suspicious, and their clothes are much like those taken from three others who lost theirs. Why did you not continue to question them?"

Nangong Yuheng snorted, "Fool, this matter involves the Langya Wang Family. How could the Nangong Family easily interfere? We need only to inform the Giant Sword Manor of the incident truthfully."

"The young master has thought of everything," the thin man said.

Looking up at the sky, Nangong Yuheng sighed to himself, "The skies might really be changing. Losing something so important, how could the Giant Sword Manor let this go easily? Is this really the doing of the Langya Wang Family?"

Chapter 423: Xu Jian Uses Poison

The three of them did not stay overnight in Nan Zhao City.

After the inn's server had filled the three fine horses with feed, he led them to the trio.

Mounting their horses at the eastern gate of Nan Zhao City, the three rode at breakneck speed toward the direction of the Duanmu Family.

Whenever they were tired, they would rest right on the spot, and if they encountered a village or town, they would fill their stomachs. With a clear goal and unwavering determination to travel, it only took them three days to cross a thousand miles to reach the Duanmu Family's territory.

"In another two hours we'll arrive at Muyun City. The horses need a rest," Wang Lei mentioned, feeling the heavy breathing of his mount.

Yang Fei and Xu Jian nodded, and the three of them found a patch of green grass to stop and let the horses graze and rest.

"Yang Fei, do you have any plan?" Wang Lei asked him.

Yang Fei shook his head, "What kind of plan could there be? It's nothing more than sneaking in quietly first to see if we can find places like the Duanmu Family's Scripture Pavilion, to look for the Body Seizing Technique."

Wang Lei laughed, "That's fine. I was actually worried you'd be arrogant enough to attempt a direct assault."

Yang Fei laughed heartily, "I'm not that reckless."

In the past few days, the three of them also encountered many people from the Martial Arts World and even had verbal altercations, but the strength of those they met was insufficient to threaten them. Wang Lei was genuinely worried that this might make Yang Fei underestimate the strength of the Hidden Sect World.

"I have a plan," Wang Lei said to Yang Fei. "But it might not work."

Both Yang Fei and Xu Jian looked at him, the latter asked, "What plan?"

Wang Lei explained, "I used to know someone from the Duanmu Family. His name is Duanmu Cheng, a direct descendant of the Duanmu Family. Although his Martial Arts talent is average, he is deeply favored by the Duanmu Family's elder and is responsible for internal affairs. He's good at doing business, and ever since he took over, the family's coffers have been filling up, giving him a certain degree of influence within the family. We could start with him."

"What do we do?" asked Yang Fei.

Wang Lei said, "Get close to him, and through him, enter the Duanmu Family."

Yang Fei frowned, "If I were Duanmu Cheng, I definitely wouldn't easily trust three strangers who suddenly approached me, and even if I did, I wouldn't readily introduce them into the Duanmu Family."

Xu Jian silently nodded in agreement, "That's right, that won't work. And to gain Duanmu Cheng's trust would take too long."

With no other option, Wang Lei said, "In that case, I don't have a better plan."

Yang Fei's expression was resolute as he said, "My only purpose in entering the Hidden Sect is to intimidate those ghosts and goblins, to let them know I'm not to be trifled with. If it weren't for Senior Xu's need to seek the Body Seizing and Rebirth Technique, I would have taken action against the Duanmu Family directly."

Although he had said earlier he wouldn't act rashly or underestimate the Hidden Sect's experts, he also had confidence in himself.

He felt that with his current Realm, even if he couldn't match the top experts of the Hidden Sect, he still had some assurance of escape.

His legs had been tempered and his speed was now much faster than before, which bolstered his confidence even more.

While their horses rested, the three discussed strategies for a while. Eventually, Xu Jian decided to sneak in quietly to see if he could find the Body Seizing and Rebirth Technique, while Yang Fei would wait for Xu Jian's investigation of the Duanmu Family's library before causing trouble for the Duanmu Family.

With their plan set, once the horses were well-fed and watered, they prepared to advance towards Muyun City.

Just then, the sound of neighing came from behind them.

Soon after, a series of whistle signals echoed.

Xu Jian, seasoned in the Martial Arts World, and Yang Fei and Wang Lei, who had spent many years in the Underworld, instantly recognized the sounds as signaling for an encounter.

The three looked at each other, and Wang Lei suggested, "Shall we go have a look?"

Yang Fei was curious as well.

However, Xu Jian shook his head and said, "This world of the Hidden Sect is full of such strife and killing. We have our own business to attend to; best not to invite trouble."

Yang Fei and Wang Lei slowly nodded, feeling that Xu Jian was right. They were about to bypass the area and head toward Muyun City when they realized that dozens of people were encircling them from the direction of Muyun City, including some formidable figures.

With a worried expression, Xu Jian said, "This is bad, it seems like they have mistaken us for the enemy."

Yang Fei's ears moved slightly, and he could hear whispering from afar, "That woman surely has a backup plan, lucky Mr. Four was prepared, otherwise, they would have escaped."

Although the voice was quite low, Yang Fei's keen hearing picked it up.

Xu Jian heard it too. He glanced at Yang Fei and whispered, "What do we do?"

"We're already wrapped up like dumplings, what else can we do but fight our way out?" Yang Fei said with an indifferent laugh.

He understood what Xu Jian was suggesting: to take a detour and flee this place, to avoid entanglements. But Yang Fei had never been one to avoid trouble.

The reason he had held back recently was due to injuries that compromised his fighting ability. Now that his strength had returned, even stronger than before, the pride and confidence of the King of Madmen had also returned.

Wang Lei was well aware of Yang Fei's temperament and smiled as he drew his steel knife.

Just as they were about to make a move, suddenly a cold and clear reprimand from a woman came from behind, "Scoundrels, Duanmu Cheng breaks his word, trying to betray and devour, huh?"

The voice was cold and melodious, very pleasant to hear.

Wang Lei's expression changed drastically, and he immediately tensed up, looking towards the forest behind.

Although the voice seemed close, it was actually hundreds of meters away.

Yang Fei also felt that the woman's voice was somewhat familiar but couldn't remember who it was. However, seeing Wang Lei's expression, he immediately recalled the woman in red.

"Go quickly, lest you regret it later!" Yang Fei said with a smile.

Without any hesitation, Wang Lei's figure flashed as he crouched and made his way into the dense forest behind them.

Yang Fei didn't expect him to be so decisive and was stunned for a moment before cursing with a laugh, "Fuck, you abandon your brothers for a woman."

Xu Jian chuckled, folding his arms and saying, "I'll leave these fights and kills to you young people."

Yang Fei laughed heartily upon hearing this, "I'll leave this place to the senior. My brother is impetuous; I need to go check on him."

Having said that, he turned and left.

Xu Jian smiled indifferently and took no offense.

Dozens of people approached from the front. The one leading them waved his hand and commanded, "Don't let those two kids escape, chase!"

At his command, the martial artists who had been approaching quietly now revealed themselves, some with the ferocity of thunder, moving through the forest as if flying, others leaping from branch to branch, plucking flowers and leaves in their haste.

As Xu Jian watched these people attempting to bypass him to pursue Yang Fei and Wang Lei, a trace of icy coldness flashed across his deep eyes. With a wave of his hand, a thick smog instantly spread out in all directions.

"Ugh..."

Above Xu Jian's head, one of the martial artists suddenly sensed something was amiss and covered his mouth and nose, about to warn the others, but he felt weak and fell from the tree, spitting blood upon impact and convulsing a few times before dying on the spot.

"Damn it, it's... poison... ugh..."

Someone managed to send out a warning, but had overestimated their resistance to poison, collapsing immediately after speaking.

Within a ten-meter radius semi-circular area in front of Xu Jian, in just that instant, nine people had fallen.

Three of them reacted swiftly, retreating quickly. Even though they had only inhaled a small amount of the toxin, their faces still turned black, and they held their breath trying to expel the toxin from their bodies.

How overbearing!

The other twelve, feeling a great threat, no longer dared to approach Xu Jian. One of them, with sharp eyes, fixed his gaze on Xu Jian and spoke with a heavy voice, "Who are you, could you be a senior from the Poison Sect?"

Xu Jian silently noted the term Poison Sect, realizing that in the Hidden Sect World, the Poison Sect was skilled in using poison.

But faced with the inquiry, he completely ignored the man, instead counter-asking, "Why have you come?"

Chapter 424: Black on Black in the Martial Arts World

Hearing Xu Jian's question, the leader was clearly taken aback and exclaimed, "You're not with Qi Hongshao?"

Xu Jian shook his head, "I don't know her."

Although he had seen Qi Hongshao once several days ago and had learned from Yang Fei and Wang Lei's conversation that Wang Lei and Qi Hongshao may have known each other in the past—and their relationship was not shallow—he indeed did not know this Qi Hongshao.

That these people were surrounding the three of them was truly a misunderstanding.

But now, whatever he said was useless; a grudge had already been formed.

The leader wished he could die—if the other party truly did not know Qi Hongshao, then his many brothers had died in vain.

"Regardless of whether you know that thieving woman, you've killed so many of our brothers; you deserve to die!" the leader growled.

Xu Jian simply smiled, "Come on then."

He didn't move, just stood there, but the twelve men looked at each other and not a single one dared to approach him.

The deterrence of a poison master is just that awesome.

Moreover, poison works as an area attack, so numbers are useless.

Seeing that the other party did not make a move, Xu Jian said with a smile, "Since you won't make a move, then I will."

As he spoke, he reached out towards the leader.

In the void, a gale howled and an invisible force instantly enveloped the leader, who felt as if an invisible giant hand had suddenly gripped his body, giving him an indescribable sense of suffocation.

"An Innate Master!" Horror flickered in the man's eyes, his face turning red as he suddenly roared, his True Qi surging wildly within him, eliciting a powerful Protective Gang Qi that resisted the invisible force.

An Innate Master who could use poison was too terrifying.

After breaking free from the restraints, the man immediately retreated and shouted, "Send a signal, call for reinforcements!"

Hiss!

A sharp whistle pierced the air as a signal flare shot up into the sky, bursting several dozen meters up, displaying a splendid phoenix pattern.

Xu Jian was slightly surprised; he hadn't expected that man's strength to be decent enough to break free from his confinement.

Seeing that the signal had already been sent, a cold light flashed in his eyes and his figure flickered as he pounced towards the opposite side.

A minute later, the battle ended.

The leader was left lying on the ground with just a breath left in him.

Looking down at him from above, Xu Jian asked, "Who do you work for and what are you here to do?"

"It doesn't matter who you are, even if you're from the Poison Sect, by offending Mr. Four, you've only got one path left—death!"

After speaking, the leader's mouth overflowed with a trace of fresh blood; he was indeed a tough man, choosing to bite his tongue and commit suicide.

Xu Jian shook his head helplessly, and after searching all the people on site, he found some gold and silver valuables along with a silver token engraved with a phoenix totem.

Presumably, it belonged to a certain organization within the Hidden Sect. He'd ask Wang Lei, a local, later on.

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Deep in the dense forest, Qi Hongshao was dressed in red, with only a chestnut-colored steed accompanying her.

Surrounded by her were a group of people armed with swords and spears, encircling her completely.

Across from her stood a man in purple, with his hands behind his back, looking at Qi Hongshao and saying, "Hand it over and I can give you a quick end."

Qi Hongshao laughed, "You're all so impatient. I, Qi Hongshao, have been wandering the Martial Arts World for years; how could I be unprepared? I've hidden the item in a secure place long ago—if I die, you'll never get your hands on it."

The man in purple slightly furrowed his brows, then relaxed them and spoke indifferently, "The Qi Family has fallen for too long, to the point where you've forgotten that there are many strong people in this world who possess special means to make others tell the truth, right?"

Qi Hongshao thought of the term "Soul Search," and her expression changed slightly, but she quickly smiled and said, "It's too late. If I don't return within two hours, my people will make that item disappear completely."

The man in purple sneered, "Stop trying to bluff, you're all alone in the Martial Arts World, you have no backup."

Qi Hongshao wanted to say more, but then wails of pain came from behind her.

The man in purple's expression changed drastically, and he waved his hand, "Go and see what happened."

Qi Hongshao was also secretly puzzled.

She indeed had come alone, without any helpers, but what was happening? Why would there be people clashing with members of the Duanmu Family?

The man in purple stared intently at Qi Hongshao, who, with a composed and smiling face, said, "I've already obtained what Fourth Brother Duanmu wanted, but his dreams of deceiving me to snatch the item for himself are utterly delusional. Remember, this is the last time, if there is a next time, I will lose my patience and destroy the item outright. Go back and tell him, if he's sincere, to bring what I want and exchange it with me."

Having said that, she took the reins of her jujube-red horse and prepared to leave.

The man in purple frowned deeply, and with a grand wave of his hand, the Martial Artists surrounding Qi Hongshao all stepped forward a few paces, shrinking the encirclement.

Qi Hongshao's eyebrows raised as she stared at the man in purple, "How will you explain to Fourth Brother Duanmu if the item is destroyed? If I die, not only will you not get the item, my people will also tell the Giant Sword Manor the truth. When that time comes, and Fourth Brother Duanmu has to face an enemy like Giant Sword Manor, can you bear that responsibility?"

The man in purple was clearly intimidated, uncertain of what to do.

Qi Hongshao seized the opportunity to scold, "Out of my way!"

The few Martial Artists blocking her path all looked towards the man in purple.

"Hahaha, Liu Yao, you truly are incompetent, to be intimidated by a little woman like that. What a joke it would be if word got out in the Martial Arts World," a chilling voice said at that moment. A grey-clothed man wielding a sword emerged swiftly from the shadows of the woods and appeared in the midst of the scene.

The expression on Liu Yao's face, the man in purple, changed slightly: "Sun Donglai, why are you here?"

Sun Donglai snorted coldly, "Mr. Four was afraid you'd botch the job, so he asked me to watch from the shadows. You truly did not disappoint Mr. Four, indecisive trash."

Liu Yao grew furious, "Bastard, how dare you insult me?"

Sun Donglai glanced at him coldly and said indifferently, "I'm not here to argue with you."

He then looked at Qi Hongshao and said coldly, "Come with me, Mr. Four wants to see you."

Qi Hongshao shook her head, "Fourth Brother Duanmu has already lost my trust. If he wants the item, we'll meet another time. I will arrange the place and time."

Sun Donglai said coldly, "Why must you make it difficult for yourself? If you come with me nicely, I won't harm a hair on your head, but if I have to act, I can't guarantee that the sword in my hand will obey."

Qi Hongshao's brows knitted together, and she suddenly sighed, looking toward an empty space deep in the forest and said slowly, "I have been bullied to this extent, and you still refuse to show yourself?"

Everyone in the forest was taken aback, especially Liu Yao and Sun Donglai, who immediately turned their gaze towards the direction Qi Hongshao was speaking to.

Behind a large tree in the forest, Wang Lei was also taken by surprise.

He had hidden himself so well, and was dozens of meters away, yet neither Sun Donglai nor Liu Yao had detected him. How had she noticed him?

While everyone was still in shock, Qi Hongshao mounted her horse, and with a Dragon Whip in her hand, it whipped through the air, knocking away two Martial Artists.

"Giddy up!"

Her only purpose was to break free and escape!

"Hmm, mere child's play!"

Sun Donglai snorted coldly and took a step to give chase.

However, as he stepped forward, a sudden sense of dread filled him. He felt a terrible chill sweeping in from behind, engulfing him in an instant.

He quickly turned around, to see a blade's light mingled with the dim glow of light, slashing down upon him.

Chapter 425: Not Learning the Lesson

Sun Donglai was not weaker than Wang Lei, but he was the one caught in an ambush, and Wang Lei used Thunderclap Saber Technique from the start, holding nothing back.

"Pfft!"

The blade passed by, and Sun Donglai's left shoulder was cleaved off by half, blood spilling profusely.

Feeling the impending danger, he tried to dodge to one side, yet he couldn't completely avoid the attack and saw his left arm being severely hacked, experiencing excruciating pain. However, Sun Donglai didn't grunt even once and counter-stabbed with the sword in his right hand.

Seeing his opponent use such a desperate fighting style, Wang Lei couldn't help but secretly admire him.

This was a ruthless man!

With a clear advantage, Wang Lei did not seize the opportunity to behead Sun Donglai but instead returned his saber to block.

After the sound of clashing metal, the two separated immediately upon contact.

Wang Lei moved like a shadow, charging toward Liu Yao in an instant. Liu Yao was slightly weaker than Sun Donglai, and seeing Sun Donglai heavily injured by a single blow, he dared not confront him directly and immediately retreated, shouting, "Together, kill him!"

The ambush on Sun Donglai had already revealed their whereabouts, so Liu Yao and the other experts around him had reacted, guarding carefully and converging on Wang Lei.

Wang Lei, alone with his saber, cut down anyone in his path, slaying five men in a moment, giving Liu Yao no chance to escape.

Liu Yao was shocked, drew his sword to fight, but was sent flying after barely blocking one strike. Only when his guards caught up did he catch a moment's breath. However, these expert guards could not stop Wang Lei, who cut them down in a few breaths' time.

The remaining attendants, intimidated by Wang Lei's formidable combat power, dared not advance rashly, leaving Liu Yao to face Wang Lei alone.

Wang Lei charged forward, and with a rise and fall of his saber, beheaded him.

After Sun Donglai was severely injured by Wang Lei's sword, he bought a slim chance of survival with his desperate fighting style, but did not dare to engage further, suddenly feeling a chilling fear as if a thorn were at his back.

Someone else was watching him from behind.

He even sensed that the person behind him was even stronger than Wang Lei.

Sun Donglai stood still, not daring to make any move, his forehead already dripping with large beads of sweat, whether from pain or fear.

On the other side, Qi Hongshao had managed to escape, and although she was surrounded by several masters, her own skills were enough to protect her from being harmed by them.

In the midst of the combat, she saw Wang Lei make his move and couldn't help but be surprised, taking note of his attire.

She didn't recognize this young man from her memories, but she remembered that just a few days ago, this young man, along with two others, had helped her by ambushing those from Giant Sword Manor.

Now encountering this man again, Qi Hongshao felt grateful for his intervention but remained cautious within, unsure why Wang Lei was here and moreover helping her.

It would be wise to leave this place soon.

Qi Hongshao took advantage of the moment when Liu Yao's entourage was being killed and those who were attacking her rushed to aid Liu Yao, and she decisively struck, carving out a bloody path.

However, just as she was about to make her horse run wildly to escape this place of strife, her horse suddenly got scared and reared up.

In the void, an invisible force suddenly emerged, startling the chestnut horse and making Qi Hongshao aware of the danger, her expression greatly changing and her pupils showing a hint of terror.

This skill of precisely manipulating the Heaven and Earth Power was not something anyone less than a full-fledged Innate Realm master could achieve, and it might even be a person of the Half-step Divine Travel Realm.

She felt certain that the person must be one of Duanmu Cheng's, her heart sinking in despair.

"Leaving just like that, isn't it a bit rude?" a voice laced with mockery reached Qi Hongshao's ears.

Qi Hongshao was startled, looked up, and saw a young man with short hair, hands behind his back, emerging from behind a large tree.

She recognized him at a glance as one of the three who had ambushed the people from Giant Sword Manor a few days earlier.

As the young man emerged from behind the tree, Sun Donglai suddenly spun around, his gaze fixed on the youth who appeared to be in his early twenties, his face showing some surprise, "Who are you, do you know where this is, who we are?"

Yang Fei glanced indifferently at Sun Donglai, "Did I allow you to speak?"

Sun Donglai was taken aback, and the next instant, his expression drastically changed.

He violently struck a palm toward the sky, only to see nothing above, yet a massive, substantial palm print fiercely struck down at him.

Boom!

The space violently shook, and Sun Donglai's figure swayed, a huge palm imprint concavity appeared around his body, and his body seemed to be hammered by some force, sinking into the ground up to his knees, with blood oozing from his nose and mouth.

"Divine... Divine Travel!?" Sun Donglai was terrified.

Qi Hongshao's expression showed surprise as she slightly opened her mouth, not daring to think about escaping anymore.

This young man was actually in the Divine Travel Realm.

How was that possible?

He looked so young, even the super geniuses from various clans and sects couldn't step into the Divine Travel Realm at such an age.

Being able to control the Heaven and Earth Power to this whimsical extent was exclusive to someone in the Divine Travel Realm.

By this time, Wang Lei had finished the battle.

More than twenty experts had all perished under his blade.

Footsteps came from the woods, and Xu Jian leisurely walked over, showing approval of Wang Lei's combat strength and nodded with a smile.

Wang Lei wiped the blood off his blade from a corpse, sheathed his sword, and walked over.

Qi Hongshao was still sitting on the date-red horse, only now the horse seemed very tame, bowing its head and nibbling on the tender grass in the woods.

She suppressed the shock in her heart and looked towards Yang Fei, saying, "I am Qi Hongshao, thank you all for your repeated assistance."

Yang Fei chuckled, raised a finger towards Wang Lei, and said, "I didn't want to meddle, but he seems to know you and couldn't bear to see you in trouble."

Wang Lei's mouth twitched, giving Yang Fei a reproachful look.

Qi Hongshao looked at Wang Lei, her clear eyes continuously sizing up Wang Lei. After observing for a long time with still no impression, she apologised with both hands, "Thank you, big brother, for helping me. I, Qi Hongshao, will definitely repay this great kindness and virtue if I have the chance in the future."

Wang Lei's mouth twitched again, just about to speak, when Yang Fei laughed heartily, "Brother Lei, it seems she doesn't recognize you."

Wang Lei angrily stared at Yang Fei and said, "Can you shut up?"

Yang Fei shrugged and obediently closed his mouth.

Upon hearing the name 'Brother Lei', Qi Hongshao's heart stirred, a trace of realization flashed in her eyes as she looked towards Wang Lei, guessing something bold.

Wang Lei looked at Qi Hongshao with a complicated expression, opened his mouth, and asked, "Why did you provoke Giant Sword Manor and have a dispute with Duanmu Cheng?"

Qi Hongshao stared at Wang Lei and asked, "Who are you?"

Feeling a little guilty under her gaze, Wang Lei countered, "Why would you, the esteemed daughter of the Qi Family, engage in such dangerous actions? Do you realize that doing this could plunge your entire Qi Family into an abyss?"

Qi Hongshao's eyes reddened, with tears shimmering. She stared back intensely at Wang Lei and asked again, "Who are you?"

Seeing Wang Lei's troubled expression, Yang Fei was speechless.

Brother Lei was even clumsier with feelings than himself, too hesitant and slow.

"His name is Wang Lei, the Wang Lei who was abandoned by the Langya Wang Family ten years ago," Yang Fei couldn't help saying.

Wang Lei was a bit speechless, but this time he didn't stop Yang Fei from revealing his identity.

Qi Hongshao covered her mouth with one hand, but tears had already begun streaming down her face.

Sun Donglai was equally shocked, looking at Wang Lei and exclaimed, "You... you're Wang Lei?"

It seemed that he had only just realized the power of that previous slash and nodded, "Indeed, the technique you just used was the Wang Family's Thunderclap Saber Technique. I, Sun Donglai, lost to you fairly. But you dare to get involved in Mr. Four's affairs, that means making enemies with the entire Duanmu aristocratic family. None of you will..."

He couldn't finish his sentence when his body suddenly suffered a heavy blow, sinking thirty-some centimeters into the ground again, bleeding from all orifices, barely hanging onto a breath.

Yang Fei impatiently said, "Never learns."

Chapter 426: Sister-in-law

"Are you really Wang Lei?"

Qi Hongshao's pretty face was tear-streaked as she stared intently at Wang Lei.

Wang Lei, feeling guilty, avoided her gaze and nodded, "It was me."

Qi Hongshao looked at him for a moment, then let out a bleak smile, "I never imagined I would meet you like this, in such a role, it's really..."

She seemed to have a lot to say, yet found it difficult to express everything.

Wang Lei said, looking at her, "Why did you provoke Giant Sword Manor and the Duanmu Family? Don't you know what this could bring to the Qi Family?"

"Heh, the Qi Family? The Qi Family no longer exists," Qi Hongshao said with a bleak smile.

Wang Lei was shocked, "What?"

Qi Hongshao did not explain, her expression seemed much calmer as she said to Wang Lei, "Can you let me leave?"

Wang Lei's lips twitched several times as he sighed, "I can let you go, but once you leave, although the Hidden Sect is vast, there will be no place for you anymore, you..."

Qi Hongshao's face showed a hint of mockery as she looked at Wang Lei, "Then shall I follow you?"

Wang Lei was at a loss for words.

Clearly, he was worried about Qi Hongshao but had never considered having her follow him.

Ten years ago, he had been abandoned by his family because he was engaged to Qi Hongshao, causing her to bear a lot, and he felt guilty toward her.

Seeing her in trouble, he could not ignore her.

But that did not mean he had to take care of her for a lifetime.

Qi Hongshao's gaze fixed on Wang Lei, seeing him at a loss for words, she smiled faintly, "The Qi Family is gone, and I am a big trouble, so it's best if we have nothing to do with each other."

Wang Lei slightly frowned, he could naturally hear the resentment in this woman's heart, but Wang Lei was certainly not one to fear death or cling to life.

"I am not much different from you, I too am now alone, no longer a scion of the Wang Family," Wang Lei said calmly.

Qi Hongshao nodded, seeming to have completely moved beyond the emotions that Wang Lei's identity had brought her, smilingly she said, "Yes, you are no longer the direct descendant of the Wang Family, of no great help to me. Considering our past engagement and that it was because of you that I ended up unwanted, can I leave now?"

Seeing her determined to leave, Wang Lei nodded and said, "Since you are set on leaving, I won't keep you. Take care of yourself."

Qi Hongshao thanked him and turned her head to look at Yang Fei.

Yang Fei shook his head and said, "There are still some things that aren't clear yet, you really can't leave just yet."

Qi Hongshao then looked back at Wang Lei, her eyes filled with a hint of confusion, as if to say, can't you make the decision?

Wang Lei actually had no intention of speaking up for Qi Hongshao, he asked Yang Fei, "What do you want to ask?"

Yang Fei smiled and said, "Brother Lei, aren't you curious at all about what she took from Giant Sword Manor? After all, even Duanmu Cheng is very interested in that thing. What do you think, if we had that thing, would Duanmu Cheng be a bit more cooperative?"

Wang Lei frowned slightly and said, "If you want to rob her of her possessions, I won't allow it."

Yang Fei chuckled and said, "Brother Lei really understands love, deep down you still care a lot about Miss Qi."

Wang Lei glowered and said, "Shut up."

Qi Hongshao looked at Wang Lei with a complex expression.

Yang Fei then looked at Qi Hongshao and said, "Although my Brother Lei has always been quiet about your relationship, I've just understood now, you were engaged to each other previously, right?"

Qi Hongshao nodded.

Yang Fei said, "According to ancient customs, your engagement has not been canceled, so you are still lawfully engaged. This must be a very important matter here, right?"

Qi Hongshao listened to his odd way of speaking and felt a movement in her heart, saying, "You are not from the Hidden Sect?"

Then she looked towards Wang Lei, "Is he someone you brought from the outside?"

Wang Lei nodded.

Qi Hongshao was greatly shocked, "There are such geniuses in the outside world?"

Wang Lei sincerely praised, "Indeed, people from the Hidden Sect World all sit in the well and watch the sky, thinking they are the best in the world, not realizing that the outside world is even bigger. If not for the limitations of resources, the achievements of outer martial artists might even surpass ours."

Qi Hongshao was somewhat skeptical of Wang Lei's words.

As a person from the Hidden Sect, they inherently believed that this was the true Cultivation World, and people from the outside were ignorant about cultivation and couldn't hold a candle to them.

However, Yang Fei was standing right in front of her, and considering Yang Fei's strength and realm, if Wang Lei wasn't lying to her, the natural talents of people from the outside world in terms of cultivation might not be much lower than those from the Hidden Sect.

Yang Fei looked at Qi Hongshao and said, "Let's not get hung up on whether I am a native of the Hidden Sect; I just want to confirm one thing—are the two of you not divorced, and thus legally husband and wife, right?"

"We're fiancés." Wang Lei corrected.

Yang Fei almost burst out laughing, forcefully suppressing the urge to tease Wang Lei, and nodded, "Right, fiancés."

Wang Lei found this phrasing a bit weird but didn't counteract it.

However, Qi Hongshao glanced at Wang Lei, her eyes clearly carrying a hint of grievance.

The world of the Hidden Sect was somewhat similar to feudal times, where once a woman got engaged, she was considered betrothed and, if not divorced, would forever be labeled as the fiancée of someone.

Over the years, Qi Hongshao first encountered the disappearance of her fiancé who was expelled from his family, and then suffered the heavy blow of the Qi Family being annihilated. Surviving alone in the ruthless world of the Hidden Sect was extremely difficult; now, having met Wang Lei and twice escaped danger with his help, her heart was naturally stirred.

Yang Fei continued, "Since you two have this relationship and we've coincidentally met and stumbled upon this matter, there's no need for us to be strangers anymore; let's cooperate."

Qi Hongshao's brows furrowed slightly, "Cooperate?"

Wang Lei was also surprised but immediately understood Yang Fei's intention, and couldn't help but frown, "Yang Fei, you can't force her."

Yang Fei chuckled, "Tsk ts, Brother Lei has started to dote on his wife, huh?"

Wang Lei glared at him with a sullen face.

Yang Fei was unfazed and jokingly said to Qi Hongshao, "Miss Qi, to be honest, I've known Brother Lei for many years. Although Brother Lei has lived in the flamboyant outside world, he has never been with a woman, commonly known as a virgin."

"Yang Fei, are you looking for death?" Wang Lei glared at him angrily, his eyes revealing a hint of murderous intent.

Qi Hongshao stared at Wang Lei, her eyes filled with inquiry, clearly shaken by Yang Fei's words.

Xu Jian couldn't help but chuckle at this, feeling nostalgic that youth was indeed wonderful.

"So sister-in-law, shall we cooperate?" Yang Fei turned his head and asked Qi Hongshao.

Qi Hongshao was momentarily stunned, then a blush appeared on her pretty face and she spat, "Don't talk nonsense."

Yang Fei said, "Sister-in-law, to be honest, we've also run into trouble, and if you indeed have something Duanmu Cheng wants, you might be able to help us."

Qi Hongshao looked at Wang Lei.

Yang Fei immediately caught on and urgently signaled Wang Lei with his eyes, "Brother Lei, say something."

Wang Lei thought that if the three of them directly attacked the Duanmu family, it would be too risky, but if Qi Hongshao really had something Duanmu Cheng wanted, they could use it as a leverage to threaten or cooperate with Duanmu Cheng, making things much easier.

After hesitating for a while, Wang Lei steeled himself and said to Qi Hongshao, "He's right, if we cooperate, it could be a win-win situation."

Qi Hongshao looked at Wang Lei's expression, her lips slightly curving up, finding her fiancé's character quite amusing.

She pondered briefly, then looked at Yang Fei and said, "Do you know how important this item I have is to Giant Sword Manor? Cooperating with me might bring you a world of trouble."

Chapter 427:

In Muyun City, within a courtyard purchased by Duanmu Cheng, he was savoring tea brewed by a beautiful and enchanting concubine he kept there.

As the fourth elder of the Duanmu aristocratic family, he was deeply favored by the patriarch. Although his martial arts talent was mediocre, he managed many affairs of the family and held a very high status within the family.

The aristocratic life was something one could readily covet.

Yet, to hold on to such aristocracy, hoping for the old patriarch to live a few more years wasn't enough; ultimately, it depended on oneself.

Otherwise, once the patriarch passed away, the grander his life had been, the more tragic his death would be.

"Mr. Four, this is this year's new tea. What do you think?" the concubine walked over and nestled into Duanmu Cheng arms, her voice soft and tingling.

With one hand, Duanmu Cheng held her soft and delicate hand, and with the other, he was already embracing her waist, feeling the plushness through layers of satin, unable to resist giving a gentle pat as he laughed, "The things you carefully select are naturally excellent."

The concubine smiled slightly, looking at him and said, "Mr. Four seems troubled today."

Duanmu Cheng laughed, gently scraping her nose with his hand, "You really are a clever little thing. Out of all my women, you understand me the best—I just love you to death."

After finishing his sentence, however, a displeased expression crossed his face, and he called out to the courtyard, "Nearly an hour has passed. Why haven't Sun Donglai and Liu Yao returned yet?"

"They should be on their way back, Mr. Four. Please, calm your anger. I'll go and inquire right away," a fearful voice came from outside.

"Hmm, hurry them along. I still have quite a bit of trust in Sun Donglai's capabilities," Duanmu Cheng responded indifferently.

Sun Donglai was one of his most loyal subordinates. Exceptionally skilled and clever, he was an old hand in the Martial Arts World, unlikely to have trouble dealing with a mere girl.

"Once I get hold of that item, I might be able to uncover that secret," Duanmu Cheng thought eagerly, somewhat anticipatively.

Thirty minutes later, a panicked voice came from outside: "Mr. Four, there has been a great disaster."

Duanmu Cheng's heart chilled, and he urgently demanded, "Speak."

"Sun Donglai and Liu Yao are dead, and the Hong Sect disciples led by Liu Yao didn't survive either; all were killed in the forest where they had arranged to meet that girl," an anxious voice came from outside.

Duanmu Cheng's expression drastically changed, and he stood up saying, "What did you say?"

"Please calm down, Mr. Four. The news is confirmed. A letter was found on Sun Donglai's body—it's from that girl to you," the voice outside responded.

"Bring it here, quickly," Duanmu Cheng said urgently.

The person outside did not dare enter the courtyard, but a letter floated gently into the courtyard.

Duanmu Cheng beckoned with his hand and caught the letter, immediately tearing open and reading it.

The concubine stood cleverly to the side, not peeking at the contents of the letter.

"Hmph!"

A moment later, Duanmu Cheng grunted angrily, his True Qi surged, and the simplicity of the letter shattered into pieces, papers fluttering down like snowflakes onto the courtyard floor.

"To underestimate that young girl. But to dare threaten me like this, she's courting death!" Duanmu Cheng muttered through gritted teeth, stepping outside.

Yet, his brows revealed deep fears and worries.

If this matter were to be exposed by that girl, it would be the end. He must find a way to remedy the situation.

However...

His most powerful aide, Sun Donglai, had already been killed, and Liu Yao with his Hong Sect elite were utterly slaughtered, indicating the significant power behind the girl.

They might have premeditated this, targeting him specifically.

What should I do?

The concubine followed him step by step as she saw him out of the courtyard, yet dared not ask anything.

She was very clever, knowing well that she was nothing but a plaything to this Mr. Four, whose power was overwhelming in Muyun City. She knew better than to ask questions that shouldn't be asked and just needed to take good care of him when he was in a good mood.

...

Duanmu Cheng hurried back to his own courtyard within the Duanmu aristocratic family.

His wife also came from a great family. Although she was a woman in her forties, being a Martial Artist and bearing the name of a prestigious family, she maintained herself excellently, still possessing charm and a dignified and elegant demeanor.

Seeing her husband pacing restlessly in the room, his wife, Mu Sujing, asked with furrowed brows, "What has happened?"

If it were not something significant, her husband, who held considerable power within the Duanmu family, would not be so disturbed.

Duanmu Cheng glanced at his wife, hesitated slightly, and waved his hand in frustration, "It's better if you don't know about this." After pacing back and forth in the room a few times, he finally made up his mind, "I must take the initiative to confess my wrongdoings to the elder patriarch."

Upon hearing this, Mu Sujing's expression drastically changed, and she hurriedly grabbed him, "Have you lost your mind? Do you know how many eyes within the clan are watching your position, how many people are waiting for you to slip up and send you to your death, and yet you choose to confess your mistakes proactively?"

Although she did not know what trouble her husband had caused, she could tell it was no trivial matter. Once he confessed, their branch of the family would be utterly ruined.

"Calm down for a moment and tell me exactly what happened?" Mu Sujing insisted, gripping Duanmu Cheng's sleeve tightly.

Duanmu Cheng was astute and capable of amassing wealth for the family, but should this matter spiral out of control, it would exceed his ability to handle. At this moment, putting the interests of the entire family first, he thought to seek forgiveness from the elder patriarch, trusting that the elder would be able to nip the danger in the bud.

His wife holding him back, Duanmu Cheng waved his hand, "Don't interfere in this matter. I must be honest with the elder patriarch, or it will endanger the whole family."

Mu Sujing turned pale with fright and clung even tighter to his clothes, shaking her head, "Have you lost your mind? Even if you confess proactively, would the others in the clan let you off once they know? It doesn't matter if you die, but what about me and the children? Don't you think about them?"

Duanmu Cheng was moved by her words.

"Quickly tell me what exactly is going on. I might be able to think of a solution." Mu Sujing urged him.

Duanmu Cheng pondered for a long time, and thinking of the years of support his wife had given him in his career, he explained everything to her in detail.

Mu Sujing was stunned several times but managed to suppress her surprise, listening quietly until he was finished.

At last, a firm look flashed through her eyes as she said, "So the girl has arranged to meet you again?"

"Yes, tomorrow at the Ten Miles Pavilion outside the city," Duanmu Cheng replied.

"So you want to confess to the elder patriarch and have him go to the meeting?" Mu Sujing asked.

Duanmu Cheng said helplessly, "I underestimated the girl's capabilities. Now that Sun Donglai is dead, and without absolute certainty that my bodyguards can detain the girl, I can only seek help from the elder patriarch."

Mu Sujing nodded, "Asking for help from the elder patriarch is correct, but you shouldn't confess. You need to change your approach," she advised.

Duanmu Cheng's eyes lit up with hope, "What clever plan do you have, my dear?"

Mu Sujing said, "The elder patriarch trusts you deeply. Since Sun Donglai, who had been following you since he was young, is now dead and you have no skilled bodyguards left, you can explain to the elder patriarch that someone targeted you by killing Sun Donglai. Ask the elder to assign more formidable guards to protect you. With these men by your side, you can meet Qi Hongshao tomorrow, capture her, and keep the whole incident under wraps."

Duanmu Cheng frowned, "My concern is that the force behind the girl is extraordinarily powerful. If we fail to capture her again next time, and the incident gets exposed, Giant Sword Manor won't let it go easily, bringing disaster upon our clan. I would rather die than bear the blame for that."

Mu Sujing angrily retorted, "Since you are so committed to the family's cause, why take such a huge risk? From ancient times, a victorious king and a defeated bandit have been one and the same. Having already come this far, are you truly willing to fail at the last hurdle? If rumors are true and you obtain the item in the girl's possession, you could rise to greatness. Who in the clan would dare underestimate you then? Don't forget, the elder patriarch doesn't have many years left. What will you do once he is gone?"

The words struck Duanmu Cheng like a thunderclap, waking him to reality.

Gratefully gripping his wife's arms, he thanked her, "You always think everything through, my dear. I was indeed flustered just now. You are right, to this point, I can only fight one last time. I will go see the elder patriarch immediately and request that he assign the Elite Guard to me."

Chapter 428: Tao Longevity Scripture

Over a hundred miles away from Muyun City, in a small town inn, Yang Fei and others squeezed into a bedroom to listen to Qi Hongshao narrate the story of how she stole the treasure from Giant Sword Manor.

"Duanmu Cheng placed great importance on this treasure of Giant Sword Manor. He had bribed several of Giant Sword Manor's disciples in advance to learn the location of its storage, then he had me steal it," Qi Hongshao simply recounted the process.

Wang Lei was more curious about Qi Hongshao's experience, and couldn't help but ask, "Why would you risk your life for Duanmu Cheng?"

Qi Hongshao gave a faint smile, "I'm a thief, as long as the price is right, I can work for anyone, not just Duanmu Cheng."

Just as Wang Lei was about to inquire more about Qi Hongshao, Yang Fei interrupted, "Sister-in-law, what did you steal from Giant Sword Manor exactly?"

Qi Hongshao, seeing him calling her sister-in-law continuously, could not help but sneak a peek at Wang Lei, noticing his red-faced and embarrassed expression, decided not to correct Yang Fei's improper way of addressing her and instead said, "An ancient manuscript."

"An ancient manuscript?" Yang Fei was startled and puzzled, "Something like a martial arts manual? Otherwise, why would Giant Sword Manor value it so much, with Duanmu Cheng even risking offending Giant Sword Manor to obtain it?"

After pausing for a moment, Qi Hongshao reached into her bosom and pulled out something wrapped in oiled cloth.

As she gently unfolded the oiled cloth, she said, "This should be from a Taoist text, noting some extremely profound matters. I glanced over it once but had no time to delve deeper; however, this thing is probably useless for cultivation, it's too esoteric."

As she spoke, she had already opened up the oiled cloth.

All eyes turned to see, a yellowed, tattered thread-bound ancient book appearing before them.

"Tao Longevity Scripture?"

Xu Jian was the first to cry out in surprise, reading the five large characters on the cover of the book, and then couldn't resist reaching out to pick up the book to flip through.

Qi Hongshao firmly placed a hand on the book, looking towards Xu Jian.

With his withered hand stalled midair, seeing Qi Hongshao's gesture, Xu Jian laughed and withdrew his hand, saying, "Ha, the old man has lost his composure."

Both Yang Fei and Wang Lei understood that Xu Jian, nearing the end of his lifespan, cared most about the art of immortality, so they understood his earlier action.

Wang Lei even said to Qi Hongshao, "Senior Xu means no harm, don't worry."

With that said, Qi Hongshao withdrew her hand and boldly said to Xu Jian, "It was inconsiderate of me, please feel free to peruse, Senior."

Xu Jian, itching with curiosity, said, "Then I won't be polite."

As he spoke, he did not grab the book but instead turned the pages, the group gathering to read together.

The opening contained no substantial content and was difficult to understand, but Yang Fei could comprehend it at a glance.

It was because it had some similarities to the cultivation technique that Fatty Taoist had once imparted to him.

Quickly, he saw that the author of this book was referred to as 'Master Miao Jian,' and the text repeatedly mentioned words related to the Taoist and their teachings.

"This must be a Taoist text," Wang Lei couldn't help but say.

After the fall of the Taoist, various powers had scavenged quite a few Taoist texts, so it was not surprising that Qi Hongshao had stolen a Taoist secret manual from Giant Sword Manor.

"Eh?"

Suddenly, Xu Jian, who was meticulously reading the book, uttered an excited gasp.

"At the beginning of life, the soul is called 'Po,' and upon birth, when the soul becomes 'Hun.' If one's essence is strong, then the soul and spirit are strong. That leads to being spirited and reaching divine clarity; even the common man or woman who dies strong, their soul and spirit can still cling to others, turning into malevolent entities."

Yang Fei was also delighted and exclaimed, "Isn't this exactly the immortality technique that Mr. Xu has been seeking?"

Wang Lei also nodded, "Precisely, this belongs to the Body Seizing Technique."

Their spirits lifted, they focused intently and continued reading.

As expected, the book indeed recorded the Taoist Body Seizing Technique, and to achieve Body Seizing, one first needed to master the soul leaving the body. The practitioner needed an extremely strong spirit and soul that could leap out of the Sea of Consciousness and breach into someone else's realm of consciousness.

The more Xu Jian read, the more excited he became; he had never imagined that he would achieve his goal so quickly.

"Mr. Xu, if you cannot remember this magic technique, you can take a pen and paper and copy it down," Yang Fei reminded.

As he spoke, he also glanced at Qi Hongshao, "Sister-in-law shouldn't mind, right?"

Qi Hongshao was secretly alarmed and couldn't help but glance at Xu Jian, thinking to herself, could this man have reached the high level of soul projection and harbor thoughts of Body Seizing and Rebirth?

She replied to Yang Fei, though, "To the vast majority of cultivators, this text is akin to a book from heaven, completely useless. If you like it, you are free to copy it."

Xu Jian shook his head, "No need, I can remember it with just one look."

Yang Fei and Wang Lei silently nodded.

All of them were experts who had reached the Innate Realm in their cultivation, and their memory was far beyond ordinary people. They could truly be said to never forget anything they read, especially for someone like Xu Jian, for whom this matter was related to the possibility of extending his life; he would certainly remember it.

The room quieted down.

The few of them were seriously observing this Taoist classic, but soon they were all frowning.

Although it detailed the Body Seizing Technique, putting it into practice was exceedingly difficult.

It required not only that the practitioner have an extremely strong soul but also that the person being seized had cultivated their Sea of Consciousness.

Once the Sea of Consciousness was cultivated, that person would also be a powerful Cultivator, which made seizing control over that person's Sea of Consciousness too difficult.

The book mentioned that the Body Seizing and Rebirth Technique was extremely vicious and harmful to the harmony of heaven, thus fraught with extreme peril and difficulty in achieving success.

Later, the book also recorded many other Immortality Techniques, with a wide variety.

It even mentioned Cultivating Ghost Dao.

It went so far as to mention the Corpse Refining Technique, which ostensibly grants Physical Immortality.

And Body Seizing and Rebirth was for Soul Eternity.

Finally, the book recorded the orthodox path to immortality in the Taoist way: Cultivation.

It also delineated several Cultivation Realms.

Qi Cultivation, Foundation Establishment, Golden Core, Nascent Soul, Divinity Transformation, Unification, Mahayana, Tribulation Crossing.

According to these Cultivation Realms, one just needs to achieve complete Tribulation Crossing to successfully attain the true fruit, enjoying true Immortality and the same lifespan as heaven and earth.

Xu Jian's face turned somewhat unsightly, no longer showing his previous excitement. He muttered to himself, "If this is the case, with my current Realm, attempting Body Seizing is almost like foolishly indulging in vain fantasies?"

Qi Hongshao nodded, "The Immortality Technique through Body Seizing is no secret to our Hidden Sect World, but there has never been anyone known in the Hidden Sect World to have achieved immortality through Body Seizing."

Her words were like a bucket of cold water poured over Xu Jian's head.

Wang Lei said, "It's true that the Hidden Sect World does not have any beings who are truly immortal, but the records in various families' classics all mention the notion of Immortality. Perhaps it is due to the records being too ancient, or perhaps the current Cultivation environment is too poor to allow it. Hence, not to mention Immortality, even the genuine Golden Core Realm mentioned in these stages hasn't been heard of in the Hidden Sect World for a long time."

Qi Hongshao agreed, "The Hidden Sect World is a place for Cultivation, where personal power can reach a terrifyingly high level, but even that level has limits. This supposed Immortality is but a fantasy after all."

"Cough cough..." Yang Fei coughed a few times.

Qi Hongshao, however, was nonchalant. She looked at Xu Jian and calmly said, "I'm just speaking the truth, Senior, please don't take offense."

Xu Jian laughed bitterly and nodded, "Miss Qi is straightforward, I'm aware of that. And what you said is right, this so-called Immortality is nothing more than the reluctance of some old people to die, just wishing to live just a few more days, giving rise to all kinds of fanciful thoughts."

Although he said this, he still flipped the book back to the section about the Body Seizing and Rebirth Technique, watching it again to confirm, before finally closing the book and sliding it towards Qi Hongshao.

Qi Hongshao wrapped the book carefully with oilcloth and said, "Duanmu Cheng's Cultivation talent is average, but he greedily seeks riches and glory, so he should be very interested in this Immortality Technique. He must have heard that it was in Giant Sword Manor, which is why he sent me to steal it."

Wang Lei looked at her and asked, "What did he promise you in return?"

Chapter 429: The Still Dominant Duanmu Fourth Master

Facing Wang Lei's inquiry, Qi Hongshao's eyes suddenly reddened, but she remained strong and didn't shed any tears. She said, "Five years ago, after the Qi Family was annihilated, very few of us survived. My sister and I were among them, but she was taken away. Later, I found out that the person who took her was Duanmu Cheng."

Wang Lei frowned and said, "So, the annihilation of the Qi Family might also involve Duanmu Cheng?"

Qi Hongshao clenched her silver teeth and said, "They wouldn't leave any evidence behind in such matters."

Unable to help himself, Wang Lei asked, "Why was the Qi Family annihilated? They must have had a reason, right?"

Qi Hongshao slowly shook her head and said, "I don't know. Everything in the Qi Family was thoroughly looted and afterward, the ancestral home was even burned down by fire. Nobody knows what they were after."

Yang Fei couldn't help saying, "The disputes in the Martial Arts World are nothing but revenge or greed, coveting family fortunes, or plotting for secret manuals and cultivation resources. Didn't the Qi Family have something before they were destroyed that would make others envious?"

Qi Hongshao shook her head, "I don't know, I'm just a woman from the family and even one who was abandoned by her fiancé. I had no right to know some important family matters."

"Haven't you found even a trace of a clue these past years?" Wang Lei asked.

Qi Hongshao opened her mouth but ultimately just slowly shook her head.

Wang Lei frowned again, seeing that Qi Hongshao seemed to be hiding something from him, not being completely honest.

Perhaps it was because Yang Fei and Xu Jian were present, or perhaps it was because she still had her guards up against him.

Although they were engaged, and he had helped her twice recently, she was still not very familiar with him from before, and considering the great changes in her family and her years struggling alone in the Martial Arts World, it was natural for her to be cautious.

Yang Fei said, "So, you risked offending Giant Sword Manor by stealing this secret manual, only to make Duanmu Cheng return your sister to you?"

Qi Hongshao nodded and said, "Yes."

"Have you seen your sister?" asked Wang Lei.

Qi Hongshao shook her head but took out half of a jade pendant from her chest and said, "Duanmu Cheng had this half of the jade pendant sent to me. This item has been with my sister ever since she was little; it can't be mistaken."

"Don't worry, as long as your sister is still alive, I'll definitely help you rescue her," Wang Lei assured her, feeling a sense of guilt towards Qi Hongshao.

Yang Fei also nodded, "Brother Lei's concerns are my concerns, sister-in-law, rest assured. As long as Duanmu Cheng comes to the meeting tomorrow, we will definitely help you find out about your younger sister's whereabouts."

After discussing for a while, everyone went back to their rooms to rest.

Yang Fei lay on the stiff wooden bed, but his mind was thinking about the content of the Tao Longevity Scripture he had read earlier.

According to the realm divisions inside, what would his current state be considered?

Foundation Establishment Early Stage?

If he was just at the early stage of Foundation Establishment, wouldn't all other martial artists in the world be only in the Qi Refinement Realm?

"If a cultivation civilization truly exists, then this must be the most desolate period of that cultivation civilization," Yang Fei muttered to himself, putting the thought aside.

He was still young, and wasn't very concerned about true immortality, and even his pursuit of Martial Arts Realms wasn't particularly fervent.

The only thing he wanted now was to make a name for himself in the Hidden Sect World, letting people here know that he was not an easy target to provoke, thus protecting the people he cared about.

Ever since he returned to the country months ago and got engaged to Qin Yanyang, Yang Fei realized that all he truly desired was to live an ordinary life with the person he liked.

Once this matter was settled, he planned to leave the Hidden Sect. As long as the people of the Hidden Sect didn't bother him again, he could live a good life with Qin Yanyang.

The only thing he found troubling was Tong Yunshu.

Tong Yunshu was his first woman, and so far, the only woman he truly had. He couldn't ignore the affection this woman had for him.

But Qin Yanyang was an extremely confident and independent woman; she would never accept Tong Yunshu.

For a moment, Yang Fei found himself tossing and turning over this issue.

Thinking about it, a strong murderous intent flashed in his eyes, and he grew thoroughly hateful of the people in the Hidden Sect.

If it weren't for them stirring up trouble and killing my uncle, I would be marrying Qin Yanyang by now.

Once she was pregnant, I could gradually let her know about Tong Yunshu. Even if she wouldn't forgive me then, at least there would be a binding tie, giving me some leeway. By trying harder and being shameless, clinging to her, I wouldn't truly lose her.

Yes, after this trip, I need to accelerate the pace and marry her. Once Qin Yanyang truly becomes my woman, she won't be able to escape.

Lost in his wild thoughts, Yang Fei suddenly sat up.

He heard the sound of the door opening next door.

Although Wang Lei was very light on his feet, he still couldn't evade Yang Fei's keen senses.

A moment later, Yang Fei's mouth curled into a smile, and he lay back down.

Brother Lei has seen the light!

Early the next morning, when Yang Fei went out the door, he happened to meet Wang Lei also coming out of his room. Yang Fei gave him a wink and chuckled.

Wang Lei was startled but feigned composure, pretending not to notice.

Yang Fei chuckled inwardly and purposefully asked, "Did Brother Lei sleep well last night?"

Wang Lei nodded and said, "Pretty well."

"I didn't sleep well last night. I had a dream where Brother Lei and Qiaoqiao slipped away, leaving me alone in this unfamiliar place," said Yang Fei.

Wang Lei's mouth twitched, and he replied speechlessly, "You really are bored."

"Of course I'm bored, not like someone who can fall in love even when returning to their hometown, tsk tsk, truly fateful," Yang Fei said with a laugh.

Wang Lei's face flushed red: "Don't talk nonsense, don't ruin a young lady's reputation."

Just as Yang Fei was about to tease further, he saw the door of the room next door flung open, and Qi Hongshao emerged.

Xu Jian also pushed open his room door and came out.

Yang Fei dropped the subject, and after exchanging looks with the others, Xu Jian said, "Let's go have breakfast, then get to work."

At noon, outside Muyun City in the Southwest at Ten Miles Pavilion.

When Qi Hongshao and Xu Jian arrived, Duanmu Cheng was sitting alone inside Ten Miles Pavilion, brewing tea and sitting quietly.

His demeanor was as commanding as ever, he had regained the domineering composure of Duanmu Fourth Master, who could dictate the life and death of others with a single word.

Upon seeing Qi Hongshao, Duanmu Cheng did not stand up but remained seated gracefully in the pavilion. He smiled at Qi Hongshao and gestured with his hand, "Miss Qi is indeed punctual, please have a seat."

Qi Hongshao stood outside the pavilion ten meters away, her eyes scanning the surroundings once before finally settling on Duanmu Cheng's face, and asked, "Where is my sister?"

Duanmu Cheng lifted a cup of tea to his lips, blew on it gently, savored a sip, then slowly set the cup down before looking up at Qi Hongshao, "I thought you didn't care whether she lived or died."

Qi Hongshao angrily said, "I knew you wouldn't let me off so easily, but you should think carefully, if this gets out, at worst I die, but you, you will have to die along with me. Is it worth it?"

Duanmu Cheng laughed heartily, "Indeed, it is not worth it."

As he spoke, he clapped his hands, and from the dense forest a hundred meters behind him, a very beautiful woman who resembled Qi Hongshao was pushed out by someone.

Despite not having seen her for five years, Qi Hongshao instantly recognized her sister, her eyes reddening as she said, "Hong Lei, is that you?"

"Sister... it is... it's me, you... you go quickly, don't worry about me, my life is over, I can't drag you down anymore, just go."

The woman being held shouted excitedly.

With tears in her eyes, Qi Hongshao drew her sword and pointed it at Duanmu Cheng, angrily saying, "You bastard, release my sister."

Duanmu Cheng smiled slightly and shook his head, "Where is the thing I want? Also, with your realm, it's impossible for you to kill so many people like Sun Donglai and Liu Yao. Who else is backing you? Don't hesitate to call them all out, let me see who dares to oppose the Duanmu family."

Chapter 430: Two People Surrounding Dozens

"Duanmu Cheng, my Qi Family has been slaughtered, and now it's just my sister and me relying on each other. To a significant figure like you, we are merely women of some beauty. I have brought what you asked me to bring, and as long as you let my sister go, I can hand it over to you immediately," Qi Hongshao said as she took out the Tao Longevity Scripture.

She and Wang Lei had looked over the book and didn't think it was worth much, so she didn't bother to make a fake to fool Duanmu Cheng.

For her, so long as she could rescue her sister, handing this book to Duanmu Cheng was not a problem.

When Qi Hongshao took out the scripture, a gleam of sharpness flashed in Duanmu Cheng's eyes. Despite being ten meters away, he recognized the five big characters on the book's cover.

And judging by the yellowed pages, it seemed to be the original copy.

"Give me the book, let me verify its authenticity," Duanmu Cheng demanded authoritatively, reaching out his hand.

Qi Hongshao angrily said, "Do you think I'm a fool? Release my sister first. I know you have many experts hidden around. Even if you release her first, you are capable of keeping us here, so it's safe for you to let her go without fearing our escape."

Duanmu Cheng laughed heartily, "Not bad, quite smart. But do you think this matter will end here? Hahaha, Sun Donglai followed me for over thirty years, loyal to the core, and you killed him. I, Duanmu Cheng, am not a heartless and unrighteous man; you must explain his death to me."

Qi Hongshao replied, "If you hadn't tried to kill me, how could they have died? Duanmu Cheng, my patience is limited. If you don't want to spare my sister, then today we will perish together, and you will never get your hands on this secret manual."

Saying this, she took out a fire lighter, ready to burn the book.

Duanmu Cheng's expression changed, and he hastily interjected, "Stop!"

Qi Hongshao shouted loudly, "Release my sister first!"

Duanmu Cheng pondered for a moment, then raised his hand and waved, ordering, "Release her."

Far away, Qi Honglei was released. Though her realm was not high, she was born into the Qi family, a Martial Arts Family, and still had her foundation. Once freed, she briskly ran toward Qi Hongshao.

Qi Hongshao tossed the Tao Longevity Scripture to Xu Jian behind her and sprinted toward Qi Honglei.

The sisters embraced each other, and Qi Honglei cried again.

Qi Hongshao, also with eyes reddening, carefully checked her sister to see if she had been physically tortured, anxiously asking, "Did they poison you?"

Qi Honglei shook her head, "I shouldn't have, I haven't noticed any discomfort."

Qi Hongshao nodded and led her back to Xu Jian's side.

At that moment, several dozen cultivators with fierce auras appeared around them, among them four or five Innate Realm experts who locked onto Xu Jian.

Duanmu Cheng rose to his feet and gestured at Qi Hongshao, "Shouldn't you give me the item now?"

Qi Hongshao remained silent.

Duanmu Cheng scoffed dismissively, "Although I don't know who helped you yesterday, today I, Duanmu Cheng, am personally here, and I want to see who dares to support you secretly. Qi Hongshao, if you don't want to end up tormented like your sister, hand over the secret manual obediently. If I'm pleased, I might even spare your life."

Qi Hongshao still didn't speak.

At that moment, Xu Jian spoke up, "Haven't figured it out yet?"

A man's voice came from afar, "Figured it out, and they're just this few in number."

Another young man's voice followed, "Thought that being one of the Eight Great Forces, the Duanmu Aristocratic Family would have numerous experts. Disappointing, really disappointing."

Duanmu Cheng's brows furrowed, and he looked up to see two young men approaching from two different directions, seemingly positioning to surround all the Duanmu Family members present.

Duanmu Cheng whispered, "What's going on? How did you not detect these two young lads sooner?"

The Elite Guard members he had requested from the elders glanced at each other, their expressions a mix of embarrassment and anger.

They had not shown up earlier to prevent Qi Hongshao and her possible accompaniment of hidden experts from surrounding them. They were responsible for scouting, but found nothing.

Now, two imposing young men had suddenly appeared, blatantly showing no regard for them, making them feel humiliated.

"Brother Lei, with just these few people, do we still need to cooperate with him?" Yang Fei called out to Wang Lei across the distance.

Wang Lei had not expected Duanmu Cheng, after being struck by the setback yesterday, to bring such a lineup today. Feeling slightly disappointed, he nevertheless said, "That won't be necessary."

"Let's get to work!"

Yang Fei chuckled and strode forward.

The elite masters of the Duanmu Family, seeing their audacity, couldn't help but get furious. One of the middle-aged men from the Innate Realm had a fierce gleam in his eyes and shouted, "Ignorant junior, seeking death!"

He sprang up from the formation and charged toward Yang Fei.

Mid-air and ten meters apart, he struck at Yang Fei with a palm from afar, trying to crush this junior with one slap.

However, in the next instant, Yang Fei disappeared from his sight.

The man's pupils constricted, and he was instantly terrified. This kid is so fast!

He only saw Yang Fei suddenly step forward, his body shooting out like a cannonball, astonishingly fast, and in a flash, he was right before his eyes.

With no fancy moves, Yang Fei's fist tore through the void, smashing fiercely into this Innate Realm master.

This elite master from the Duanmu Family was also quick to react. Amid his roar, he struck a palm toward Yang Fei's fist with a rainbow-like momentum.

"Bang!"

A thunderclap erupted from the ground, and the two separated the moment they touched in mid-air.

The master's body flew backwards like a broken kite, spewing blood while still in the air.

Although he wasn't killed instantly by Yang Fei's punch, he was severely wounded.

Yang Fei also landed on the ground.

His combat power was far superior to that of a typical Innate Realm Cultivator, but the Innate Realm of the Hidden Sect was indeed a bit more solid; he still couldn't achieve a one-hit kill.

However, after he landed, he suddenly powered through his legs, and his body shot out like an arrow released from a bow, rushing again towards the elite master from the Duanmu Family before the latter could even touch the ground.

This speed of attack was indefensible even for an Innate Realm powerhouse.

With no leverage, the man could only forcefully muster a breath of True Qi and strike out with another palm.

Their fists and palms collided for the second time.

A muffled groan.

The man's sleeve shattered, and a strange and exceptionally powerful force drilled into his arm, blasting into his internal organs.

Yang Fei hadn't used the Po Gang, nor the Tide. It was just an ordinary punch, yet it completely shattered the internal organs of this Innate Realm master, sending him flying a dozen meters away.

The man's body hit the ground, struggled for a while, then failed to catch his breath and died on the spot.

Although the description takes a while, all of this happened in an instant.

With just two punches, Yang Fei killed an elite master from the Duanmu Family, astonishing even Xu Jian and Wang Lei with his formidable and terrifying combat strength.

The people from the Duanmu Family were dumbfounded.

Qi Hongshao was also speechless.

She had seen Yang Fei's prowess yesterday and had been informed by Wang Lei of Yang Fei's monstrous talent. But now, seeing an Innate Realm-level master being killed by Yang Fei with two punches, she couldn't help but rub her eyes, somewhat disbelieving what she had just witnessed.

What kind of monster was this!

So young and yet already possessing such combat power; given time, wouldn't he be invincible?

Duanmu Cheng's heart sank abruptly as he stared at Yang Fei and exclaimed, "You... who are you?"