

Overlord 701

Chapter 701: Wang Lei and Xu Jian

Hidden Sect, Mu Yun City in the East State.

In an inn, Wang Lei and Qi Hongshao stood by the window, their gazes fixed on the location of a manor to the east, a serious look in their eyes.

"Do we really have to do this? That's Duanmu Manor. Trying to snatch someone away from there with just you and him is even harder than reaching the heavens," Qi Hongshao said softly.

Wang Lei slowly withdrew his gaze and looked at the woman by his side who had entrusted herself to him, a flash of guilt appearing in his eyes, "I thought I could give you a peaceful life here, but I didn't expect to get involved in an even bigger trouble."

With tenderness filling her eyes, Qi Hongshao reached out to cover Wang Lei's lips with her hand and smiled, "Hong Lei is well-settled now, and I have no more concerns in my heart. Being able to roam the Martial Arts World with you is the happiest thing in my life."

Wang Lei gently held her hand, and Qi Hongshao leaned her head on his shoulder.

"Is Xu Jian... reliable?" Qi Hongshao suddenly asked.

A gleam flashed in Wang Lei's eyes, and after pondering for a moment, he slowly said, "I don't know."

"Then we can only do this on our own," Qi Hongshao said.

Wang Lei glanced at her and gave a faint smile.

Some things were better done alone.

...

Initially, Wang Lei had taken Qi Hongshao and her sister Qi Honglei with the intention of meeting up with Yang Fei at the passage to escape the Hidden Sect World, but they were pursued and nearly killed by Gao Qian of Giant Sword Manor along with a group of experts. They were only able to survive thanks to Wang Chunyang's secret intervention.

Afterward, Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang faced difficulties from various forces within the Hidden Sect. After two confrontations, Yang Fei even left behind the Taoist Cultivation Method in order to escape.

At that time, Wang Lei did not show up, not wanting to cause more trouble for Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang.

In the years that followed, he took Qi Hongshao and her sister to hide in the east and west, managing to evade pursuit from Giant Sword Manor.

All this time, Wang Lei had not returned to the Langya Wang Family. He and the Qi sisters built a wooden house in the mountains outside Nan Zhao City and lived in seclusion.

They occasionally observed the vicinity of the passage, looking for a chance to leave.

Half a month ago, Wang Lei saw someone that greatly surprised him and decided to follow them. Not long into the tailing, the person called out his name.

This person was none other than Duanmu Cheng.

Duanmu Cheng was the one who had brought Yang Fei and Xu Jian into the Hidden Sect and had a chance encounter with Qi Hongshao, who had stolen a secret manual from Giant Sword Manor that Duanmu Cheng wanted to acquire in secret.

At the time, Duanmu Cheng had been kidnapped by Yang Fei and then handed over to Xu Jian.

Since then, the three had parted ways and had not seen each other again.

Wang Lei stared at Duanmu Cheng and the first question he asked was, "Who are you?"

Having confirmed that the current Duanmu Cheng had been subjected to the Body Seizing Technique by Xu Jian, Wang Lei was greatly shocked.

He had indeed heard of the Body Seizing Technique, but it had been many years since anyone in the Hidden Sect World had used this method to achieve longevity. He hadn't expected Xu Jian to actually succeed.

Could the Taoist Immortality Scripture stolen by Qi Hongshao from Giant Sword Manor really be that powerful?

But if that was the case, why hadn't the people from Giant Sword Manor used this method?

After confirming time and again, Wang Lei believed that the person before him was indeed Xu Jian.

Wang Lei asked him if they should wait here together for an opportunity to leave, but Xu Jian invited Wang Lei to go to the Duanmu Family with him.

He said that it was difficult to leave now without being discovered by the people of Giant Sword Manor, and since they were living near Nan Zhao City, once the Giant Sword Manor found out, Wang Lei might be safe due to his bloodline from the Langya Wang Family, but what about Qi Hongshao and Qi Honglei?

After weighing the options, Wang Lei heeded Xu Jian's advice and, along with Qi Hongshao and Qi Honglei, came to Mu Yun City.

The three of them lived in Mu Yun City while Xu Jian returned to the Duanmu Family using the identity of Duanmu Cheng.

During the first few days after his return, Duanmu Cheng (Xu Jian) was interrogated by many elders of the Duanmu aristocratic family to verify his true identity.

After all, Duanmu Cheng had originally been abducted and vanished for several months before reappearing; naturally, the Duanmu aristocratic family needed to confirm his identity.

After seizing the body, Xu Jian fully inherited all of Duanmu Cheng's memories and did not expose any flaws to the Duanmu aristocratic family.

But with his long absence, many situations within the family had changed, and the family affairs he used to manage had been taken over by others, significantly reducing his status.

Fortunately, the network and power he had cultivated previously remained, and given that his body's grandfather was Duanmu Wugou, he still held a certain status within the Duanmu aristocratic family.

Therefore, on the third day of his return to the Duanmu aristocratic family, he learned an important piece of information: Duanmu Wentong and Duanmu Song, a father-son duo, had brought back a woman named Tong Yunshu from the outside.

This Tong Yunshu was also known to be Yang Fei's woman.

Ever since this woman had been brought to the Duanmu aristocratic family, she had completely lost her freedom and was imprisoned in a dilapidated courtyard within the family grounds.

Duanmu Wentong and Duanmu Song were also unable to see her again.

According to the news Duanmu Cheng received after returning to the family, Duanmu Wentong and Duanmu Song had departed with Duanmu Wugou, and after they brought back Tong Yunshu, Duanmu Wuwang and Duanmu Wuwo also disappeared. Now all the affairs of the Duanmu aristocratic family were managed by Duanmu Wuyan.

Relying on Duanmu Cheng's memory and some further information obtained from his subordinates, Xu Jian soon confirmed something.

Yang Fei had been played by the Duanmu aristocratic family.

The Duanmu aristocratic family had Duanmu Wentong and Duanmu Song meet with Yang Fei under the pretense of being his maternal grandfather and uncle, then after earning Yang Fei's trust, they brought Tong Yunshu into the Hidden Sect World to cultivate.

They claimed they wanted to collaborate and promote a mass-producible Innate Pill to rope in masters from various powers within the Hidden Sect World.

In the future, when the Hidden Sect made a major move into society, the Duanmu aristocratic family intended to establish the strongest collaboration directly with Divine Continent Country due to their relationship with Yang Fei, thereby securing an advantage for the future.

However, for some unknown reason, once Tong Yunshu was brought over, she was imprisoned, and even Duanmu Wentong and Duanmu Song had their freedom restricted.

And as for the Duanmu aristocratic family's three stabilizers, Duanmu Wugou, Duanmu Wuwang, and Duanmu Wuwo, they had all left the family together.

A few days later, Xu Jian received another piece of information.

Two months earlier, Zhuge Cang had visited the Duanmu aristocratic family and had a lengthy discussion with the three venerable ancestors through the night.

Through various pieces of intelligence, Xu Jian deduced that Yang Fei might have been tricked by the Duanmu aristocratic family.

And Yang Fei's woman, Tong Yunshu, had become a significant hostage for the Duanmu aristocratic family to control Yang Fei.

Xu Jian informed Wang Lei, who was residing in Mu Yun City, of this news but cautioned him not to act rashly.

With Wang Lei's strength, it might be possible to covertly enter the Duanmu aristocratic family without being detected, but rescuing Tong Yunshu, who was under guard, would be incredibly difficult.

Despite the absence of the three top powerhouses of the Duanmu aristocratic family, numerous Late-stage Innate Realm experts capable of advancing to an even higher Realm could easily be found within the manor, including several venerable powerhouses on the cusp of a breakthrough.

Although Xu Jian had successfully seized the body of Duanmu Cheng and could perhaps provide some assistance to Wang Lei while posing as Duanmu Cheng within the Duanmu aristocratic family, he too would be doomed if he were to be exposed.

Compared to the bond between Yang Fei and Wang Lei, the sentiment between Xu Jian and Yang Fei was not particularly strong.

Xu Jian had displayed loyalty by passing this message to Wang Lei.

But to expect him to join forces in rescuing Tong Yunshu seemed to be asking too much.

Moreover, since Xu Jian had returned to the Duanmu aristocratic family as Duanmu Cheng, he had passed the scrutiny of several clan elders but still aroused suspicion among many people.

The most notable was Duanmu Cheng's wife, Mu Sujing.

Mu Sujing had thought herself a widow, never expecting that, after more than half a year, her missing husband would return unharmed. However, after living with him for over ten days, she vaguely sensed that her husband seemed somewhat unfamiliar.

Chapter 702: Enter Beijing

Divine Continent, Imperial City.

Meishan Mountain, heavily guarded by the National Security Department.

Beyond that, at the summit of Meishan, several masters from the Hidden Sect World were stationed, one of whom was Duanmu Wuwo from the Divine Travel Realm, and the other four were from the Zhuge family of the Innate Realm.

These four masters from the Zhuge family sat at the four positions at the summit of Meishan, stabilizing a chaotic spatial magnetic field coming from high above the mountain with a Four Symbols Formation.

The person in charge of the National Security Department here was named Zhang Qingyang, who had no relation to the Zhang Family where Zhang Wenfeng belonged, but he came from Dragon and Tiger Mountain, a direct grandson of Zhang Huairen, the current Sect Leader of the Zhengyi Daoist School.

Compared to the once wildly famous Zhang Yunlong, Zhang Yunqing, and Qin Yanyang, Zhang Qingyang was less well-known, but that did not mean his cultivation talent and qualifications were much lesser than those three.

He was just more low-key.

With his strong innate cultivation talent, and having obtained a precious portion of Genetic Liquid Medicine from the first batch of products from Yunwu Mountain's Base a month ago, Zhang Qingyang's Realm had not yet broken through to the Innate Realm, but his combative strength had surpassed the Innate because he had awakened the genetic talent of his ancestors from Dragon and Tiger Mountain, gaining the power to control thunder and lightning.

But this was a secret belonging only to him.

Without stepping into the Innate Realm, without mastering the power of thunder and lightning to perfection, and fully mastering the Five Thunder Celestial Star Skill of Dragon and Tiger Mountain, he would continue to keep a low profile.

After all, compared to the prodigies Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei, he was four to five years older and had no advantage whatsoever.

If he could not achieve a stunning debut, why reveal his trump card?

Moreover, compared to these powerful individuals from the Hidden Sect World, he still had some gap to bridge.

Especially that old man.

Merely being glanced at by him, could evoke an inexplicable fear akin to being stared at by the grim reaper.

Zhang Qingyang glanced at the elder in the pavilion not far away, took a deep breath inwardly, and closed his eyes.

He planned to sense the active Gold Attribute Power Elements between heaven and earth once more.

Being related to gold, there were Attributes in the power elements of heaven and earth, what he needed to do was to thoroughly penetrate one kind of Attribute power until he could control it as easily as moving his own arm.

Just as he closed his eyes, Zhang Qingyang's heart suddenly started pounding violently, followed by the relaxation of every pore on his body, causing his hair to stand on end.

When he opened his eyes, the elder who had been meditating quietly in the pavilion had risen into the air and appeared above the Four Symbols Formation.

The four masters from the Zhuge family who maintained the Four Symbols Formation also stood up, faces filled with a grave expression.

A fissure flashed and disappeared.

At the moment the fissure appeared, a figure descended from the sky, having crossed spatial barriers through some kind of teleportation portal.

"It's you!"

Duanmu Wuwo, hovering over the Four Symbols Formation, flashed a spark in his eyes, exclaimed in surprise, and then his gaze fixed on the long sword at the man's waist. He moved and backed off several dozen meters.

Before the person could answer, everyone felt a violent fluctuation in the spatial power high above.

The next moment, another person descended from the sky.

It was Zhao Wuji.

"It really is a teleportation channel," exclaimed Zhao Wuji, even before he had landed. Feeling the familiar atmosphere of Earth Space, and seeing the skyscrapers off in the distance, he exclaimed in surprise.

Helian Zhan had never lived in the mundane world, the only time he came to the mundane world was the last time he emerged from Kunlun Death Valley to meet Qin Yanyang and others.

But he had heard of many things about the mundane world.

Now, hovering in the sky, looking up at the steel-cast modern city, watching planes weave through the sky, and the bustling streets filled with traffic below, he was momentarily stunned.

Compared to those bustling cities of the Hidden Sect, this secular city was truly grander and more prosperous.

However, the spiritual energy here was too scarce, which made one feel rather uncomfortable, even reducing one's confidence a bit.

After all, the combat strength of a cultivator who had entered the Innate Realm derived mainly from the manipulation of the power elements of heaven and earth. Thus, for someone from the spiritually rich Hidden Sect who suddenly came to the spiritually deficient Earth Space of the Divine Travel Realm, the first feeling was that the power they controlled had weakened.

"Something's not right," Helian Zhan suddenly frowned and looked up at the sky.

Ordinary people couldn't sense it, but he could sharply feel that the space magnetic field above his head was extremely unstable.

No considerable amount of spiritual power descended from there.

In the Hidden Sect World, within the Mechanical Tower of the Zhuge family, all the spiritual power was slowly gathering, absorbed by the abyss.

Since those spiritual energies were sucked into the abyss, why weren't they spilling out into the outer space through this portal?

Where had the disappeared spiritual energies from the Hidden Sect gone?

"Master, what's wrong, what's amiss?" Zhao Wuji saw the puzzled look on Helian Zhan's face and hurriedly asked.

Helian Zhan glanced at him, slowly shook his head, and stopped pondering the issue. Instead, he looked up at Duanmu Wuwo and cupped his hands, bowing slightly, "Brother Duanmu."

In terms of age, Duanmu Wuwo was the elder of the Duanmu family, nearly a hundred and fifty years old, while Helian Zhan was only forty-seven, not even fifty, younger than many of his grandsons.

Yet Helian Zhan addressed him as Brother Duanmu, and Duanmu Wuwo showed no dissatisfaction but instead smiled and nodded, "Helian, my dear brother. You've arrived quickly!"

Startled by the greeting, Helian Zhan asked, "Did you anticipate my arrival?"

Duanmu Wuwo shook his head, "Not sure who would arrive first, but I knew this matter could not be concealed. Heaven, Hidden Sect, and Penglai—these three plane worlds, though independent from each

other, are all connected to the Earth Plane. Heaven, having been greatly impacted, resulted in a significant feedback on the Earth Plane, which naturally extended to the Hidden Sect and Penglai realms. There must have been signs of celestial abnormalities in the Hidden Sect world a while ago, right?"

Helian Zhan's eyes flashed, and he looked at Duanmu Wuwo, "Brother Duanmu, have you been here for long? Didn't witness the celestial abnormalities that occurred in the Hidden Sect recently?"

Duanmu Wuwo did not hide it, nodding his head.

Since the other party had already arrived here, there was no need to hide.

Ultimately, they were a bit hasty, leaving many things unprepared fully, some conflicts were unavoidable.

Thus, he looked at Helian Zhan and said, "Since Helian, my dear brother, has arrived, why not have a chat?"

"What about?" Helian Zhan asked.

Duanmu Wuwo said, "About how to take charge of the Divine Continent, to vie for the world with Heaven and Penglai along with other alien races."

At these words, Helian Zhan smiled and nodded, "Indeed, it is a matter of great importance."

A bright light burst from Duanmu Wuwo's deep eyes, smiling, "It seems Helian, my young brother, has long harbored the ambition to contend."

Speaking, he gave Zhao Wuji a meaningful glance and asked, "And who might this be?"

Zhao Wuji hurriedly said, "A nobody, just a minor character serving by my master's side."

Duanmu Wuwo glanced at him and slowly shifted his gaze away.

Although this person didn't seem very strong, he was at least a half-step Divine Travel Realm expert. Yet he referred to Helian Zhan as master, a stance that was perhaps too humble.

Puzzled by this, Helian Zhan came over and invited, "Since Brother Duanmu arrived here earlier and has spent several days, there must've been drastic changes in the outside world. Could you share some details with your junior?"

Duanmu Wuwo glanced at him and nodded, "Please."

Both men walked towards the pavilion with large strides.

Among the four experts from the Zhuge family, one quietly took out a phone and sent a message.

Chapter 703:

Imperial City, within Duanmu Mansion.

After receiving the message, Duanmu Wuwang's pupils constricted.

He quickly relayed the news to Duanmu Wugou.

Duanmu Wugou said in a grave voice, "He's alone?"

"He seems to have an attendant who calls him master," Duanmu Wuwang replied.

"It must be a servant from the Helian Family, no threat at all," Duanmu Wugou stated gravely.

Duanmu Wuwang's expression slightly changed as he noticed his brother's implication and said, "Are you sure you want to do this? He is Helian Zhan, whose talent and aptitude might not be far behind

Duanmu Qing's from those days. Taking action against him would mean challenging the entire Qingtian Sect. Besides, even if the three of us brothers join hands, we might not be able to subdue him. If he is determined to flee, we might not be able to stop him."

"Who said it's just us three brothers?" Duanmu Wugou said coldly. "The two from the Zhuge family are also here. The era of great strife has already arrived. Him appearing here alone is a rare opportunity that we cannot miss. Given the relationship between Qingtian Sect and the Poison Sect, they might not become our allies. Even if they could become allies, don't you think we would get too little of the spoils then?"

Duanmu Wuwang was moved and nodded, "Ask the people from the Zhuge family what they think."

Duanmu Wugou directly dialed Zhuge Cang's phone.

This fellow, although severely injured, had escaped back, but as long as he was not dead, his status in the Zhuge family remained supreme.

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Twenty minutes later, a military helicopter arrived above Meishan Mountain.

The plane hovered above the mountaintop, the cabin door opened, and five figures flew down.

Inside the pavilion, Helian Zhan had already learned some information about the mundane world from Zhuge Wuwo.

The appearance of the helicopter made him glance curiously, but when he felt the intense auras being released from the five individuals who jumped from the plane, he narrowed his eyes slightly.

His hand rested on the long sword at his waist as he looked at Duanmu Wuwo opposite him and said, "I seem to have forgotten that the communication means of the mundane world are far more advanced and powerful than those of the Hidden Sect. Did you summon them here to kill me?"

The message was sent out by someone from the Zhuge family, unbeknownst to Duanmu Wuwo, standing less than five meters from Helian Zhan and feeling the chilling intent released from this man, known as the second most talented in the Hidden Sect for a millennium, Duanmu Wuwo unexpectedly felt an inexplicable fear.

Yes, although they were all in the Divine Travel Realm, and he had been in the Divine Realm far longer than the other's age, faced with this young man sitting opposite him, he felt an unprecedented sense of oppression.

"From the moment you appeared, I have been within your sight," Duanmu Wuwo said calmly.

Although somewhat fearful inside, he maintained his composure on the surface and even felt a trace of killing intent after his brief surprise.

So many people had come on his side, and Helian Zhan was alone. With six against one, the odds were in their favor.

"Hahaha, who would have thought that Brother Helian would arrive so quickly," a hearty laugh sounded, it was Duanmu Wugou speaking.

He saw from a distance as Helian Zhan placed his hand on the hilt of his sword and immediately spoke.

After all, his own elder brother was still sitting opposite him.

Rumored to be among the top in combat within the Hidden Sect, Helian Zhan, at such close range, could likely injure the elder brother with a fierce sword strike.

In this critical period, no one representing the top fighting strength of the Duanmu Family could afford injuries.

"You all arrived even quicker," laughed Helian Zhan meaningfully, still clutching his long sword, but his gaze was fixed on Duanmu Wuwo, "I am discussing something with Brother Duanmu Wuwo. Could the elder brothers perhaps hold off for a moment?"

Duanmu Wugou and Duanmu Wuwang immediately halted their steps.

Zhuge Cang, however, laughed heartily, "What could it be that we old folks can't hear?"

He didn't stop his steps, walking past Duanmu Wugou and Duanmu Wuwang toward the front.

From a distance, Zhang Qingyang's heart inexplicably started pounding furiously.

The arrival of so many formidable figures emanating such terrifying auras made him feel oppressively suffocated.

The most crucial part was that, as the conversation among the few ensued, he vividly sensed the atmosphere at the top of Meishan Mountain becoming incredibly chaotic. A terrifying intent to kill wildly proliferated and surged, instantly enveloping the entire mountaintop.

Standing beside Zhuge Cang, two men, one tall and one thin, were indeed the brothers Zhuge Qian and Zhuge Wei.

They closely followed Zhuge Cang, one on his left and the other on his right.

Duanmu Wugou and Duanmu Wuwang were worried that Duanmu Wuwo couldn't withstand Helian Zhan's first strike and would get injured, but the three members of the Zhuge family didn't think so.

As long as Helian Zhan made his move, they would go all out to attack.

With Duanmu Wuwo enduring Helian Zhan's fiercest first sword, their chances of winning would be greater.

Moreover, Duanmu Wuwo getting injured was also a good thing for the Zhuge family, given that Zhuge Cang had already been severely wounded earlier.

The atmosphere at the top of Meishan Mountain had condensed to a peak, with terrifying battle intent and killing intent intertwined, seeming as though they were about to explode at any moment.

Just then, an anomaly suddenly occurred.

The three brothers Zhuge Cang abruptly stopped and looked up.

A crack appeared in the void.

The next instant, several figures flashed into view.

"Hahaha, such a lively scene, fortunately, I didn't arrive late."

"Hehe, have the Zhuge family and the Duanmu family indeed joined forces? Oh, Brother Helian, you got here before us?"

"This atmosphere, are you planning to start a war?"

Three voices emerged almost simultaneously, yet each was crystal clear to everyone present.

Zhuge Cang's brows furrowed, his profound gaze flickered several times, and the sharp aura around him consequently dissipated,

Just like Zhuge Cang, Zhuge Qian and Zhuge Wei both simultaneously restrained the killing intent emanating from them.

Duanmu Wugou and Duanmu Wuwang silently sighed, deeming it a pity.

Inside the pavilion, Helian Zhan's hand moved away from the hilt of his sword.

Zhao Wuji gently wiped his forehead and heaved a deep sigh of relief.

As Duanmu Wuwo silently lamented the pity, he also cracked a slight smile.

"Father."

An appealing voice spread, and the scene was instantly refreshed like a breeze in spring, the previously tense and deadly atmosphere dissipated like smoke.

Helian Rong strode into the pavilion and called out to Helian Zhan as Father.

Since her true identity had been revealed last time, Immortal Yan had been using her real name.

Though she harbored resentment and dissatisfaction towards her father, in the presence of outsiders, especially such top figures, she still afforded sufficient face to her father.

Helian Zhan watched his daughter with a gentle expression, reached out to touch her head, and then turned to Ouyang He who had followed closely, saying, "Brother Ouyang, it's reckless of you to bring this girl with you, especially when you know how frail she is."

Ouyang He laughed heartily, unconcerned with the reproach, and said, "This girl insisted that someone outside could cure her, so of course I had to bring her out."

Helian Zhan's expression shifted as he recalled something Helian Rong had mentioned before, looked at her, and asked, "Do you really think that boy can cure you?"

Helian Rong nodded and replied, "He said he could cure me, he probably wouldn't lie to me."

Helian Zhan nodded and said, "Then let's go find him first. If that boy dares to deceive you, I'll chop him up myself."

Chapter 704: The Confidence of a Top-Tier Powerhouse

On the one side, Helian Zhan and his daughter Helian Rong were talking; on the other, Wang Chunyang looked toward Zhuge Cang and frowned, "Someone from the outside world could actually cause you such injury?"

Wang Changchun was also startled and immediately looked toward Zhuge Cang, noticing that his aura was indeed not as strong as before and he already had hidden injuries. Thus, he too furrowed his brows in confusion.

Among the Hidden Sect Eight Great Forces, each family had no fewer than three strong practitioners at the peak of the Divine Travel Realm, and among these strong practitioners, Zhuge Cang definitely ranked in the top five in terms of combat power.

The likes of him would hardly be seriously hurt in the Hidden Sect World, yet now he had arrived in the Mortal World with grave injuries; naturally this shocked and piqued the curiosity of the strong practitioners from the Hidden Sect World.

Helian Zhan stopped his conversation with his daughter, turned to look at Zhuge Cang along with Ouyang He and Zhao Wuji.

Zhuce Cang was annoyed internally but maintained a calm demeanor and said, "The collapse of the Heaven Plane caused fluctuations in the Hidden Sect Plane. My Zhuge family has guarded the Hidden Sect Plane World for a thousand years, and when the family array was damaged, I suffered the backlash as a result. Since all of you could come here, I believe you must have seen the state within the Extreme Abyss, right?"

"The Extreme Abyss?" Wang Changchun frowned slightly.

Zhuce Cang said, "It's the deep abyss channel that leads to this place. Originally, it was very stable, guarded by my Zhuge family generation after generation, maintaining its stability. However, this time, the entire Hidden Sect World was affected by the collapse of the Heaven Plane, and the array suppressing the Extreme Abyss shattered. As the one in charge of the array, I suffered the backlash."

Zhuge Wei and Zhuge Qian both nodded silently.

The three from the Duanmu Family kept their heads down and remained silent.

They all knew Zhuge Cang was lying, but as relatives or allies, no one exposed him.

After all, they were all leaders who cared about their face.

Wang Chunyang, having listened, nodded slowly, with a touch of respect in his expression, "I've heard that the Zhuge family has been guarding the Hidden Sect for a millennium. I did not expect it to be true. Brother Zhuge has my respects."

As he spoke, he clasped his hands together and gave a polite bow to Zhuge Cang.

Wang Changchun also clasped his hands and bowed, showing his respect.

Helian Zhan and Ouyang He smiled slightly but said little.

Wang Chunyang said to Helian Zhan, "You arrived here first; do you understand the situation of this Mortal World?"

Helian Zhan chuckled, "I just had a little chat with Brother Duanmu Wuwo and gained some intelligence from him."

"Oh? What's the situation? Tell us about it," Wang Changchun chimed in.

Helian Zhan gestured toward the people of the Duanmu and Zhuge families and said, "I think it would be best to let them enlighten you all; they know much more details."

Wang Chunyang, Wang Changchun, and Ouyang He all nodded and turned their gaze to several members of the Zhuge and Duanmu families.

Duanmu Wugou cleared his throat and said, "This is not a good place to speak. May I propose moving to a private room in the Imperial City, where I can prepare tea and wine for us to discuss this leisurely?"

Upon hearing this, both Wang Chunyang and Wang Changchun looked to Ouyang He and Helian Zhan for their thoughts.

It was clear that the Zhuge and Duanmu families, having first arrived in the world, must have already formed a united front and become allies. If these four from different Sect families could join forces as well, the others would not dare act rashly. However, if they were to be separated...

Wang Chunyang thought about the tense atmosphere upon his arrival and chuckled inwardly.

Even Helian Zhan, renowned for being one of the top two most powerful Martial Artists, nearly fell at the hands of this alliance; other powerful practitioners from different Sect families who came here alone would surely meet with dismemberment.

Helian Zhan, perceiving the inquisitive looks from Wang Chunyang and Wang Changchun, smiled indifferently, "No need for the trouble of warm wine and tea. I have not yet seen the great landscape of the outside and wish to see it sooner rather than later."

Ouyang He nodded and said, "Indeed, let's discuss it here."

As he spoke, a disdainful smile appeared on his aged face. He glanced over the people from the Zhuge and Duanmu families and said, "Since you two families have joined forces and arrived early in this Mortal World to set up your schemes, and with all six of your formidable Martial Artists making an appearance in the Divine Continent territory, I assume that the control of Divine Continent Country has already fallen into your hands?"

Both Wang Chunyang and Wang Changchun's eyes flashed sharply as they looked towards the six individuals from the Zhuge and Duanmu families.

Seeing this, Zhuge Cang sighed and said, "There's no need to hide anything from you all. Frankly, our two families did intend to seize control over the Divine Continent Country, but to our embarrassment,

even the best-laid plans of men can't outwit the heavens. We underestimated the power of the secular forces in the Divine Continent and failed to achieve our goal."

"Oh?"

Both Wang Chunyang and Ouyang He could not help but express their confusion.

In their view, although Divine Continent Country also had many powerful Martial Artists, compared to the Hidden Sect World, the Martial Artists of Divine Continent were far inferior and simply no match for them.

The rulers of the secular nations, faced with Martial Artists of their caliber, would have no chance to resist. Controlling those people should have been extremely easy.

However, they had not anticipated that, despite the Zhuge and the Duanmu families deploying their top warriors and spending over a month on this task, they had not fully succeeded. What was going on?

Helian Zhan also appeared curious.

Previously, Duanmu Wuwo only mentioned the shifts in the Earth world when they chatted, scarcely touching upon the situation in Divine Continent Country.

"The cutting-edge weapons of the Mortal World still pose a great threat to us," Zhuge Cang said.

Wang Chunyang frowned and shook his head, "Indeed, nuclear weapons can indeed kill Martial Artists of our level, but they cannot be easily deployed, and we are not inanimate targets but operate in the shadows. Without a target to strike, even the most powerful weapons are useless, unless they are willing to perish alongside us."

The crowd nodded in agreement.

This was the source of confidence for the Hidden Sect's elite warriors.

With their immense individual strength and ability to strike unpredictably, they would never let themselves become fixed targets for precision strikes.

As long as the outside world did not dare to use nuclear weapons and risk mutual destruction against them, they had considerable room to maneuver and exert terrifying deterrent power.

In modern language, Martial Artists of their caliber were the most agile and top-tier weapons.

Even those in the Innate Realm could be deemed National Guardian Level warriors by the Mortal World; one could imagine the danger posed by these top-level Divine Travel Realm Martial Artists stepping into the Mortal World.

Yet, under such circumstances, the Duanmu and Zhuge aristocratic families deployed six top-level Divine Travel Martial Artists and numerous Innate Realm experts, only to still fail in quietly taking complete control of Divine Continent's power. How could this not surprise and make Wang Chunyang and the others doubt?

With a wry smile, Duanmu Wuwang said, "Originally, like you all, I believed that as long as we entered the world, all its powers would fall under our control. But that was not the case. The rulers of the Mortal World also have considerable strength. They have developed special weapons aimed at Martial Artists like us, preventing us from capturing them all at once."

Zhuge Cang immediately added, "However, it's only a matter of time before the Hidden Sect forces completely take control of Divine Continent Country. Those resistors are merely struggling in their death throes against absolute power."

The crowd nodded in agreement.

They held absolute confidence, agreeing with Zhuge Cang's statement.

Even if they hadn't yet fully taken control over everything in Divine Continent Country, with a bit of time and without competition from other forces, any of the Eight Great Forces taking over the reins of Divine Continent wouldn't be difficult.

The reason Wang Chunyang and the others were surprised earlier was that despite the alliance of the Zhuge and Duanmu families and after so much time, they still couldn't completely subdue the secular elites of Divine Continent, which made them slightly disdainful.

"What is the current situation in Divine Continent Country?" asked Helian Zhan.

Chapter 705: Fission

"Divide the empire into two."

Zhuge Cang said.

Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang frowned at the same time, "Divide the empire into two?"

Ouyang He and Wang Changchun, however, did not react as strongly.

On the side, Helian Rong snorted coldly, "The reason why the Great Divine Continent has stood firm in the world of Earth for thousands of years is precisely because of the idea of great unification. If the ancestors knew that after you came into the world you caused the collapse of the Divine Continent, I fear that even in the Netherworld, you would have no face to meet our ancestors."

"Girl, don't be disrespectful to the seniors. This is not your place to speak," Helian Zhan hurriedly scolded.

However, Ouyang He chuckled, "Haha, in the face of such a major issue, there's no need to distinguish between seniors and juniors. I think the girl is right."

Helian Zhan gave a bitter smile and said to Ouyang He, "You just spoil her, you've spoiled her to the point where she's ungovernable."

Ouyang He laughed heartily, "Of all my disciples, this girl has the best talent and is the smartest, of course, I have to spoil her."

Helian Zhan shook his head helplessly.

Wang Chunyang said, "The girl is right, the Divine Continent absolutely must not fall apart. If it does, we will have no face to meet our forefathers."

Wang Changchun also couldn't help but nod, "Foreign races have two powerful enemies, Heaven and Penglai. If the Divine Continent collapses, Yanhuang will be in peril!"

Zhuge and several members of the Duanmu Family looked downcast, and Duanmu Wugou said with a dark face, "Don't worry, this state of collapse will end before long."

"Exactly, that girl in the south doesn't have the qualifications to challenge us yet," Zhuge Qian also added.

Helian Rong's eyes lit up, staring at Zhuge Qian, "From what the senior implies, the person dividing the continent with you is a woman? Let me guess, is it that woman named Qin Yanyang? Is she really that powerful? Facing so many formidable members of the Zhuge and Duanmu Families, she can still hold her ground and share the Great Divine Continent?"

Even Wang Chunyang, Ouyang He, and Wang Changchun revealed looks of surprise.

A flash of admiration passed through Helian Zhan's eyes.

Zhuge Qian did not hide it and nodded, "It's indeed that girl. I must say, this woman is indeed a prodigy, not only is her cultivation talent extraordinary, but at such a young age, she has already stepped into the Divine Travel Realm..."

"What? She's stepped into the Divine Travel Realm?" Helian Rong was shocked and couldn't help but interrupt Zhuge Qian.

Zhuge Qian glanced at her and chuckled, "You want to compete with this girl, don't you? Haha, although you are Helian Zhan's daughter and have Ouyang He as your master, which means you have received far

more cultivation resources and a much better cultivation environment than Qin Yanyang from childhood, it's undeniable that you are still significantly less talented compared to Qin Yanyang, she is truly one of the most talented people I have ever seen..."

At this, Zhuge Qian suddenly paused, glanced toward the three members of the Duanmu Family, and changed his words, "The second most talented."

Then, he gave Helian Zhan another look, his face showing a slight smugness.

You claim to have been the second most talented for a thousand years?

Sorry, there's now someone in the Mortal World whose talent surpasses yours.

And she is also a woman.

The other Divine Travel Realm masters also looked at Helian Zhan unanimously.

Helian Zhan smiled and slowly shook his head, "I have never cared about these titles. Besides, being known as the 'Second Place' for a thousand years and now being surpassed by a woman's title for decades, do you think I'm happy about that?"

"Hahaha." Wang Changchun couldn't help but laugh.

Wang Chunyang suddenly said, "It seems that besides Qin Yanyang, there's another incredible person in the Mortal World, right? To stand against you and divide the empire, that young man must also have played an indispensable role, hasn't he?"

At these words, Helian Zhan, Ouyang He, Wang Changchun, and Zhao Wuji all brightened up.

Helian Rong looked at Zhuge Qian and said, "Right, what about him?"

Zhuge Qian was a bit slow to react, "Him? Which him?"

Zhuge Cang sighed and said, "They are talking about Yang Fei."

Realization dawned on Zhuge Qian, and a complex light burst forth from his eyes as he muttered, "This kid, he... he truly is an exceptional fellow. He is worthy of the Taoist Inheritor title. If it weren't for him in the clouds..."

"Ahem."

A cough interrupted Zhuge Qian's words.

Zhuge Cang then said, "You are asking about the global situation, so why are you gossiping about two youngsters like this?"

Wang Chunyang said, "That youngster is quite interesting, he left a deep impression on me."

He had met Yang Fei.

Wang Changchun, however, had a hint of hatred itching at his teeth and coldly huffed, "So, what you imply is that it is entirely due to these two youngsters that Divine Continent is now split into two, as they're competing against you?"

"Exactly," Duanmu Wuwang nodded. He looked at Wang Changchun, a strange light flashing in his eyes, and said, "I heard that last time Yang Fei killed your disciple, right?"

A glint of cold light flashed through Wang Changchun's eyes as he curtly said, "Fair duel. My disciple was not as skilled, and if he died, then he died."

Wang Chunyang, Helian Zhan, and Ouyang He, who were present that day, secretly sneered at these words.

Fair? I remember you personally took the stage and yet, that same youngster withstood one of your blows, quite a loss of face indeed.

The three were aware that, given Wang Changchun's character, he definitely held a grudge against Yang Fei and would not easily give up.

Duanmu Wugou saw this precisely and continued, "Qin Yanyang and Yang Fei are husband and wife. Currently, both of them have reached the Divine Travel Realm—no, there is also that girl's grandfather. Back on that day, five from the Innate Realm went to kill Qin Huai'an, but he managed to escape. It's said he also touched the threshold of the Divine Travel Realm. Added to their absolute influence in three major battle zones—the west, south, and east—that's what led to Divine Continent being split in two."

Helian Zhan's expression changed slightly and he asked, "How many battle zones are there in Divine Continent in total?"

"Five," said Duanmu Wugou.

Wang Chunyang let out a derisive laugh, "Five battle zones, and yet those two youngsters control three?"

Duanmu Wugou and the others felt a loss of face.

Zhuge Cang snorted, "We've been involved in the mortal world for too short a time and control very few people. Most importantly, before we entered the world, the local powers in Divine Continent were already prepared for the entry of the Hidden Sect. They were well-guarded."

In this regard, no one doubted them.

Keep in mind that when Yang Fei was trapped by the Hidden Sect, Qin Yanyang had already mobilized the army to seal the teleportation channels, which clearly showed that the secular world in Divine Continent was already wary of a massive entry from the Hidden Sect and had thoroughly prepared.

This time, the people from Zhuge and Duanmu families suddenly entered the world with so many powerful experts, and moreover, they appeared through another channel unknown to the secular world, which caught the Divine Continent's highest echelons off guard.

Moreover, as stated before, since both Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang are at the level of the Divine Travel Realm, along with Qin Huai'an who is a Half-step Divine Travel, coupled with high-end modern weaponry, facing the invasion of the Duanmu and Zhuge families, Qin Yanyang's side indeed possessed the power to fight back, capable of splitting the continent into two, which was indeed reasonable.

However, for everyone, the capabilities of these two young people were still astonishing.

"With Divine Continent now split in two, what about other nations? What is the global situation?" Wang Chunyang asked.

"The global situation is much worse than Divine Continent. Currently, the entire Earth is riddled with holes. The atmosphere among countries is extremely tense, almost to the point where a third world war could break out at any disagreeable word," Zhuge Qian said.

Relative to the others, Zhuge Qian obviously was more talkative by nature and responded to even trivial inquiries earnestly.

"Has the Heaven Plane really collapsed? What about the Penglai Realm?" Wang Chunyang asked further.

"The Heaven Plane World has indeed collapsed, and everyone from Heaven has entered the world. But in that collapse, heavy losses were said to be sustained. They are also investigating into the collapse of Heaven, naturally pointing fingers at the Hidden Sect and Penglai, but three days ago, some clues were found near the Bermuda Sea Area pointing to Penglai, leading to the Federation mobilizing a large number of troops, seemingly preparing for some action," responded Zhuge Qian.

Chapter 706: Alliances of Their Own

"Ever since the collapse of the Heaven Plane, not only was our Hidden Sect Plane affected, but the Penglai Realm as well.

Now that the Three Realms have entered the world, the situation is set in stone. Going forward, global relations will become tense. Coupled with the various disasters caused by the collapse of the Plane

World, power and resources face an urgent need for reorganization and redistribution. War is inevitable; it's just a matter of controlling to what extent."

Zhuge Qian had not been in the secular world for long, but he had a thorough grasp of the global situation and his analysis was spot on.

It took him just over ten minutes to briefly introduce and analyze the current state of the world.

In summary, his statement was: Chaos reigns over the land.

After listening to his statement, Wang Chunyang's gaze swept over the faces of a few powerful individuals from the Duanmu and the Zhuge families. Smiling, he said, "Both of your families have already formed an alliance and started laying out your plans ahead of time. Are you trying to leave the rest of our six families far behind?"

Zhuge Cang laughed heartily, "Brother Wang is joking. Our alliance with the Duanmu Family was merely to scout the terrain ahead. The Hidden Sect Eight Families have been openly and secretly fighting for many years, but no one has been able to overpower the others. Now that the world is undergoing great changes, although the Earth Plane lacks Spiritual Energy, its total area is much larger than all three Hidden Sect Planes combined. There's enough room for development for all eight of the Great Forces of the Hidden Sect."

Duanmu Wuwang, who had been silent until now, said, "My friends, rest assured that our two families have no intention of dominating alone. Although the eight forces compete against each other, it is fair competition. Furthermore, as descendants of Yanhuang, in the face of the two major enemies, Heaven and Penglai, we should unite and face the external world together."

"Exactly, united against the outside, sharing the world together, just like in the Hidden Sect World. The Eight Great Forces together hold the world's power," laughed Wang Changchun.

"If the vast Plane World of the Hidden Sect could accommodate all eight of our families, how could this expansive Earth Plane not allow for coexistence in harmony?" said Wang Chunyang indifferently, his gaze shifting to Helian Zhan.

Ouyang He smiled but stayed silent.

Helian Zhan, seeing everyone looking at him, nodded and said, "Naturally, we will share control of the world and live in harmony, jointly facing the external world."

"That would be excellent. There are far too many secular nations, constantly in conflict. They should be unified into one global entity," Wang Chunyang said indifferently.

Helian Zhan gave him a look and nodded with a smile, "Brother Wang's words are exactly what I have in mind."

Seeing the two agreeing with each other and conversing happily, a few people from the Zhuge and Duanmu families were inwardly alarmed.

Both of them were top-tier combatants of the Hidden Sect. If they joined forces, it was feared no one in the world could stand against them.

Moreover, the relationship between Ouyang He and Helian Zhan was extremely close; it could be said that as long as Helian Zhan made the call to arms, not only would the Qingtian Sect back him, but the Poison Sect assuredly would as well.

Additionally, in the Hidden Sect World, besides the Eight Great Forces, other second and third-tier aristocratic families and Sects, along with many Loose Cultivators, held Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang in very high esteem for their charismatic personalities and strong leadership.

If the Langya Wang Family, the Qingtian Sect, and the Poison Sect had good relations, this would pose the greatest threat to the alliance formed between the Zhuge and Duanmu families.

With this in mind, Zhuge Cang's gaze fell upon Wang Changchun, and he said with a smile, "Since Manor Owner Wang has enmity with that lad Yang Fei over a disciple's death, I presume he is willing to enter an alliance with our two families?"

Wang Changchun did not expect Zhuge Cang to ask this question in front of Ouyang He, Wang Chunyang, and Helian Zhan, but his purpose was clear, and he quickly nodded, "Whether to form an alliance can be discussed later. But as for Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, my Giant Sword Manor will certainly not let them off."

Having said this, he glanced at Helian Zhan and saw no expression on his face. Then he shifted his gaze to Wang Chunyang.

The relationship between Giant Sword Manor and the Langya Wang Family wasn't good, but it wasn't hostile either. However, since the incident when Qi Hongshao stole the secret manual from the Giant Sword Manor and was saved by a lad once expelled from the Langya Wang Family ten years ago while being pursued, the relationship between the two families had grown tense.

Wang Changchun had taken the incident of Wang Chunyang saving Wang Lei and Qi Hongshao to heart.

Seeing Wang Changchun looking in his direction, Wang Chunyang glanced at him, expressionless, and remained silent.

Seeing this, Helian Zhan laughed and said to Wang Chunyang, "Brother Wang, I wish to take my daughter to the south of Divine Continent to see if that lad has the skill to cure her innate concealed condition. Would Brother Wang care to join me?"

As these words were spoken, everyone tensed up and looked at Wang Chunyang.

This could already be considered as Helian Zhan's signal to form an alliance with Wang Chunyang, and now all eyes were on what choice Wang Chunyang would make.

Although Wang Chunyang was not the head of the Langya Wang Family, he was their top combatant, and his decision could definitely sway the choice of the Langya Wang Family.

Under everyone's gaze, Wang Chunyang's expression remained unchanged. He looked only at Helian Zhan, and as their eyes met, it seemed as if they could read each other's thoughts, sharing a smile.

"In fact, I too wish to travel around and see the magnificent landscapes of this mundane world. Having the opportunity to join Brother Helian and Brother Ouyang on this journey would be a great pleasure in life," Wang Chunyang said with a clear laugh. After speaking, he clasped his hands in farewell to the experts from the Zhuge and Duanmu families as well as Wang Changchun, "Gentlemen, I bid you farewell for now. We'll meet again!"

Thereupon, Helian Zhan, Wang Chunyang, Ouyang He, Zhao Wuji, and Helian Rong strode away decisively.

The Zhuge and Duanmu aristocratic families did not try to stop them, and without their lead, members of the National Security Department like Zhang Qingyang naturally wouldn't be foolish enough to confront several superb experts, and promptly made way.

Soon, the party of five including Helian Zhan had descended Meishan Mountain and departed into the distance.

At the top of Meishan Mountain, Wang Changchun, along with top experts from the Zhuge and Duanmu families, stood silently, watching the departure of Helian Zhan and the others with various expressions.

When those five figures had completely vanished from sight, Wang Changchun said, "The Langya Wang Family, Poison Sect, and Qingtian Sect, with these three families allied, and if they also support that couple in the south that shares domination over the mundane world with you, it seems that the future of Divine Continent might fall into their hands, right?"

Zhuge Wei spoke in a deep voice, "That's right. With these three families allied, compared to them, our three families are probably weaker. If they support the south, our chances of winning are very slim."

"Do we only have three families? Don't forget, the Ji Family and Zhang Family also agreed to form an alliance with us," Duanmu Wugou said in a grave voice.

Zhuge Qian frowned slightly and said, "But they didn't send anyone this time."

Wang Changchun expressed his astonishment, "The Ji Family and Zhang Family also agreed to an alliance with you?"

Duanmu Wugou replied, "Yes, if it weren't for that, do you really think our Duanmu Family and the Zhuge family would harbor such great ambition to control Divine Continent on our own and contend against your six families?"

Zhug Cang looked at Wang Changchun and said, "Brother Wang, what are your thoughts on joining Giant Sword Manor?"

Wang Changchun's expression shifted a few times before he suddenly huffed forcefully, "It appears that before you four had formed the alliance, you did not consider including my Giant Sword Manor, did you?"

A cold light flashed in Zhug Cang's eyes.

Wang Changchun's heart turned cold, berating himself for his foolishness.

Previously, with Helian Zhan, Wang Chunyang, and Ouyang He present, these people didn't dare to make a move. Now that he was alone, if he wasn't willing to form an alliance with them, he would inevitably become a competitor. In such a case, those five would certainly join forces to kill him and then raid Giant Sword Manor.

The eight great families of the Hidden Sect each dominated a different area, and it was difficult for any one of them to overpower another on their own.

However, if several joined forces to destroy one, it would be quite easy.

Wang Changchun's thoughts raced, and he soon spoke with a smile, "But it's not too late now. Yang Fei killed my disciple, and I will not rest until he is dead. Also, you must have recently heard about the tense relations between our Giant Sword Manor and the Wang Family, right?"

The Duanmu Family was quite aware of the situation, and Duanmu Wugou said, "I heard a female thief stole a secret manual from Giant Sword Manor. Giant Sword Manor could have captured the thief, but a nobody from the Langya Wang Family, cast out ten years ago, foiled the capture, right?"

"Exactly. I, Giant Sword Manor, have never regarded a mere nobody from the Langya Wang Family as important, yet Wang Chunyang had the audacity to intervene," Wang Changchun stated bitterly.

The cold light in Zhuge Cang's eyes faded as he looked at Wang Changchun and said, "Given this, it seems that Giant Sword Manor and the Langya Wang Family now have an irreparable rift and cannot form an alliance."

Wang Changchun nodded and said, "Exactly, which is why Giant Sword Manor is willing to form an alliance with all of you, to share the world."

Chapter 707: Solving the Rear

The words of Wang Changchun brought relief to several powerhouses from the Zhuge and Duanmu families.

If they were unlike the usual and disagreed with forming an alliance, eliminating him together would not be difficult, but the problem was that killing Wang Changchun would definitely force Giant Sword Manor into opposition, which they did not wish to see.

Originally, whether Giant Sword Manor joined them was not important to them; otherwise, they would have negotiated with Wang Changchun before taking action to establish a cooperative relationship.

In the original plan, the Duanmu and Zhuge families intended to quietly take complete control of the Divine Continent Country first. Then, with the support of the Ji and Zhang Families, they would have an absolute advantage and greater influence over the entire world in the future.

Now that the Divine Continent has been divided into two, with Helian Zhan, Ouyang He, and Wang Chunyang appearing here, they could likely become adversaries, so they had to strive to gain the support of Giant Sword Manor.

"Third brother, what should we do next?" Zhuge Qian, seeing that Wang Changchun had agreed to the alliance, looked towards Zhuge Cang and said, "Just now, by the sound of it, it seems Helian Zhan owes that young man, Yang Fei, a huge favor for having a way to treat her innate condition. With Helian Zhan's character, she will certainly help that young man."

"In fact, whether that young man has the medical skill to treat Helian Rong or not, Helian Zhan would probably stand by them regardless. Once Helian Zhan supports those two young people, the Poison Sect, to which Ouyang He belongs, will naturally stand with them as well," Zhuge Wei said with a grave voice.

Duanmu Wuwang spoke with a serious tone: "Originally, Langya Wang Family wouldn't have allied with them so quickly, but today's attitude from Wang Chunyang gave the impression that he disdains getting involved with us. Instead, he seemed to have some camaraderie with Helian Zhan. This is the most troublesome part."

Zhuge Cang nodded and said, "Exactly. We had previously made covert contact with the Langya Wang Family and expressed our stance, but Wang Chunyang was arrogant, and the attitudes of several other key members of the Wang Family were ambiguous too, showing signs of neutrality. Yet unexpectedly, Wang Chunyang has now made his stance clear."

"Qingtian Sect, Langya Wang Family, and the Poison Sect, even if they form an alliance, it's just three families, while we have five—the advantage is with us," declared Duanmu Wuwo loudly.

Wang Changchun smiled and said, "That's correct, five against three, the advantage is on our side."

However, Zhuge Cang and Duanmu Wugou slightly narrowed their eyes, their expressions growing a bit more solemn.

Noticing the change in the two men's emotions, Wang Changchun couldn't help but ask in confusion, "What's wrong?"

Duanmu Wugou said, "The attitude of the Ji and Zhang families..."

He paused for a moment, his face revealing a degree of gravity before continuing, "is not optimistic."

"Oh? What do you mean by that?" Wang Changchun asked in surprise.

Duanmu Wugou said, "Regarding forming an alliance, neither the Ji nor the Zhang Family is too enthusiastic; they mostly appear to be sitting on the fence."

Upon hearing this, Wang Changchun's expression changed dramatically, and he exclaimed, "But you said earlier that the Ji and Zhang Families had already formed an alliance with you, why are they now sitting on the fence?"

Zhuge Cang coughed lightly and said to Wang Changchun, "Master Wang, please calm down. Although the Ji and Zhang Families' positions are not firm, they are inclined towards us in their hearts, especially the Ji Family. You should be aware of their relationship with the Zhuge aristocratic family."

Upon this reminder, Wang Changchun calmed down.

Indeed, the Ji Family and the Zhuge aristocratic family had always been closely related. Among the Eight Great Forces, these two families have had the most intermarriages. How could he have forgotten this?

As for the Zhang Family.

A hint of scorn flashed in Wang Changchun's eyes.

Within the Eight Great Forces of the Hidden Sect World, the strength of Giant Sword Manor had always been among the least. But ever since the Taoist sect was destroyed more than eighty years ago, the Zhang Family had fallen on hard times.

Though the Zhang Family had long been independent of the Taoist sect, their ancestors came from it. Even if they had been an independent clan for over three hundred years and even played a role in the destruction of the Taoist sect, the other seven families always remained wary of them and secretly looked down upon them. As a result, after eighty years of decline, the Hidden Sect Zhang Family's strength weakened further, becoming the lowest ranked among them.

"There's no need to worry about the Zhang Family. Since Yang Fei is Huang Chengcheng's inheritor, he is a remnant of the Taoist sect. Considering what the Zhang Family had done in the past, they are the most fearful of retribution from a Taoist Inheritor. Regardless of their current pretense of neutrality, they

have no choice but to stand by us," said Zhuge Cang with a cold voice. His expression carried a clear sense of scorn and disdain when mentioning the Zhang Family.

"Indeed, though the Ji and Zhang Families haven't clearly stated their stance, the current situation forces them to choose to stand with us," said Duanmu Wugou, the heavy look in his eyes dissipating greatly.

Zhuge Qian suggested, "In that case, shall we make a trip back and visit these two families?"

Wang Chunyang nodded and said, "Yes, let's return and meet with them to discuss our next steps."

A cold light flashed in Zhuge Cang's eyes as he looked to Duanmu Wugou. The latter, noticing the cold glint in Zhuge Cang's eyes, had a thought and said, "Brother Cang, are we thinking the same thing?"

Zhuge Cang burst into laughter upon hearing this, "That's right, while the Divine Continent is currently divided and no one dares to make a rash move, let us first return to stabilize our rear and eliminate any potential threats completely."

Hearing the conversation between the two men, the remaining five had their hearts pounding wildly.

Wang Changchun said, "Indeed, the other Hidden Sect factions still don't know the current situation in the outside world, especially the Langya Wang Family who are also unaware of Wang Chunyang and Helian Zhan's stance. Now is the perfect time to catch them off guard."

The enmity between Giant Sword Manor and the Langya Wang Family had long been sown, and until now, Wang Changchun hadn't taken it too seriously. However, Wang Chunyang's attitude today had made him realize the imminent crisis.

If it weren't for the support of an alliance, Giant Sword Manor alone would stand no chance against the Langya Wang Family, but now that he had allies and the Langya Wang Family was still in the dark about the impending attack, the alliance could break them one by one, which was a promising prospect.

Wang Changchun's words made the issue clear, and Zhuge Qian, Zhuge Qian, Duanmu Wuwang, as well as Duanmu Wuwo, also felt their hearts racing.

The Hidden Sect Eight Great Forces had lived in peace for many years, but now with the global situation drastically changing, conflicts within the Hidden Sect were inevitable.

Now, while those three families have yet to react, and considering that top combatants such as Wang Chunyang, Helian Zhan, and Ouyang He were absent, a surprise strike from our allied faction would definitely catch the enemy off guard and eliminate the threats forever.

Without the strong backing of Qingtian Sect, Poison Sect, and Langya Wang Family, merely Wang Chunyang, Helian Zhan, and Ouyang He, even if they allied with Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang, would turn to dust under the assault of nearly twenty formidable members of our alliance.

With this, from this day forth, only five families will call the shots in the vast Divine Continent.

Moreover, after the five families join forces, they will be able to subjugate the neighboring countries of the Divine Continent, securing even more resources for themselves.

Right then, the group made a decision. Zhuge Cang said, "We should not delay. Action is of the essence. We must move immediately."

"That's right, let's return first, exterminate those three families, and put an end to any future troubles."

"Move out at once."

"Let's go."

With a high degree of consensus, the group was about to use the passageway to return to the Hidden Sect World when a weak voice suddenly came from the side.

"Elders... if you all leave, with no one defending this place, might... might there be problems?"

Following the voice, they saw Zhang Qingyang carefully crouching at a distance, his expression respectfully addressing them.

Upon hearing this, Zhuge Cang slowly nodded, "The boy speaks the truth; we cannot all leave."

Wang Changchun frowned and said, "Are you worried that Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang might come back?"

Duanmu Wugou spoke gravely, "We must be on our guard."

Wang Chunyang stated, "Even if all of us stay and they return united, we might still be unable to stop them."

A few cold snorts immediately followed, with Zhuge Wei defiantly responding, "It seems you've been frightened by the reputation of Helian Zhan and Wang Chunyang. Don't forget, we are all in the Divine Travel Realm. Even if their combat power surpasses ours, they can't overwhelm us to that extent."

"That's correct."

"Leaving three people to guard the gateway shouldn't pose a problem."

"Helian Zhan and Ouyang He are in a hurry to treat Helian Rong, they won't come back so soon."

"Opportunities are fleeting; decisive action must be taken at the right moment."

"If that's the case, let's not bother about this place for now. Destroying those three families is the utmost priority."

"It's settled then."

Thereupon, Zhuge Cang entrusted Zhang Qingyang with the task of guarding the site. Then, the seven Divine Travel Realm experts entered the teleportation passageway together, and returned to the Hidden Sect World.

Chapter 708: It's Him, Yang Fei

"Everyone, everyone left?"

At the top of Meishan Mountain, as the leader of the National Security Department stationed there, Zhang Qingyang watched all seven Hidden Sect bigwigs leave and couldn't help but be somewhat dumbfounded.

Sensing his strange expression, several sharp gazes simultaneously landed on him.

Zhang Qingyang felt a chill in his heart, as if a blade hung over his head, a thorn in his back.

Although those top experts had left, there were still more than a dozen Innate Realm powerhouses sitting in attendance here.

Facing these Martial Arts experts from the Hidden Sect, Zhang Qingyang felt a deep sense of powerlessness in his heart.

Too strong!

Indeed, coming from the hidden world, those called National Guardian Level Innate Realm Martial Artists appeared as if they cost nothing, with dozens emerging all at once.

The key was that this was still not the total number of top combat forces of the Hidden Sect.

According to information he had occasionally heard these days, the number of Innate Realm strongmen in the Hidden Sect World exceeded several hundred, with dozens at the Divine Travel Realm as well.

Such a lineup appearing in the secular world was simply a dimensional strike.

"Before the return of the several ancestors, no one here is allowed to leave our sight, nor allowed to reveal any occurrences here to the outside world, otherwise it will be met with death!" a peak Innate Realm elder from the Zhuge family swept his gaze toward the National Security Department personnel, saying coldly.

A terrifying murderous intent pervaded the void, causing the members of the National Security Department to tremble with fear, and all bowed their heads.

But in everyone's heart emerged a sense of humiliation and grievance.

This was a total lack of dignity, even human rights.

Previously, although they had to abide by various rules and regulations and heed their superiors, even higher-level superiors could not arbitrarily take their lives without at least providing a reason and evidence.

But these strongmen from the aristocratic families of the Hidden Sect were different; they treated the members of Divine Continent's various departments with contempt, not taking their lives seriously at all.

Without the constraints of strict laws and systems, these sons and daughters of the Hidden Sect aristocratic families wielding powerful personal combat strength could act with complete impunity.

Zhang Qingyang sighed inwardly, as a citizen of the Divine Continent, he was filled with concern for the future of Divine Continent, but faced with such a trend, he was powerless to change it.

...

"Although I had heard a lot about the secular world before, seeing it with my own eyes and experiencing it firsthand is really different. This place is much more prosperous than I imagined."

Walking on the bustling streets of Imperial City, Helian Rong looked around curiously at many things, noticing several people passing by and even turning their heads to scrutinize and whisper, she frowned slightly and said:

"Our attire is too strange, we're always being stared at like freaks."

Zhao Wuji immediately responded with a smiling face, "They think Miss you are too beautiful, saying you are like someone from ancient times who has traveled to the modern era. Actually, our attire is not unusual for a modern metropolis like Imperial Capital, especially as Hanfu has become rather popular in recent years, and many young people even like role-playing games, so people have already accepted it."

Speaking of this, Zhao Wuji glanced at Ouyang He, Helian Zhan, and Wang Chunyang, then looked down at his own clothes and said with a bitter smile: "However, we should still change into some modern clothing, nearly all who play role-playing are young people, we are a bit old for it, and it's easy to attract attention. Moreover, Miss you are too beautiful with a unique aura, too easily surrounded and photographed, always a bit of trouble."

Helian Zhan nodded and said, "Indeed, we should conform to local customs regarding attire."

Wang Chunyang said, "It is indeed uncomfortable to be stared at with such unusual gazes. But if we put on modern clothes, what about our hair, are we also supposed to cut it off? I feel that the current hairstyles are ugly."

Upon hearing this, Ouyang He quickly nodded, "Brother Wang is right, I'm at this age and if I were to cut off all my white hair, it would really be somewhat difficult to part with."

"This..." Zhao Wuji looked toward Helian Zhan, somewhat troubled.

If everyone kept their current attire, though it would attract some unusual gazes, modern people have a high degree of acceptance toward role-playing and wearing ancient or foreign outfits, so it wouldn't really matter. However, if they changed into modern popular clothes, yet retained their long hair, they would only look even more outlandish and attract more attention.

Seeing Zhao Wuji's troubled expression, Helian Zhan asked, "What's the matter?"

Zhao Wuji shared his thoughts.

The others nodded in agreement upon hearing this.

Ouyang He said, "Since they can accept our manner of dress, there's no need to change."

Wang Chunyang also nodded, "Mm, it just means drawing a few extra glances, no harm done."

Helian Zhan laughed, "Then there's no need to care about the opinions of the common folk."

With that, he turned to Wang Chunyang, "If what Zhuge Qian said was true, and this place is in the north, then Yang Fei and Qin Yanyang won't be here. I need to find that lad to treat my daughter, will you join me?"

Wang Chunyang smiled, "I can go anywhere, but if I can travel together with Brother Ouyang and Brother Helian, it would naturally be a great joy in life."

"Hahaha, good, let's travel together then," Helian Zhan laughed heartily and turned to Zhao Wuji, "Do you have a way to contact Yang Fei?"

Zhao Wuji quickly replied, "It's still unclear whether the communication devices in the Divine Continent are damaged or if the north and south still maintain normal communication. I need to make some inquiries."

"Hmm, locate that lad as soon as possible, so we can meet him sooner," Helian Zhan said.

"Yes."

Zhao Wuji soon exchanged the gold ingot he carried for a sum of money at a bank and then bought a cell phone. As the Shadow Slaughter Venerable, although Qin Yanyang had led the Military Department to break through the Shadow's stronghold, not all Shadows were captured, and many of the more

powerful Shadow members came from the great aristocratic families or Sects of the secular Martial World. These people had their own means of influence in the secular world.

Half an hour later, Zhao Wuji reported to Helian Zhan, "I can't get in touch with Yang Fei at the moment, but to find him, we only need to find Qin Yanyang."

Helian Zhan nodded, "Where is Qin Yanyang?"

"The Western War Zone," Zhao Wuji replied.

"Oh? What is she doing there?" Helian Zhan frowned slightly.

Zhao Wuji pondered briefly before analyzing, "She might be worried that the Hidden Sect practitioners will make a big move into the secular world and attempt to break through from that portal. Or she might suspect that Zhuge and the people from the Duanmu Family have secretly escaped through that transportation portal. Given the current situation, the Western War Zone is indeed a very important place. If more Hidden Sect practitioners emerge from there, it would be a very dangerous situation for Qin Yanyang and the others. So, it is indeed necessary for her to personally station herself there."

The others nodded their heads in agreement.

Wang Chunyang said, "Then let's head to the Western War Zone first."

Helian Zhan nodded at Zhao Wuji, who immediately made a few phone calls.

Before long, a Coaster van arrived beside them.

There was only a driver in the Coaster, who after parking near Zhao Wuji, looked them over carefully and asked respectfully, "Are you Mr. Zhao?"

Zhao Wuji nodded and asked in return, "Did Hong Qingquan send you?"

"Yes, Mr. Zhao, the boss sent me to pick you up."

The group got into the van, and the Coaster headed in the direction of the city's ring expressway.

Inside the vehicle, Helian Rong sat by the window, her gaze fixed outside. As her first time in the secular world, she found it to be incredibly flourishing and attractive.

After driving for about fifteen minutes, they still hadn't left the city. Although it wasn't peak hour, the traffic pressure in Imperial City was too great, with many sections heavily congested.

Suddenly, Helian Rong, who was staring out of the window, brightened up and exclaimed, "Stop the car!"

"What's the matter?" Helian Zhan quickly looked at his daughter with concern, and the others looked over as well.

Helian Rong pointed in a direction, "It's him, Yang Fei."

Chapter 709: Hu Lizhong's Great Fortune

Helian Zhan, Wang Chunyang, Ouyang He, and Zhao Wuji had all seen Yang Fei before.

Although they weren't very close, this young man had already left a deep impression in their subconscious, so when they saw Yang Fei again, they recognized him at a glance.

However, when the four looked in the direction Helian Rong was pointing, they did not see Yang Fei's figure.

Zhao Wuji looked at Helian Rong with confusion, "Miss, did you see wrong?"

While the others continued to search in that direction, they pricked up their ears to hear Helian Rong's reply. Helian Rong said, "No, I'm correct. Did you see the two people on that road across from us? They are walking fast and are about to turn their backs to us. Master, please stop the car..."

Helian Rong pointed to two figures on a street a few dozen meters away while rushing to the car door and asking the driver to stop.

The driver hurriedly said, "One moment, please, we can't stop on this road, I will pull over."

"Stop the car," Zhao Wuji commanded loudly, "Now."

The driver was startled, feeling two piercing stares on himself, as if needles were poking his back, making him shudder with fear.

Without any hesitation, Coaster made an abrupt stop.

Beep beep!!!

The sharp sound of a horn came from behind as the car following the Coaster also braked abruptly, and fortunately, the driver, worried that Coaster might be carrying some important person, had maintained enough distance and managed to stop in time.

Just as he was sighing in relief, a violent vibration came from the car.

Great, he had stopped, but the car following him did not and ended up hitting his rear.

The Coaster's door opened, Helian Rong briskly stepped out. Despite the heavy traffic on the opposite lane, she didn't care much and rushed forward.

Beep beep!

Toot toot toot!!!

The beeping noises kept coming, many people sticking their heads out of their car windows and shouting profanities.

Helian Rong wasn't hit by a car, but she realized that charging across the road was very dangerous. She immediately soared into the air and flew towards the other side.

She was already dressed in traditional Han clothing, so when she leapt up and flew over twenty meters before lightly touching down on top of a truck and then springing up again, she crossed the wide road with two leaps, leaving onlookers dumbfounded.

"Fuck!"

"Is this a movie scene?"

"Am I seeing things, did that woman just fly across?"

"Bang... Bang bang..."

Amidst cries of astonishment, many drivers, distracted, failed to control their speed and a series of rear-end collisions occurred.

"Damn, is this really a movie shoot? Why can a few people fly?"

A high-decibel voice sounded.

The people who had seen Helian Rong fly across the street had not yet completely recovered from their bewilderment, shock, and confusion when they saw four more figures leap out of the Coaster.

These four were also dressed in traditional garments; two of them seemed to be carrying swords, and another, an old man with flowing white hair, was holding a snake-headed cane. Their attire was strikingly from the martial arts world.

Then, under the attention of many, these four also took flight.

Compared to the woman who borrowed force twice to cross the entire street, these four were even more exaggerated. Without relying on any support, they just flew across the tens of meters wide road.

"Fuck, that's too cool, simply incredible. I caught it on my phone, the whole thing, it's so cool."

"So it's not just me? Everyone saw that, right? This is real?"

"I didn't see any camera crew, and there aren't any drones nearby, doesn't seem like they are filming."

"Even if they are filming, could a wire rig let someone swing that far? And this is a major road; there's no sign of large crane equipment on the street."

In no time, the entire street had completely paralyzed and was blocked solid.

Many drivers stopped their cars and after getting out, looked around for any traces of the five people who had left toward the corner of a distant street, where many people flocked as if in pursuit.

In less than a minute, the largest domestic short video platforms saw the release of this video, and soon after, more videos from different angles were also uploaded, immediately sparking heated discussions among netizens.

As people of the Divine Continent, perhaps not everyone dreams of martial arts, but who didn't dream of flying when they were young?

Moreover, since this incident was captured by dozens of people from various angles, its authenticity was more convincing. There was no doubt, the video of these individuals flying went viral!

This was merely the spark that brought the existence of people involved in hidden cultivation to the attention of ordinary people worldwide. Regarding the existence of martial artists, superpower users,

and other special groups, countries around the world would no longer keep them a secret, and many officials would even publicly acknowledge the existence of these exceptional beings.

The instigator, Helian Rong, had no idea that her actions would cause such a sensation in the mundane world.

She had just crossed the street when Helian Zhan was the first to follow her. Helian Zhan asked, "Are you sure it's that kid, you didn't see wrong?"

Helian Rong spoke with conviction, "There's no mistake, he disguised himself."

Upon hearing this, Helian Zhan's eyes flashed.

Previously, when Helian Rong mentioned seeing Yang Fei, they all looked in the direction she had pointed, and saw two people, but those two were strangers, neither of them looked like Yang Fei. Now, hearing Helian Rong saying Yang Fei had disguised himself, he no longer doubted her.

"You could recognize him even in disguise?" Wang Chunyang asked, his tone skeptical.

Helian Rong's lips curled into a smile, "The disguise he used, it's exactly the one I used when I took him away from Muyun City. It belonged to a servant of my family named Wang Lin. Hehe, he would never expect that someone could recognize him in the mundane world even when disguised as an insignificant character from the Hidden Sect World."

Helian Zhan, Ouyang He, and Wang Chunyang couldn't help but smile.

It made sense that Yang Fei would appear in the Imperial Capital in disguise, considering it was an extremely dangerous place for him. Even though he was now among the top experts, he could not afford to be careless, thus he disguised himself as someone else.

On the bustling street, the group of five moved swiftly and after turning at the street corner, they indeed saw the figures of two people walking briskly tens of meters away.

"It should be that kid, the person with him has cultivated energy," Wang Chunyang said.

Ouyang He nodded silently.

Helian Zhan chuckled and added, "The cultivation technique this kid practices indeed possesses exquisite subtlety, excellently concealing the aura of his cultivation."

A flicker of interest crossed Wang Chunyang's brow, "As far as I know, traditional Taoist cultivation techniques didn't have the special feature of hiding one's cultivation aura, did they?"

Ouyang He shook his head, "Indeed they didn't."

"Could it be that this kid's cultivation technique isn't from the traditional Taoist teachings?" Zhao Wuji's eyes gleamed.

Just then, Helian Zhan softly said, "These two have noticed us, they're quite alert."

Ouyang He smiled at this, "Don't worry, he won't escape."

Yang Fei looked solemn, while internally he felt puzzled.

He hadn't expected that shortly after arriving in the Imperial City with Hu Lizhong, they would already be targeted by someone.

The problem was, both he and Hu Lizhong were disguised, so theoretically, no one should recognize either of them.

However, the several traces of locked energy pursuing them were indeed real, there was no mistaking that.

The worst part was, the strength of these individuals was formidable, formidable enough that even he felt an intense sense of crisis now.

Why were there so many Divine Travel Realm experts in this Imperial City?

And why was he so unlucky to encounter three or four of them all at once?

"Old Hu, I'll hold them off later, you run first," Yang Fei increased his speed, seeing that the several people behind him were closely following and knowing he couldn't shake them off. He knew a fierce battle was inevitable, so he transmitted his voice to Hu Lizhong in advance.

Hu Lizhong was deeply moved but also clenched up from nervousness, secretly laughing bitterly to himself.

With so many enemies, all so powerful, and even he's telling me to run, how the hell can I escape?

What kind of bad luck is this?

After following Yang Fei and breaking through to the Innate Realm, he thought he'd be under a fortuitous star from now on. Yet now, he was destitute and desperate, just arrived in the Imperial City hoping to make a big move, but damn, he was targeted by several powerful figures right away.

Could it be that this year Yang Fei was doomed to ill luck, such that even he couldn't turn the tide with his fortuitous momentum?

Chapter 710: Hard to Distinguish Friends from Foes

"Uh, wait a second."

As Hu Lizhong was losing himself in wild thoughts and hadn't immediately fled, leaving Yang Fei behind, he heard Yang Fei transmitting his voice once again.

And Yang Fei had also stopped.

Following suit, Hu Lizhong halted too, looking at Yang Fei with a puzzled expression, "What's wrong?"

The several extremely powerful presences behind them made Hu Lizhong extremely nervous. Stopping now, the distance to those powerful beings closed significantly in an instant, causing Hu Lizhong's legs to tremble.

He had had the courage to flee before, but now that they were too close, he lacked even the courage to run.

"It seems they're not enemies," said Yang Fei, turning around to look back as he spoke.

By the time the two had stopped to talk, the five pursuers had already caught up.

Turning alongside Yang Fei, Hu Lizhong saw five men and women dressed in ancient attire.

The woman at the front looked as if she had stepped out from an ancient beauty painting; Old Hu didn't consider himself to be particularly lecherous, yet he was entranced by the bewitching allure naturally emitted by the woman, his heart pounding and gasping in astonishment.

She was so stunningly beautiful; what man could resist such a woman?

Yang Fei, disguised to look like Wang Lin, looked at Helian Rong and the few top-tier leaders of the Hidden Sect behind her, and inwardly gave a wry smile.

Dammit, what rotten luck he had encountered recently. Disguised as Wang Lin and appearing in the Imperial City, he had just happened to run into Helian Rong.

Towards Helian Rong, Yang Fei held no enmity, and even the presence of Helian Zhan behind her did not make Yang Fei particularly tense.

But the other three people made him feel uneasy.

He had only seen these three once before: one was named Ouyang He, another Wang Chunyang, and the last one shocked him—it was the Lord of Shadow Slaughter Venerable.

"So it is you, Yang Fei." Helian Rong said with a giggle while looking at Yang Fei, "In your disguise, couldn't you have just mimicked anyone else? Why on earth did you choose Wang Lin?"

Yang Fei replied with a bitter smile, "Yeah, and then I happened to encounter you."

At his words, Helian Rong chuckled merrily, "That means we have a destiny."

Destiny my ass.

Yang Fei cursed inwardly, but verbally he asked, "Why did you stop me?"

"Hmph, when I sent you away from the Hidden Sect, what did you promise me?" Helian Rong suddenly became displeased, huffing coldly.

Uh...

Yang Fei was speechless, just then recalling the past promise to help Helian Rong with her chronic illness.

At the same time, with this connection, it was unlikely that Helian Zhan would cause him trouble for the sake of his daughter, and Ouyang He, as Helian Rong's master, was also secure.

So Yang Fei's gaze shifted to Wang Chunyang and Zhao Wuji, wondering if these two were friends or foes.

Wang Chunyang was hard to say, but the Shadow Slaughter Venerable was definitely not going to feel any goodwill towards him.

The sudden emergence of the Hidden Sect into the world had almost caught both Qin Yanyang and himself, ensnaring them on Yunwu Mountain. The event was so unexpected that it resulted in the Divine Continent's collapse, leading to the current divided realms.

Deep down, Yang Fei was dissatisfied with the way the Hidden Sect's actions had led to this fracturing of the Divine Continent.

Perhaps it was a deeply ingrained sense of nationalism or maybe the influence of Qin Yanyang's teachings but either way, he felt that the Divine Continent should not suffer division because of these ambitious Hidden Sect Practitioners. People ought to live in harmony and unity, seizing the opportunity during a time of global upheaval to strive collectively for more benefits and stature.

Unfortunately, all these were just his and Qin Yanyang's wishful thinking.

These strong practitioners from the Hidden Sect, each harboring their own ambitions, sought to dominate above secular laws and establish their own set of rules.

After a brief moment of distraction, Yang Fei looked at Helian Rong and asked, "The teleportation passage of Kunlun Mountain Death Valley has been sealed, how did you get out?"

Upon hearing this, Helian Rong looked around and realized she could not discern any direction amidst the high-rises of the modern city streets. She replied, "Inside the Zhuge family there is an abyss that also connects to the Divine Continent World, that's how we got out."

"So there was another path all along." Yang Fei nodded, and gazing at her, he asked, "Has the Hidden Sect made a full entrance into the world, or has everyone come out yet?"

Helian Rong shook her head, "Not yet, it was a secret cooperation between the Zhuge family and the Duanmu Family that allowed us to sneak out first."

Yang Fei's eyes brightened, "So the series of actions against Divine Continent Country weren't actually a joint effort by the Hidden Sect Eight Great Forces?"

Helian Rong chuckled, "No wonder you've been so tense, you were worried that our eight forces would band together against Divine Continent Country, and now that you've met us, you thought we would target you, right?"

Yang Fei did not deny it and nodded.

Wang Chunyang, who had been silent until now, scoffed coldly, "If we wanted to deal with you, you would have been taken down the moment we met."

Ouyang He stared at Yang Fei and asked, "Kid, are you sure you can cure Miss Rong's innate stubborn illness?"

Helian Zhan stared at Yang Fei expectantly, without saying a word, but his eyes clearly conveyed, you better not be lying to my precious daughter.

Yang Fei nodded, "I can cure her."

"Cure? What do you mean by that, can you completely eradicate the illness?" Ouyang He's profound eyes shot out a fierce light.

Yang Fei felt the horrifying pressure from a top-notch Hidden Sect practitioner and was inwardly shocked. Although he had become very strong and seemed to no longer fear cultivators of the Divine Travel Realm in a one-on-one fight, a powerful individual like Ouyang He still posed a terrifying threat to him. It was clear he should not underestimate top Hidden Sect practitioners in the future.

"I dare not make any absolute promises, but based on my understanding of Miss Helian's condition, I am fairly confident," Yang Fei said.

Then, he scanned the group, his gaze stopping particularly on the face of Shadow Slaughter Venerable Zhao Wuji as he asked in a solemn voice, "So, are we enemies or allies?"

Hu Lizhong had been silently standing by, but at this moment, upon hearing those words, he grew tense.

Although this woman seemed to have contracted some strange illness, and Brother Yang might be able to cure her, with two people particularly concerned for her, it seemed there was no immediate danger.

However, these people were from the Hidden Sect after all, and now the Hidden Sect was in control of Imperial Capital, confronting the original powers of Divine Continent Country, such as Qin Yanyang. With Yang Fei being Qin Yanyang's husband, appearing in Imperial Capital and encountering these Hidden Sect practitioners, the consequences were all too predictable.

"Do you wish for us to be enemies or friends?" Wang Chunyang laughed lightly, looking at Yang Fei as he asked.

Yang Fei shook his head, "I do not know, senior, it depends on you and the others."

"Hahaha," Wang Chunyang laughed heartily and nodded, "You are indeed a rightful descendant of the Taoist tradition. Kid, you're quite interesting. Facing several of us yet remaining calm in the face of danger, without showing fear—just for that courage, I, Wang Chunyang, have taken a liking to you."

Yang Fei and Hu Lizhong silently breathed a sigh of relief, but did not completely relax, staying vigilant at all times.

At this time, many people appeared nearby, filming with their phones, and the crowd of onlookers grew larger and larger.

After all, the strange attire of Helian Rong and her companions was too eye-catching, and the commotion caused earlier by flying over the street compelled many to follow them, Now that they saw them here, they all raised their phones to film.

Zhao Wuji respectfully said to Helian Zhan, "Master, shall we find a quieter place?"

Helian Zhan, Wang Chunyang, and Ouyang He all nodded.

With their composure, being watched by a crowd was no issue, but after encountering Yang Fei, they had many questions to ask, and this was indeed not the right place for a discussion.

As Zhao Wuji respectfully addressed Helian Zhan as master, Yang Fei's pupils suddenly contracted.

Helian Zhan was actually the master of Shadow Slaughter Venerable?

Does that mean everything the Shadow Slaughter Venerable did in the secular world was under the secret directives of Helian Zhan?

Had Helian Zhan been making arrangements in the secular world long ago?