## Overlord 601

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Chapter 601: Foundation Establishment
Late at night, outside Yunwu Valley.
Within the night's embrace, the faint moonlight spilled over the hilltops, casting two elongated shadows.
Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, hand in hand, walked atop this mountain peak, the thorns of the wilderness posing no obstacle to them.
The couple covered a third of the valley's surrounding mountains.
The valley was so vast that even with their pace, it would take a long time to traverse completely, but they had no intention of returning to rest.
With their realms, even several days without sleep would be of no consequence.
Of course, the couple's moonlit stroll was not in pursuit of romance but because Qin Yanyang wanted to explore the terrain and the distribution of spiritual energy in the area.
Of course, for Qin Yanyang, this was also a kind of alternative romance, balancing work and love, which was her favorite state.
"As of now, I can't detect the flow of spiritual energy here," Qin Yanyang said to Yang Fei.
"Yes, it's indeed hard to detect, but the spiritual energy comes from the heavens, can you sense that?"
"I can't detect that either," Qin Yanyang responded.
Yang Fei frowned slightly.

In fact, he and Qin Yanyang were currently holding hands, a state which allowed the True Yuan within their bodies and even their intentions to interconnect.

Moreover, both of them were in a mystical state that surpassed their own cultivation levels.

Even so, he still couldn't sharply detect the attributes and directions of the spiritual energy between heaven and earth.

It seemed that only when Tong Yunshu was by his side, and when she entered that mystical state in the Great Yellow Court, was he able to sense the uniqueness of the spiritual energy here through her.

But could he tell this to Qin Yanyang?

Of course not.

So Yang Fei had no choice but to brace himself and say, "I can sense a bit, but the feeling is very subtle, hard to capture accurately, we need to continue verifying."

Qin Yanyang glanced at him and said, "It's alright, don't be too anxious. Even if the spiritual energy here has nothing to do with the Hidden Sect World, as long as Yunwu Mountain Valley is rich in spiritual energy, suitable for synthesizing the genetic liquid medicine, that's all that matters."

In her mind, synthesizing the Genetic Fluid was of the utmost importance.

As long as she could mass-produce the Genetic Fluid, she would be able to enhance the overall martial power of the Military Department and create more masters and strong warriors.

Even if a third of the medicine liquid was allotted to other military families like the Chu Family, those nurtured would still be talents of Divine Continent Country, which would be beneficial to the entire nation.

"How about we go back for some dual cultivation?" Yang Fei felt that continuing on would not uncover the source of the spiritual energy here, so he stopped and turned to Qin Yanyang.
Qin Yanyang huffed.
She was well aware of a man's thoughts.
But she and Yang Fei were husband and wife in truth, and their affection was at its peak, recently having spent some time apart, akin to the adage that absence makes the heart grow fonder.
Seeing her pouting with a light huff, Yang Fei felt a stir in his heart.
She rarely showed such feminine traits, and at this quiet midnight, surrounded by the forest, he couldn't help but recall the scenes with Tong Yunshu in the car, and with a sudden impulse, he embraced Qin Yanyang's delicate body, and said hurriedly, "Why not just cultivate here?"
Qin Yanyang's face flushed to the tips of her ears.
She could feel Yang Fei's breathing become heavy and his arms strong, holding her tightly, as if he wished to meld her into his body.
"No."
Qin Yanyang decisively rejected.
It wasn't about being coy in front of her own man, but she had never considered doing such an act in this kind of setting.
It was too ludicrous.

that her body desired it too, so he leaned in for a kiss.
Qin Yanyang hurriedly moved away, placing her hand against his chest and biting her lip as she said, "I said no."
"There are no strangers here, what's there to be afraid of?" Yang Fei spoke urgently.
Qin Yanyang just looked at him, saying nothing.
Seeing her stubbornness in her eyes, Yang Fei suppressed the fire in his heart and softly said, "Okay, my fault."
Qin Yanyang smiled faintly, wrapped her arms around him, and rested her head on his shoulder, whispering, "Let's go back. Once we're back, I'll do as you say."
"Alright."
Yang Fei took her hand and they dashed towards the valley.
Although he felt some regret at not being able to do it here, Qin Yanyang was still good to him. Since she wasn't ready yet, he would respect her wishes.
At the break of dawn, Hu Lizhong, who was in the midst of cultivation, suddenly furrowed his brows and opened his eyes.
"What's going on? The spiritual energy feels somewhat thinner."
He muttered to himself, stepping out of his room to check on the situation.
As soon as he exited his room, his eyelids twitched.

With his current realm, he could clearly sense that all the spiritual energy in the valley had gathered around a certain room in the dormitory building. "What... what's happening?" Hu Lizhong was astonished and hurried over. However, he stopped just as he started to move. Wasn't that Brother Yang's room? Minister Qin should be living there too, right? What were they doing that made all the spiritual energy in the valley gather around their room? Although the spiritual energy in the entire valley was still much denser compared to the outside world, Hu Lizhong, having cultivated here for a week, had become very sensitive to the energy; so, he noticed it was much weaker than usual and saw that the spiritual energy near Yang Fei's dorm was almost condensing into a mist. "Could it be that Brother Yang and Minister Qin are cultivating? With their profound realms, the two of them could be absorbing all the spiritual energy in the valley while cultivating together?" Hu Lizhong analyzed with doubt and suspicion, thinking he had guessed correctly. After watching for a while, Hu Lizhong sighed inwardly and retreated back to his room. He didn't dare to interrupt the couple's cultivation.

This Yunwu Mountain really is a Cave Heaven Blessed Land; their cultivation speed during dual cultivation was already heaven-defying, and now in this place, it was as if they were on a cheat mode.

At this moment, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang had entered the optimal state for cultivation.

Yang Fei had initially only completed the Foundation Establishment for his limbs. This time, during their dual cultivation, he found other parts of his body becoming invigorated as well, so he guided the True Qi to impact these acupoints, continuously refining them.

And now, in their dual cultivation state, the force impacting Yang Fei's acupoints was not only his own True Yuan but also Qin Yanyang's.

The two streams of True Yuan, complementing each other in Yin and Yang, produced a power far greater than the simple sum of one plus one.

Qin Yanyang keenly sensed the continual refinement of Yang Fei's acupoints within his body, and his bones were being forged by True Qi, becoming as hard and flawless as steel.

Blood like mercury, bones like iron.

With just this one session of dual cultivation, Yang Fei had managed to refine the other parts of his body that he hadn't been able to before, seeming to complete the entire bodily refinement and reaching the real state of full-body Foundation Establishment.

Qin Yanyang was inwardly shocked, feeling that Yang Fei's talent was too formidable; in just a few months, he was about to complete his Foundation Establishment.

Once he succeeded in Foundation Establishment, his body would be thoroughly reborn, and its strength would far surpass what one could imagine.

Without any reservations, Qin Yanyang went all out to assist Yang Fei in his Foundation Establishment.

Three days later, a powerful surge of energy burst forth from the Yunwu Mountain Valley.

That day, Yang Fei achieved his Foundation Establishment.

## Chapter 602: Joke Went Too Far

In three days, many from the Military Department arrived in the valley. They took positions inside and outside Yunwu Mountain. Without Qin Yanyang's instructions, they turned the surroundings of Yunwu Mountain into a secret research base, setting up numerous covert and overt guard posts.

As the laboratory's location was unknown, the Military Department's personnel did not immediately start construction but waited for both Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei to emerge from seclusion.

While Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang were in dual cultivation seclusion, Hu Lizhong also locked himself in a room to attempt a breakthrough to the Innate Realm.

Hu Lizhong had a premonition that he was on the verge of a breakthrough.

When an overwhelming and fierce aura soared into the sky, Hu Lizhong, who was cultivating in the room, suddenly felt immense pressure.

He felt a shiver in his bones, as well as an urgency one might feel when facing a supremely powerful being.

If he himself could be a bit more formidable, perhaps this dreadful aura wouldn't have overpowered him.

Under the immense pressure, Hu Lizhong felt driven and spurred forward, finally stepping through the door to the Innate Realm, successfully making his breakthrough.

Thus, while the people in Yunwu Mountain Valley were still shocked by the powerful aura that had burst forth, another aura of a newly advanced Innate Realm followed.

Unfortunately, in the shadow of Yang Fei's Foundation Establishment Stage presence, the aura of Hu Lizhong's fresh Innate breakthrough was minuscule and went unnoticed.

This was supposed to be an opportunity for "showing off before others," but it was completely overshadowed by Yang Fei's advancement to the Foundation Establishment Stage.

In the room, both Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang opened their eyes at the same time. Qin Yanyang was overjoyed, "You made a breakthrough?" "Heh, it seems so." After uttering a single phrase, they both had a hunch and turned their heads to look in one direction. Yang Fei smiled and said, "Old Hu finally made it through, truly not easy. He's been at it for over ten days, even in a Cave Heaven Blessed Land like Yunwu Mountain, his talent is really something." Previously, Yang Fei had mentioned helping Hu Lizhong improve his strength while patrolling the woods with Qin Yanyang, so she wasn't surprised at Hu Lizhong's breakthrough. "Regardless, today is a day of double happiness for our Military Department," Qin Yanyang happily said. Yang Fei laughed heartily, "That's right, double the joy." Sensing that some important figures from the Military Department were drawn out by Yang Fei's Foundation Establishment pomp and were waiting outside, Qin Yanyang said, "Let's go out and have a look." Upon exiting the room, they saw a dozen or so people standing outside the dormitory building, led by Chu Tianshu, all looking towards them, Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei.

At the same time, recalling the terrifying aura previously emitted from that room, his heart sank again. With such a formidable presence, what exactly had happened?

Chu Tianshu had previously learned from his cousin, Chu Que, that Yang Fei had reached the Divine Travel Realm. Thus, he held a lot of reverence for Yang Fei in his heart. Looking at the couple now, he

couldn't help but inwardly exclaim that they were truly a match made in heaven.

With a thought, Chu Tianshu turned to Qin Yanyang and said, "Congratulations are in order. Minister Qin's strength has increased again, truly a blessing for our Military Department and for Divine Continent Country."

Qin Yanyang smiled slightly.

Although she had been wholly devoted to helping Yang Fei establish his foundation during the past few days, it had indeed brought certain benefits to herself. For instance, many acupoints in her body had been tempered and completed. Up to now, she had finished the foundation for her limbs.

Thus, she gladly accepted Chu Tianshu's congratulations.

"It indeed is a blessing for Divine Continent Country," Qin Yanyang responded lightly, glancing over everyone to shift away from the topic, and asked, "How are the surrounding defenses set up during my cultivation seclusion these past days?"

"Reporting to the Minister, hidden posts have been stationed around, and the entirety of Yunwu Mountain is now within our air defense," said the deputy officer, a woman named Peng Ling, in her thirties.

"And the materials we need, how goes the search?" Qin Yanyang inquired further.

Now that the location had been found, only materials for setting up the Spirit Gathering Array were needed.

Peng Ling said, "Most of the required materials have been found and transported here. However, there's still one item we have not managed to locate."

"Fusang Wood?" Qin Yanyang asked with a frown.

"Yes," Peng Ling replied.

Qin Yanyang ordered, "Send more people to search for it, and the search area can be expanded." After pondering for a moment, she said, "Tell Mo Yinpeng to have her people ask around in the Hidden Sects. Maybe they have Fusang Wood." "Understood." Peng Ling acknowledged and then added, "By the way, there was news from Mo Yinpeng the day before yesterday; someone from the Hidden Sects has come out." "Oh? Who, and how many?" Qin Yanyang asked. Peng Ling answered, "Three people. Based on the identity information they left, they should belong to the Loose Cultivators of the Hidden Sects. Our understanding of the Hidden Sect people is too limited to conduct a population census, so their exact identities are not certain." Qin Yanyang nodded. This was precisely the most troublesome part. The Divine Continent Country's blockade of the Hidden Sects was only temporary. They had agreed to let them out before, but the condition was that they had to register. But this registration was nothing more than a formality. Those people could easily avoid using their real identities and names; even if they committed a crime, other than capturing the perpetrator, it would be difficult to investigate further.

Qin Yanyang had long reported the issue of managing the outings of Hidden Sect members to his superiors. The response from above was simple: although there were millions in the Hidden Sects, as long as they allowed population registration, were issued ID cards, and had their fingerprints and blood types verified, it would be easy to integrate them into the population of the Divine Continent people.

But would the Hidden Sects cooperate? Definitely not. So it was very difficult to control the movements of those from the Hidden Sects. "Let's not worry about them for now, three people can't stir up a storm," Qin Yanyang said. The crowd nodded in agreement. As long as the Hidden Sects did not venture out in force, Divine Continent had the ability to control the situation. What worried them most now was if the Hidden Sects recklessly emerged into the world in droves. If war broke out, Heaven and Penglai would seize the opportunity to invade, and this land would once again become a living hell. Qin Yanyang felt a sense of urgency. She asked Yang Fei, "Is it impossible without Fusang Wood?" Yang Fei said, "Fusang Wood is the best, but even without it, given the abundant spiritual energy here, we can still meet the minimum requirements to synthesize Genetic Liquid Medicine with the support of a Spirit Gathering Array, though the effectiveness might be much less, the yield would be low, and it

"We can't be concerned about that now, let's set up the formation and start production. Once we find the Fusang Wood, we can improve the Spirit Gathering Array," Qin Yanyang said decisively.

would waste a lot of Genetic Fluid."

She then asked, "We can improve the formation later on, right?"
"No problem," said Yang Fei.
"Alright, that's decided then."
Yang Fei said, "Let's take a look at the other materials."
The so-called other materials were merely some precious jades.
Carving Array Runes on jade containing certain jade Qi could form the Array Foundation Stones to set up a Spirit Gathering Array. The stones serve as the base, the Fusang Wood as the medium, thereby creating a Gathering Spirit force that accumulates nature's spiritual energy.
Chu Tianshu and the other members of the Military Department were both curious and skeptical about the Spirit Gathering Array that Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang discussed.
Do such miraculous formations really exist in this world?
In the following half-month, Yang Fei secluded himself in his room, carving runes.
Qin Yanyang stayed with him the entire time, and when he had depleted a certain level of True Yuan within him, the two would perform Dual Cultivation for recovery.
Yet, after an entire half month passed, Yang Fei hadn't even completed a single Jade Rune.
As a result, the others in the Military Department had lost faith.
Wasn't it just carving some 'Ghost Talismans' on jade? How could it take so many days without completion?

And it was also incredibly expensive. Each piece of jade was a large, neatly cut block of top-quality, whole stone. Any of these stones, if put on the market, would be worth thousands of 10K. And yet, such a huge amount had been wasted in just fifteen days. In the room, Yang Fei's complexion was rosy, and fine sweat beaded on his forehead. He concentrated deeply, channeling his True Qi to directly engrave ancient runes on a piece of jade. After an entire half month, he still hadn't completed even one Jade Token, which was a major embarrassment in front of his wife. To be honest, he had not expected that carving runes would be so difficult. Could it be that what was recorded in the Taoist Formation scriptures were false? This joke was getting far too big. Chapter 603: Success "Crack!" A crisp sound spread through the room.

Yang Fei's brow darkened as what he heard seemed not the sound of jade shattering, but his own heart

breaking.

Qin Yanyang gently wiped the sweat from Yang Fei's forehead with a handkerchief, saying softly, "Rest for a while."
Yang Fei, feeling somewhat apologetic, looked at her and said, "Failed again, I"
"It's alright, everything is difficult at the beginning. I believe you can do it. Once the first piece succeeds, we'll find the pattern, and it will be much easier after that." Qin Yanyang spoke gently.
Her voice was tender and affable yet carried a strong belief, as if she could instill supreme confidence in Yang Fei, making him feel as if he could definitely succeed if she said so.
Qin Yanyang clasped his hand, and their True Yuan began to circulate on its own, their hearts seemingly connected as well.
Suddenly, Qin Yanyang said, "What if we try together?"
Yang Fei was stunned.
Qin Yanyang held Yang Fei's left hand with her right, extended her left hand, took a new piece of jade and placed it on the table, and said, "You engrave the rune with your right hand, and I'll hold it for you. The True Yuan from both of us combined will be even more substantial."
Yang Fei was moved and said, "Let's try."
Ten minutes later, the crisp sound of shattering echoed again.
Yang Fei's face was filled with embarrassment.

Dammit, it had been half a month, and they had lost at least hundreds of pieces of jade without a single success.
Was there an error in the Taoist scriptures or was he simply weak in the Rune Tao, utterly devoid of talent?
Qin Yanyang frowned slightly, staring at the shattered piece of jade, seemingly lost in thought.
Yang Fei coughed lightly and said, "Let's rest for a while before trying again."
He saw that there were only three pieces of jade left in the room. If these failed, they would have to wait for the next batch of materials to arrive.
Though these shattered jades still held much value, considering what he had wasted over the half month, it amounted to quite a number of small goals.
"I don't know what happens, but it always fails in the final moment," Yang Fei said regretfully.
He felt his steps were correct, he was indeed earnestly engraving the runes, and the use of True Qi was just right, not a bit more, not a bit less.
But why did it always fail at that final moment of completion?
Why couldn't the jade withstand the rune
Wait
A lightbulb went off in Yang Fei's mind.

At the same time, Qin Yanyang also spoke up, "Yang Fei, could it be that at the crucial moment, you need to infuse Divine Thought to activate the rune? Otherwise, wouldn't just a dry rune left on this jade be insufficient to serve as the foundation stone for activating the Gathering Spirit Array?"

Yang Fei's eyes lit up as if he had been enlightened, nodding, "Exactly, I was just thinking about this question. Why does it always shatter at the last successful moment? Could it be that the jade cannot withstand the power of the rune?"

Qin Yanyang's eyes sparkled, and she smiled, "Perhaps we've found the reason for our failures."

"Shall we give it another try?" Yang Fei asked.

Seeing the sweat on his forehead, Qin Yanyang said with empathy, "There's no hurry. Let's rest a bit first."

Yang Fei shook his head and said, "It's okay, with your help, there's no issue with True Yuan, and the Divine Soul in my Sea of Consciousness is in its peak state. If with my current Divine Soul Power I can complete this step, and now that we have pinpointed the problem, it will definitely work."

Persuaded by his determination, Qin Yanyang picked up another piece of jade.

Ten minutes later, a complete rune was clearly visible on the surface of the jade.

Once the rune was fully engraved on this piece of jade, the jade came to life.

It radiated a mysterious aura, and all the spiritual power in the room began to converge around it.

"It worked!"

Yang Fei cheered with joy.

Qin Yanyang, feeling the Dao rhyme on this rune jade plate, was also immensely surprised.

"It's truly magical and mysterious. The mysteries of the universe are indeed boundless. To think that jade, when paired with runes, can produce such an effect!" Qin Yanyang exclaimed in surprise, softly sighing.

Although she herself was a cultivator, she had been a materialist from a young age, skeptical about the Spirit Gathering Array Yang Fei mentioned. However, given the existence of the Hidden Sect Plane world, she believed in the existence of the rune array formations; otherwise, how were Hidden Sect, Heaven, and Penglai born?

Now that Yang Fei had successfully carved a jade token, it proved the existence of the Array Formation Talisman Tao.

Soon, Yang Fei calmed down from his excitement. He took another piece of jade and continued to engrave runes on it.

This time it took fifteen minutes, and the second jade token was completed.

He had completed it all by himself.

Not only did it consume a large amount of True Yuan, but it also made him feel somewhat weak in his Divine Sense.

After all, using Divine Sense to wrap the runes and combining it with True Yuan to imprint them on the jade, it did consume quite a bit of spiritual power.

Yet Yang Fei was very happy.

At least it proved that he was capable.

Yes, a man must prove himself, especially in front of his wife.

"You should rest a bit. Continue carving the rune jade plates after you've recovered," Qin Yanyang said with concern.

This time, Yang Fei did not decline and nodded.

Three days later, seventy-two Array Foundation Stones were successfully completed.

Aside from the Fusang Wood that was still not found, everything needed for the Spirit Gathering Array was assembled.

Meanwhile, at the very center of Yunwu Mountain Valley, a factory building had been constructed.

That was built at the location specified by Yang Fei. After its completion, a large quantity of medicinal herb original liquid was transported there, all placed inside.

That night, Hu Lizhong, Chu Tianshu, and Peng Ling were called over.

"The three of you, take these jade tokens and follow us," Qin Yanyang instructed.

As soon as the three entered the room, they saw the jade tokens for the first time.

Hu Lizhong was incredibly shocked as he touched the jade tokens, marveling, "These originally ordinary pieces of jade have these strange runes left on them, and they seem to have come alive, as if they possess spiritual power. It's too miraculous!"

Chu Tianshu also reached out to touch the jade tokens, greed even appearing in his eyes.

Because these jade tokens seemed to have a spirit-gathering effect, simply carrying them could benefit one's cultivation.

That day, Hu Lizhong and Yang Fei made a breakthrough together. Under the strong aura of the Foundation Establishment Realm, Hu Lizhong's breakthrough to the Innate Realm went unnoticed by others. However, in the following days as Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang kept carving rune jade plates, Chu Tianshu immediately noticed something different about Hu Lizhong upon their meeting and learned that Hu Lizhong had stepped into the Innate Realm, surprising him greatly.

He later learned from Chu Que that Hu Lizhong had revealed Yang Fei possessed a special method that could help Unique Tier individuals step into the Innate Realm. Now with Hu Lizhong's successful advancement, this rumor was further confirmed.

Chu Tianshu was stunned.

During this period, he had been struggling with what was more important: the interest of his family or his own future prospects.

Currently, he was part of the Military Department. The saying goes, 'the nearer to the water, the earlier to get the moon'. If he could establish a good relationship with Yang Fei and his wife Qin Yanyang, could he not also receive Yang Fei's help to step into the Innate Realm?

Now, seeing these jade tokens that emitted a spirit-gathering effect, Chu Tianshu's mind became active. He firmly believed that Yang Fei would have an extraordinary future and, with his help, Qin Yanyang and the entire Qin Family would rise unstoppably.

Moreover, the last time Chu Que came to fight for Yunwu Mountain, the incident ended with the Central Battle Zone withdrawing from this place, which was enough to illustrate Qin Yanyang's current status.

Key to him was that he was a subordinate of Qin Yanyang and had frequent interactions. He greatly admired Qin Yanyan's personal charm; despite her young age, she was truly capable, ambitious, and visionary, which was admirable.

"Take these and follow me. Let's go set up the array!" Yang Fei said.

Hu Lizhong snapped back to reality, hurriedly packed the jade tokens into a bag. Each person took a bag, and they followed Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang towards the valley.

Chapter 604: Absorbing the Spirit of the Heaven and Earth

At the break of dawn, with the last jade token infused with Yang Fei's robust True Yuan into the soil of a hillside on the eastern side of Yunwu Mountain, the embryonic form of the Spirit Gathering Array was established.

Although the Array Eye had not been activated yet, after the seventy-two jade tokens were placed into the mountain according to the layout of the Gathering Spirit Array, the spiritual energy within Yunwu Mountain had significantly increased.

Everyone looked up and felt as if an invisible force was about to take shape that would envelop the entire Yunwu Mountain Valley.

"Is it done?" Qin Yanyang asked first.

Hu Lizhong, Chu Tianshu, and Peng Ling also looked at Yang Fei expectantly.

Yang Fei nodded and said, "The Array Foundation is complete, just the final step is left, the Array Eye."

Peng Ling couldn't help but ask, "Do we need Fusang Wood?"

"Yes, Fusang Wood is the best choice for the Array Eye. Ancient texts say: Fusang Wood can gather the spirit of the Nine Heavens."

"What if we don't have Fusang Wood?" Peng Ling asked.

Yang Fei smiled and said, "We can only settle for the next best thing and use something else as a substitute. However, since Yunwu Mountain itself is a Gathering Spirit Land, even without the Fusang Wood as the Array Eye, the reason why the Genetic Liquid Medicine could not be synthesized in the most ideal state according to those biologists is that the original medicinal materials lack spirituality.

Once they absorb enough spiritual energy and are nourished by it, the probability of successful synthesis will increase significantly.

Of course, after the success of this Gathering Spirit Array, the effect is much better than I expected. It's very helpful for gathering spiritual power to change the medicinal properties of those original medicines."

The process still requires Yang Fei to refine using the Alchemy Technique.

But with the enhancement of the Gathering Spirit Array, Yang Fei won't need to expend a large amount of True Yuan and Divine Soul for alchemy like last time.

This task could even be taught to an Innate Realm cultivator who has some understanding of Alchemy.

Though Yang Fei has joined the Military Department and will give his all to help Qin Yanyang make it the strongest military force in Divine Continent, he cannot stay in the Military Department to do alchemy all the time.

Yang Fei yearned for a free and carefree life, so he needed to find a substitute to oversee everything here.

Thinking of this, Yang Fei looked towards Hu Lizhong.

Hu Lizhong, seeing that Yang Fei's gaze was full of trust, was inwardly invigorated.

Although he had already stepped into the Innate Realm, the more he did so, the more he realized that Yang Fei was even more unfathomable than he had imagined.

After Qin Yanyang recently came over, even though he hadn't spent much time with Qin Yanyang, he had definitely not revealed a single word about Tong Yunshu.

It seems my strength in keeping secrets has been recognized by Brother Yang.
Feeling touched, Hu Lizhong was nearly moved to tears.
You wouldn't know how painful it is for a loudmouth to keep a secret.
"Let's go, let's set up the Array Eye and complete the last step of the Array," said Yang Fei.
Everyone excitedly followed behind him.
When they entered the newly constructed house, they saw in the center of a vacant room, an empty square hole resembling a rural fire pit.
The ground around was covered with wooden boards, only this spot retained an area of bare earth.
"Bring it in."
Peng Ling issued the command through a walkie-talkie.
Peng Ling issued the command through a walkie-talkie.  Soon, a huge square piece of jade was carried in by two experts from the Military Department.
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Even Peng Ling gave Hu Lizhong a reproachful look.
Realizing their gazes, Hu Lizhong coughed and looked resolutely at Yang Fei.
Yang Fei gave a slight smile and shook his head, "No harm."
With that, he extended a hand to Qin Yanyang, "I'll need your help with this one, the workload is quite substantial."
Qin Yanyang immediately reached out his hand.
Then he said to Hu Lizhong and the other two, "You may watch, but no speaking aloud."
"Yes!"
Before the three of them, Yang Fei stretched out a finger, using it as a pen, his finger moving continuously as he wrote.
Soon, an ancient rune slowly emerged on the smooth cut surface of the jade.
This rune looked similar to the previous seventy-two runes yet was different. Hu Lizhong and his companions could not understand it at all. They were utterly shocked by Yang Fei's method of inscribing runes on jade with True Qi.
An hour and a half later, Yang Fei had inscribed a rune on each of the six sides of the giant piece of jade.
The moment the last rune took shape, the air over Yunwu Mountain suddenly started flowing rapidly, creating a turbulent and chaotic scene.
All the people in the valley were startled and looked up to the sky.

But the surge of airflow was invisible to the naked eye, only high-ranking martial artists with a significant Realm could vaguely feel the tumbling flow of air within the valley.

Inside the factory, Yang Fei, sensing the turbulent air currents and disorder in the valley, furrowed his brow and suddenly punched towards the earthen area.

Puff!

Dirt flew, revealing a deep pit, into which Yang Fei swiftly pushed the huge block of jade.

As the jade block with ancient runes carved on all its sides settled into the pit, it was as if a sophisticated piece of machinery had its final component put into place; the tumultuous air above Yunwu Mountain Valley quieted down in an instant.

At the same time, all the martial artists in the valley felt invigorated, a refreshing sensation washing over them.

Especially for Qin Yanyang and Hu Lizhong, who were temporarily at the Innate Realm stage and had a sharp sense of awareness of the forces of heaven and earth. They could distinctly feel, after the success of the Array, that the Spiritual Power in the entire valley seemed to be racing towards the direction of this building.

"Is it done?" Qin Yanyang asked excitedly.

Yang Fei nodded, "The Spirit Gathering Array is complete. Although we don't have Fusang Wood for the Array Eye, this piece of jade is large enough and the spiritual energy here is abundant, so the Array's effect is still quite good."

"I'll go outside and have a look," Qin Yanyang said, although excited and thrilled, she still maintained sufficient calm and rationality, walking towards the outside of the building.

Standing outside the factory, she felt even more clearly the surging flow of air in the valley, continuously moving towards the factory.

Was this the effect of the Spirit Gathering Array?

Indeed it was powerful.

Not to mention its significant function in synthesizing Genetic Fluid, just for cultivators alone, living in such a place for long-term cultivation would definitely yield twice the result with half the effort and rapid progress.

After a brief moment of astonishment, Qin Yanyang turned to Yang Fei and the others following her and said, "Let's go outside the valley to have a look."

Yang Fei said with a smile, "Let's go, I also want to see."

And of course, Hu Lizhong and the other two were even more eager to witness firsthand the effects of the Spirit Gathering Array.

Once outside the valley and away from the range of the Spirit Gathering Array, everyone distinctly felt the spiritual energy was extremely thin.

Despite the high quality of the air, breathing it in left them with a feeling akin to chewing on wax.

The success of the Gathering Spirit Array made the quality of the air inside and outside the Array so different that it was disconcerting for them.

Standing on a mountain peak, the group felt faint currents flowing from all around, converging towards the valley.

The vast valley was like an opener with open arms, frantically absorbing the spiritual energy between heaven and earth.

Suddenly, Qin Yanyang narrowed her eyes and looked up into the sky.

She vaguely sensed that, right above the Yunwu Mountain Valley, the converging flow of air was much more abundant than in the other areas outside the valley, and the quality of this airflow was also incredibly high.

Could it be as Yang Fei had said, that there was an invisible gap in the sky, and the spiritual energy of Yunwu Mountain was leaking from there?

And that this gap was located right above the Hidden Sect World?

Chapter 605: Visitors

This speculation seemed absurd to Qin Yanyang.

However, the fact that spiritual energy was falling from the sky was indisputable.

At the same time, the disappearance of the spiritual energy in the Hidden Sects was also a definite truth.

But now wasn't the time to study this matter. Qin Yanyang quickly refocused and said to Yang Fei, "Now that the Spirit Gathering Array has been created, the next step is to synthesize the Genetic Liquid Medicine, right?"

Yang Fei nodded, "Yes, has the reactor been successfully built?"

Qin Yanyang looked towards Peng Ling.

Peng Ling immediately said, "It's already on its way here."

Qin Yanyang frowned, "Why is it taking so long?"

Peng Ling was about to explain when Yang Fei smiled and said, "It's not Sister Peng's fault. The reactor has a rather special structure, and it requires unique materials. To have it built and transported here so quickly is already a testament to Sister Peng's efficiency. Besides, the Spirit Gathering Array has just been completed, and those raw herbal materials need more time to absorb spiritual energy. There's no rush."

Peng Ling looked at Yang Fei with gratitude.

"By the way, the monitoring report for the person who took the Elixir last time should be out, right?" Yang Fei suddenly remembered something and asked Qin Yanyang.

Qin Yanyang nodded, "It's been out for a while."

"How is it?" Yang Fei asked.

"His genes haven't changed, but they have been greatly enhanced. Moreover, this enhancement is terrifying. His regenerative ability has become more than a hundred times stronger than that of an ordinary person. His shinbone has been modified, and its bone density increase is comparable to Foundation Establishment. In addition to that, his physical endurance, muscle structure, blood vitality, and so on, have all been comprehensively improved," Qin Yanyang said.

Yang Fei was internally shocked. The effects of an Innate Pill could only improve a cultivator's strength, but to enhance the human body's genes so comprehensively was impossible.

However, that kid who took the Elixir synthesized from his own Genetic Liquid Medicine had managed to undergo such extensive changes. The original liquid developed by those biologists really is remarkable.

Based on the theoretical data extrapolated by Kong Yuren and those biological experts, the effects of these medicines, once synthesized, could indeed bring about perfect evolution to human genes.

"I am now somewhat looking forward to the effects of these medicines after they are synthesized," Yang Fei said.

Qin Yanyang and the others also became excited and nodded their heads in agreement.

The extensive test data from Xiang Yunfei had already caused a huge sensation internally. Without it, how could those from the Central Battle Zone dare to risk offending her by doing such a thing?

Now that the Spirit Gathering Array was complete, they only had to wait for the reactor to arrive before they could synthesize a large quantity of Genetic Liquid Medicine.

Once these medicines are distributed, among the members of the Military Department and the various battle zones who take it, how many will be able to successfully absorb the effects of the medicine, and what level of effectiveness will they reach after absorption?

It's genuinely something to look forward to.

...

In Imperial City, within the Duanmu Family.

As an Innate Realm powerhouse, Duanmu Han was revered as a National Guardian, and with the Duanmu Family's operations over many years, their status in the Divine Continent Country was not much inferior to the Qin Family and the Zhang Family.

However, ever since the Zhang Family had a pair of Innate members emerge, it seemed like the entire landscape of the Divine Continent Martial World had been completely transformed.

After the Zhang Family's decline, the Qin Family rose in their place.

With both Qin Huai'an and Qin Yanyang, his grandson, being Innate practitioners, and with Qin Yanyang being so young and highly esteemed in the military, the Qin Family's overall strength was now stronger than the Zhang Family had ever been.

Despite paying close attention to the changing world over the past six months, Duanmu Han had not taken it to heart too much.

He had seen more clearly than most mundane martial artists where the true powers of this world lay.

No matter how strong the Qin Family was, could they be stronger than the Hidden Sect World?

As for Qin Yanyang leading people to seal the pathways to the Hidden Sect World, Duanmu Han scoffed at the idea.

While others thought Qin Yanyang's actions were awe-inspiring and blood-boiling, to him, it was simply digging one's own grave.

Could it really be sealed?

Once those powerful figures from the Hidden Sect truly emerge, the Qin Family's situation will undoubtedly be the most difficult.

He was considered a bosom friend to Qin Huai'an, so when Qin Yanyang sealed the Hidden Sect, he went to warn his old friend. However, that old friend didn't take it to heart, saying that young people are full of vigor and valiance, and being trapped as husbands, that kind of behavior is understandable.

Anyway.

The incident has happened, and thinking more about it is pointless.

All he could do was live longer. As long as he stayed alive, the Duanmu aristocratic family, even without successors, could enjoy longer peace and prosperity.

"Grandfather, someone is requesting an audience," suddenly, a voice came from outside the door.

Duanmu Han recognized it as Duanmu Gong's voice and showed a kindly expression on his face, saying, "Ah, it's Gong'er, come in and talk." Duanmu Han said.

The door was pushed open, and a handsome teenager around fourteen or fifteen years old walked in.

His name was Duanmu Gong, the youngest grandson of Duanmu Han.

Strangely enough, humans always seem to love their youngest sons a bit more, and the youngest child born to the youngest son, regardless of gender, seems to be particularly endearing to the elderly.

Duanmu Gong was the grandson Duanmu Han loved the most.

"Hehe, not bad, not yet fifteen and already at the Inner Strength Middle Stage. Given time, you can grow into a pillar of support for the Duanmu Family," Duanmu Han said affectionately after looking at his grandson.

Duanmu Gong, receiving his grandfather's praise, had no hint of youthful pride or joy on his face, but instead said, "Compared to Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, I'm far behind. At least, I have no confidence in entering the ranks of the Innate Realm within the next ten years."

The smile on Duanmu Han's face seemed to freeze.

Yes, that young couple truly were exceptional.

"My grandson is also a dragon among men; you are still young, do not belittle yourself," Duanmu Han encouraged him, before asking, "Who has come to see me?"

Having already retired to a behind-the-scenes role, family matters were generally handled by his sons, and under normal circumstances, an ordinary visitor would not have the privilege of meeting him.

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Gong took out a token from his pocket and handed it to Duanmu Han.

Duanmu Han's pupils constricted.
He had noticed it the moment the other party pulled out the token and immediately got up, asking, "Where is he?"
"My second uncle is entertaining them," Duanmu Gong replied.
Duanmu Han was already walking towards the door. Hearing this, he paused and asked, "Them? More than one person?"
"Yes, three people."
A thought struck Duanmu Han, and he quickened his pace out.
It must be them, the informants from Death Valley reported yesterday that three people had emerged from there. It seemed these were the three.
"Did anyone else see these three people when they arrived?" Duanmu Han asked as he walked.
"I'm not sure; my eldest uncle sent me with this token to see you," Duanmu Gong answered honestly.
Duanmu Han didn't ask any more questions and strode toward the living room.
There, indeed, he saw his second son, Duanmu Zhong, speaking with three people.
These three had a restrained presence, making it difficult to gauge their strength or weakness. However, one of them looked middle-aged but with an abyss-like depth in his eyes, causing Duanmu Han to shudder, feeling trapped in a profound fear that he couldn't escape as their gazes locked.

They had all changed their appearances.

"Duanmu Han, do you still remember me?" the middle-aged-looking man spoke, his voice deep and carrying a hint of age. Duanmu Han felt a chill, his expression changed dramatically; he immediately clasped his hands, bowing his body, and said, "So it is the senior; I was unaware of your presence and failed to welcome you from afar. I ask for your forgiveness!" Duanmu Zhong, upon seeing his father's demeanor, was startled and quickly bent forward to bow, not daring to stand upright. Chapter 606: Duanmu Wugou Enters the World "No need for formalities." The middle-aged-looking man spoke, pointing to Duanmu Zhong and his nephew Duanmu Gong, "Send the younger ones down." Duanmu Han quickly said to his son and grandson, "You should leave first, and do not let outsiders come near here." "Yes, Father." "Yes, Grandfather!" As Duanmu Zhong and Duanmu Gong left, deep confusion filled their hearts.

Especially Duanmu Zhong, although he did not officially control the Duanmu Family, he was the actual manager of the daily affairs of the family. Unexpectedly, his father valued these three mysterious men

so greatly today, even feeling a sense of obedience towards the leader among them.

Who exactly were these three people?

In the whole Divine Continent, there were but a few who could make his father treat them with such an attitude.

In the living room, the middle-aged man touched his face, his facial muscles slightly twitching. Gradually, his features changed back to their original appearance.

If Yang Fei were here, he would be greatly surprised, for this man was Duanmu Wugou, one of the three elders of the Divine Travel Realm from the Hidden Sect's Duanmu Family, who had once pursued him.

The other two middle-aged men were also rubbing their cheeks. Shortly, their appearances changed as well, though they still looked middle-aged and were not young.

"Do you know why I have come to see you this time?" Duanmu Wugou asked.

Duanmu Han shook his head, "The elder's actions are profound and inscrutable, the junior doesn't know."

Duanmu Wugou slightly smiled and said, "You need not be nervous. I am not here to trouble you, but rather to have you do a good deed. If this deed is done well, it will greatly benefit your family in the future."

Duanmu Han bitterly smiled within.

Benefits and dangers coexist. The Duanmu Family of the Mortal World in Imperial City felt that their current status was already good, needing no further benefits. In comparison, they just wanted to safely get through the impending crisis.

Being an aristocratic family of the Mortal World, getting too involved with you from the Hidden Sect is not a good thing.

Yet, he dared not say this out loud, but instead softly spoke, "I do not know what it might be, but the elder must know that our lineage is in the Mortal World, and our capabilities are limited, I'm afraid..."

"It has nothing to do with the strength of abilities; it merely requires you to act as an intermediary." Duanmu Wugou stated.

Duanmu Han's heart chilled, vaguely guessing that the other party might want him to help the Hidden Sect's Duanmu Family make contacts with the upper echelons or with other ambitious forces to establish cooperative relations and plan for the future.

This was very similar to the path Zhang Wenfeng had taken before.

And the things the leader dreaded most were such affairs, with Zhang Wenfeng and the Zhang Family being thoroughly settled as the best example.

While Duanmu Han was thinking of a strategy, unsure how to refuse, he heard Duanmu Wugou say, "This time, my main purpose for coming out was to meet Yang Fei."

Duanmu Han was startled, "Meet Yang Fei?"

Although he was not clear about what had exactly happened after Yang Fei entered the Hidden Sect, he had heard that things did not go very pleasantly with the Duanmu Family.

Now, in the situation where Duanmu Wugou had 'sealed off' the Hidden Sect in Divine Continent Country and still came out to find Yang Fei, what was his intent?

He looked questioningly at the other.

Duanmu Wugou was extremely patient, explaining, "There are some misunderstandings between us and Yang Fei, which can be cleared up if discussed."

Duanmu Han was still puzzled but nodded nonetheless, "If the elder only wishes to meet him once, it should not be difficult."

Duanmu Wugou smiled and nodded, "I know that for your Duanmu Family, this is not a difficult matter, which is why I came to find you after coming out."

Duanmu Han thought for a moment, then stiffly said, "May I ask the elder, what is the purpose of meeting Yang Fei this time? The elder might not know, but that young man is now together with Miss Qin from the Qin Family. The two spouses are deeply in love, and Miss Qin values him highly. If..."

"Hmph, if my Duanmu aristocratic family were truly intent on making enemies with them, not to mention the girl from the Qin Family, I wouldn't even consider the entire Qin Family worth my attention. Don't worry, I won't cause any trouble this time. I just want to meet that young man and have a good talk," Duanmu Wugou said.

Duanmu Han's heart was greatly reassured upon hearing this. He quickly said, "If that's all, I will make sure to handle it for you."

"Hmm, make contact as soon as possible. We three will be waiting here," Duanmu Wugou said.

Duanmu Han nodded, then personally arranged for the three to stay at his house, sternly warning his clan members not to mention to outsiders that there were guests in the house.

After settling Duanmu Wugou and the others, Duanmu Han paced back and forth in his study. After pondering for a moment, he dialed Qin Huai'an's phone number.

"Brother Duanmu," Qin Huai'an answered the phone, his voice coming through.

Duanmu Han smiled and said, "Hello, Brother Huai'an. I hope I'm not disturbing your meditation?"

"Living in the bustling city, it can hardly be called meditation. Is there something you need from me, Brother Duanmu?" Qin Huai'an asked.

"There is something I'd like to trouble Brother Huai'an with," Duanmu Han said.

"There's no need for such formalities between us. Just speak frankly."

"I would like to meet your granddaughter and your grandson-in-law."

There was a slight pause on the other end of the line, followed by hearty laughter: "Is it also about that matter?"

Duanmu Han's expression changed, and he laughed heartily, "Such an important matter certainly requires my attention. Besides, the Duanmu Family has several promising youths. If your granddaughter and grandson-in-law take a liking to them, I will let them go over there and be at their disposal."

"Such trivial matters could be handled with just a phone call by yourself. That girl is also your granddaughter; wouldn't she listen to you?" Qin Huai'an said, laughing.

Duanmu Han was slightly moved. He hadn't expected Qin Huai'an to be so trusting, despite the significant interests involved.

Although Yanyang was his granddaughter, the Qin Family was the Qin Family, and the Duanmu Family was the Duanmu Family. Although they were connected by marriage, they each had their own domains; from certain aspects, they were still competitors and were somewhat cautious of each other. He hadn't expected Qin Huai'an to be so generous.

He hurriedly said, "That's different. If you bring it up, even if Yanyang agrees, she would feel that it's you, as her grandfather, using your influence to pressure her. That wouldn't be appropriate. It's better for me to meet them personally and have a word, how about that?"

"Since you want to see your own granddaughter, I will let her know, and you can head directly to Bear Mountain District," Qin Huai'an said. He felt that Duanmu Han didn't really need to make this call, but his polite demeanor also showed his respect for him.

"Then, thank you very much."

After hanging up, Duanmu Han immediately called Duanmu Zhong to arrange a plane, as he planned to make a trip to Bear Mountain District.

Meanwhile, in the quadrangle dwelling, after giving it some thought, Qin Huai'an dialed Qin Yanyang's phone.

After explaining the situation, he said, "I always feel like your grandfather must have some important matter he wants to discuss with you alone. The Duanmu Family has always had a harmonious relationship with us, and they did not partake in the Chu Family's actions, so we should still show some respect for the Duanmu Family's face."

"Okay, I understand," Qin Yanyang replied.

In the Yunwu Mountain, in Yang Fei's dormitory, Qin Yanyang said to Yang Fei, "My grandfather is coming here to see us, it seems he has some matters."

Yang Fei said, "Let him come. As a couple, even if we have to visit the Hidden Sect again, we have nothing to fear. Besides, Duanmu Han seems to be a good person, not likely an enemy, right?"

Qin Yanyang shook her head, "That won't be the case, but perhaps it's also about the genetic fluid."

What Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei didn't expect was that Duanmu Han would arrive so quickly.

A few hours later, Qin Yanyang received a phone call from a covert sentinel of the Military Department stationed around Yunwu Mountain, saying Duanmu Han had arrived.

Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei had already agreed that no outsiders were allowed to enter after the success of the Spirit Gathering Array, to avoid drawing envy.

"Ask his lordship to wait a moment; we will come to see him shortly," Qin Yanyang instructed, then hung up the phone.

Subsequently, the couple quickly made their way towards the valley's exterior.

Chapter 607: Grandpa and Uncle?

Outside Yunwu Mountain Valley.

On the only forest road entering Bear Mountain Forest Area, an Alphard was stopped by personnel from the Military Department stationed here.

Duanmu Han sat in the car, listening to someone from the Military Department reporting the situation to Qin Yanyang on the phone, and when Qin learned of his arrival, she actually asked him to wait here, which displeased him.

As a seasoned National Guardian Level powerhouse, Duanmu Han had always held a high status in Divine Continent Country, and considering he was also Qin Yanyang's maternal grandfather, it was hard for him to be happy about the fact that not only had she not come to receive him, she had told him to wait outside.

Especially since Duanmu Wugou had also come with him, it made him feel rather embarrassed.

"Hmph, this girl's airs are getting bigger and bigger, making me wait here, haha..." Duanmu Han said indifferently, shaking his head and giving a wry smile to Duanmu Wugou, "My apologies for this embarrassment. For some reason, this girl has never been particularly fond of our Duanmu aristocratic family, and she's quite estranged from me, her grandfather."

Duanmu Wugou understood Duanmu Han's dissatisfaction at the moment and reassured him with a smile, "Don't take it to heart. Didn't you say they've established a secret experimental base in Yunwu Mountain Valley? They are probably just being cautious, which is normal. Besides, she has said she will come out to meet you. Maybe she is coming to personally welcome you into the valley?"

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Han felt much better.

Before long, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang arrived together.

Inside the car, Duanmu Wugou, Duanmu Han, and two other experts from the Hidden Sect Duanmu Family brightened up at the sight of these two people.

Duanmu Wugou praised, "Truly a pair of exceptional young talents. I didn't have the chance to observe this young man properly the other day, but seeing him now, he indeed stands out from the rest. Such a young couple is extremely rare even in the Hidden Sect World, true prodigies among the youth."

Duanmu Han gave him a look, wondering to himself.

What exactly was Duanmu Wugou's purpose in coming here, showering such praise on the couple?

It felt unlike the attitude a Divine Travel Realm expert from the Hidden Sect World should have.

Outside, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, hand in hand, walked towards the Alphard and stopped when they were a hundred meters away, as Yang Fei suddenly furrowed his brows.

Then, Qin Yanyang also sensed something and looked towards the car.

Both felt a hint of danger.

Given their Cultivation Realm, and the fact they were holding hands, only fighters above the Divine Travel Realm could elicit a sense of danger in them.

Could it be that Duanmu Han had stepped into the Divine Travel Realm?

What was his purpose in coming here, then?

Was he trying to use his Divine Travel Realm status to gain something for the Duanmu Family?

Just when they were inwardly startled, the car door opened, and several men got out of the vehicle.

Yang Fei's pupils contracted sharply, his gaze fixed on one of them as he said in a grave voice, "A familiar presence, he is a Divine Travel Realm strongman from the Hidden Sect Duanmu Family."

Qin Yanyang immediately thought of the news that had come from Kunlun Death Valley a few days ago and said in surprise, "Are they the three people who came out from the Hidden Sect World?"

Yang Fei nodded silently.

Although he had never met this Divine Travel strongman of the Duanmu Family face to face, he had briefly encountered him a few times.

Their few collisions in Divine Thought had left him with a strong memory of this person's presence.

At the same time, Duanmu Wugou, who had alighted from the car, was all too familiar with Yang Fei.

Recalling how he had failed to capture the young man during the chase in Duanmu Family territory, and instead had been ambushed twice by him, resulting in severe damage to his Primordial Spirit and substantial losses, he gritted his teeth in frustration.

But considering the decision the family had made after deliberation, he forced himself to adjust his emotions, even showing a friendly expression on his face.

"Young man, we meet again," Duanmu Wugou was the first to speak, saying with a smile.

Yang Fei looked solemn, his eyes vigilantly fixed on the other, and said, "Yes, we meet again. Are you here for revenge?"

Duanmu Wugou chuckled and shook his head, "Don't be nervous, if I were here to seek revenge, would I have asked Duanmu Han to warn your wife in advance?"

Yang Fei nodded silently, thinking it made sense.

The key was that he couldn't sense any killing intent from this person today. "Then what are you here for?" Yang Fei asked. Duanmu Wugou said, "I want to have a proper talk with you." Yang Fei, with a stunned look, shook his head, "I have nothing to discuss with the people of the Duanmu aristocratic family." Duanmu Yun and Duanmu Hai had killed his innocent second uncle, a thorn in Yang Fei's heart that could never be removed, which was why he harbored extreme hatred towards the people of the Hidden Sect Duanmu Family. Last time he had risked great danger to enter the Hidden Sect World, it was because the hatred in his heart could not dissipate, thus he had gone to kill Duanmu Hai's father, causing an uproar in the Duanmu Family. Therefore, deep inside, he had never thought of reconciling with the Hidden Sect Duanmu Family. Even though he knew his own mother had come from that family. He, Yang Fei, had never thought of clinging to the Duanmu Family, one of the Eight Great Forces of the Hidden Sect. "Yang Fei, don't you want to know how your mother died? Don't you want to acknowledge me as your grandfather?"

He appeared to be in his fifties or sixties, but as a Martial Artist, he looked relatively young and was full

At this, a middle-aged man beside Duanmu Wugou spoke up.

of vigor.

Yang Fei's pupils constricted slightly as he looked at the man.

The man slowly walked forward, his eyes directly on Yang Fei, and said, "I am your real grandfather. Duanmu Qing is my only daughter, a naturally talented prodigy who died young. I never expected her to leave behind a descendent in this world. Heaven really pities this old man, allowing me to meet my own grandson."

As the man spoke, he strode forward, and was now less than fifty meters from Yang Fei.

Qin Yanyang's gaze was fixed on the man, discovering a faint resemblance between his eyebrows and Yang Fei's.

A thought struck her, and she turned to look at Yang Fei.

Yes, the traces of genetic inheritance between their brows were very apparent.

This man was likely indeed Yang Fei's real grandfather.

"Stop!"

Yang Fei suddenly called out sharply.

The man paused, looking at Yang Fei with confusion and emotional tone, "I am truly your grandfather. Duanmu Qing was my daughter, and this is common knowledge in the Hidden Sect. Why would I deceive you about this matter?"

"Perhaps by blood relation, I indeed have a grandfather and even some relatives, but deep in my heart, the relatives from my mother's side have never existed because I have never seen you since I was born. Emotionally speaking, there is no affection," Yang Fei said calmly, his tone cold.

"Blood is thicker than water; our relationship cannot be changed," the man said loudly.

## "Enough!"

Yang Fei's eyes flashed with a cold light as he said firmly, "No matter what purpose you've come here with this time, I'll tell you one thing: I, Yang Fei, have no connections with the Duanmu Family. Also, about my mother's death, I will definitely investigate it. When the time comes, you'd better hope I don't find any links to the Duanmu Family, because it doesn't matter who you are to me or whether we share the same blood, I will make you pay blood for blood!"

Yang Fei's voice was icy and merciless, his tone seemingly conveying a chilling and terrifying intent that made one shudder.

Qin Yanyang held Yang Fei's hand. She felt as if she could sense the hatred and indifference towards the Duanmu Family within Yang Fei's heart, and she tightened her grip on his hand, looking at him with tender eyes.

"Yang Fei, do you really want to be like this? It is often said that 'it's better to resolve a grudge than to hold it.' There are many things we didn't know in the past, which led you to have some negative impressions of us. But we have come with sincerity this time, wanting to clarify some past events with you, allowing you to acknowledge your heritage. After all, half the blood flowing in your veins is from our Duanmu Family; we are relatives," the man pleaded earnestly, his eyes filled with tearsand his voice fraught with emotion, moving anyone who heard him.

At this moment, another younger middle-aged man who had come with Duanmu Wugou stepped forward. He looked at Yang Fei and said, "Yang Fei, you may not acknowledge me as your uncle, but you can't deny your grandfather. To protect your mother, your grandfather lost two of his own sons!"

Chapter 608: Sincere Feelings

"When this was said, Yang Fei, despite his ironstone heart, was deeply touched and couldn't help but look towards the old man who claimed to be his grandfather."

Qin Yanyang was also slightly moved.

She had never heard Yang Fei mention anything about his mother, but she had learned from other sources that Yang Fei's mother's name was Duanmu Qing and that she came from Imperial City's Duanmu Family.

It was later confirmed that Duanmu Qing was not from Imperial City's Duanmu Family, but instead came from the Hidden Sect.

As for more about Yang Fei's mother's side, she knew nothing further.

Now, hearing that Yang Fei's grandfather had lost two sons just to protect Duanmu Qing, she was quite surprised.

If that was truly the case, then it would be unreasonable for Yang Fei not to acknowledge his grandfather.

"These words... are they true?" Yang Fei gazed intently at the middle-aged man and asked in a deep voice.

The middle-aged man who claimed to be Yang Fei's uncle upon hearing this, suddenly pulled open his shirt at the chest. There was a large area of his skin twisted together, evidently scarred by fire, and besides, there were several severe injuries on his body that, even now, were completely healed. But the ancient scars still allowed one to imagine the brutal and bloody scene that had occurred.

"Back in the day, to save your mother, your big uncle fought with all his might, but ultimately couldn't withstand the persecution from other Sects and families and could only watch helplessly as your mother passed away," the man said loudly.

It seemed he recalled certain things from the past that were too painful to think about, his voice trembling slightly and his emotions clearly beginning to fluctuate.

"Do you still think you have no connection to the Duanmu Family?" Duanmu Wugou looked at Yang Fei and said.

Yang Fei raised his eyes to look at him but said nothing.

Qin Yanyang gripped Yang Fei's hand tightly. Seeing that he kept silent, she looked at Duanmu Wugou and said, "Did you come here just to tell us these things?"

Duanmu Wugou responded, "Some misunderstandings must be clarified. We can't let Yang Fei continue to hate the Duanmu Family; this mistake cannot go on."

Yang Fei suddenly looked up, staring at him and said, "I have not erred. Duanmu Yun and Duanmu Hai killed my second uncle; they deserved to die. The Duanmu Family's lack of strict discipline over its members, allowing them to commit evil, also bears responsibility for lax teaching!"

"Even so, the last time you caused an uproar at the Duanmu Family, inflicting numerous casualties. Even if there was great enmity, it should have been resolved," Duanmu Wugou said sternly. "Have you never thought about the relatives of those who also lost their dear ones? Do you want to cause more deaths in the Duanmu Family because of your second uncle's death?"

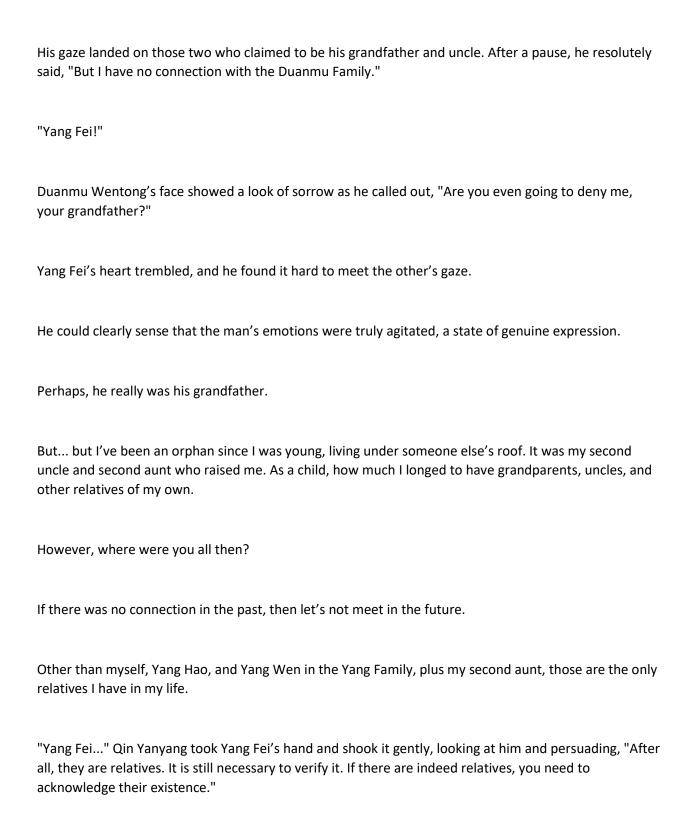
Yang Fei fell silent.

Indeed, those who had killed his second uncle had already been slain by him personally; that vendetta had been avenged.

Latterly, he had created a disturbance in the Duanmu Family, killing more than a dozen people. Counting all the deaths, the Duanmu Family had suffered enough losses. If he continued to bear a grudge, it indeed seemed somewhat unjustifiable.

But his second uncle had raised him as his own since he was a child, and had died because of him, a burden that became an insurmountable hurdle in his heart. Hence, even if reason told him he should not resent the Duanmu Family any longer, emotionally he was still unable to forgive.

After pondering for a moment, Yang Fei looked up at the people and said, "In consideration of my mother being a member of the Duanmu Family, I can let go of the matter regarding my second uncle. But between me and the people of the Duanmu Family..."



Yang Fei's brows furrowed slightly as he turned to look at her.

Qin Yanyang stretched out her other hand and touched Yang Fei's forehead, "Don't be like this. I hope my man can live life freely, bearing grudges and seeking revenge when necessary, but I also hope he is big-hearted, cheerful and lively, able to let go of his prejudices, and embrace a better life."

Yang Fei gazed at her silently, his emotions becoming peaceful and warm.

Qin Yanyang smiled encouragingly and nodded at him.

Yang Fei took a deep breath and, looking at Duanmu Wentong again, felt much less resistance in his heart. Although he didn't feel a warm and enthusiastic affection, his repulsion had subsided, and he could remain calm.

"Yang Fei, can you really not let go of the prejudices in your heart and accept us?" Duanmu Wentong looked at Yang Fei and asked.

Yang Fei took a deep breath and said, "I can try to connect with you gradually. Matters of affection can't be one-sided."

At these words, Duanmu Wentong was overjoyed, nodding with tears brimming in his eyes, "Good, good. This is wonderful. I believe your mother's spirit in heaven wouldn't want to see you holding grudges against her own kin."

"But I've already killed many from the Duanmu aristocratic family," Yang Fei reminded.

Duanmu Wentong snorted, "That's because they were lax in discipline, indulged their descendants in committing atrocities. Afterwards, they were overpowered by you and met their end. They got what they deserved. Yang Fei, don't feel any pressure in your heart. The Cultivation World values the principle of survival of the fittest. If you weren't exceptional and didn't possess great value, the high ranks of the Duanmu Family wouldn't allow us to acknowledge you."

Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang were shocked, not expecting Duanmu Wentong to say such things in front of Duanmu Wugou.

Sure enough, they saw Duanmu Wugou's face twitch a few times, but eventually, Duanmu Wugou maintained his composure without showing anger.

Duanmu Wentong once again approached Yang Fei, seemingly wanting to come closer and take a good look at his fine grandson.

His eldest son, Duanmu Song, followed closely and also came over.

Yang Fei did not stop them from coming forward. When they stopped a few meters away from him, he allowed them to scrutinize him closely.

"So alike," Duanmu Wentong said tearfully.

Duanmu Song silently nodded. "He's almost the spitting image of her between the brows. Truly her son, indeed a handsome and talented individual, and even his cultivation talent is inherited. Her spirit in heaven can definitely rest in peace with a smile."

Looking at the two people who were quite likely his own grandfather and uncle, Yang Fei found himself unable to call out to them.

Feeling the overly affectionate gaze of Duanmu Wentong and Duanmu Song, Yang Fei felt somewhat unable to adjust and awkward.

He looked up at Duanmu Wugou and asked, "Considered from one angle, we've crossed swords and I have even escaped from right under your watch, impacting your reputation, haven't I? Don't you resent me?"

Duanmu Wugou huffed. "Of course, it's not pleasant inside, but your grandfather just now spoke very clearly. You're a capable person, highly valuable right now. After the family's high ranks discussed, they feel we should not remain opposed to you because you are Duanmu Qing's son. Thus, you should be a relative of the Duanmu Family, not an enemy."

"It's not that simple, is it?" Yang Fei scoffed coldly, feeling there must be more to it since after the humiliation the Duanmu Family suffered last time, instead of seeking revenge, they were now cordially acknowledging kinship.

Chapter 609: The Trend of The Times

At that moment, Duanmu Han, who had been sitting in the car, got out.

He walked briskly towards them and called out from a distance, "Yanyang, is this how you treat your guests? We've come all the way here, and you just let us stand outside the valley to talk?"

Qin Yanyang quickly called out, "Grandfather," and then said, "It is indeed somewhat impolite to have grandfather and the elders wait here. However, given the deep forests and simple conditions of this place, Yanyang really has no better way to receive everyone. Grandfather, are you still angry with me?"

Duanmu Han chuckled. He understood Qin Yanyang's nature and said, "I know you, girl, you are wary of outsiders. Never mind, in your heart, grandfather is grandfather, and grandfather is grandfather, you have never been too close to the people of the Duanmu Family."

Upon hearing this, Qin Yanyang felt slightly embarrassed. For some reason, she indeed had never liked visiting the Duanmu Family and seldom interacted with the relatives from the Duanmu Family.

But upon reflecting, she felt that she did not dislike her grandfather, it's just that, compared to her grandfather, she preferred her grandfather more.

In her memory, this grandfather had always been reclusive and taciturn. Even when she and her mother went to the Duanmu Family to visit relatives, it was hard to see this grandfather.

"Tracing back to the root, both Imperial City's Duanmu Family and the Hidden Sect's Duanmu Family belong to the same lineage. Thus, everyone standing here today is family. Facing the future trends, naturally, we should unite and strive forward together," Duanmu Wugou suddenly said.

Qin Yanyang glanced at him and asked, "Just now my husband said, the purpose of your coming out here isn't as simple as that, right? If it was just about family recognition... hehe, as soon as you knew of Yang Fei's existence, you should have had his relatives come to meet him and explain everything, instead of

having Duanmu Hai and Duanmu Yun run out to kill his second uncle, trying to force Yang Fei into revealing the Taoist Cultivation Technique."

Qin Yanyang's words were sharply on point, directly making Duanmu Wugou speechless.

Duanmu Wentong burst into loud laughter, exclaiming how delightful it was.

Duanmu Song also wore a look of satisfaction on his face, but he glanced at Duanmu Wugou with a hint of fear in his eyes, then gently tugged at his father to remind him, "Father, do not get agitated."

Duanmu Wentong took a deep breath and steadied his emotions before looking at Qin Yanyang, and said, "You're right, girl, many things could have been avoided. Unfortunately, some things have already happened, and it's too late for regrets. But let bygones be bygones; since we are still alive, we need to plan for the future."

Qin Yanyang fell silent.

She had previously consoled Yang Fei, telling him to learn to let go and be magnanimous. She also highly agreed with what Duanmu Wentong had just said.

Let's not talk about the past. Life is about looking forward.

Yang Fei was someone who did not respond well to harshness, and the genuine display of emotions from Duanmu Wentong and his son Duanmu Song moved him deeply, softening his heart.

He was briefly silent then nodded and said, "I've already said before, from now on, as long as the people of the Duanmu Family do not come to provoke trouble, I can let go of past grievances."

"That's good," Duanmu Wentong said relievedly, "This way, your mother in heaven would be happy too."

Qin Yanyang, considering that the secret of the Spirit Gathering Array might involve the Hidden Sect World, and among them, Duanmu Wugou had a profound level of cultivation and being too close to the Spirit Gathering Array for too long might reveal something, suggested to Yang Fei, "Yang Fei, why don't we walk outside with the elders and talk while walking?"

Yang Fei looked at her and said, "What's there to talk about with them?"

Qin Yanyang, a bit helpless, shook the arm she was holding and said, "I told you, let's not hold grudges. There are some things we still have to face, let's go, listen to me."

Yang Fei nodded and said to Duanmu Wugou, "Let's go."

Duanmu Wugou was secretly pleased, knowing that as long as the young man was willing to talk, the purpose of this trip was half achieved.

The group walked along the forest road deep into the mountains, moving away from Yunwu Mountain Valley.

Duanmu Wugou, Duanmu Wentong, and Duanmu Song had other objectives and thoughts, so they weren't thinking about other matters, but Duanmu Han knew about the experiment base. He sighed internally and helplessly glanced at Qin Yanyang.

Feeling her grandfather's thoughts, Qin Yanyang gave him a sweet smile and said, "Grandfather, did you come here this time especially to bring a few elders?"

Duanmu Han nodded and said, "Yes, that's one reason. The second is to see if you could, considering your grandfather's face, share more benefits with the Duanmu family in the future."

Qin Yanyang chuckled, "You are my grandfather, and the Duanmu family is my mother's kin. If there really are benefits, of course, you won't be left out."

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Han felt much better and laughed heartily, "Hahaha, you said it yourself; make sure you don't forget by then."

"I won't, Grandfather." Qin Yanyang looked at the others, her words laden with deep meaning, "We are all family after all."

"Yes, one family," Duanmu Wugou chuckled and took the opportunity to say, "In the future, the world's situation will inevitably undergo earth-shattering changes. If our vast family stands united, no matter how fierce the storms are, we will surely have a place."

Qin Yanyang's brows raised, and she looked at him, "Do you think that the world's situation is going to undergo earth-shattering changes?"

Duanmu Wugou nodded and said, "It is an evident fact. I don't see any reason to hide this from you.

Over the years, we have devoted ourselves to arduous cultivation, yet we have never found the true path to immortality. As a result, the mindset of most cultivators has already changed. If the path to immortality is unattainable, then we should live more splendidly within our finite lives.

Compared to the boredom of the Hidden Sect World, people would rather come to the outside world, which is full of excitement, to enjoy life.

Moreover, there has always been a prophecy in the Hidden Sect that a millennium catastrophe is approaching. Now it seems that it might be due to the constant depletion of spiritual energy in the Hidden Sect, possibly leading to the collapse of the entire Plane World, hence large-scale involvement of the Hidden Sect in the worldly affairs has become inevitable."

Seeing Qin Yanyang's displeased expression, Duanmu Wugou continued, "I know you're upset, but I must say, just with your Divine Continent's secular power, you can't block the entire Hidden Sect's army. You should be aware of this, right?"

Qin Yanyang declared sternly, "If necessary, for the peace of Divine Continent, we might have to abandon the Hidden Sect."

Duanmu Wugou shivered slightly and looked at her, "Without the Hidden Sect, Divine Continent wouldn't exist."

Qin Yanyang snorted, "Times have changed. Your existence is no longer that significant. On the contrary, for a strong and stable country, it has become a threat."

Duanmu Wugou shook his head, "It's not that easy to eliminate. As long as those peak experts survive, and if their relatives are all dead, do you think they won't go mad? If they start seeking revenge in their madness, do you think the country can still be stable?"

Qin Yanyang fell silent.

She acknowledged that his words touched a sensitive spot for the secular powers.

It was also a problem that other secular powers were grappling with.

However, now, Divine Continent Country might have a turning point, a possible solution to this problem.

If the Genetic Liquid Medicine is successful, if Yang Fei and she become strong enough, even possibly enabling some around her in the Innate Realm to also break through and become powerful, then Divine Continent would have the capacity to deal with the scourge of the Hidden Sect.

But the question was, would there be enough time?

"That's why a grand integration is the only way out." Duanmu Wugou offered the solution, looking meaningfully at Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, "This requires early planning and deep cooperation."

Chapter 610: The Battlefield is Set at the Hidden Sect

Regarding the future world, both Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang acknowledged the significant integration between the mortal world and the three major secret cultivation realms.

People from the Hidden Sect, Penglai, and Heaven frequently appeared in the mortal world. Aside from issues within these three plane worlds themselves, the trend of those people who had no hope of

eternal life increasingly refusing to remain in obscurity and aggressively entering the secular world was unstoppable.

Once the people of the three realms truly surged into the secular world en masse, it would be a grand integration of two plane world classes.

The inherent conflicts and contradictions would naturally bring huge shockwaves to the entire world.

Therefore, getting everything prepared in advance was extremely necessary.

"Based on senior's opinion, how should we cooperate deeply and layout our strategies in advance?" Qin Yanyang asked with clear eyes as he looked at Duanmu Wugou.

Duanmu Wugou smiled and said, "We don't care about how Heaven and Penglai will choose in the future. Let's talk about the Divine Continent first."

Qin Yanyang nodded.

Duanmu Wugou continued, "For Divine Continent, the entry of the Hidden Sect into the secular world is already inevitable. The conflicts between the Hidden Sect and the national level of the Divine Continent Country will soon become apparent. Divine Continent must accept millions from the Hidden Sect."

Qin Yanyang said, "The Divine Continent is vast. Naturally, it can accommodate millions of people."

"The key is that these people are not very obedient," Duanmu Wugou said with a smile.

All present fell silent.

The martial artist who uses martial arts to violate the law, even in the secular world, is so; what about the Hidden Sect World?

In the past, the state established the Martial Alliance to control the Martial World. The martial artists in the mortal world were not too defiant in power, and they were very cautious about the threat of Hot Weaponry, so they could coexist harmoniously.

Now that the cultivators of the Hidden Sect are entering the world en masse, so many strong individuals are emerging. Accustomed to living freely and handling feuds according to their will, would they accept discipline? Would they abide by Divine Continent's laws?

Most definitely could, but another part of the 'exceptional ones' would not be so honest and fell into the category of those who are not very obedient.

"If we want peace under heaven, we must still adhere to the four words left by our ancestors," Duanmu Wugou looked at Qin Yanyang.

Qin Yanyang blurted out, "Using barbarians to control barbarians."

Duanmu Wugou nodded, "Indeed. Only by letting those who were once able to restrain these disobedient people continue to restrain them can we ensure that the Divine Continent will not undergo too much change after the grand integration."

"Thus, for the Divine Continent Official, are our kind of families, our kind of people extremely important?" Duanmu Wugou paused while speaking, his gaze turning to Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang.

Yang Fei was noncommittal.

Qin Yanyang's mouth curved up slightly, nodding with a smile, "According to senior's words, it is indeed so."

"That is why I, on behalf of the Duanmu Family, have come to meet with you. My purpose is singular, to band together for warmth, to seize the initiative in the future integration, and to secure a place for ourselves in the future."

"There's a saying, 'Raising tigers invites calamity,'" Qin Yanyang sighed and said.

Duanmu Wugou's deep eyes flickered as he chuckled, "Our Duanmu Family is definitely not a tiger."

"Even if I believe you, our cooperation alone still cannot stabilize the overall situation, so apart from representing the Duanmu family, senior must be here on behalf of other families as well, right?" Qin Yanyang asked.

Duanmu Wugou chuckled, "The little girl is indeed clever. That's right, how could I dare to seek cooperation with you if I didn't have a certain level of strength? To forge iron, one must be strong oneself. My Duanmu Family has been operating within the Hidden Sect for many years, and we indeed have a few allies."

"Which ones, would senior care to mention?" Qin Yanyang asked.

Duanmu Wugou chuckled again, "I have personally come here, and have set aside past grievances, which has already demonstrated the sincerity of our cooperation. Yet up to this point, it seems you have shown little interest in cooperating, which makes me quite anxious."

Qin Yanyang frowned and said, "Even if senior doesn't say it, I can more or less guess which forces in the Hidden Sect are your allies. But senior is deliberately keeping us guessing, which makes this sincerity seem somewhat lacking."

"Girl, as one of the three Deciders of the Duanmu Family, I personally came to meet with you. Do you still doubt the sincerity of our Duanmu Family's cooperation?" Duanmu Wugou said with slight displeasure.

After all, he was a Martial Artist of the Divine Travel Realm, and had previously had a conflict with Yang Fei, having been injured by him. Even though his Primordial Spirit has yet to recover, he had put aside his prejudices and stooped to come and negotiate, hoping for a good relationship. Yet these two juniors from the Mortal World seemed unenthusiastic and continuously showed little respect—how could he feel pleased?

Qin Yanyang chuckled, glanced at him, and continued walking forward, "I've seen the sincerity of senior, and the attitude of the Duanmu Family has indeed surprised me. If my husband truly has a blood

relationship with the Duanmu family, senior's actions in resolving the grievances between us would be welcome news for both my husband and me, and it makes me very happy."

Following behind, the Duanmu Family members breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing her say this.

They couldn't help but admire this young girl from the Mortal World.

With just a few words, she often resolved conflicts while at the same time silently took control of the conversation.

"Since you've managed to have my grandfather come here in person, and since Yang Fei is a relative of the Duanmu Family, cooperation between us is indeed optimal," Qin Yanyang continued.

While Duanmu Wugou admired her internally, he asked happily, "Are you agreeing to the cooperation?"

Qin Yanyang nodded slowly, "Just as senior has said, the Great Integration is the trend, and using barbarians to control barbarians is currently the best method. Although it carries the risk of nurturing a threat, to prevent Divine Continent from plunging into chaos from the start, this method is the best option."

"Yes, as the Hidden Sect makes a major move into the world, the initial focus of the Great Integration should be on stability. Only by ensuring the overall stability of Divine Continent can we plan for the future," Duanmu Wugou said, nodding.

"What exactly does senior mean by cooperation?" Qin Yanyang asked.

Duanmu Wugou said, "We will work in conjunction with the Divine Continent Official to suppress some disobedient people within the Hidden Sect, to ensure a smooth transition for the major move of the Hidden Sect into our world."

Qin Yanyang tensed up and looked at the other party.

Duanmu Wugou's expression was serious as he earnestly said, "You should know that, even in a smooth transition, there will still be bloodshed. What we can do now is to minimize the extent of bloodshed as much as possible, to trade the smallest sacrifice for the greatest peace."

Qin Yanyang fell silent for a long time, then raised her eyes and asked, "Where is the battlefield?"

"Hidden Sect!" Duanmu Wugou replied decisively.

Qin Yanyang nodded slowly, and after a while, she said, "This is a matter of great importance, and I cannot give you a definitive answer right away."

Duanmu Wugou said, "No need to worry, I can wait here, and, moreover, this matter does not need to be carried out immediately. What I'm seeking on this trip is only your attitude."

Qin Yanyang was adamant, "Divine Continent's stance is very clear, the overall situation is paramount, we must ensure a stable transition, and everything must prioritize the stability and unity of Divine Continent. Any actions that aim to disrupt the overall situation and unity are not permitted."

Duanmu Wugou nodded and said, "Understood. In that case, the three of us will await your news at the Imperial City's Duanmu Family."

At this point, Duanmu Wentong couldn't help but speak to Yang Fei, "Fei'er, your uncle and I will stay here. Let's get closer to each other. Besides, I have many things to tell you about your mother."

Duanmu Wugou frowned slightly and cast a sharp glance at Duanmu Wentong and Duanmu Song, but did not speak out to stop them. Instead, he turned his gaze to Yang Fei, wanting to gauge Yang Fei's attitude.